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June 2012

## Couple Charged After Taking Down Signs

– By Andrea Gaines and Carol Morris Dukas

Two citizens are facing a court hearing after removing a number of signs on Purcellville roadways on April 29.

The couple, George Kingsley and Karen Nutt, removed several dozen signs in the Town advertising everything from cage fighting to chef services, to new homes.

A local businessman, Magic “Dane” Kayhan, spoke to the BRL and stated that he witnessed the couple as they were removing signs from his (business) property at 871 E Main Street, and attempted to stop them.

“I don’t know these people. I saw them taking the signs from my property and told

them to stop. These are not my signs. I have signs for all kinds of shows here. They are not my shows.” Mr Kayhan went on to explain that he rents his buildings, including the Purcellville Sports Pavillion, to various organizations that host events including cage fights, dog shows and boxing.

Mr. Kingsley stated that neither he nor his wife ever set foot on Magic Kayhan’s property and that the signs in question were illegally littering the public right of way. “There’s no need to go on private property when there are at least four illegal signs at every intersection. I respect private property. If Mr. Kayhan wants to completely surround his real estate with signs about cage fighting, that’s between him and the Town of

Purcellville,” said Mr. Kingsley.

According to Kingsley, two law enforcement officers – one from Purcellville and one from Loudoun County, questioned the couple at their home on the night of the incident. Approximately 11 days later they were served with two warrants of arrest each, one for Trespassing and one for Misdemeanor Theft.

In a letter to Commonwealth Attorney Jim Plowman (who is handling the complaint and charges against the couple), John Flannery (the couple’s attorney), noted that “The Deputy who came by to investigate the matter actually encour-



aged my client to take down illegal signs before the Complaint was filed. The Town of Purcellville also told him to take down the illegal signs when they received

*Continued on page 30*



## Getting To The Other Side

– By Andrea Gaines

It looks like a medium-sized rock on the side of the road. But, as you slow down to try and avoid it you realize it’s a small box-shaped turtle with its earnest head sticking out – intent on crossing to the other side ...

I had been waiting to see my first one of the season last week, and it turns out my timing was perfect. Over the course of three days I sighted and helped four box turtles get to other side of the road.

The greatest threat to these

creatures is the driver who makes no attempt to avoid them (or leaves them there hoping the next car or truck will not crush them). Pull over [safely] and carry the turtle to the other side of the road, in the direction in which it is heading. It’s head and feet will retract into its shell, so it is easy to handle. Put the turtle in protective vegetation several feet from the edge of the road. For it is on a mission.

Box turtles can live more than 100 years – if we leave them alone, or at least do not run over

*Continued on page 30*

## Asbestos Delays SCR Construction

### – Town Of Purcellville Failed To Secure Proper Safety Permit –

Clearing and construction for the southern part of the Southern Collector Road (SCR) came to a quick halt recently when it was determined that the Town of Purcellville had failed to inspect and secure a safety-related permit for a barn that was to be demolished.

The study and permit are designed to ensure that dangerous asbestos is not released into the atmosphere during the demolition process.

The lack of proper study and permit was discovered by Purcellville resident Kelli Grim, a friend of Sam and Uta Brown whose condemned property includes the barn in question.

The Browns were informed by letter on May 3, 2012 that contractors for the road would be tearing down and removing their former barn, telling them they would have until May 7, 2012 to remove any items

...” The letter went on to state that the barn would be demolished and removed on May 8, 2012.

Mrs. Grim discovered the permitting problem just hours before the demolition was to take place, after seeing that standard permit signage informing the public about what was about to take place was not posted. She went to the Town of Purcellville Planning Department and asked to

*Continued on page 29*

## Smiles All Around

Smiles were everywhere in May at the first annual Sadie’s Race 5K and Fun Run to benefit Sminthian.

Nearly 500 5K runners and 70 kids’ race participants gathered to honor Sadie Ablard on what would have been her sixth birthday and to raise money for SmileTrain. The family friendly atmosphere included face painting, balloon art, and cupcakes for the kids and numerous raffles for all participants. Overall race winner, Peter Johnson, 19, of Chantilly completed the certified course in 17 min.15 sec. A grand total of \$20,000

was raised for SmileTrain. That will help to change as many as 80 children’s lives forever. With the race proceeds, almost \$37,000 has been donated to SmileTrain in honor of Sadie to date. Sara Ablard, Sadie’s mom, wishes to donate a smile (\$250) for each of the 1,913 days of Sadie’s life. She is well on



her way to her goal of \$478,250. Thanks to all race participants!

If you would like to donate to SmileTrain, visit [www.smiletrain.org](http://www.smiletrain.org).

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## Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

*Our 16-year-old son has become increasingly oppositional and defiant in the home this year. He is also smoking pot, drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes, although his tobacco use is probably the least of our concerns at this point. He has pretty bad academics this year as well. My husband and I are beginning to think he needs to go away given the stress he is causing his siblings and us. His attitude and outbursts have become unbearable for us all, and we tried everything with no change. My husband thinks our son just needs discipline and structure and has begun looking into military academy summer programs. I feel that our son's problems are bigger than that and that he needs more of a therapeutic boarding school. The programs we've found on-line are so expensive, and we don't want to make the wrong decision if we do decide to send him away. Your thoughts are appreciated.*

– A in Loudoun County

A, You did not mention whether or not your son has been assessed by a mental health professional or whether he has been or currently is in treatment. If your son has not been assessed, I recommend doing that immediately. Often parents in your situation complain that they have seen several therapists for their teenagers but that it was a waste of time and money; that nothing



changed. There are a lot of psychiatrists and psychologists out there – good and bad – so please make sure you do your homework in selecting the right clinician for your son. Pediatricians are often a good place to start for a referral. You may also have a friend or two who have had struggling teens of their own. Perhaps you could confide in a good friend, and that person may be able to recommend a solid mental health clinician. I would advise against placement until your son is assessed, and his problems are understood thoroughly. With a good assessment and treatment, it may be the case that your son improves and does not need to leave his family to get better. Also, if it turns out that he does not suffer from any sort of significant mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse or learning disabilities, it may be the case that the structure and discipline a good military academy could provide may be just the right thing for him at 16. Should your son's mental health difficulties turn out to be more serious, a therapeutic boarding

school may be the better placement if he is not able to remain at home. If you do decide to send your son away please consider using an educational advocate. Just because a school has a fancy webpage, does not mean it is the right fit for your son given his needs. I have met with many parents over the years who have sent their teens many states away and for a lot of money, only to learn that the school they selected was a poor match. An educational advocate can assist you in finding the right school for your son without making costly mistakes. Also, if you do decide on sending your son away to either a military academy or therapeutic boarding school, make sure you relay your thoughts to your son positively. He is probably going to be hurt and angry regardless of what you say, however, he needs to hear that you are not sending him away or kicking him out. Rather, your son should hear that you love him very much and are concerned for his wellbeing and future. That he needs more structure and help than you can provide him as parents in order for him to succeed. That he is going away to succeed and you look forward to his safe return. Remember to also be good to yourselves as parents and to support your other children during this difficult time.

Dr. Mike,

*I am pregnant with my second child, and my mom was planning to host a baby shower for me. My best friend told me that having a second baby shower is considered bad etiquette and that I should forgo the gathering. My mom thinks that*

*my friend is being absurd, and now I am in the middle of the two of them. I would like to have the shower but don't want my friends judging me. Seems Google is also telling me that baby shower's are for the first child only. What are your thoughts?*

– O in Loudoun County

O, The most conservative of folks will tell you that second baby showers are tacky and one should never do it. However, others posit that it is fine if the gap between the two children is significant. Still others would say that it is acceptable if the gender of your first and second child is different. And then there are those who are always up for a party to celebrate something special. I am in the latter group. A shower is celebration of you as mother; it is a gathering of close friends and family to share in your pregnancy and joy. If you do decide to have a shower, everyone in attendance already knows that your first child was a girl and that you are likely in need of male oriented things. Those who truly care about you will want to attend and will want to bring you and your baby-to-be a gift. As far as being in the middle goes, you write that you would like to have the shower but do not want to be judged. I think you should focus only on what you want to do, which is to have the shower, and not worry about being judged. Certainly, if you speak openly to your best friend about your wishes, it should not be too difficult for her to put aside her views on baby shower etiquette for your happiness. Congratulations!

Continued on page 29

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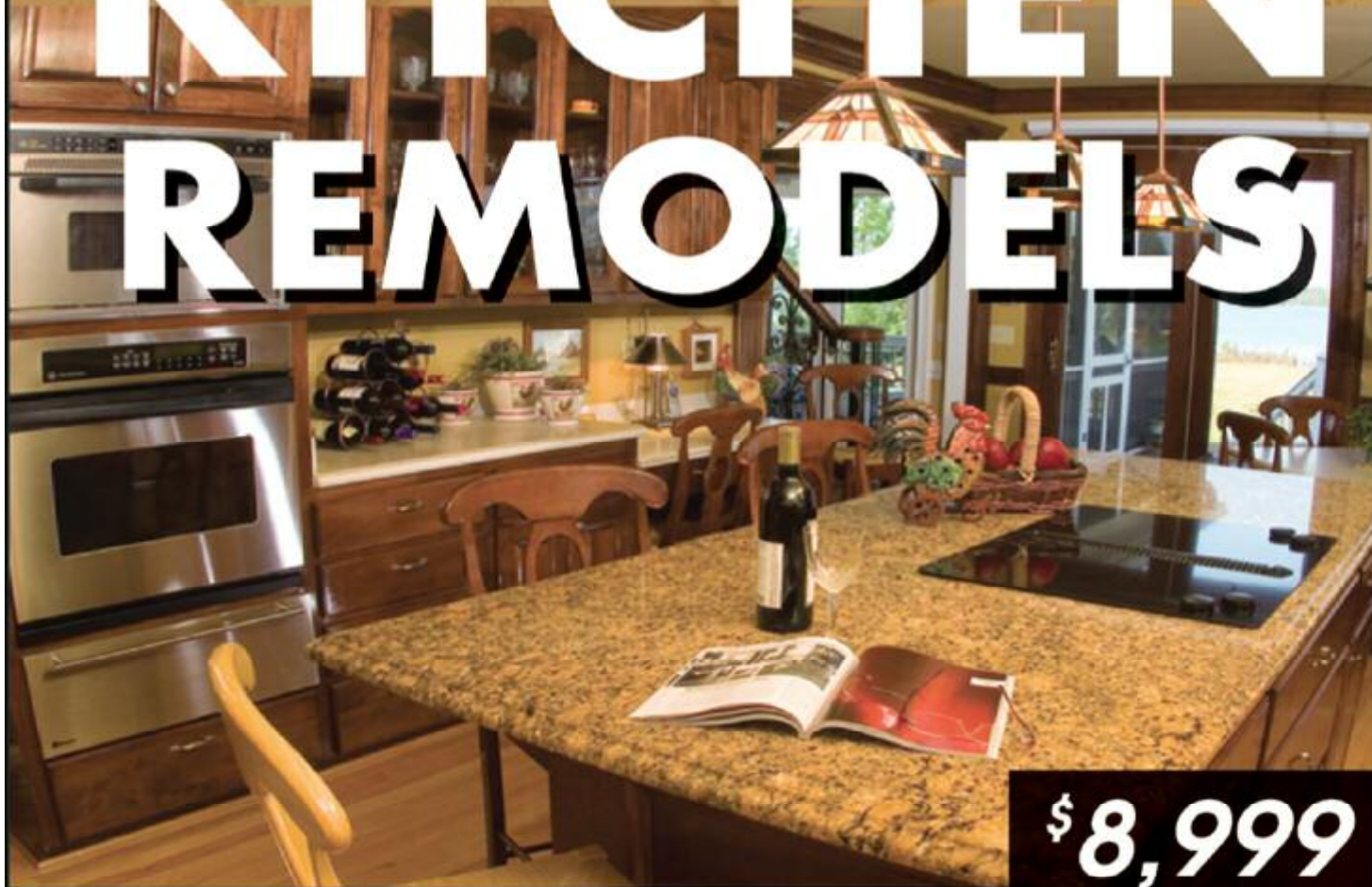
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## Bystanders or Leaders?

In the past 20 years Purcellville has changed from a very rural, quiet and polite town to a suburban outpost with a lot more noise, activity and impatience. Loudoun County, the wealthiest county in the country, harbors a vast government machine whose contractors and subcontractors, and those who benefit from these businesses with all sorts of spinoffs and support industries, is not suffering from the affects of the economic downturn felt in other jurisdictions

But fast growth – the town grew by over 11 percent every year of the housing bubble – is often poorly planned growth. A growth of almost 70 percent in six years stretches the resources of any town or county, and can cause grievous harm to the needs of those who live in that community. Decisions on growth have to be tempered with a sense of scale and balance. Where will the water come from? How many children are going to be included in the new subdivision and what impact will that have on our present school system? How will the roads handle the new traffic? How will the quality of life be affected? What sort of mix between residential and commercial should be encouraged so that the tax base doesn't throw a burden on the residents? How can small business, which keeps its dollars in the community, be encouraged over chain stores which drain not only money but a sense of place from the town? What makes this place special, even precious, and how can we preserve the very character that shaped it over its long history? How do we respect and cherish it and still incorporate the new and changing landscape?

During the past 15 years there were two documents that were supposed to safeguard this community from being overrun by poorly planned growth and the destruction of the sense of community living, a quality present in a small town sur-

rounded by the overwhelming heritage of open lands and history, and the beauty and bounty that they express. One document is the Comprehensive Plan (CP) which is reviewed every five years. The second was the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP), which was adopted by the town in 1995. The CP was more about zoning within the town. PUGAMP was more of a vision about the encroachment of the town on adjacent properties, and whether or not that encroachment was warranted by the capacity of the town to provide utilities. It was an attempt to fine tune the growth of any town with its ability to provide services and thus keep the population well supplied with those services. In other words, to respond to the needs of the citizens in an "orderly, harmonious" way. That was, in fact, the core purpose of the PUGAMP. It was written with the attempt to keep the quality of life at a peak level even as the population grew.

The vision of a community is expressed, and protected, by the leadership of that community. Those who have leadership skills and truly care about their communities, make plans. And, they stick with them. They protect the quality of life of the people who live within those communities, as opposed to letting what the town will look like be dictated by developers.

All the town has done for the last 10 years is make excuses. It takes a great deal of time and effort and money to make excuses. A constant stream of media is needed to distort reality. In Purcellville, the need to create a totally false vision of what the town is doing required them to hire a public relations expert to the tune of \$90 an hour. And this person is not there to tell you what is actually going on. Perhaps we should call this person, not a public relations expert, but a purveyor of dreams. The

*Continued on page 10*

## View From the Ridge – by Andrea Gaines

### “We’re Going To Look Like Sterling ...”

In what many town residents will remember as one of the saddest days in recent memory, the Town of Purcellville last month bulldozed hundreds and hundreds of trees, including nearly 100 fruit producing trees, on the 250 year old working farm, Crooked Run Orchard.

Said local businessman Tom Inman, “We’re going to look like Sterling, and frankly, that’s not the reason I moved to Purcellville.”

The Crooked Run Orchard saga has been going on for many years – but this was a threshold moment. Sam and Uta Brown, owners of Crooked Run, challenged town plans to put the Souther Collector Road (SCR) through their farm, and transform the eastern edge of town into a major commercial area, com-



plete with Big Box stores, a roundabout

and a major highway. The highway will cut the farm in two and encircle both Crooked Run Orchard and several residential communities, including Village Case. The SCR will be two lanes when first built, but many expect that to grow to four lanes as the town has secured a right of way for up to four lanes.

Purcellville condemned by quick take over half of a 16 acre parcel on the farm – one of three parcels totaling over 90 acres.

*Continued on page 10*



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## Letters to the Editor

### It's Just a Turtle ... But It Deserves Our Respect

Dear Editor: Turtles are especially active during this time of year, and many find themselves in danger when they try to cross roads. Because of their extremely slow metabolism, turtles who are hit by vehicles can suffer for days or even weeks before dying.

PETA rescue workers routinely find turtles who are still alive and suffering immensely even though their shells have been crushed. If you see a turtle – or any animal – in the road, please check on him or her, even if the animal appears to be dead.

Small turtles should be gently grasped between the front and back legs and quickly carried across the road in the direction the animal was heading (turtles will turn back into traffic if you don't oblige). Large or snapping

turtles can be gently coaxed into an animal carrier or onto a sturdy, flat surface and moved across the road. If you see a turtle who has been hit by a car, rush him or her to a veterinarian or an animal shelter.

Stopping to check on an animal only takes a moment, but it can mean the difference between life and death. Please visit [www.PETA.org](http://www.PETA.org) for more information.

– Amy Skylark Elizabeth  
The PETA Foundation

### Doesn't Like Metro

Dear Editor: This past week many news reports and papers told us that without Metro to Loudoun the sky would fall and Loudoun would say goodbye to billions of dollars and revert back to the stone age. What a bunch of hogwash. All these claims come from a report that Fuller admits was funded by rail



## Committees at a Glance

**Committees at a Glance** is a new feature of the Blue Ridge Leader informing our readers about the inner working of local government and how actions and decisions impact our everyday lives – from our tax rates to that new development we see going in down the road. For this first edition we discuss recent actions and discussion by the Town Of Purcellville and several of its key committees for the month of May.

### Town of Purcellville Ways and Means Committee Meeting, May 7, 2012

#### ● Topic: Appointments To The Purcellville Planning Commission

Purcellville's Ways and Means Committee went into a closed "executive session" on May 7, 2012, to interview candidates for various town committees, commissions and boards. (Note: Prior to 2011, all such interviews were conducted in public.)

Following the closed session, at the May 8, 2012, Town Council meeting the Town Council voted unanimously to appoint Ben Packard to the Planning Commission, and Gregory Lehr\* and Daniella Harris to the Economic Development Committee.

#### – Topic: Possible New 70-Acre Development Known As "Valley Springs II" – Across From Blue Ridge Middle School On A Street & Maple Avenue/Lincoln Road

Now out of executive session, developer Joe Bane came before the Ways and Means Committee, along with Mike Flanagan (president of Virginia One Development) and Bruce A. Griffin of Blue Ridge Realty\*\*. Mr. Bane stated in the meeting that he had been asked by the town to discuss constructing a senior citizen complex at the Valley Springs II location. (Note: Valley Springs II is currently outside the town's boundaries and zoned for 26 homes. If this property is annexed by the Town [or the town decides to provide water and sewer to the property], the zoning is likely to change from residential to commercial, "I want you to think apartment complex," said Mike Flanagan. In this case, they are considering a for-profit low income housing development in partnership "USDC" (taxpayer subsidized affordable housing). Purcellville

qualifies because of population. In addition to an apartment complex, they would like to have assisted living, an Alzheimer's care nursing home, and cottages. Councilman Wiley said that he would like to see all three as one big complex plus cottages. Bruce Griffin said that he had met with Valley Health and Inova\*\*\* and that "They are the operators." He said he had met with the CEO of Inova and that Inova "wants to get into assisted living".

#### ● Topic: Tax Breaks For Developer Pushing Old Town Purcellville Tourism Zone Hotel

The Ways and Means Committee also discussed Purcellville's "Old Town Tourism Zone," indicating that they wanted to move forward with the zone and its special tax breaks, and a map with 17 identified parcels was handed out. Mayor Lazaro recommended that the Tourism district proposal go to the Economic Advisory Committee. At the Town Council Meeting the next day, on May 8, 2012, the Purcellville Town Council voted unanimously to pass the Tourism Zone, but selectively reduced the parcels that would be in the newly created zone to just five parcels. Full parcels belong to developers John Chapman and Mark Nelis, while other right-of-way parcels belong to Bob Lewis – according to tax map information. The Chapman/Nelis parcels are intended to be developed into a hotel and parking garage. The newly created zone would provide tax incentives and regulatory flexibility. Waivers could be considered for the following taxes: BPOL taxes, meals tax, permit fees and availability fees, and transient lodging tax. The waivers would last nine years and the businesses would pay the taxes and then be reimbursed with a grant from the town.

*Continued on page 6*

## Special Opinion

– By Malcolm Baldwin

Despite Loudoun's increasingly vibrant rural economy, rural residents fear that forces of sprawl may erase the economic, recreational, historic, and environmental values that Loudoun residents now enjoy. That fear affects debate over Metro to Loudoun, allying some rural residents with the no-tax, Tea Party/Koch Brothers Metro opposition. But, in fact, Metro offers positive opportunities for enhancing our rural economy, if we energetically pursue practical policies open to us. Otherwise, with – and especially without – Metro, Loudoun's unique rural economy – that some call our oft-neglected economic "weapon" – risks a diminished future and a loss of what is arguably our county's greatest competitive advantage.

One of Loudoun's strengths has been the growing county-wide consensus that a highly developed east complements our rural west. Rural zoning fights that dominated Loudoun politics from 2004 to 2007 ended with an imperfect but still broadly-supported rural zoning that never even became a political issue in the 2011 local elections. Twenty-acre zoning in the northern part (mostly the Catoclin District), and 40-acre zoning in the south (mostly Blue Ridge) – albeit compromised some by the opportunities for clustering – has strengthened our rural economy over the past five years. The evidence is in the rising numbers of vineyards, wineries, tourists, events like the Farm Tour and the Wine Country Half-Marathon, and the growing popularity of fresh and local foods produced right here in Loudoun. Increasingly, eastern Loudoun residents appreciate that the rural west enhances their suburban life, and Loudoun's economy as a whole.

Nevertheless, rural Loudoun remains vulnerable to impacts from heedless sprawl and the specter of some 40,000 already-allowed but unbuilt housing sites in the

west. Some rural residents now fear that bringing Metro to Loudoun will add to this risk and that Loudoun's future commercial development will be poorly managed, with sprawling residential growth around the new stations and eventual migration of new residents westward.

Bad planning around Loudoun's Metro stations could indeed move the center of development west and fail to inhibit sprawl in rural Loudoun. Loudoun's past promotion of costly growth naturally raises alarms. But a history of planning failures, coupled with Loudoun's future growth projections, highlights the even more serious threats to our rural economy without Metro. Without Metro growth centers, where will Loudoun's population increase and resulting development pressures find release?

From past experience alone, it's a no brainer: these pressures will undermine our rural zoning and our rural economy. In fact, however, if we approve Metro in Loudoun we actually have the opportunity to control our destiny and achieve substantial commercial growth, vastly reduce pressure on residential taxes, and greatly enhance rural economic security and expansion.

The Robert Charles Lesser & Co.'s economic study of Metro's impact, commissioned by our Board of Supervisors and updated recently, concluded that stations in Loudoun would induce dense growth centers around them, reducing growth in Fairfax and in Loudoun's rural west. It suggests that these centers will attract childless households that minimize pressures on public services and schools, and we know from other studies that these groups increasingly value compact, walkable communities. With special tax districts for those benefiting most from Metro, and planning for appropriate density, we can foster concentrated commercial growth and long-term tax benefits to Loudoun homeowners throughout the County.

*Continued on page 6*

## Letters to the Editor, continued from facing page

station landowners. Does anyone else get a funny whiff of something here? Stephen S. Fuller appears at first glance to be an objective university professor speaking out about Metro benefits, but the truth is – he's a lobbyist that's also related to rail investors. He is a "Dwight Schar Faculty Chair" and Dwight Schar's son-in-law is a Principal of Comstock Partners, highly invested in Dulles Rail Corridor projects. Hmmm.

A little research on who Dr. Fuller also represents produced a list from his GMU bio webpage. His past and current positions include: NAIOP Distinguished Fellow from 2001 through 2008 (trade association for developers, owners and investors in industrial, office and related commercial real estate), CFO Advisory Group of the District of

Columbia (DC wants to milk the Loudoun Cash Cow), Board of Directors of the Global Environment and Technology Foundation (globalist environmental lobbyists focused on "Sustainable Development" such as Moorefield Station and other Transit Oriented Development (TOD), Board of Directors of Tompkins Builders Inc. (specializing in high-end condominiums and massive government buildings), Economic advisor to Fairfax County, VA (Fairfax wants to milk the Loudoun Cash Cow), Board of Directors of the Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Authority (FCCVA wants their visitors to have rail access to the airport), Cardinal Bank Chief Economist (Cardinal Bank has financial ties to Comstock Properties).

It is clear that Dr. Fuller represents the

pro-rail lobby, particularly those with investment interests and those with a globalist environmental agenda. A Republican Board of Supervisors elected on a platform of being limited-government conservatives shouldn't listen to any of his advice.

Like many media propaganda outlets, liberal politicians and lobbyists, Dr. Fuller fails to cite any sources or documentation for his claims. He states that "All the forecasts for the County's future economic growth include the provision of Metrorail service." If so, his claim that removing Metro from the forecasts would decrease economic growth is – without evidence.

This is the biggest decision the Loudoun Board of Supervisors has ever faced; it deserves to be made with an honest

assessment of all the facts.

– D. Siecker, Purcellville, VA

### 100 Year Old Tree ... Gone.

Dear Editor: A Kieffer Pear tree, planted in 1910 by my grandfather, Edwin Brown, was killed to make way for the Southern Collector Road (SCR). It was 102 years old. Kieffer is an old time favorite found by many older homes and farmsteads. One stands behind Mary Eleen Stover's houses on Maple Avenue [in Purcellville]. In its makeup, the pear has genes from Asian pears. It is a gritty pear and my father used it to make pear sauce for his breakfasts. I shall miss this tree.

– Sam Brown, Crooked Run Orchard, Purcellville

*Continued on page 10*



EDITORIAL

Special Opinion, continued from page 5

New Metro station centers can also protect and enhance our rural economy if we improve rural economic incentives and adopt appropriate market-based approaches to urban planning. One proven tool that is already available under Virginia law is to establish a system of Transferable Development Rights ("TDRs"), whereby development rights in rural Loudoun can be sold to buyers near the new Metro station centers. Neighboring Montgomery County, Maryland promotes such transfers and has protected over 52,000 acres of farmland with its TDR program. In its agricultural areas that have been down-zoned to allow only one house per 25 acres, rural land owners can sell development rights they had under the previous zoning designation of 1 unit per 5 acres to a buyer in an area designated for higher density growth elsewhere in the County. This private transaction between a rural seller (generally a farmer) and urban buyer (usually a developer) applies efficient market principles to landowner and community goals.

For Loudoun County, the TDR offers an extraordinarily useful market system tool – albeit with complexities requiring careful attention -- to transfer development rights from a willing seller in the rural west to a buyer engaged development around the new Metro stations. That opportunity will not exist with a terminal Metro station at Dulles Airport that falls within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA).

We should welcome, and not fear Metro's impact. If our Board approves Metro into Loudoun it offers immense opportunities for sustainable commercial development, sensible centers of growth and rural economy enhancement. But that happy prospect requires additional measures to nail down these benefits through informed debate, rational decision-making and continued consensus that Loudoun's rural economy stands as a critical value and competitive asset that the County must protect.

Committees at a Glance, continued from page 5

The Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee Workshop Meeting at the Train Station, May 16, 2012

● Topic: the Committee's "10-Year Wish List" On Increased Commercial Development And Attendant Population Growth

The meeting was facilitated by Councilmember Greg Wagner – Town Council liaison to the Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of in town residents and out of town residents.

This work session was held to discuss economic goals for the town. And, while the purpose of the committee is to stimulate business activity through growth, there are few actual parameters put on that business activity, including how big the

town should get, where growth should take place and what kinds of businesses are most conducive to Purcellville's essential character.

Committee member Lauten said that it's about bringing money into town and that "jobs are not the whole story." Another committee member, Daniel Abramson said that it is all about "creating community and a better quality of life" and that "Purcellville is short on services." All members echoed that they wanted an emphasis on tourism, with specific and repeated references to the Chapman/Nelis hotel. Committee Member Ian Paterson would like to see all houses on Main Street go commercial as a goal for the future – with a possible name change to "Professional Road." For the future, others

Continued on page 30

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## - The Builder's Wife -

- By Cathy Little

### Smart Homes

When we attend the builders' shows, some of my favorite displays are the "smart" home vendors.

The capabilities they promise evoke visions of a house that the Jetsons would be at home in - integrated control of lighting, heating, sound, security, etc., all at your fingertips.

Our clients have taken advantage of various aspects of this technology. However, you don't have to build a new home to put this luxury to use. The best part about a smart home is that the various options can be integrated and managed through an LCD console user interface in your kitchen or better yet, remotely from your smartphone.

Here are some options we like:

- Intercoms and cameras that keep you in touch with your family;
- Centrally located lighting schemes that, for example, light up your driveway for guests, dim several rooms at once for entertaining, or brighten the lights for cleaning up afterwards;
- Music that plays from your MP3 player on speakers throughout the home or just in the rooms you want;
- Shared videos and gaming;
- For energy savings, in addition to programmable thermostats, window coverings can be programmed to open or close depending on the temperature or time of day;
- Standby power to small appliances can be turned off when not in use;
- You can program your security system that's integrated with your door locks to automatically lock all the doors when leaving the house; and
- You can tell which door someone is



coming in and out of or if any windows were left open.

As I mentioned, these can all be controlled from your smartphone. So you can call home from your office and tell your teenager to close his window before he leaves for school! If you're travelling, you can tell when and if the pet sitter showed up. When you unlock the front door, the lights in your hallway and kitchen can automatically turn on. The possibilities are endless.

The next consideration is whether to go with a wired or wireless installation. Although wireless appears to be the wave of the future and is less expensive, it's not yet very common in the U.S., especially in residential use. We prefer the tried-and-true hard-wire systems. Although they cost more up front, you'll always have the fallback. Wire is cheap and easy to install in a home under construction. But wireless is a good option for home renovation. Two vendors we enjoyed visiting at the International Builder's Show were Legrand and Lutron.

I suggest that if you're building your own home prepare for the future as much as your crystal ball allows. In addition to wiring whatever you can think of, install conduit wherever you can imagine a future need. That way you can start on your wish list gradually and add options as they become available or affordable. If you want to add features to your current home check out wireless options such as Lutron's Radio RA2.

Then you'll be ready to kick back with Jane Jetson and let your house (and Rosey the Robot) do all the work!

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## Reviews of Movies Available for Home Viewing: *Dark Tide*

- By Bob Rutzel

*Halle Berry, Jeff Martinez, Ralph Brown,*

### Very Disappointing

Shark whisperer Kate (Halle Berry) needs to go back into the water to pay bills. She lost a crewman years ago and blames herself. She takes on Brady (Ralph Brown) a millionaire who wants to swim with the great whites, but outside the cage. This can't be good.

This is very disappointing. The story line is simple, but where it all goes bad is in the ending and in many dark underwater scenes near the end where all you can see are flash-light beams and the water turning red. You hear cries for help but you cannot see exactly what is happening and to whom. Not that we need to see any gore but we may as well be watching a black screen and hearing cries for help. Not good. The ending screamed that we needed some kind of closure. Didn't get it.

Much of the acting and dialogues felt contrived, forced and pointless. We should have felt some compassion for Kate and we didn't. We didn't care. The first three quarters of the movie are OK due mostly to the photography which is outstanding both above and below the water. The editing also was very good and seamless - like you were eavesdropping on the people on the boat.

Because of the music and ocean sounds hearing dialogue was difficult at times.

The sightings of sharks alongside the boat are scary, real and fantastic. And, yes, the movie JAWS did come to mind. Can't be helped.

In most movies about animals, fish or birds, we learn something most of us didn't know about them. Here we learned almost nothing we didn't already know. Some dialogue tidbits about sharks would have gone a long way to a better appreciation of them and the so-called shark whisperers who risk their lives trying to understand them.

Confusing scenes: Three men in diving suits park their pickup and go into the water. They are looking for something but I couldn't hear what it was. You see one of the submerged men find something and scoop it up. You can hear someone saying to hurry up. Next scene is a policeman calling in to his office that he sees the truck and will look around. That's all that was seen. Nothing more was made of this in the story. Seems like someone forgot to edit something out or maybe it was part of another movie. Who knows? Hey, we suffer in silence.

Memo to Ms. Berry: Go back to the Bond movies. Stay out of the water. Violence: Yes; Sex: No; Nudity: No; Language: Only a few S-words were heard. Rating: D.

## Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

- By Amy Smith

### Asset Allocation in Retirement

Your asset allocation should be dynamic and flexible-adjusting with you as you move through life. Finding your unique formula for the many years you hope to spend in retirement is an important consideration as you transition your lifestyle into your non-income producing years.

The asset allocation formula that worked for you as you were building your nest egg will need to change to a more conservative approach, perhaps allocating a greater percentage of your overall portfolio to income-generating investments as you grow older. Simply put, you don't want to assume the same level of risk since your capacity and investing time horizon to recover from losses is no longer as great. Your focus should now be on preserving capital and generating a predictable income stream to supplement other income sources.

### Allowing For Inflation

Although it's not a problem right now, many observers believe we will be facing higher inflation down the road. That can be a very real problem in retirement. For example, at a 3% inflation rate, \$100,000 worth of purchasing power declines to \$54,379 in 20 years. Most people also assume that their healthcare costs are going to increase in their later years, so you will want to allow



for that, too. These two factors, plus the possibility of other unexpected expenses, mean that you are likely to still need some percentage of growth-oriented assets in your portfolio.

As the market gyrations of the past few years demonstrated quite convincingly, one of the big risks of investing is having to sell at the wrong time. For this reason, you also need to keep a certain percentage of your assets liquid, in cash or equivalent, so you can access that money quickly if needed. Although everyone's situation is different, keeping six to 24 months' or more worth of expenses in cash is a good goal. To visualize the benefit of this, think about the difference between an investor who had to raise money by selling stocks during the market crash of 2009 versus another who could wait until a few months later.

### How Long Should You Plan For?

While you can't know for certain how many years you'll spend in retirement, we do know that because life spans in general are increasing, the years people spend in retirement are also increasing. For example, actuaries say that for a couple who are both 65 when they retire, there's an 85% probability that at least one of them will live past 85. This means that your assets may have to last you quite a long time.

Living longer also means that the growth oriented portion of your portfolio has more time to experience the magic of compounding. For example, if you have

*Continued on page 9*

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Barbara S. Williams

*Shielding the Injured*

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# FROM THE FARM



Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard.

## Temperature ... Temperature

— By Uta Brown

Everyone knows that it has been a strange year weather wise. Growers feel this even more intensely, as the broccoli you usually plant and watch go seedy too soon is doing fine this year. The lettuce is booming but the asparagus, even though it showed up early, is now slowing down. Since seeds need temperatures about 10 degrees higher to germinate than they need to "grow on", it's tricky to plant them outside if you don't get a sufficient warm period. Soaking the bean seeds for two hours hurries the germination. But, if the nights dip into the mid-thirties or low forties, they might not make it.

If you are serious about growing your own and don't have room for a greenhouse, a small cold frame can be very helpful. They are very simple to make, cheap, and very effective. The classic design is composted manure as a bed, straw bales for sides, and glass "windows" for the top. When the sun hits the glass it can heat up the air in the cold frame quickly, so you need to vent them to avoid overheating. The cold frame doesn't have to be big. Six feet by three can germinate a huge number of seedlings. You can make the sides permanently of wood. Then, rather than add the straw and compost to the garden you can move the entire frame if you need to.

The summer heat defeats a lot of growers

who love the cool season vegetables. But you can manipulate the temperature somewhat by where you plant your spring crops.

Plant them where the east sun hits them in the cooler hours of the morning. Four or five hours is sufficient. The rest of the day the lettuce, spinach, beans and chard, rhubarb and chicories can stay in the shade. The position of large trees can create the shade you need, or the side of the house you plant on. Water can also keep them cooled down, as water cools the air as it evaporates. This does not have to be a lot of water, but an occasional fine spray. Despite the fact that some lettuces are more tolerant of heat than others, they simply don't taste as good if they are grown in the heat.

By now, if you've grown tomatoes you have at least a slight acquaintance with the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. By planting early, and trying to get your tomatoes to ripen before August 1, you can avoid the worst of the invasion. Many people told me they had no stink bugs. Many of those found they did get the bugs in August. One woman told me she planted mint and basil among her tomatoes. Her tomatoes were clean. That might work. Bugs hate anything in the mint family. Mints are easy to grow and can be invasive, but if they protect your tomatoes it might be worth it. The mint family is so extensive there is probably something you will like among this herb family. Good luck!

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# Summer 2012 Brings More Opportunities to Put Local Produce on the Kitchen Table

The "Buy Local" movement is building steam in western Loudoun County with the opening of two new farm markets – one of which seeks to grow into a full-fledge local products grocery store.

## The New Lovettsville Cooperative Market

The Lovettsville Cooperative Market (LCM) and Market Table Bistro (MTB) – Lovettsville's newest destination restaurant – have launched a new farm market in this very active community.

The market opened on Sunday, June 3, and will be open every Sunday through September. The location is 2 North Light Street, in the parking lot of Dr. Carroll Johnston, just behind Market Table Bistro, off West Broadway in downtown Lovettsville.

Like other area farm markets, the Lovettsville Cooperative Farm Market offers a variety of fresh produce, meats, eggs, and other local goods. A few "micro-local" farmers and producers from the immediate area who do not sell at other area summer farm markets, including Millcreek Farm, Quarter Branch Farm, and Onyx Hill Farm, are also participating.

"We are excited to be able to find a way to bring fresh, local produce to Lovettsville and other area residents in a way that works for everyone," said Warren Howell, chair of the market's planning committee and vice-chair of the LCM. "Lovettsville has seen markets come and go in the past but, with this new model, we think we'll be able to successfully meet everyone's needs."

LCM sees the new Cooperative Farm Market as a win-win for the Co-op and the community.

For the Co-op, the Farm Market showcase some of the products a local cooperative grocery market would offer in the future.

Local farmers also benefit by having one more outlet for their goods, helping to build their small businesses further. The Farm Market will be open on Sundays to avoid competition with the Saturday markets held in other parts of the county.

The Farm Market will also be a stepping stone toward building relationships with both the community and producers on the way to a full-fledged brick-and-mortar food market. As

the Co-op's grocery store takes shape, this new business in Lovettsville will bring jobs and potentially more businesses to Lovettsville.

"I can see that together LCM members and local food producers have what it takes to grow an abundant and cooperative community right here in our town," says Hana Funk, volunteer general manager of the Farm Market. "It's been a pleasure working with and getting to know other LCM members on this project. We all share a passion for fresh local food."

The June 3rd kick-off market day featured live music, refreshments and lots of fresh, local produce and other goods.

## The New Hillsboro Farm Market

More than 250 people came to the grand opening of the new Hillsboro Farmers Market at the grounds of Hillsboro's Old Stone School on Saturday, May 19.

After a welcome by market managers

Randy and Sara Lawrence, they were joined by Dave Stagmeyer, a representative for

Congressman Wolf; Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance; and Hillsboro Community Association

President Mark Ware to cut the ribbon and officially open the market. Other

officials who joined us opening day included Blue Ridge District Supervisor Janet Clarke, Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro, and Kellie Bolles with Loudoun County Economic Development.

Visitors shopped at the stands of 16 local vendors, and enjoyed music by the Loudoun Travelers and Shorthill Mountain Boys, as well as a yarn spinning demonstration by Janet Brown.

The market, which will be open Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through mid-October, features fresh, local produce, meats, and prepared foods. There will also be local musicians, demonstrations, and educational activities throughout the season. Please come by and visit us to shop, dine, and spend some time.

For more information on Lovettsville, go to [www.lovettsville-grocery.com](http://www.lovettsville-grocery.com). For more information on Hillsboro, visit [www.HillsboroFarmersMarket.org](http://www.HillsboroFarmersMarket.org).



## Amy Smith, continued from page 7

\$100,000 allocated to that portion and are able to achieve annual returns of 6%, after 10 years you'll have \$179,084.77, and after 15 years, you'll have \$239,655.82. This assumes no losses—a good reason to stick with less-risky investments.

Asset allocation in retirement is a critically important element of your overall plan—be sure to get some expert help in deciding what's best for you. Also, don't forget to revisit your formula periodically to be sure your asset mix is increasingly conservative as you get older.

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](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com).

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Every Real Estate Market has Great Opportunities





– By Jim Burton

From January 1, 1996 until January 1, 2012, I served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. During this period, the County underwent the most dramatic changes in its history. The population grew from approximately 120,000 to over 320,000 as thousands of acres of farmland were converted into sprawling suburban subdivisions. Loudoun became one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, at times even the fastest growing.

The school system grew from 17,000 students in the mid-1990's to over 67,000 in 2011 as 46 new schools were built and opened. A predominantly all-volunteer fire and rescue system painfully changed to a system dominated by career firefighters and EMT specialists. Demand for playing fields and other recreational facilities soared. Traffic came to a halt.

Old Loudoun slowly faded as a new Loudoun emerged.

Building the infrastructure to support such an explosive growth in population was – and continues to be – a challenge. The need for new schools, libraries, firehouses, community centers, jails, ballfields, and roads, mostly funded by long-term debt and



*“... the primary objective for this website is to provide an archive of sorts for those who may be interested in researching the history of that period or who continue to be active in the political debate.”*

all requiring new staff to operate, has led to a continuing upward pressure on homeowners' property taxes. During this period, the long-term debt went from \$150 million to \$1.2 billion and the average homeowners' yearly tax bill grew from \$1,900 to over \$5,000. Yet, many residents could not – or would not – make this obvious connection. Some had significant financial stakes in a “business as usual, growth at any cost” mindset. Others were committed to an ideology of absolute property rights and laissez-faire economics. Still others were busy with school schedules and career calendars, with no time and energy to pay attention to what their government was doing. Some residents, however, did make the connection between growth and taxes and worked hard to change the system. I was one of them.

Pendulum politics has been the result of these pressures. Over the past 16 years the County has seen entire Boards turnover every four years as a pro-growth Board of Supervisors is replaced by a slow-growth Board, followed by another pro-growth Board, and so on – back and forth from one extreme to the other. Issues visited by one

*Continued on page 12*

## Letters, continued from page 5

### A Beautiful Memorial Day!

Dear Editor: Even though it was very warm for our Memorial Day Ceremony, it was a beautiful day for a very special occasion, and we thank all of you who came to pay your respect. Forty pavers were dedicated to Veteran Honorees, and another nine have already been sold for the next dedication on Veterans Day. Our Buy-a-Paver Program has been well received, and is certainly adding a great enhancement to our beautiful Veterans Memorial. I wish to thank the following who participated in our Ceremony: Pastor Joel Guttormson and Pastor Lee Crosby, Mrs. Sarah Stillman and students from Lovettsville Elementary School, members of our Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company and career members of Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, and our Keynote Speaker, Former State Senator Charles L. Waddell, who has spoken so many times for events in Lovettsville. Our guests included Supervisor Geary Higgins, Dave Stegmaier from Congressman Wolf's Office, Steve Hood from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, representatives from our Civic organizations, and visitors from other towns and states. A personal thank you to Keith Markel and Henry Pearson for setting up the space and equipment for our Ceremony. As I stated in my remarks, we went from one weather

extreme to another, remembering the bitter cold Veterans Day 2011 when the Memorial was dedicated. May we always remember our Veterans, and may God Bless our Troops who are still ensuring our freedom today.

– Elaine Walker, Mayor, Lovettsville

### Likes Metro

Dear Editor: I, and many, many county residents would be absolutely flabbergasted and disgusted, if you, a pro development Board, were to vote against our County's support for, and participation in, Metro expansion into Loudoun County.

This is a singular opportunity to enhance the factors that positively affect our county's economy; improved property values, an increased tax base, and stimulation of business and jobs. Of course, some of us – and maybe not everyone – may initially have to pay a few more cents in taxes or fees. But that is the way this county has grown for decades, and it has been worth it.

All you have to do is look at the Orange line corridor in Arlington to see the benefits of Metro expansion.

Reviewing this issue requires a steadfast, long-term view, and a statesman-like analysis of true considerations – not hiding behind short-term ideological rhetoric. Are you capable of that?

I certainly hope so ...

– Daniel Shaughnessy, Purcellville

[Editor@BRLeader.com](mailto:Editor@BRLeader.com)

## EDITORIAL

### View from the Ridge, continued from page 4

Many say the Southern Collector Road is simply a way to facilitate even more development in the area, arguing that even before the road is completed, requests for rezonings and special exceptions will come before the town, threatening to change forever the last bit of agricultural land in Purcellville.

This first action by the town has split the farm in two, resulting in a big problem for Brown. The SCR's path bisects the

internal dirt farm road Brown's family has used for decades to access Crooked Run's back 45 acres, which includes a peach orchard. Recent construction has nearly eliminated the farm road and also prevents Crooked Run Orchard's pick your own customers from accessing the area.

Town documents had claimed to have made provisions for such access. But, to date, the town has not delivered on its promise.

### Bystanders or Leaders, continued from page 4

town is all too willing to talk about the awards they are given and to send out a quarterly update that is nothing but a compilation of self congratulatory articles.

Now the town is saying that they are helpless about all this development. They are saying zoning is by-right. That they don't choose what kinds of retail establishments come into town. The truth is the town has complete control of the type of vision they want for the town. The town promoted as much growth as possible in the past 20 years. If the town felt that the rate of growth was too rapid, they could have chosen to slow it down by overturning the annexations and not increasing the density of the zonings.

No one forced the Town Council to greatly accelerate the rate of new commercial development. The original commercial

footprint on Cole Farm was half of this one and there were no Big Box Stores. Since the town had to use the Special Use Permit, a device which the Town Council has used on numerous occasions to change the zoning, they were certainly in control of the situation. But, a more glaring example that the Town Council has gone out of its way to grow the town unwisely is the annexation of the Catoctin Corner property and its zoning into another unnecessary and repetitive shopping center. The fact that the town did this over and above the objections of the Planning Commission demonstrates very clearly that the town is insincere when it depicts itself as helpless bystander in the zoning process.

Again, the vision of a community is expressed, and protected, by the leadership of that community.

## Two Brothers in War

– By John P. Flannery

On Memorial Day, we remember those who served in war and acknowledge their sacrifice of time from family and friends, from young ambition, and from life itself, so that they could give to a nation to preserve and protect the freedom it represents.

These recruits were almost always young and that made their sacrifice the greater.

Brothers Charles and John enlisted in what many thought was the greatest war, the war against Hitler. Their parents were supportive. Irish friends thought, however, they should be helping Hitler instead – to beat the English for what the Brits did to Ireland.

Charles went to Europe and John was stationed stateside in the Army Air Force on ground crews fixing and maintaining aircraft. John spent the war “trying to get into it.”

Charles fought through Sicily with General Patton's forces and then, on to the boot of Italy. That's where Charles was taken prisoner of war. When they landed on Italian soil, they had to fight to take weapons from Mussolini's forces. Charles was standing by a truck after the fighting – so he thought – when he was shot in the chest. It lifted him in the air and sent him flying backwards where he lay until enemy forces took him away.

John was distraught.

He had become a family man and a patriot for his country, in that order, and the price was separation from his new wife and his imprisoned brother. John kept trying to get to Europe to join the fighting, and perhaps help his brother, but his duties kept him pinned down in Texas and then



in the San Joaquin Valley.

So many times John and his family had thought Charles lost to the war. Charles' Mom and Pop aged with Charles' uncertain absence – tortured with the uncertainty whether he was alive or not. They were also afraid John might convince some CO to let him go “over there.”

After the war was over, and his brother Charles was released by the Allies, he was light like those prisoners at Dachau, and Charles didn't want to look like that again. He ate as if he were continuously building up stores against his days in captivity when he was starved. It was clear that Charles had not gotten the right treatment as a prisoner. He was a walking, living breathing man, and yet a casualty John's wife had a miscarriage after the war; they were going to call the child, Charles. They considered this a bad omen. A few years later, Charles died from internal bleeding, from his war wounds. John's wife wailed, keening, like the women of old Eire. Charles finally paid the price for his service to his country.

John looked upon his brother's face in an open coffin, and though dead, it was reassuring somehow to see Charles for the last time – the only man my father John ever loved after his own father.

Charles is beneath a marble gravestone at St. Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx.

My father John is at Arlington National Cemetery with his wife Rusty; that's a picture of my Dad (from his Army Air Force Days).



# Hamilton Day 2012!

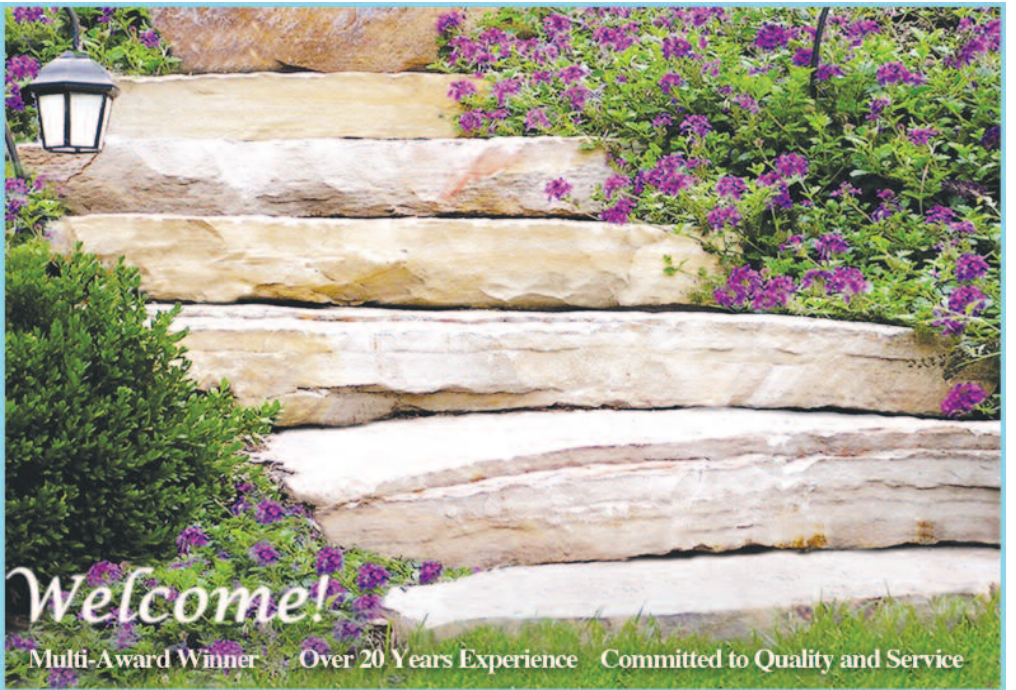
– By Carri Michon

What a day it was, our little Town of Hamilton celebration! Since the night before brought another round of monsoon rains, one wondered if the state of the park for our Hamilton Day might be suspect. Saturday, June 2, 2012 dawned bright and cool and everything quite ready for the annual celebration of small town life. Nairey a cloud stood in the sky amid the breeze. The parade through town was led by our guest of honor, the US Navy Ceremonial Guard. What a sight they were, marching down main street in their dress whites! Behind them came a bevy of excited children in pick up trucks, convertibles and a few by foot. They came as ball teams, a dance team (performing along the way on the back of a tow vehicle), preschools and friends along with local businesses, classic cars and trucks - laughing and smiling all the while as they tossed candy to the onlookers lining Old Colonial Highway.

After parading, the party began at Hamilton Park. There was sand art for the children put together by Harmony UMC, a ultimate Frisbee game in the field and glitter tattoos sponsored by Lowry's Crab Shack and Harmony Hair Works all providing fun to the day. Meade Skelton, a former western Loudoun resident, traveled all the way from Richmond to perform music for the party. Of course there was food once again offered by the Hamilton

Ruritans, who, by the way, fed 20 of the ceremonial guard with an anonymous donation from a Hamilton resident. The Navy Guard were quite touched by our little town's welcome to them. Said one of the smartly dressed men, "it reminds me of the little town where I grew up in Texas. We love coming to carry the Colors in small town parades. It is an honor."

To wrap up the festivities, a pie eating contest was had and what a hoot! Mayor Greg Wilmoth, not knowing what to expect, said that it was the only time he had ever participated in a pie eating contest and what fun it was! Anyone who ate pie was a winner, but the fastest, with no hands mind you, was Tommy Rollins of the Hamilton Town Council and for the youthful side of the competition, Ana Kesari. It was another day full of fond memories. This is the good stuff of life!



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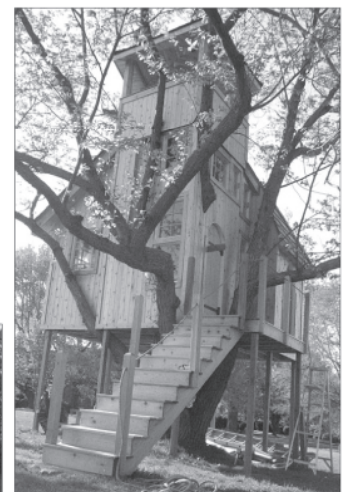
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Clockwise from top left: Pre-Civil War cabin; Chestnut treehouse; Custom camper trailer; and, detail of treehouse interior, loft and table.



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## Speaker for Local HS Seniors Awards Ceremony a Secret 'Til the Last Moment

— By Andrea Gaines

Former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright made a surprise appearance at the Woodgrove High School Senior Awards Ceremony on June 1, 2012.

Secretary Albright was exceptionally well-received at the gathering. But, the “back story” of how she came to speak at Woodgrove that day was the most interesting part of her visit.

According to Maura Walsh-Copeland — the parent of a senior and actively involved at the school — it all started with the perhaps fanciful dream that the former Secretary of State — in high demand all over the world — might consider being the commencement speaker at Woodgrove’s June graduation ceremony. Maura had met Secretary Albright briefly last May after the premier of “The Last Hardware Store” film in Purcellville, and talked to her about how she had visited Hillsboro Elementary School in 2000 when Maura’s son was a student there. “I reminded her of her visit to Hillsboro Elementary School in 2000 when my son was in first grade,” said Maura. “She said she always remembers that visit for one of her favorite questions (whether she had to stand upside down on her head when she traveled to Australia),” continued Maura.

Some of the students Secretary Albright had spoken to at Hillsboro Elementary School that day, including Maura’s son, were



Former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright (left) with Maura Walsh-Copeland. Photo by Wayde Byard.

now members of Woodgrove’s 2012 senior class, giving her and the students the opportunity to share another passage of life together.

Because of Secretary Albright’s unpredictable schedule, her planned appearance at the ceremony was kept secret until she came on stage waving to some of the very same students she had addressed some twelve years earlier.

“Secretary Albright was a hit and made a fabulous speech,” said Maura. “While trying to do something inspirational for the Woodgrove students and parents, for me it’s been a tremendous opportunity to learn that someone I’ve admired is actually as great as she appears. I’m going to hang on to that for a long while.”

[www.jimburton.org](http://www.jimburton.org), continued from page 10

Board were reversed by the next Board and then modified yet again by the following Board. Questions about ethics and transparency emerged; front page news stories reported on the spectacle. Lawsuits were fought and settled. The pressure to locate public facilities — somewhere, anywhere — led to fierce debates between neighbors and the bitter ending of more than one friendship. It has been an interesting time.

During this tumultuous period, I published a steady stream of newsletters, citizens’ alerts, analyses, presentations, and briefings, which dealt with the issues and controversies as they unfolded. Most were posted on my County website; with my retirement, the County removed them from its website. However, the issues they addressed continue to be debated and several people suggested that I find a new home for these documents, so that the history they report and the analysis they provide would not be lost. Hence, the primary objective for this website is to provide an archive of sorts for those who may be interested in researching the history of that period or who continue to be active in the political debate. However, as new issues unfold or new wrinkles on old issues surface, I will occasionally add to this archive with my thoughts and comments or even some new documents.

The first of these additions, unavailable elsewhere, is a searchable compilation of the campaign finance reports for the winning Board of Supervisors candidates in the 2011 elections. Since the County website has changed format, these materials are no

*“[www.jimburton.org will also have] a searchable database so it is clear exactly where the money donated to the candidates through PACs came from. It’s an eye-opener, and unavailable anyplace else.*

longer available online, except for the shortened form available at [www.vpap.org](http://www.vpap.org). My wife, Lina, has twice requested that the links to this information be made operational, but as of this writing, that has not yet been done. It is important that this information be available to the public, and the lack of its availability on the County site is troubling. Fortunately, she had downloaded these materials prior to their disappearing from the County site, and has compiled them for inclusion here.

The second of these additions concerns Political Action Committee (PAC) donations to the winning Board of Supervisors candidates. Using the [www.vpap.org](http://www.vpap.org) website, Lina analyzed the donations from the PACs and put them into a searchable database so it is clear exactly where the money donated to the candidates through PACs came from. It’s an eye-opener, and unavailable anyplace else.

Finally, although this site is not intended to be a forum and will not offer a public comment functionality, I would be happy to hear from individuals with questions or ideas. The site contains a link to my email address where anyone who wishes can contact me.

*Jim Burton’s website will be on the air on or about June 15 and can be found at [www.jimburton.org](http://www.jimburton.org).*

## Exhibitor Space Available at YouthFest

Free exhibit space at YouthFest 2012 is still available to non-profit organizations that provide programs and services to middle and high school students in Loudoun County. Additional free space is available to teen vendors to sell crafted items, CD’s or original artwork.

YouthFest 2012 will be held June 16, 2012 from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Brambleton Town Center. The festival will feature a performance by national headliner, The Ready Set, along with local teen bands, attractions, interactive games, and more.

New this year, the Loudoun County

Youth Advisory Council will be recognizing exhibitors who create outstanding, original and unique exhibits. There will be awards and cash prizes. Exhibitor applications/more information at [www.loudounteens.org](http://www.loudounteens.org) or contact [yac@loudoun.gov](mailto:yac@loudoun.gov).

*YouthFest 2012 is sponsored by Brambleton, Miller and Smith, Loudoun Youth Inc, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun County Public Schools, Youth Advisory Council, Studio Rock of Northern Virginia and WINC-FM 92.5.*

## Loudoun County Volunteer Honored for Work with Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Loudoun County resident Kelly Lang was recently honored by Volunteer Loudoun as the “Outstanding Volunteer of the Year” for her activism within her local community, as well as her exceptional dedication and service to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, an internationally accredited nonprofit guide dog school.

As a volunteer puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes, Kelly devotes each day to loving, nurturing, and educating puppies before sending them off to their calling as a guide dog for a blind or visually impaired person. Kelly also travels to local schools,



libraries, and community centers throughout Loudoun County advocating the non-profit’s mission and recruiting others to become future puppy raisers. Guiding Eyes trains guide dogs for blind men and women and service dogs for children with autism. The dogs are provided free of charge and offer their new partners the freedom and independence to achieve their life goals.

*For more information visit [www.guidingeyes.org/volunteer/puppy-raising](http://www.guidingeyes.org/volunteer/puppy-raising).*

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# Michael Quin Honored

On May 31, 2012 the Loudoun Valley High School Veterans Club presented a Memorial Day service and tree dedication in memory of Michael Quin, a soldier killed earlier this year.

Attendees gathered at Michael's tree, a 12 foot Maple located in front of the school between the brick Loudoun Valley high School sign. The tree was very gen-

erously donated by Southern States of Purcellville.

To hear taps played one more time for Michael was heart wrenching. Whether you met Michael briefly or knew him a lifetime, the memories shared were all the same. His bright, contagious smile, his politeness and his honor for his country will never be forgotten.



Photo by Mary Beth Barbagallo

# “Little Lambs” Visit Crooked Run

Little Lambs pre-school group from Round Hill made a visit to Purcellville’s Crooked Run Orchard last month, helping to plant a raised vegetable bed, with carrots, lettuce and beans.

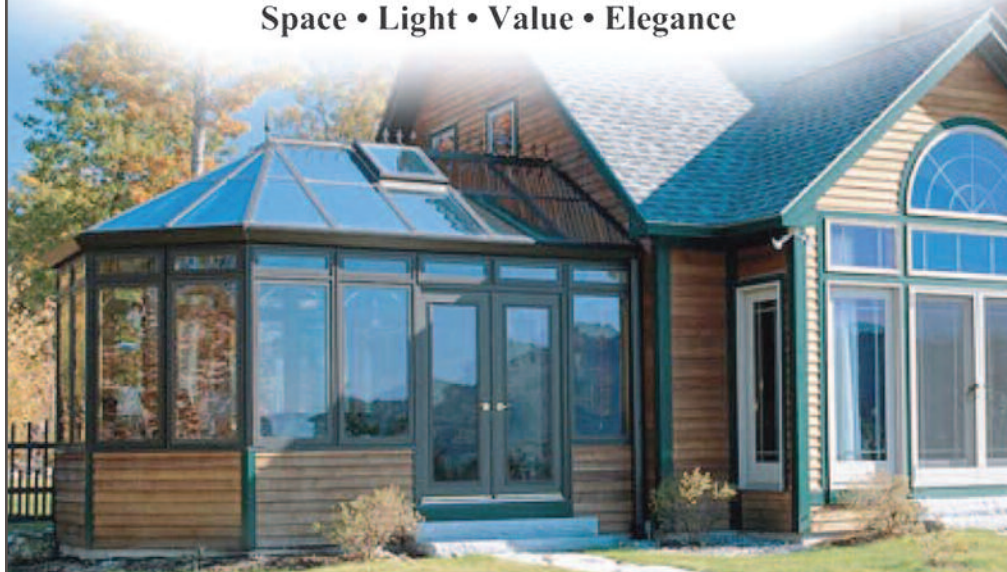
The farm has a long history of welcoming kids to the farm in an effort to educate youth on farm life and the ins and outs of agriculture.

The children also had the opportunity to take a creek walk with Uta Brown, who owns the farm with her husband Sam ... getting their feet very wet – on purpose! They also picked mulberries, tried some raw asparagus straight from the field and otherwise enjoyed all of Crooked Run's hidden treasures.



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## 86 Year-Old Cyclist Welcomed in Lincoln

The Village of Lincoln played host to Sam Winstead and others from Veterans for Peace of the North Carolina Triangle in early May. The five veterans were bicycling from Raleigh, NC to Washington, DC.

Sam, who is 86 and a World War II Marine veteran was inspired to make the journey after receiving a letter from a grandson in Iraq. (Sam is in the center of inset photo.)

Lincoln musician Andrew McKnight made the connection with the group and alerted friends in Lincoln of the occasion, and the Goose Creek Friends Meeting, the Lincoln Community League and Lincoln Elementary School rolled out the red carpet for them.

After six days of pedaling the riders came up the hill into Lincoln in the rain from Middleburg. They were met with cheers and refreshments at the Meeting House from local Marine veterans and Lincoln Neighbors who had prepared a rest stop.



After visiting and resting there, the cyclers went to Lincoln School and were met by the students with more cheers and signs.

Sam spoke to the children briefly about his journey. Then Sam and the others rode north to Purcellville for lunch and a ride down to the W & OD trail to Leesburg for the night. Then continued on to Washington, DC Washington. (For more information go to [ncveteransforpeace.org](http://ncveteransforpeace.org).)

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## One Man's Romance with the Rose

— By Donna Williamson

Roses are blooming everywhere and seem to have benefited from our weird winter/spring weather. Being a rose fan in the mid-Atlantic is usually not easy but I have help from Dr. Buck and the beneficial insects eating all those aphids. It's so amazing — one day I will see hundreds of aphids on the new growth of my roses, the next morning they are gone!

Dr. Griffith Buck from Iowa wanted to develop shrub roses that were tough, beautiful, and fragrant so folks could enjoy roses without fretting. As his hybridizing continued, he would plant the best candidates outside of his greenhouse at Iowa State University. In the landscape, the roses received no additional care. If they could not resist black spot or powdery mildew, their leaves would fall and they would not have the strength to get through the winter. The roses were named only if they survived well. Buck would often give them away to friends. Since Dr. Buck's death in 1991, the roses have been recognized as valuable contributors to the landscape. A few years ago, his rose, "Quietness," was named the best rose by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Fans of Dr. Buck's roses collect them and delight when a new one is found in someone's yard and brought into production.

If you want to grow roses without chemical assistance, look at the Buck roses. Applejack, Dr. Buck's first hybrid was named for the strong apple fragrance of the leaves. The other varieties are shrub roses that bloom now, in July to greet the Japanese beetles, and then magnificently in the fall.



By the way, I cut off all rose blossoms when the Japanese beetles arrive and they move off to other, more tantalizing places. Those that remain can be easily dropped in a pail of soapy water — they do not swim. I will let our native caterpillars eat my roses, but not the alien Japanese beetles!

For additional information and photos of the different roses see [www.ag.iastate.edu](http://www.ag.iastate.edu) or Google 'Buck roses' for information on mail order sources. They will likely be small when you get them in the mail — give them a sunny location, good drainage, and careful watering the first year (about an inch a week — use a rain gauge). Don't get crazy with fertilizers — let them establish without pushing them. They will get better each year and by year three, will be wonderful!

*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 [dvwinegardening.com](http://dvwinegardening.com), 540-877-2002.*



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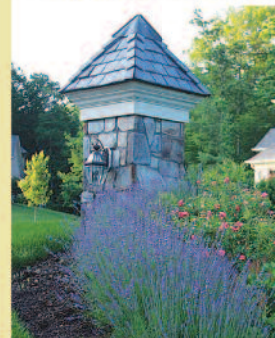
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# Sports Tid-Bits

## Vikings Athletic Association Update

### Sport: Track & Field – LVHS Track Team: Viking Athletes Mentor Young Future Stars

– By Laura Sullivan and Julie Myles

**News:** Hamilton and Banneker elementary school athletes visited Loudoun Valley High School for a day of training and mentoring by the high school athletes, giving the younger students a chance to work out on a 400 meter track and see the older students showcase and share their 4 x100 team's techniques and strategies. This track practice has become a May tradition for both Loudoun Valley High School and the two elementary schools, which are feeder schools to Valley.



Hamilton visit to LVHS

### Sport: Lacrosse – Men

#### Varsity Viking Men Finish Fourth in Dulles District, Advance to Regional Tournament

– By John Steen and Tim Moore

**News:** The Vikings faced Dulles District Regular Season Champions Briar Woods on May 7. The Falcons were up 3-0 before the Vikings got on the board in the second quarter. Valley narrowed the gap to 4-2 before halftime, but the relentless Falcon attack opened up a 6-point lead that the Vikings were unable to close. The final tally: Briar Woods, 17, Loudoun Valley, 12. Sophomore Chase Miller led the Vikings in scoring with a season high six goals. Senior Will Geise had three goals and two assists, and senior Dylan Early

came in with one goal and one assist. Freshmen Sully Warner and John Skinner each registered a goal. Freshman goalie Nick Steen had a busy night between the pipes, playing all four quarters, seeing a barrage of shots, and finishing with 12 saves.

The JV Vikes completed their season earlier that evening with a win over the visiting Briar Woods JV, 6-3. Points for the Vikes were recorded by Conner Stifft (two goals), whereas Austin Moore, Mikey Shouse, Evan Klipple and Alex Klipple contributed one goal each. Assists were registered by Myles Sullivan and Darius Degree. Jake Fournier had six saves.

**The Dulles District Tournament.** The Loudoun County Raiders came to town May 10 for the first round of the Dulles District Tournament. Senior Lucas Clark, Senior Donald Devine and Junior Zach Allison created several turnovers with help from senior middies Greg Regan and Dylan Early, freshman middle John Skinner, and freshman LPM Jeremy Klipple. Freshman Sully Warner scored off of a feed by Senior Will Geise to begin a three-goal run. Warner returned the favor with a feed to Geise for a score, followed by an unassisted goal from sophomore Chase Miller. County then closed the gap to 3-2. The defenses controlled the second period to end the half up 4-2. County opened the third quarter with a goal, but Valley countered with a strike. When the final buzzer sounded, the Vikings were ahead 7-6, advancing them in the Dulles tournament as well as securing a spot in regional play. Senior Will Geise led the Valley scorers collecting three goals and one assist. Freshman Sully Warner pocketed one goal and two assists. Sophomore Chase Miller had two goals, and freshman John Skinner had a goal. Freshman Nick Steen had another tremendous night in goal, starting and finishing the game with 16 saves.

The Viking's first round win was rewarded by a second round rematch with Briars Woods on May 14. Trailing by two in the second quarter, the Vikes fought back to tie the game 6-6 at halftime. Viking defensemen seniors Lucas Clark and Donald Devine and junior Zach Allison, aided by freshman LPM Jeremy Klipple, senior middle Greg Regan, and freshman middle John Skinner, created a defensive wall that held the Briar Woods' offense to just four second half goals. This allowed Valley to open up a two-goal lead in the fourth quarter. But, the Falcons netted two late goals to send the game into overtime. The Falcons scored with 45 seconds left

in OT to win the game, 11-10, and advance to the Dulles District finals. Despite the loss, freshman John Skinner led the scoring with four goals and one assist. Sophomore Chase Miller and senior Greg Regan each added two goals, freshman Sully Warner had one goal and one assist, and senior Dylan Early had a goal. Taking over net duties for the night was Junior Jim Shanks, who recorded 11 saves.

Loudoun Valley faced Woodgrove in the Dulles District consolation game, but Woodgrove prevailed, 9-7. Senior Will Geise had three goals and one assist, and freshman Sully Warner had three goals and two assists. Robbie Nelson had the only other goal. Freshman goalie Nick Steen returned to starting duties and finished the game with nine saves.

### Sport: Women's Soccer

#### Lady Varsity Vikings Make Dulles Tournament But Fall Short in First Round

– By Tim Moore

**News:** Entering into the last two weeks of play, the Lady Vikings played against Heritage High School. The Vikings went up 1-0 at the 24:04 mark with a hard shot from the foot of junior Andrea Garcia. However, the Pride went on to score seven unanswered goals. Freshman Ashley Moore recorded 12 saves in the loss (1-7).

With one match left on the road versus Tuscarora, the Lady Vikings got some assistance from Mother Nature in a lightning-shortened match played to a 0-0 draw. Freshman Ashley Moore recorded 18 saves. Coupled to a loss by Park View, Valley was able to advance to the Dulles District Tournament.

Valley drew the top-seeded Woodgrove Wolverines in the first round, but eventually lost 0-5. The Vikings had one or two scoring opportunities, but in the end, the Vikings succumbed, concluding their Dulles District appearance and ending the season. On the night, freshman Ashley Moore recorded 16 saves.

### Lady Vikings Make it to Regional Semifinals in Lacrosse

The Loudoun Valley Ladies' Lacrosse team made it to the regional semifinals, but lost to Woodgrove. The team had earned a bid to the regional tournament with their overtime win over Tuscarora in Dulles District competition on May 16.

Continued on page 21

## 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
50. Arctic bird
51. TV doc
54. She beat Bo Bice
58. And others, for short
59. '80s rock band
60. As such
61. Gym set
62. 1987 Costner role
63. Myers and Douglas

### 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



► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► LOCAL HOUSING "TRENDS" ARE STILL VERY FRAGILE

– By Carl Fischer



For some time now, I have reported specific observations that have led me to believe that our local residential housing market is "bottoming out". And I have no reason at present to believe that trend is not continuing. But every erratic day on the S&P or DOW sends reverberations down my spine. And it drives buyers back into a

fetal position bracing themselves for "what comes next".

It's not that a majority of our neighbors are necessarily heavily invested in the stock market, but I think a very high percentage see these indicators as bellwethers for a larger trend in the regional and national economy. And we've all been so numbed by this seemingly endless "Great Recession", that any observation whatever of present uncertainty feels like an after-shock to a bad earthquake, amplified by our worst fears.

And that perception breeds paralysis in

our willingness to make any changes whatever of an economic nature. So buying or selling of real estate, for the moment, seems unwise.

The present facts don't necessarily support those feelings, but most of us act on instinct more than facts.

One fact is: mortgage rates continue to decline. Just when you thought rates could not possibly go lower, we learn that they not only can; they do. On May 31, 2012, Bankrate Inc reported:

This week brought yet another record low in mortgage rates, with the average 30-

year fixed mortgage rate falling to the record low of 3.94 percent according to Bankrate.com's weekly national survey. The average 30-year fixed mortgage has an average of 0.46 discount and origination points.

The average 15-year fixed mortgage rate inched lower to a new record of 3.15 percent as did the jumbo 30-year fixed mortgage, sliding to the record low of 4.50 percent. Adjustable mortgage rates were both lower, as well this week, with the average 3-year adjustable dropping to 3.08 percent, while the popular 5-year ARM dipped lower

Continued on page 29

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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## What's growing on with school gardens?

More and more schools are planting gardens as part of the effort to get kids to eat healthier foods.

**M**any experts believe that school gardens offer a powerful path leading to childhood obesity. Growing food in a school garden not only teaches students where food comes from and how it grows, but also helps kids to establish eating habits. The fruits and vegetables grown can even become part of a school's program.

**Food for thought**  
But gardens can provide other too. When kids grow gardens, they learn about plants, soil, and water management, and the fields of biology, ecology and environmental studies. They will probably pay closer to the weather.

Standards Links: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

## Planting an idea

You don't even need a plot of land to grow plants. Window boxes or can easily provide a start for early learners. A garden or a water garden also provide learning opportunities.

Where do each of these words belong?

HEALTHY
ATTENTION

BUTTERFLY
LESSONS

CONTAINERS
LUNCH

ALTERNATIVE
COMPOSTING

## Name That Veggie!

Draw a line from each vegetable picture to its name. How many can you identify correctly? Check your answers below and score 3 points for every one you get right. Give yourself an extra 3 points for each of these vegetables that you have eaten in the last 10 days.

1 KALE

2 LEEK

3 GREEN BEANS

4 BROCCOLI

5 CARROT

6 RADISH

7 AVOCADO

8 BELL PEPPER

9 ASPARAGUS

10 EGGPLANT

0-3 POINTS: SEEDLING  
6-12 POINTS: GOOD SPROUT  
15-25 POINTS: PRODUCE PRO  
30+ POINTS: GROWING GENIUS

ANSWERS: 1. radish, 2. eggplant, 3. leek, 4. broccoli, 5. asparagus, 6. carrot, 7. kale, 8. bell pepper, 9. green beans, 10. avocado.

---

## Pint-sized Planter

Here's an easy way to start a garden of your very own. You'll need an adult helper, a sunny window and patience!

With an adult's help, cut the top off an empty milk carton.

Punch five small holes in the bottom of the carton for drainage.

Fill the carton with soil about an inch from the top. Plant three to five seeds and gently push them into the soil.

Place your planter on a plate in a window and dampen the soil with water.

## Garden Dot-to-Dot

On one page of the newspaper, find the letters that spell these vegetables that gardeners like to grow. Connect the dots that spell each word.

onion

kale

carrot

beet

pepper

radish

cabbage

artichoke

broccoli

zucchini

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

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

What fraction of each type of vegetable is growing in this school garden?

CARROTS: \_\_\_\_\_

PUMPKINS: \_\_\_\_\_

BROCCOLI: \_\_\_\_\_

TOMATOES: \_\_\_\_\_

Standards Links: Number Sense: Identify fractions.

---

The Online Scoop

In Thailand, a whole community is involved in a project to grow food for their school. Discover more at: [www.kidscoop.com/kids](http://www.kidscoop.com/kids)

### Double Double Word Search

Find all these fruits and vegetables in the puzzle below.

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

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

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FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

[www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

### Sounds Good

To crop a picture is to cut away, change the size or eliminate parts that detract from the overall image. Cut out ten pictures from the newspaper. Crop each picture until you have an image you think is just right.

Standards Links: Visual Arts: Understand what makes different art techniques effective in communicating ideas.

---

Write On!

## My Favorite Vegetable

Use at least three of your five senses to describe your favorite vegetable.

### Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

#### Smarter Snacks

Looking for a healthier sort of snack? Give these a try as a fun way to eat more veggies!

#### Carrot Fries

Chop carrots into sticks. Brush them with a little olive oil and sprinkle with rosemary. Bake them at 425° for 20 minutes or until carrots are tender.

---

#### Ants on a Log

A classic: Spread a little peanut butter on a celery stick and top with some raisins. For a new taste treat, try using different kinds of berries as your "ants."

---

#### Ants in the Sand

Crush up some bran flakes or other whole-grain dry cereal into "sand." Mix in raisins (ants) and stir. Use strawberries as ladybugs.

---

#### Banana Cubes

Mash up a banana. Spray an ice cube tray with a little non-stick cooking spray. Place the mashed banana into the tray and cover with plastic wrap. Freeze overnight. Dip the frozen cubes in yogurt for a cool treat.

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

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](http://www.brleader.com)



## Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW

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

### Magnolia's at the Mill

– By George Humphries

Early in my acquaintance with Loudoun County, a pair of world class restaurateurs opened a Leesburg restaurant in a restored (and slightly relocated) historic feed and flour mill on the then edge of downtown Leesburg. Since starting Tuscarora Mill, their range of start-up eateries have grown to five disparate establishments.

An outstanding example of this burgeoning success story is Magnolias at the Mill in Purcellville, where in 2004 the partnership converted another old (1905) mill building to an upscale restaurant.

As with the other sites in the group, Magnolias is unique, not only in its distinctive architecture but in its food as well. Executive Chef Mark Marrocco has his own unique style and has also developed an eclectic menu using local produce and meats wherever possible.

We and our friends have had steaks at Magnolias a number of times, and they have consistently been tender and tasty. The restaurant regularly offers two woodfired grilled steaks (a filet and a New York strip). On a recent visit, a prime rib was offered as a chef's special, and it also proved to be excellent.

The menu also features five pizzas with unique and fascinating ingredients. The Figaro has fresh figs, prosciutto, and gorgonzola. There also are a Classic Margherita; a Crab Thermidor pizza; a "Tre Carni" pizza with sausage, bacon and pepperoni; and a Carbonara with pancetta, onions, mozzarella, egg, pepper, parmesan cheese, and fresh basil ingredients.

The current menu lists three all-natural, grass-fed beef burgers; one featuring cheddar cheese, one with bacon and other ingredients, and a third (Blackened Border Burger) sports guacamole, fried jalapenos, pepper jack cheese, and Chipotle ranch dressing.

Under the menu heading Pan and Brick Oven are such interesting and intriguing items as Pork Scaloppini Involto paired with prosciutto, asparagus, asiago polenta,

caramelized shallots with Madeira mustard sauce – a combination of ingredients that just reading turns on the appetite.

My wife's favorite is the Lacquered Salmon, glazed and authoritatively sauced with soy and other seasonings, accompanied by Wasabi potatoes, stir fried vegetables, and sushi ginger.

A close friend terms the House Made Spinach Ravioli "one of the best pasta dishes" she has ever eaten. It's made with ricotta cheese, fresh spinach, and mascarpone tomato sauce. She reports that the pasta is flavorful, homemade, and impressively fresh. The tomato sauce is rich and creamy, still with a good tomato flavor.

My spies and I have visited Magnolias at the Mill many times and included in our past favorites are the Lump Crab, Mango, and Avocado Tower, served cold and expertly spiced. Another good choice is the Fried Green Tomatoes with goat cheese, pistachio relish, Tasso ham and red pepper aioli, or the fried battered asparagus when it is available. The grilled flank steak Caesar salad, with hand cut fries, tomatoes, blue cheese and tobacco onions also has pleased. Never a plain nor a bad meal.

There are 46 items on the current menu, each inciting the appetite and inspiring a return visit. Entrée prices range from \$7 for the soup de jour through \$13 for a fancy carbonara pizza to \$29 for the New York strip steak with potatoes, asparagus, Bermuda onions and a peppercorn sauce.

Desserts by Marcy Mergler are a worthy finish for a good meal, and the restaurant has a full range of espresso, cappuccino and other coffees, as well as a lengthy wine and beer list.

Chef Marracco and his crew know their business. As they say in the Michelin Guide, Magnolias at the Mill in Purcellville is "worth a trip."

*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.*

### Vikings Athletic Association Update, continued from page 19

Valley got off to an early lead, but Tuscarora battled back. The strategy worked as the Huskies evened the score at 6-6 by halftime. Tuscarora soon built a three-goal lead halfway through the second half. Sophomore Corley Simons was key in controlling several draws enabling the Vikes to unleash the all-district sophomore Ashlyn DiLoreto who ended up with seven goals on the night. Valley found themselves down 11-12 with less than two minutes to play. DiLoreto delivered again with the tying goal. In the first of the two scheduled 3-minute overtimes, Corley Simons controlled the draw giving Valley possession. DiLoreto came through with a score to take a 13-12 lead. The Huskies' defense then forced a turnover to tie the game at 13 apiece. Simons scored the winning goal, giving Valley a 14-13 win.

The Lady Vikings concluded the Dulles District tournament with an invitation to regional competition against Fauquier County. Standouts for the tournament offensively were Ashlyn DiLoreto with 13 goals, Maya Ebrahimnejad with seven, senior All-District (second team) Courtney Halterman with four, Junior Courtney Inman and Sophomore Corley Simons with three, sophomores Sarah Ashworth, Brittany Raffa, and Courtney Schollian with two, and freshman Lily Hamilton with one. All-district seniors Payton Boyer and Caitlin Gore led the Lady Vikings' defense along with second team all-district Sophomore Anna Munford. In goal, Freshman Haley Shuford recorded 14 saves, Sophomore Kelsey Greene had 10, and senior Valley standout Maggie Beglau came back off injury with five.

The Lady Vikings beat the Fauquier

## Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard

### Father of the Year

It is I, Sushi, the small but mighty Cairn Terrier. Do you have a Father of the Year?

June is the month we celebrate our Fathers. You know "Fathers Day" really is not just one day or one month out of the year. Fathers are a life time thing – or should be. My Father use to say to me "I will be your Father until the day I die and beyond that too! So don't mess up because I will be watching you!" and boy did he mean it.

You know, today there is a lot expected of a man. We are suppose to be sensitive yet at the same time beat the beezeebers out of anything dangerous that might cross our family. We need to provide a home, hunt and nourish, love and be loved. Sometimes by the time I am done with the nourishing and hunting I just want to go to my den and be left well enough alone. You know – like alright – already! Get my drift? Okay, enough about me.

Fathers are special and very much needed. Men are just different from women. There just is no arguing that one. I see it every day on the farm. Let me share with you one very special Father here at Fields of Athenry.

It was just about this time in late spring, Mr. and Mrs. Zaza were honking to anyone that would listen, that their five new Sabastapole babies were about to hatch. Everyone in the barn yard was thrilled. You see, Sabastapole geese are very rare. To have a whole group of eggs successfully hatch is something to honk about! All the barn yard animals

gathered round quietly, gently peering in at Mrs. Zaza looking so glamorous on her nest and of

course not a feather was out of place. She made motherhood look – well – so peaceful and easy. One by one a little chirp could be heard under Mrs. Zaza's long curly white feathers. Mr.

Zaza waddled so proudly back and forth, back and forth around the barn yards "Quackery Pond."

Quackery Pound is surrounded by beautiful large box wood bushes some 40 years old. It is also surrounded by wire meshed gates and electric wire! In spite of the Gestapo type fencing, it really is a cozy little area. Mrs. B. built it especially for Old Gnarly Gander and the Goose Gang's safety down by the barn yard. During the day when the visitors come to Fields of Athenry Farm, Mrs. B. turns the electric fence off so all the little children can come observe the animals without getting electric stim!

Get the picture? Well, Mrs. B. must have forgotten to turn the electric fence back on!

It was early before sunrise, on a late spring morning. Mr. Zaza was making another nervous fatherly lap around Quackery Pound. I, the brave and mighty Cairn Terrier was in a sound sleep, from a hard nights work patrolling the forbidden woods. I started getting tingles up my spine. I sat straight up from my nap on the farm house porch. Sniffing, sniffing, sniffing, there it was,

*Continued on page 10*



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.

County Falcons 19-6. Sophomore Corley Simons controlled nearly every single draw. Ashlyn DiLoreto led all scorers with seven goals, followed by Junior Cortney Inman with three, sophomores Corley Simons, Courtney Schollian and Brittany Raffa, as well as Freshman Maya Ebrahimnejad with two, and Senior Courtney Halterman with one. Ebrahimnejad dished out four assists while DiLoreto, Inman, and Raffa each had two. Senior Caitlin Gore and sophomores Sarah Ashworth and Corley Simons had one assist apiece. Defensively, Gore, fellow Senior Payton Boyer, and Sophomore Anna Munford led the way. Haley Shuford had eight of her 10 saves. The Lady Vikings' bid for a regional championship came to an end May 24 with a 21-11 loss to district champion Woodgrove. Valley will graduate six seniors this year with Maggie Beglau and Caitlin Gore moving on



*Maya Ebrahimnejad*

to play at the collegiate level. Several Vikings made first team all-district this year including seniors Payton Boyer, Rachel Swan, and Caitlin Gore and Sophomore Ashlyn Diloreto. Second team all-district honorees were Courtney Halterman, Megan Williamson, and Anna Munford. The team excelled this season under the leadership of Valley coaches Tracey Albro and Kaitlin Quigley.



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# Hop To It! Get Up & Go-Go

## Lonestar Headlines Clarke County Fair – Bluegrass Highlight: Dailey & Vincent –

– By Carol Morris Dukus

Multi-platinum country music group, LONESTAR, will be the feature entertainment at the 58th annual Clarke County Fair on August 18, 2012, in Berryville, Virginia. The Texas-bred band is on a 20th anniversary tour and is known both for their strong country roots as well as their multi-genre crossover appeal that has led to success on the pop/rock charts. Lonestar has had an impressive list of hit singles on the country charts, including ten #1 hits such as “Amazed”, “No News”, “What About Now”, “Mr. Mom” and “Tell Her.”

Lonestar will perform the closing evening of the Clarke County Fair on Saturday, August 18 at 8:30 pm. Track seats: \$30; grandstand seats cost \$25. Tickets go on sale June 2 at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds and will be available at the Fair Ticket Office every Saturday and Sunday from 5-7 pm. Call 540-955-2530 or 540-955-3755 or visit [www.clarkecountyfair.org](http://www.clarkecountyfair.org) for an order form. Gate admission of \$7.

Another highlight of the Fair is Gospel Bluegrass Night which will be held



Wednesday, August 15 featuring Dailey & Vincent at 8:30 p.m. Dailey & Vincent are one of the most heralded groups in bluegrass music and have recorded several #1 singles on Billboard’s bluegrass charts including: “By the Mark”, “More than a Name on a Wall” and “Sweet Carrie.” They have received numerous awards

including the IBMA Vocal Group of the Year and Entertainer of the Year 2008, 2009 and 2010. Ticket prices are \$25 for track seats and \$20 for grandstand (prices do not include the gate admission of \$7).

The Clarke County Fair is schedule for August 12-18, 2012, in Berryville, VA. All the old favorites will still be there- the Miss Clarke County Fair, Junior Miss Clarke County Fair and Little Miss contests, pig scrambles, demolition derbies, truck and tractor pulls, lawn mower racing, bull riding, livestock exhibits and the carnival rides. Carnival rides are provided by Cole Amusements and will feature two Ride-All-Night for One Price (pricing announced later) on Monday, August 13 and Thursday, August 16.

## 868 Estate Vineyards Tasting Room (& Art Room!) Opens at Grandale Farm

– By Molly Pinson

Sunday, May 20 marked the grand opening of the newest addition to Loudoun County’s wine industry: 868 Estate Vineyards has opened at Grandale Farm along with an elegant new tasting room.

The tasting room displays several paintings by local artists. Peter Deliso, one of the co-owners, explained, “We have an art program here at the vineyard. We have three artists showing right now that regularly show at the Torpedo Factory,” referring to the well-known gallery on Alexandria, Virginia’s waterfront. “We’ll bring in new artists throughout the season,” he went on to explain, “and we’ll have a couple of art shows.”

The art program at 868 Estate Vineyards is an extension of Grandale’s ongoing support of the arts in Loudoun County. The picturesque estate has hosted several dinner theater productions by Run Rabbit Run Theater, with a unique, outdoor production of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* slated for July.

The play will be presented in the beautifully landscaped area just outside the tasting room, flanked by a rustic barn which is a beautiful example of Loudoun’s characteristic 18th century stone masonry. Lined with blooming flowers and mature shade trees, it’s easy to see how this will be the perfect setting for the classic romantic comedy.

And then, of course, there’s the wine. Ten and a half acres of Grandale Farm have recently been planted with 868 Estate Vineyards’ grape vines. The vines consist of several varietals including Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet



Sauvignon, and Chardone. This is just the beginning. Winemaker Carl DiManno has big plans for the vineyard. Identifying himself as a “disciple” of noted viticulturist Lucy Norton, who teaches high-density planting, DiManno expects the vineyard to ultimately

boast 1,900 vines per acre across 30 to 35 acres of the property.

In the meanwhile, oenophiles who visit 868’s Tasting Room can choose from among seven wines created by DiManno from grapes grown at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, where DiManno had been plying his craft before becoming the winemaker for 868.

Stand-outs from the currently available wines include the Liberty Pinot Grigio, a crisp, refreshing wine which features notes of grapefruit and apple; Independence Rosé of Merlot, a surprisingly flavorful rosé; Church Creek Cabernet Franc, a peppery red; and Declaration Meritage, a fat, beefy wine with a deep red color. The Meritage, Carl DiManno told me, is his favorite.

Visitors to the 868 Estate Vineyards Tasting Room can enjoy a complete tasting for \$8, and then perhaps purchase a bottle to enjoy on the patio with light fare, or visit the Grandale Restaurant dining room for a complete meal.

Visitors are also invited to explore the grounds. A short, 10 or 15 minute walk will take you to the top of the mountain overlooking the vineyard.

Grandale Farm and 868 Estate Vineyards are located at 14001 Harpers Ferry Road. Visit [868estatevineyards.com](http://868estatevineyards.com) for more information.

## Couple Host Concerts at Franklin Park

– By Carol Morris Dukus

Cheryl and Bill Bunce were avid music lovers before they met, but their shared enthusiasm and similar musical tastes brought them together both as a couple, and as partners in their new production venture, Bunceton.

With a superb entertainment venue located at Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center, the Bunce’s decided to bring headlining musicians to Purcellville, blending well-known national talents with local burgeoning musicians, under the auspices of their own production company.

Their idea not only brings star attractions to our area, but promotes the rising talents of



local musicians by allowing them to open for these acts – a boon for the rising swell of outstanding area artists.

Their approach is a unique one. Concertgoers have a choice between buying regular event tickets, or special advance VIP tickets called “Meet and Greet” which also buys a before-concert schmooze with the performers.

Partnering with Franklin Park, Bunceton is lining up performers for the summer, with hopes of producing concert events monthly.

For more information on shows, check out their website at [www.buncher.com](http://www.buncher.com). Also see [www.fractionization’s.org](http://www.fractionization’s.org) and our online event calendar at [www.brleader.com](http://www.brleader.com).

## Spotlight on Melissa Wright ... the Burgoo and a Return To Roots Music

– By Carol Morris Dukus

Bluegrass music is intrinsic to our area. Virginia natives have a long and storied relationship with that special sound that found its roots in our Celtic ancestors who populated the Appalachian regions of our country. In spite of that history and connection, Mountain Music is not a genre with a mass following, least of all from the under 30’s crowd. But wait a minute, folks. We in Northern Virginia can run – but we can’t hide from our hillbilly legacy.

For those of you who’ve been following the music scene in western Loudoun, you’re already aware that old time fiddle music is making a comeback in our neck of the woods. IN fact, our area is becoming a hot bed of musical talent with a new- old sound energized by young, talented musicians with a whole new appreciation for the Mountain Music of yore.

Melissa Wright of the Acoustic Burgoo exemplifies the young talent riding the tidal wave of this renaissance. She and band mates Ben Waters, Rudy Bzdyk and Eric Burnham have helped to bring mountain music back to our area with a swell of loyal fans. This band, like many in the area, are artistically diverse and play Bluegrass and fiddle tunes, as well as sultry Folk songs and their own brand of Roots music.

A recent graduate of the prestigious Berklee School of music in Boston, Massachusetts, Melissa is sassy, smart and educated, but she’s holding back on getting a “real job” right now. Despite looming college loan payments, she really loves her music and is determined to make a living performing.

So, where, I want to know, did Melissa and her band mates find their inspiration? How did she come to love Bluegrass and fiddle music?

“It started when I was in high school and joined a Jazz band at Loudoun Valley High School and started hanging around friends that liked music. Then I discovered the Old Furniture Factory Bluegrass Jam Sessions in



Melissa Wright (on right); Alison Krauss (on left)

Round Hill. I loved the sound and wanted to learn more.” She also felt drawn to the film “O Brother Where Art Thou” and their folksy music soundtrack.

Melissa’s primary instruments are mandolin and voice. Beautiful, sultry and clear, she credits her Berklee training for her very solid vocals. And at her commencement, she enjoyed singing background for guest Alison Krauss who performed “Down to the River to Pray” the hypnotic spiritual from “O Brother.”

Inspiration comes from outside the music realm as well. Melissa and many of her peers credit Back-to-Basics movements like Farmers Markets, Buy Local and Farm to Fork for fueling their musical tastes. Some identify with the push-back against corporate greed and consumerism and a desire to return to a simpler, uncomplicated life – close to our roots. When not performing, Melissa works at a local vegetable farm, where she gets satisfaction from working hard and seeing the fruits of her labor.

There are several other local acoustic bands in Loudoun and neighboring counties that are gathering a groundswell of followers. Most of the area roots musicians know each other and frequently attend each other’s concerts and sometimes jam together. Often low on funds, they rely on each other to use social media to spread the word about upcoming shows.

The Acoustic Burgoo is no exception. Later this month they will be playing at

*Continued on June Calendar page*



# Join us in June.



## Western Loudoun Artist Studio Tour

Saturday June 9 & Sunday June 10 ~ 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Free Event!!**

[www.wlast.org](http://www.wlast.org)

Franklin Park Arts Center is just one of many stops on the 6th Annual Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour, where you can see artists in their studios, creating and selling their work.



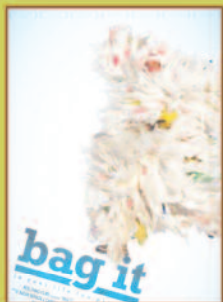
## Buncearoo Presents: The Alternate Routes & Bronze Radio Return

Saturday June 9 ~ 7:00 PM



The Alternate Routes are a band that built a fan base the old fashioned way, by driving around the country in a big, white Ford Econoline van, winning crowds over one-person-at-a-time with solid, catchy songs and an explosive live show. Bronze Radio Return is a band from New England that has just completed their sophomore album which manages to span multiple eras of time and various places, in essence creating a new sonic space.

Purchase tickets online at [www.buncearoo.com](http://www.buncearoo.com)



## Bag It Friday June 15 ~ 7:00 PM

All Ages \$5.00

Bag It has been garnering awards at film festivals across the nation. What started as a documentary about plastic bags evolved into a wholesale investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways, oceans, and even our bodies.

Call 540-338-7973 to Reserve, or purchase at the door



## The Polka Dots Saturday June 16 ~ 7:30 PM

\$10 Adults - \$8 Stu./Sen.

The Polka Dots, from Lovettsville, Virginia. Sisters Aislin and Nora Kavaldjian and local favorite Kris Consaul deliver a fun-filled, fast-paced, unique set featuring numbers from yesteryear to next year. Selections include old time, vaudeville, gypsy swing, and early jazz tunes, with original compositions as well. Their eclectic mix of tunes, combined with a penchant for quick instrument switches and smooth three-part harmonies endear the Dots to audiences of all ages.

Call 540-338-7973 to Reserve

For more information, Visit us at  
[www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)

Call us at 540-338-7973

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# June

For a complete listing, please visit our Events Calendar on our website at [www.brleader.com](http://www.brleader.com). To see your community event here, please send us an email to: [advertise@brleader.com](mailto:advertise@brleader.com).

☉ **Wednesday, June 6, Endangered Species art exhibit, by the contemporary Washington, D.C. artist Kay Jackson.** Kay's work is comprised of over 20 contemplative gold-leaf panel paintings and boxes, strongly influenced by Byzantine and late Medieval motifs. Studio Tour Weekend is June 9 and 10.

☉ **Saturday, June 9, 7 PM, Live Concert Series: The Alternate Routes, Bronze Radio Return and Brian Jarvis, Franklin Park Arts Center.** Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$35 for a VIP meet and greet with the performers.

## ☉ Rock the Fields Music Event ☉



The Town of Purcellville and the Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is once again offering their free rock music event, "Rock The Field" on June 9 from 3 pm to 7 pm. The event will be held at the Town's Fireman's Field, 250 S. Nursery Ave, Purcellville, in the gazebo area behind the baseball stadium outfield fence.

Headlining this year's event will be **The Nighthawks, Legends of Blues and Rock.** The Nighthawks have played locally and nationally for nearly 40 years with some of the biggest names in the business and have recently released a new CD.

Also appearing will be the classic rock band 22 Late and Lightspeed Rescue playing funk, hip-hop and rock.

An inflatable obstacle course courtesy of Northern Virginia Party Rentals, a gyro ride, face painting and games of all sorts will also be available free that day. There will be free drawings for prizes and a Rock Trivia contest.

Food and drinks will be available for sale from Boodacades BBQ Restaurant and Tropical Smoothie. The Purcellville Skate Project will be selling pizza and drinks as a fundraiser.

In the event of rainy weather, Rock The Field will move indoors to the Bush Tabernacle/Skating Rink. For more information, visit [www.rockthefield.org](http://www.rockthefield.org) or [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov). To receive updates, follow the Facebook "Rock The Field" event page.

## ☉ Saturday & Sunday, June 9 & 10, Annual Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour.

Paintings, photography, sculpture, glassworks, jewelry, fabric art, artist demonstrations and children's activities are on order for two full days as visitors enjoy talking personally with the artists and watching them work, purchasing original art and more. 10 am to 5 pm. For more information go to [www.wlast.org](http://www.wlast.org).

☉ **Sunday, June 10, noon to 5 pm, Governor's County Fair at Morven Park** – Guests will be treated to ice cream, hayrides, live music, horse-drawn carriage driving demonstrations, craft and food vendors, sheep shearing demonstrations, baking contests, and a day-in-the-country atmosphere. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will be there leading nature walks. More info: [www.morvenpark.org](http://www.morvenpark.org).

☉ **June 11 – 15, Natural History Day Camp** – Nature lovers grades 3 to 7; camps take place at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Explore the woods, fields, and water of the preserve and learn about the plants and animals that live there. Space is limited. (Second Session June 18-22). More info at [www.loudoun-wildlife.org](http://www.loudoun-wildlife.org).

☉ **Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 pm, the film "Truck Farm"** – Tally Ho Theatre in Leesburg. Support environmental film in Loudoun County as well as directly funding our local environmental non-profit organizations. Tickets are \$10. All money donated to five local environmental non-profits. More info at [www.greenflik.com](http://www.greenflik.com).

☉ **Saturday, June 16, 7 pm - 10 pm, Loudoun Lyric Opera 5th Anniversary Gala,** Meadowkirk Farm, Middleburg, Virginia. Join us as we celebrate five years as Loudoun's resident opera company with musical highlights from our first five seasons, desserts, fruit and cheeses by Grandale Restaurant, wines from Notaviva Vineyards and silent auction. \$50 per person if purchased before June 1 (\$60 per person after June 1). For a mailed invite email us at [admin@loudounlyricopera.com](mailto:admin@loudounlyricopera.com) a mailed invite.

☉ **Saturday, June 16, 8 am - 11 am, Neersville Fire & Rescue Auxiliary Country Breakfast.** Country biscuits & sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, home fried potatoes, pancakes and more. Neersville Firehouse: 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671). Free Will Offering. Contact: Val (540) 668-7005

☉ **Saturday, June 16, Summer Stroll on the Appalachian Trail** – Join Jim McWalters and marvel at the sights. Meet at the parking lot at the Appalachian Trail along Rt. 9 a few miles west of Hillsboro. Car shuttles back to the parking area will be provided. [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org). Jim McWalters: [mcwaltersjim@gmail.com](mailto:mcwaltersjim@gmail.com).

☉ **June 19 – 23, 5 pm: Family Night at the Lovettsville Game Club,** 16 So. Berlin Pike (Rte. 287), Lovettsville, VA. Pay One Price. Live music and dinner nightly from 5 pm. For up to date information visit our website: [www.lovettsvillegameclub.org](http://www.lovettsvillegameclub.org).

☉ **Sunday, June 24, 9:30 am – 4 pm, Dragonflies and Damselflies of Loudoun Field Trip** – Bles Park. Join Andy Rabin and Kevin Munroe for the first of two informative days of "drag-on-hunting" in one of the best dragonfly and damselfly habitats in the county. Limit 12 participants. Register/questions: Andy Rabin at [stylurus@gmail.com](mailto:stylurus@gmail.com).



☉ **Friday & Saturday June 29 – 30, UNIS-TOCK Music Festival, The Acoustic Burgoo, Jake and the Burtones, The Woodshedders, Hot Seats, FoxHunt, Gallows Bound, and more.** \$35 weekend, \$20 nightly. Free Camping. Gates open at 3pm, Friday, June 29th. 20943 Furr Road, Round Hill, VA 20141. More info at [www.theacousticburgoo.com](http://www.theacousticburgoo.com).

☉ **Saturday, June 30, Butterflies at Claude Moore Park, 10 am to 11:30 am.** Join Nicole Hamilton for a family butterfly walk. Investigate the diverse natural areas at Claude Moore Park in Sterling and identify butterflies we find. Questions: contact Nicole Hamilton, [nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org).



## Recurring Events!

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

☉ **Birding Banshee,** Saturday, June 9, 8 am – Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy/Friends of Banshee Reeks monthly bird walk (at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve). Contact Joe Coleman: [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org); 540-554-2542.

☉ **Birding the Blue Ridge Center,** Saturday, June 23, 8 am – fourth Saturday of each month (except December), Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES). [www.brces.org](http://www.brces.org). Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542

☉ **CA\$H 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](http://alpost293.web.officelive.com).

☉ **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.

☉ **Marine Corps League, Loudoun Detachment 1205,** meets the third Monday of each month; American Legion Post, 112 N 21st Street, Purcellville, 7 pm. [www.loudoun-marines.org](http://www.loudoun-marines.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](mailto:MiddleburgBridge@aol.com).

☉ **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](mailto:julieg@audubonnaturalist.org) or call 703-669-0000 x 1.

## This Summer ... Invade Your Library! All ages Welcome!

June 11 through August 6, 2012, features the Loudoun County Public Library summer reading program – at all seven branches! Register at your branch and pick up a challenge card filled with fun, interactive challenges for every age to complete during the program. All ages – from birth to senior citizens – are encouraged to join the invasion and participate in the fun! The annual summer reading program offers hands-on experiences, educational programs, first-class entertain-

ment and a full variety of resources and formats for every age. Highlights for children and families include live musical, visiting authors, professional artists, and chances to win great prizes! The teen program is designed especially for ages 12 to 18 and includes imovie workshops, live music, a film competition and the 3rd annual anime-con! Adults who participate and complete their challenges are automatically entered for a chance to win a NookColor! Registration for the summer reading program begins June 11 at all branches. To learn more, visit your library, call 703 737-8655 or visit [library.loudoun.gov/srp](http://library.loudoun.gov/srp).

## ☉ Lincoln News

– Make your reservation to attend our second annual L.C.L. Picnic-Social on Sat., June 9 at 4 pm at the beautiful home and property of Chip and Carole Maloney on Shelburne Glebe Road. Come meet new neighbors and enjoy ones you already know. The menu is a cookout with picnic fare for all tastes, as well as a variety of beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. There is space and equipment for many games, such as badminton, volleyball, basketball, croquet, horseshoes, etc. Spread the word and bring your neighbors. The cost for the picnic is \$10 per person, or \$25 per family of 3 or more. Reservations must be made either by e-mail or calling the Phil or Ellie Daley at 540-338-6528 by Wednesday June 6. Check out the website: [lincolncommunityleague.org](http://lincolncommunityleague.org) for directions and more information.

– Have you noticed the barrels filled with flowers spaced along the main street of Lincoln? The barrels were David's idea, from Abernethy and Spencer greenhouse, to help slow traffic through our village. David will generously sell the barrels and flowers at cost, as well as deliver the barrels filled with dirt to specified locations. Your obligation is to plant, water and weed the barrels and keep them looking cheery and happy. If you would like a barrel near your home but cannot keep it up please let the Lincoln Community League know, and they will plant and care for the barrels for you. We are

so fortunate to have David, his generosity, and good ideas. Thank you David!

– Thanks to Kristin O'Rourke, Ellie Daley has carried freshly baked goods to two new families in Lincoln. Elizabeth and Dan Miller and their son, Jake, who is 8 months, live on the Lincoln Road. Robert and Liz Little and their children, Jacob and Rebeccah, live on Telegraph Springs Road. The children are students at Lincoln Elementary.

– Ard and Virginia Geller are proud to announce that their daughter, Timnah Nicole Geller, graduated on May 12 from the Honor's Program of the College of Charleston. It was a beautiful ceremony, and the day was not too hot. Timnah's 91 year old grandfather flew all the way from California to be at the ceremony. Timnah majored in Historic Preservation and minored in Italian. She plans to travel to Italy in the fall and take part in the WWOOF Program where she hopes to perfect her Italian. WWOOFA stands for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. (The Gellers have a stray dog which they found on Alder School Road at the end of April. They have been looking for the owner, through the shelter, vets, and by posting signs but they have had no response. The dog is a really sweet, very active yellow lab/chow mix. She is about a year old and is in need of a loving home. If you can add such a dog to your family, give the Gellers a call at 703-508-2886.)

## Bluegrass, continued from page 23

Unifest, a weekend music festival in Round Hill with many of the area's Bluegrass and Fiddle bands performing outside where camping is encouraged. For those people not in the "loop", these amazingly talented artists fly under the radar. The best way to see them perform is to follow their Facebook pages or visit their homegrown websites.

Local Fiddle and Roots bands can be found at venues like Watermelon Park's WatermelonFest, at occasional small shows at Shamrock's Music Shoppe in Old Town Purcellville, Beans in the Belfry in Brunswick, MD, and any number of cozy pubs in surrounding small towns.

To learn more about Unistock and upcoming appearances by the Burgoo, visit their website at [www.theacousticburgoo.com](http://www.theacousticburgoo.com). More information about local fiddle and roots bands follows. (As an added bonus, many of these performers are instructors at Shamrock Music Shoppe, on 21st Street in Old Town Purcellville.)

**The Polka Dots** – [www.polkadots.org](http://www.polkadots.org)  
**Gold Heart** – [www.goldheartsisters.com](http://www.goldheartsisters.com)  
**Furnace Mountain**  
[www.furnacemountain.com](http://www.furnacemountain.com)  
**Jake & the Burtones**  
[www.myspace.com/jakeandtheburtones](http://www.myspace.com/jakeandtheburtones)



# What's That?

Making Sense of the Stuff We Find in Our Back Yards

— By Carol Morris Dukas



## Thank You Readers!

Heres' the very sweet and informative response we got from a May reader about that horse shoe we featured. Wow. She really seems to know her stuff.

*"Hi there, I was just getting around to reading the Blue Ridge Leader this morning and saw your horse shoe ..."*

As far as I can tell, it is a pretty standard draft horse shoe. The reason I would think it is not a mule shoe is two-fold. First, mules tend toward having oval shaped feet, not perfectly round as your shoe measures. The other would be that large mules may have likely remained unshod, even in work, being famous for having tougher quality feet, and perhaps also for being famous for their opinionated nature and kicking talent.

I think it is more likely that you have a standard draft horse shoe there. The tabs are called clips, and help hold a horse's foot together under stress, and maintain position of the shoe, reducing the possibility of the shoe loosening and/or coming off prematurely. The



bolts are probably called caulks, and are used to give the horse an unnatural level of grip in slippery conditions, much like the cleats of a field sport shoe for humans.

Also, in our area, the soils are deficient in several trace minerals that help a horse grow a healthy foot, resulting in draft horses, in particular, growing a poorer quality hoof that does not maintain integrity under working conditions. If this were not so, the drafties might not need a shoe at all. With today's knowledge, we are able to supplement horses to account for these regional mineral deficiencies, and thus help them to grow a healthier foot.

If you find this helpful, you should consider checking my opinions here with a local farrier. — Laurie Peacock"

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



## Oh, go take a hike!

### Blandy Experimental Farm

— By Molly Pinson Simoneau

It's no secret that I love a challenging hike. I've written here about hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail and Shenandoah National Park. I've taken vacations with my family to Colorado where I've attempted to conquer a "four-teener" (a summit that is higher than 14,000 feet), and crossed the "CD" (Continental Divide) on foot.

But all walking and hiking doesn't need to be a literal uphill battle in order to be fun or rewarding. Take the time I visited Paris, and would spend the whole day just wandering the streets on foot for hours and hours, occasionally stopping to peer into a shop window or gallery or buy a baguette and some camembert, then keep walking until I decided I was tired, hop on the Métro and head back to the hostel.

Sometimes, you just want an easy, slow-paced walk. The kind where you can use your eyes and ears and nose to explore what's around you.

This is something my grandma taught me when I was just a kid and she and I would go on walks in local parks together. She would point out a specific bird call — sometimes she knew what bird made that sound and sometimes she didn't — but the point was just to pay attention. She would make up stories about a troll living under a footbridge, which made the local park seem like a fairy-tale forest. When we occasionally went to the beach she always found the neatest things in the sand: horseshoe crab shells, sharks' teeth, seaglass. All of these items seemed like treasures.

I have a walk to recommend today that

is perfect for slowing down and taking in the real sights and sounds; like the aerial acrobatics of swallows catching insects and the imaginary, fantastical elements, like fairies hiding just out of sight.

On Route 50, just west of the Shenandoah River, is the Virginia State Arboretum and Blandy Experimental Farm, a 700-acre "living museum," open to the public free of charge from dawn til dusk. The grounds are wonderfully diverse with everything from cultivated gardens near the Quarters Building at the entrance, to active farmland with growing crops, open meadows, and even wetlands.

If you're the curious type, you'll love that most of the trees have plaques declaring their species, particularly on the Virginia Native Plant Trail and in the herb garden. I recommend taking a walk on the Bridle Trail, (yes, horses are welcome here!) and finishing with a picnic on the lawn near the Quarters Building. Be sure to bring a pair of binoculars to spot birds and other wildlife. I have a smartphone app that helps me identify birds, but an old-fashioned identification guidebook will do.

This is the kind of flat, easy walk that you can take the whole family on. In fact, much of the grounds closer to the Quarters Building are probably even navigable by a wheelchair or baby stroller. So, take Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and the kids; see if you can catch a bullfrog on the shore of the pond, but watch out for the goblin lurking in the cattails! For more information visit [blandy.virginia.edu](http://blandy.virginia.edu).

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

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*Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21*

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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
D	E	C	V	E	X	E	N	R	O	B	E			
		O	L	D	I	E	G	R	E	A	S	E	S	
B	E	L	I	E	T	E	A	S	E					
A	R	O	M	A	A	I	N	T	F	I	E			
B	A	R	B	R	A	S	T	R	E	I	S	A	N	D
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		G	R	A	D	E	T	O	U	C	A	N		
M	I	S	N	A	M	E	J	O	L	L	Y			
A	R	C	A	N	A	A	U	K	W	H	O			
C	A	R	R	I	E	U	N	D	E	R	W	O	O	D
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## Just Like Nothing (Else) on Earth – by Tim Jon

### Bluemont

Fog-shrouded hillsides, historic landmarks, roads built upon ski-slope grades, and a peaceful calm seldom found in most of our 21st Century Loudoun County: all this—

—just a few seconds away from the high-velocity traffic of Route Seven. I imagine that if there's a perfect spot in which to read a spooky novel (my choice would be *Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) in these parts— you could do far worse than a little crows-nest bedroom in one of the houses perched on the ladder-like geography of Bluemont.

The last morning I was there, the mist still hung over much of Loudoun Valley to the east— easily visible from those almost dizzying heights. I've read that Bluemont's the highest community in the County— above sea level, that is— and I'm a believer. Incidentally, I'm starting a list of places to go in this locality from which you can see a lot of topography— and the little corkscrew portion of Snickersville Turnpike that climbs the grade up to the divided highway above Bluemont's a good place to start. From up here, you literally command a view: you almost feel like you possess



everything you can see— and you can see quite a lot of landscape as it slides back down toward Round Hill, Purcellville, Hamilton and Leesburg. It's a very empowering little spot.

Of course, back down in the heart of the more 'civilized' section of the community, you'll see familiar landmarks like the E.E. Lake General Store, the Bluemont Community Center, local churches, and historic homes— and, further out in the 'flats'— horse farms, cattle spreads and the almost ubiquitous stone fences. I heard a story from one of the nearby landowners that the construction of some of these rock walls dates back to the Revolutionary War— when they were supposedly used as portions of prisoner-of-war barracks— to house Hessian soldiers. I haven't been able to nail that one down, but it's still a good story. Sometimes it's better if it just stays that way— a little mystery.

And, on that subject— you know the story about Mount Weather— the best-kept secret in Loudoun County— just a hop, skip and a jump down the Blue Ridge from Bluemont: rumors claim that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's operations and training facility features some sort of underground labyrinth which could accommodate a full United States Government after some unspeakable event. I've even heard a crazier story: that Uncle Sam actually had an

underground tunnel constructed all the way out to Mount Weather from Dulles Airport. Now, I like a good story, but that one has WHOPPER written all over it. Still, Mount Weather has its secrets— sitting like a Sphinx out there on the western slope above Bluemont— a cold war relic living on into a New Age.

Another local fixture— this one highly accessible— tying the past to the present, is the beloved, annual Bluemont Fair: if pickles, pies and bluegrass are your thing, you'll want to experience this one. Part of its allure is the timing— about the third weekend in September— just when the leaves out on the western slopes are starting to think about turning color, and the air has that little something in it that makes you think of football, bonfires, hayrides and jack-o-lanterns.

So— what have we said about Bluemont? It's foggy, steep, generally quiet, has great secrets, and huge, welcoming arms. It's also pretty sparse: only a couple hundred residents tough it out here every winter— and enjoy the cool evening breezes of the summer. And, how they must enjoy their autumns! I have the pleasure of riding through some of the most picturesque countryside in



Loudoun on a daily basis— and I'd say that Bluemont has itself quite a coveted little spot. So— add 'colorful' to that list of adjectives we've been stockpiling. I think another advantage to this location is its relative distance from most of the Loudoun County population: as much as Northern Virginians seem to like driving, they certainly don't all pile into the family SUV and head for Bluemont very often.

You know— I've noticed, in my time in Loudoun County, that it's far easier to get locals to drive east than to entice them to the west. Maybe that's a good thing. I always did like a reverse commute.

### New Lessons After Graduation

— By last four years well.

Graduation is almost here! The day we have all been waiting for. During the beginning of June hundreds of high school seniors are graduating, moving onto college and out into the world to make an impact. I feel so blessed to have made it this far, especially since there wasn't always a guarantee that I would.



*"We all have adversity in our lives. It comes in different forms and hurts in different ways, but it happens. I think the key is how you deal with it. One's true character comes out in times of trials, and it inspires others to do the same."*

because of the challenges we face, we will change the world. I am proud to be a part of it, and I can't wait to see how it all turns out. I have learned that life is full of surprises, good and bad. At the end of the day, it is how you respond to challenges and successes that really counts. So to the Class of 2012, may the world never be the same!

I hope you have enjoyed reading my column. I have enjoyed writing it, and I hope that it isn't the last time you see my work in print. This column has been a great way for me to voice my frustrations, and to educate others about what challenges and fears a high school senior faces. But most of all I think it was a way for me to try to prove that young people don't always deserve the bad reputation that they are often given.

I do not know everything else that is in store for me in the coming months and years, and neither do any of my classmates. I know that not everything will go according to our plans, but I am confident that we will all find a way to make it through. I am grateful that my life was spared on that day, and I hope to encourage others with my story. I am not happy this accident occurred, but I do not see how I could have learned all of these valuable lessons without this traumatic experience. Through this my eyes have been opened to how blessed I am and how I can serve other people, and for that, I will be forever grateful.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is graduating from Stone Bridge High School.

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

On September 1, 2009, I was in an accident involving sulfuric acid. I was hired for a day to help some people move furniture and boxes. We were cleaning out the shed when a box that contained a glass jar of sulfuric acid exploded, and I suffered second and third degree burns on my face and arms.

It was an experience that I will never forget. I remember the countless surgeries and the toll it took on my family and my emotions. But I have to say that I learned a lot. I learned about myself, and about how I responded to adversity and the things I did to make it through.

For me graduation is a huge milestone, because I know that on that day I could have died. The acid got into my mouth, and I was able to spit it out. It could have burned down my throat and touched my organs. The way the acid burned my eyelids, I should have been blind. So I am grateful that I worked hard enough to be able to receive my diploma, hold it in my hands, and remember where I came from and where I am going.

We all have adversity in our lives. It comes in different forms and hurts in different ways, but it happens. I think the key is how you deal with it. One's true character comes out in times of trials, and it inspires others to do the same. I look at my fellow classmates, and I believe that most of us are going to be so successful. I know that in spite of the challenges we face, or maybe

### Woodgrove High School

Home of the Wolverines

#### Wolverines on the Prowl: 2012 Spring Sports Spectacular

— By Dane Mullins



Woodgrove High School has started a new tradition. When a team wins a district, regional and/or state championship a flag will be hoisted proudly in front of the school. They have had many chances to do that this spring. Following is a list of Woodgrove's spring accomplishments.

#### Girls Tennis: Undefeated District Champions

Sunnie Lampl won single  
Sunnie Lampl and Lucia Jacangelo won doubles  
Sunnie has signed to play for Div III MIT – Engineers

#### Girls Lacrosse: Undefeated Districts and Regional Champions

Woodgrove is hosting the state quarterfinals in early June.  
Coach of the Year—Coach Fuller  
Player of the Year—Ellen Fuller

#### Girls Soccer: Undefeated District Champions

Woodgrove will host regional quarterfinals on May 29, semifinals on May 31 and finals on June 1.

#### Softball: District Champions

Woodgrove will host regional quarterfinals May 29, semifinals on May 31 and finals on June 1.

#### Girls Track: Third in Districts and Fourth in Regionals

Individual district champions, record

breaking performances:

Audrey Houghton, 800 meters  
Lydia Cromwell, 3200 Meters  
Individual regional champions:  
Audrey Houghton, 800 meters  
Auzbasich, Florence Thompson, 3,200 relay  
Audrey Houghton, Gaynor Houghton, Anna Harpster, Florence Thompson, 1600 relay  
State AA Track and Field Championships will be held at Harrisonburg High School on June 1-2.

#### Baseball: Third in Districts

First round regional tournament against Monticello May 28, quarterfinals, May 29 at Sherando, semifinals May 31 and final on June 1

#### Boys Lacrosse: Third in Districts

Will travel to play Dominion May 29 for regional final, and the team qualifies for state tournament on June 1 or 2.

#### Band

Many students received superior and excellent ratings at the April Solo & Ensemble Festival at Eagle Ridge Middle School

#### District 16 Jazz Festival

Woodgrove Jazz Band received a superior rating for their performance.

#### Chorus

The Men and Treble Ensembles received superior rating while the Women's Choir received excellent rating at the Loudoun County Choral Festival.

#### Pep Band

The Pep Band under the direction of volunteer Paul Westray again accompanied the Woodgrove Academic Team to their competition at NBC Studios on April 28.

#### Other awards

Omar Ahmed and Chris Miller won first place in the 2012 National History Day Competition State Finals for their live per-



## REAL ESTATE TICKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

to 3.01 percent.

The last time mortgage rates were above 6 percent was Nov. 2008. At the time, the average 30-year fixed rate was 6.33 percent, meaning a \$200,000 loan would have carried a monthly payment of \$1,241.86. With the average rate now 3.97 percent, the monthly payment for the same size loan would be \$947.93, a difference of \$294 per month for anyone refinancing now. (see [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) for mortgage rates)

At a closing I attended a few days ago, my client remarked that since his rate lock two months ago on a below-4% 30-year fixed loan, the rate had "floated down" yet another .02%, making his net interest payment seem too low to be real. It's hard for me to overstate the incredible value to the consumer of such a low interest rate over the life of the loan.

And yet, there are still those too uncertain of the future to feel comfortable taking advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a home at these historic low rates.

Another "flag" worth noting: residential building lots are now selling again

It has been nearly five years since I have witnessed ongoing lot sales in our area. Yet in the past three months, I have not only seen lookers, but there have been actual closings that "made it to the table."

When this phenomena began, I couldn't help but wonder why; it was economically far more practical to buy a standing house

at these unprecedented low prices than it was to buy a lot and build.

But week after week as I pounded the pavement with prospective home-buyers looking for the "perfect house", it became abundantly clear: there were just very few under-\$500,000 homes still left on the market right now. So what I'm hearing from those looking for lots right now is: "I can't find what I want, so I'm just going to have to build..."

One high point for me this past month, was to complete a transaction for a very worthwhile organization out of Taunton, ME called "Homes For Our Troops" ([www.householderships.org](http://www.householderships.org)). They purchased a lot near Round Hill, and are building a home for a young soldier who is a double-amputee.... I heartily recommend that you go to their website and learn more about this proactive group dedicated to supporting our wounded soldiers.

Western Loudoun County is still the best place in the world to call home!

*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 (DARA) as well as the Northern Neck Association of Realtors (NANNY). To contact Carl, email him at [carl@uc-nova.com](mailto:carl@uc-nova.com).*

## Asbestos, continued from page 1

review a copy of the demolition permit. Knowing that the barn had been built in the 1950s and likely contained asbestos, Mrs. Grim told the Blue Ridge Leader that she wanted to verify that "all state requirements had been met" and that "an asbestos inspection had been done." Town staff indicated they had a permit but could not locate it. Mrs. Grim was advised she would have to wait five days for a copy – at which time the barn would have been demolished, permit or no permit.

"The clerk stated there was a permit at the town," said Mrs. Grim, "but my request gave the town the right to take up to 5 days to provide a copy of it to me".

Not satisfied, Mrs. Grim contacted the Loudoun County Building Department to

view the demolition permit and asbestos report, but was told by staff that there was no application for a demolition permit.

Further investigation revealed that the Town of Purcellville didn't even survey the barn for asbestos until after Mrs. Grim complained. A May 9, 2012 report revealed that of the 11 samples sent to a laboratory, 5 samples tested positive for "Chrysotile" asbestos. It is not yet known what technique will be used to remove the asbestos before demolition.

Editor's Note: As we were going to press on Tuesday, June 5th workers in hazmat suits were seen onsite, indicating demolition had begun. See our update online at [www.BRLeader.com](http://www.BRLeader.com).

## Safe Asbestos Removal Explained

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code regulates the removal and disturbance of asbestos containing materials in structures built before January 1, 1985. A permit issued by Loudoun County Building Department (LCBD) is required for all residential or commercial buildings. There are no exceptions for accessory buildings, but the LCBD admits that they cannot be everywhere all the time, and there have been times when a building has been demolished without a permit. The testing, removal and re-certification of an

asbestos abatement area must be conducted by a Virginia licensed asbestos contractor.

Exposure to asbestos is associated with serious health problems, including lung cancer. Asbestos was extensively used in building construction from the 1930's to the 1970's. Improper or hasty removal of asbestos can cause more problems than leaving it alone. In place, "Chrysotile" asbestos is far less hazardous than other type of asbestos. But, it poses a hazard when it is disturbed, which is why it is important to have a professional remove it properly.

## Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

**Dr. Mike**

***My husband tells me that I am "obsessed" with Facebook because I post frequently. Facebook is a social media site, and I have a lot of friends and am social ... so what's the problem? It's true that I post throughout the day and more than most of my friends, but I don't have a problem with it. He says that Facebook hasn't just taken over the world, but it's taken over my life. He also hates it when we go places with our kids because I take so many pictures and constantly post. My husband thinks I need Facebook therapy. We like your column, so he agreed for you to take a stab at our problem. Any advice? – P in Loudoun County***

P, Well, I suppose you may be spending a lot of time on Facebook because you are simply a social person. However, you may be on as much as you are because you are unhappy with certain aspects of your life, or you may be attention seeking or you may even be depressed. There is some research already out showing that people who spend an inordinate amount of time on social networking sites may actually be clinically depressed. That research makes sense to me since depressed folks tend to withdraw and isolate, and screens are an easy way to do that. An American psychologist has recently coined the term Facebook Addiction Disorder (FAD) given the high numbers of folks allegedly addicted to the on-line networking site. Based on his work and research, he offers the following criteria for the condition. If you have 2-3 of the following criteria over a 6-8 month period, he would argue that you are indeed addicted to Facebook.

- Tolerance: The need to spend an increasing amount of time on Facebook in order to feel gratified. Withdrawal symptoms: Increased stress, anxiety, irritability or distress when unable to spend time on Facebook.
- Reduction of normal social/recreational activities: Facebook is impinging on other areas of your life including activities you used to find pleasurable or enjoyable.

- Virtual dates: When being with your partner on-line is more enjoyable than being out together on a date in person.
- Fake friends: When the majority of your Facebook friends are complete strangers.
- Complete addiction: When you Facebook someone you just met or when your pet has his own Facebook accounts with photos and messaging.

Whether you feel you have a problem or not, the time you spend on Facebook is problematic for your husband – and maybe even your children. I recommend then that you start by challenging yourself to appreciate your husband's perspective regarding your Facebook time. Hopefully, increased communication in this area will help you both in finding some common ground with the issue. If you do decide to see someone in therapy, I also recommend that your husband attend those sessions (or at least the initial ones) since the time you spend on Facebook very much appears to be a shared problem for you as a couple. Thank you for the kind words on the column and best wishes.

**Dr. Mike,**

***My husband and I have always been conservative financially, and we have always communicated well ... until now. He recently inherited a good deal of money from his deceased father's estate, and it's been concerning to watch him spend at the rate he is spending. First, it was the fancy gold watch he always wanted, and then it was the fancy sports car he always wanted, and most recently it's an extravagant family trip to the Caribbean. I've tried to communicate my feelings on his spending spree, but he tells me I am "blowing things out of proportion." I'd like some say in how the remaining money is saved or spent for our family, but I am having trouble finding a way to speak up. I also know that he is not handling the loss of his father well, but he doesn't want to discuss that topic either. Your advice is greatly appreciated. – M in Loudoun County***

M, It is possible that your husband simply feels that he hit the jackpot with his inheritance and is enjoying himself. However, his behavior and poor communication with you is inconsistent with your history as a couple. Certainly, the death of a parent can impact us greatly, and it is then also possible that your husband is acting out his grief through excessive spending. Think about it, he is not just spending money recklessly, but he is spending his deceased father's money in that way. In this light, there may be an association for your husband with his father where his emotional spending is the next best thing to actually being with his father. If this dynamic is at play, it is likely occurring on an unconscious level for your husband and attempts to reason with him may be met with defensiveness. Thus, rather than trying to reason with your husband, I would recommend addressing your concerns on a feeling level. Perhaps you can point out your discomfort with his spending and offer a few relevant examples that reflect your previously shared conservative position. Examples might include your children's college tuitions, paying off the mortgage ahead of schedule or saving for retirement. By sharing your feelings in this way, you are reminding your husband about what should matter most – the security and wellbeing of his wife and children. With your loving support and patience, and with enough time, things should return back to normal. If things do not improve within a reasonable period of time, I recommend you seek the help of an experienced couple's therapist.

*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](http://www.ashburnpsych.com) or call (703) 723-2999.*



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*Sushi, continued from page 21*

that musty odor – a smell all its own, unmistakably the Sly One.

Before I could leap off the porch I heard honking and screeching – the scream for life. As I raced as fast as my strong but short little Cairn Terrier legs could carry me, I heard behind me the thundering of LuluBells long and mighty Bullmastiff paws. Neither one of us could get to the Quackery quick enough.

Mr. Zaza fought to his death defending poor Mrs. Zaza and their new born babies.

Old Gnarly Gander came from behind the barn; wings stretched high and wide, swinging his deadly weapon of a goose neck. Powerful, powerful arching and swinging Gnarly held back the Sly One, from killing the baby Sabastapole geese and Mrs. Zaza. I took a short cut behind the barn in Gnarly's direction. LuluBell and I teamed against the Sly One just in the nick of time to save the rest of the Goose Gang and the babies. The Sly One bolted off toward the forbidden woods to his foxy den.

Old Gnarly, awkwardly yet kindly, inspected Mrs. Zaza and the babies, counting each one. Carefully stretching his neck hovering over the "Zaza Family" he paid his condolences to Mrs. Zaza over Mr. Zaza's death to save his precious loved ones. Then quietly and respectfully, Gnarly carefully backed away, lowering and bowing his long

*"Old Gnarly Gander came from behind the barn; wings stretched high and wide, swinging his deadly weapon of a goose neck. Powerful, powerful arching and swinging Gnarly held back the Sly One, from killing the baby Sabastapole geese and Mrs. Zaza."*

goose neck in clear pain for Mrs. Zaza's anguish.

Mrs. Zaza immediately ruffled and puffed her feathers as she pulled her babies in close to her heart. Tucking her head deep into her wings, she cried and cooed to her little ones.

Old Gnarly Gander arched his long neck and bowed his head in grateful gratitude for our team efforts. From that day forth he stood his guard over the Quackery, never straying very far.

Old Gnarly looked toward LuluBell and I as if to say "Until death do I part I will honor and defend my dear friends family. I will be these goslings father to the best I can. I will teach them respect and love for one another but mostly for their mother and their father. For it is in giving that we receive. It is learning to respect, love and cherish, that we become one."

So you see my friends, this is why I have so much respect for old crotchety Gnarly Gander and why I think he is the Father of the Year! I hope you treat your fathers well this June and bring them out to the farm for a very special treat we have planned for the fathers we love the most (see my note, above)! Sincerely and with Love – Sushi

*Sign Removal, continued from page 1*

many citizen complaints. Still, [the businessman] went to the magistrate to file these criminal complaints."

After years of citizen complaints about the Town and County's lack of enforcement on basic sign regulations designed to keep roadways and private property free of illegal signage, in 2011 Purcellville proposed what it described as "significant and numerous changes to the town's sign ordinance," identifying prohibited signs, permissible

temporary signage, commercial signs, and other categories – all designed to both support necessary commerce and preserve the aesthetic qualities of neighborhoods and business districts.

A representative of the Town of Purcellville stated that all signs must have permits and not be in the public right of way. Court proceedings are scheduled for later this month.

*Wolverines, continued from page 22*

formance How Brown vs. The Board of Education Ignited The Civil Rights Movement.

Gabriela Aparicio along with her team from Monroe Technology Center placed first in the Crime Scene Investigation contest in Skills USA State Competition in Hampton. They now qualify to advance to the National Competition in Kansas City, Mo., June 23-27. Melissa Allen, Logan Kirkpatrick, and Chris Miller have been selected to attend the prestigious Virginia Governor's School for 2012.

Jessica Hoff was named Loudoun County Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Keylah Sacco received a "Beat the Odds" Award. She is a nursing student at Monroe Technology Center and plans to continue her studies at Marymount University.

**Graduation**

Woodgrove High School's inaugural graduation commencement will be Tuesday June 12 at 9 a.m. in the Woodgrove Stadium. The event is open to the public. All are welcome. Tickets are required only if inclement weather results in event be moved inside to the gymnasium.

*Dane Mullins is a member of Woodgrove's class of 2012.*

**Committees at a Glance, continued from page 6**

said they would like to see the Big Box stores come to Purcellville – mentioning corporations such as Target and Walmart. Still others said they would like to see a processing plant for agricultural products.

They would like to see commercial traffic increase by 50 percent annually, and decrease people leaving town to shop by 20 percent. Budget wise, their goal would be to realize 40 percent of tax revenues from businesses – more than doubling Purcellville's current business tax base.

Committee members would also like to see the town population increase by 9,000 residents over the next 10 years – more than doubling the size of Purcellville.

**Purcellville Infrastructure Committee Meeting, May 30, 2012**

*–Topic: 21st Street Construction*

There was discussion from citizens as to why the town wanted to tear up 21st Street, including lowering the grade, making the sidewalks wider and narrowing the street. Developer John Chapman said that the town had already had several "charettes" and that the community wants it. (Note: The charettes were held ten years ago. The dis-

**"Committee Member Ian Paterson would like to see all houses on Main Street go commercial as a goal for the future – with a possible name change to "Professional Road."**

cussions were about making 21st Street a one way and putting in parallel parking, with no mention of lowering the grade and widening the sidewalks.) Purcellville resident Kelli Grim added that the town just created a tourism district for his properties on and behind 21st Street. Many believe these are the reasons for the 21st Street changes, which would seek to accommodate a C4 district a hotel. There was also discussion to prohibit trucks of over 53 ft to travel on 21st street. The Committee decided to talk to business owners before making the decision. Some delivery trucks are hitting the bailards at the corner of 21st and 23rd.

*\* Gregory Lehr is the husband of Purcellville Town Council member Joan Lehr, who recused herself for the discussion and the vote. \*\* Blue Ridge Realty was involved in the lease/purchase of the old church building (now the Town Hall) and received approximately \$350,000 from the town for "unspecified improvements" to the building before the town bought it. \*\*\* Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro is employed as a Community Affairs Executive at Inova.*

*Box Turtles, continued from page 1*

them needlessly. Box turtles, like other reptiles and amphibians, hibernate – in woody areas or natural areas that have protective vegetation and/or leaf litter. In the spring they mate and lay eggs in an area that had been successful for them before.

That means that the box turtle you see crossing the road could very well be traveling to that place where they had been successful in continuing their own species ... perhaps laying an egg that would hatch and grow into a turtle that would live for one hundred years.

*A note on box turtle biology: A box turtle*

can "close" its shell almost completely. On the top, they have a steeply domed shell or "carapace" that gives them their distinct, boxy shape. On the bottom, box turtles have what is known as a "plastron," a flat hard plate that in the case of a box turtle has a center hinge. When the animal brings pulls the two together and tucks in its head and feet, the soft parts of its body are protected. If you've ever seen the family dog pushing and rolling a box turtle around on your lawn, you know that not even a crafty canine can figure out what to get at what's inside.



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