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July 2012

County Reaches Multimillion Dollar Redskins Deal

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

On June 19, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted 8-0-1 to enter into an 8-year marketing agreement with the Washington Redskins at a cost to the County of \$2 million, payable in \$500,000 installments over the first four years. The agreement is part of a \$12.4 million initiative spearheaded by Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R).

McDonnell announced the initiative as a multi-part deal to retain the Redskins corporate headquarters, training facilities, and summer training camp in Virginia and to assist with a planned \$30 million expansion

of the team's training facilities. All three are currently located at Redskins Park in Ashburn. According to a press release from the governor's Office, the Redskins have agreed to keep their headquarters and training facilities at the current location. However, the summer training camp will shift to the City of Richmond beginning in 2013. The City of Richmond has agreed to contribute \$400,000 to McDonnell's initiative. In a 2010 presentation to the Board of Supervisors, county staff and the Redskins calculated that the summer training camp generated 20,000 visitors and an estimated \$1.13 million in spending annually.

The Board item from the June 19 meeting references a Memorandum of Understanding between the State and the Redskins organization that more fully describes "the larger, multi-pronged package." The item stated that the county had requested a copy of the MOU from both the governor's Office and the Redskins, but had not received a copy. As of June 24, Anna Nissinen, Loudoun County public affairs and communications officer, stated that the county had still not received a copy; Jeff Caldwell, a spokesperson from the Gov.'s Office, stated no written document yet existed as details of the agreement are still pending.

Caldwell did not respond to a question regarding which of the announced portions of the agreement in principle might still be subject to change. However, Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York (R-At-Large), stated that the county's "marketing agreement is an eight-year agreement with the Skins only. What the state does with the Skins is between those two parties and will have no impact on our agreement."

McDonnell made the recruitment and retention of business a cornerstone of his campaign in 2009. [However, in this case, recent news reports indicate that McDonnell

Continued on page 13

June Storm Causes Massive Damage

The dangerous heat and humidity which gave rise to the end of June's violent storm added to the area's misery as residents struggled to clean up the damage and get back to normal – with or without power. Extensive tree loss was evident from Middleburg to Sterling. Huge downed trees blocked major roads and as the Blue Ridge Leader went to press thousands of people were still without water and power. Still, community spirit was evident as neighbor helped neighbor and businesses pitched in to help residents stay cool and safe.



House on Main Street in Purcellville loses 200-year old oak tree

More photos on Page 19

\$740,000 Pollution Penalty for Toll Brothers

– Two Named Sites in Loudoun County –

Toll Brothers, Inc. will pay a civil penalty of \$741,000 to resolve alleged Federal Clean Water Act violations at its nationwide construction sites. The judgement against the company also calls for it to invest in a company-wide stormwater compliance program to improve employee training and increase management oversight at all current and future residential construction sites.

Polluted stormwater runoff from con-

struction sites, containing sediment, debris, pesticides, paint and used oil, can flow directly into the nearest waterway, affecting drinking water quality and damaging valuable aquatic habitats.

Three Virginia Toll Brothers residential construction sites were cited for violations: Belmont Country Club and Loudoun Valley Estates in Loudoun County, and Twin Lakes

Continued on page 15

Celebration and Extreme Disappointment Over Metro Vote

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

At the July 3 business meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-4 to proceed with the County's funding participation in Phase 2 of the Silver Line extension of Metro Rail. Blue Ridge District Supervisor, Janet Clarke, voted No; Board Chair, Scott York (At-Large-R) a long-time supporter of rail, voted Yes.

Loudoun County's portion of the construction will be financed through a special tax district. As summarized in documents

handed out to the Board Monday evening, the Board will establish a rail service district and two sub-districts – a station development district and an airport station district – with a proposed tax rate for each of the districts not to exceed \$0.20 per \$100. As Supervisor Shawn Williams (R-Dulles) explained, this model ensures that those who benefit the most will contribute the most.

Opponents focused on the lack of final cost and revenue figures. Clarke noted that

Continued on page 13

Diamondbacks Are 2012 Upper Loudoun Little League Majors Champions!

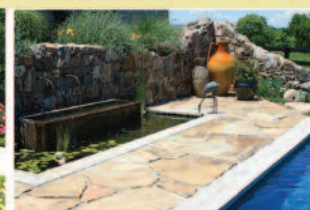


Bottom Row (left to right): Stephan Yearick, John Bury, Wyatt Miles, Brady Drawbaugh, Andrew Donofrio and Sammie Roberts. Top Row (left to right): Manager Tony Hanvey, Matt Gusmerotti, Scott Smith, Johann Wunder, Zach Cunningham, Ryan Miles, Justin Hanvey and Coach Dan Miles.

For more **Sports Awards**

and notices ... See Page 18

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Ask Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

I know you just wrote about Facebook last month, but I have my own Facebook dilemma that I hope you can help me with. My 16-year-old niece has posted what I think are very concerning comments about her hating both herself and life. I reached out to her father (my brother) to express my concerns, but he just brushed me off, telling me that I am "being overly dramatic." Neither he nor his wife are Facebook friends with their daughter (which I think is irresponsible on their part), but I am and have access to her posts. Help. – R in Loudoun County

R, It is not uncommon for adolescents to make exaggerated or existential-like comments about life or death on Facebook. It is also not uncommon for depressed and suicidal adolescents to post those sorts of things. In situations like this, I think it is always better to err on the side of caution since you are an adult family member and since you really do not know if the posts are something to worry about or not. Your brother may be right that there is nothing wrong with his daughter, but he may also be wrong. I recommend cutting and pasting the postings of concern into an email and sending them to your brother for his



review. I also recommend reaching out to your niece by phone or in person to let her know about your concerns. Keep in mind that your actions may upset your niece, and she may even unfriend you on Facebook. In the end though, the good that would come of your reporting things to your brother more clearly, if there is indeed a problem with your niece, far outweighs the possible negative feelings your niece might have toward you if she is fine.

Dr. Mike,

What are your thoughts on the bullying incident involving the older woman who was bullied by several boys when she was serving in her role as bus monitor? I know you were on Good Morning America as an expert for bullying last year, and great job by the way! This seems like an area of interest and expertise for you, so I was just wondering if you had an opinion on what happened. I think all of the children involved should be expelled from school, and I hope

Ms. Klein gets rich off of the experience. – C in Loudoun County

C, Thank you for the kind words regarding my work on bullying. As a psychologist in private practice, I have had quite a bit of experience working with children and adolescents who are bullied, as well as those who bully. I am aware of the incident you are referring to and have also watched the YouTube video that went viral and prompted donations and international sympathy for Ms. Karen Klein. In my opinion, there are two types of bullies in the world. The first group are those individuals who know right from wrong, and yet they still choose to act out angrily or aggressively toward others. Their motivations are intentionally mean spirited. The second group of individuals who bully involve children and adolescents who have personally experienced significant emotional and/or physical abuse or who have legitimate psychiatric conditions. For this latter group, many of these children and adolescents do not have the self-awareness or capacity to regulate their behavior adequately at all times. Moreover, for this latter group, their bullying behaviors should be understood in the context of their history and conditions. I do not know the backgrounds of the involved children for the incident you are writing about, so I really am not in a position to formulate an opinion on their behaviors

Continued on page 29

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Open Letter

4 Years of Constant Water Rate Increases Too Much To Swallow!

– By Daniel E. Shaughnessy

Item (6e) of the proposed agenda for the Purcellville Town Council June 12 meeting, once again, as was the case for the June/July meetings of 2009, 2010, and 2011, proposes another increase in water and sewer rates for town residents and businesses.

These rate increases are of considerable concern and they seem to reflect the Council's continuing embrace of a water system that is unable to pay for itself and which, increasingly, has become reliant on large annual rate increases and the use of reserve funds.

These annual rate increases have been substantial: On June 9, of 2009, the council approved a near-doubling of then existing rates for 2009- 2010. On July 13, 2010, the Council approved an additional 25 percent increase in rates for 2010/2011. Last year, on June 14, 2011, the Council again approved an approximate 11 percent increase in water rates and an approximate 15 percent increase in sewer rates. Now, for the fourth time in as many years, the Council is proposing a further increase in water and sewer rates for 2012-2013!

This time, the water rates are going up again and the sewer increase is 20 percent. These rates compound on themselves and become a significant expense for households and businesses.

Why these constant rate increases?

The answer appears to be that the council's ambitious plans for sufficient revenue from new users and increased connection fees to pay the cost of the expanded water supply system, and to service the debt incurred in building it, have not materialized.

Page 220 of the town's proposed 2012 – 2013 budget, which presents the "Revenue Profile" for the 2013 Water Fund, shows a need to transfer in \$823,007 from cash reserves in order to operate the system, or in other words, to cover a projected 25 percent deficit in needed funds, even with accumulated rate

increases and some major new users. In addition, page 126 of the proposed 2013 budget shows that another \$1,205,382 is needed in the coming fiscal year to service the debt incurred in building the system.

Sewer system funding (The Wastewater Fund) is in a similar, if not more critical condition. Even with past and current rate increases, page 221 of the proposed 2013 Town budget shows that nearly 40 percent of the funds (\$1,723,637) needed for the wastewater fund must come from cash reserves. Further, page 132 of the proposed budget shows that debt servicing for the Wastewater Fund in 2013 is projected at \$2,421,569 for just 2013 alone.

Ms. Lehr and gentlemen, there is something wrong here. The water and sewer system is obviously not paying for itself and how long can the council continue to raise water and sewer rates on town citizens and businesses and deplete reserve funds without adverse consequences?

Purcellville water and sewer rates are already among the highest in Loudoun County. These proposed increases will almost certainly make our town's rates the highest in the county. Loudoun Water, which supplies much of the county, has rates that are a fraction of those for Purcellville. Mr. McConville, then as a private citizen, expressed concern at the July 13, 2010 Council meeting, that a 25 percent increase then was too high, and that was even before that increase was enacted, before the 2011 increase, and now, before the current proposed increase!

Extremely high water rates are a major burden on existing town residents, and ultimately hinder real estate sales and business development. I strongly suggest that you reconsider these proposed rate increases and delay any further consideration for system expansion, as well as what appears to be a proposed \$9 million debt increase for the water fund. Otherwise, these high water and sewer costs might make Purcellville not such a great place to live and raise a family.



Sam Brown is forced to take his farm vehicle on a dangerous 2+ mile detour to access his back fields.

On the 25% Meals Tax Increase ... “We make decisions on what is best for the Town.” – Councilmember John Nave

Last month the Town of Purcellville raised the town meals tax by 25 percent – from 4 percent to 5 percent. Councilmember Tom Priscilla stated that the increase was necessary due to a \$1.5 million shortfall. More specifically, he cited developer defaults on public improvements for Locust Grove and Hirst Farm performance bonds, county versus town lawsuits related to efforts to block the Southern Collector Road, and lawsuits filed by Sam Brown (owner of Crooked Run Orchard) to protect his property from seizure by eminent domain/quick take.

The increase in the meals tax is not only unjustifiable ... the reasons given for the increase are disingenuous.

- **Locust Grove and Hirst Farm Performance Bonds:** While the bonds in question are the duty of the developer to secure, the town of Purcellville failed to verify that the bonds had been put in place, exposing residents to this liability.
- **County versus town lawsuits related to the Southern Collector Road:** The town and county lawsuit in question was not about the Southern Collector Road. It was over the “out of phase” annexations that violated the town/county annexation agreement with respect to the land involved. The county lawsuit was filed when the town refused to answer any correspondence sent by the county and refused to meet to discuss the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP) about the out of phase annexations. The agreement required the town to work with the county and provide documentation that the town would be able to provide adequate utilities

for any future development. (PUGAMP is a 50-year agreement between Loudoun County and the town of Purcellville that details land use guidelines for development outside the town of Purcellville boundaries, ensuring that Purcellville would not grow at a pace that would overwhelm the town.)

- **Lawsuits filed by Sam Brown:** Mr. Brown filed his lawsuit for a temporary injunction seeking to stop seizure of part of his farm until the town/county lawsuit over out of phase annexations was resolved. The town brought the cost of this lawsuit on themselves.

Councilmember Keith Melton stated: “This [meals] tax is for people outside of town,” and “it is the least taxing option to our residents.” Vice Mayor Joan Lehr stated: “One percent is not that huge, although it may stop some people from coming into town and that will affect other businesses as well.”

The meals tax is only estimated to bring in an additional \$225,000 per year. When the town was asked to detail the \$1.5 million shortfall, they provided documents showing legal fees totaling just over \$653,000.

Prior to the town's May elections, Mayor Bob Lazaro said that his constituents did not want the meals tax increased, and, voted against it in committee. In last month's final vote, the meals tax passed 6-1 with only Vice Mayor Joan Lehr voting against.

From the town's thinly veiled arguments as to the reason for the 25 percent increase, to the Mayor's flip-flops on the issue, it is hard to see that any of this is in the best interests of the town.

Purcellville Going the Way of Stockton?

Stockton, California is filing for bankruptcy protection. While one of their big problems is unfunded retirement costs, the other one is the amount of bond debt they have amassed. Earlier this year creditors seized an empty building that was supposed to be the new town hall, along with a couple of parking garages after the town failed to meet a bond payment. These are the lucky creditors since they will likely have enough to recoup the value of their bonds. But the more interesting thing is

the amount of debt they have.

It was listed at a little more than \$700 million, with a population of just under 300,000. Interestingly enough, if you compare this to Purcellville's debt, Purcellville's debt is three times higher on a per capita basis. Stockton has a debt of about \$2,500 per capita and Purcellville has a debt of about \$9,000 per capita. At this time in history, it is important for municipalities to limit debt.

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Committees at a Glance

Committees at a Glance is a 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 2nd Edition we discuss recent actions and discussion by the Town Of Purcellville and several of its key committees for the month of June.

Purcellville Town Council Meeting, June 12, 2012

● *Topics: Taxes, Changes in Town Code and Ordinances, Tourism Zone*

– The Council voted unanimously to amend the Town Code Ordinance: Levy of Tax. This was a "housekeeping" change that will allow the Town Council to amend the tax rate from time to time.

– The Council approved the Budget and raised the meals tax from 4 percent to 5 percent (vote was 6-1 with Vice Mayor Joan Lehr voting against). Councilman Keith Melton said that this was the only opportunity to tax out of town residents. They did not vote on the water and sewer rates. Mayor Lazaro said, "The Town of Purcellville's water rates are reasonable."

– The Council voted unanimously to change Town Code Article VII, Transient and Lodging Tax, Section 74-222: Imposition and Rate of Tax.

– The Town Council also voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 12-06-09 providing for the adoption of the Schedule of Financial Incentives for the Purcellville Old Town Tourism Zone, which covers the properties owned by developer John Chapman and Mark Nelis.

Purcellville Planning Commission Meeting, June 21, 2012

● *Topics: Taxes, Changes in Town Code and Ordinances, Tourism Zone*

– The committee spoke at length about

the town sign ordinance, which can be viewed online at the town website.

Developer John Chapman spoke about the ordinance and said that he, Mark Nelis, and Casey Chapman had worked on the sign ordinance, he thinks it is fair, and he supports it.

– Chairman Dennis Beese said that the Town Council is thinking about all committees meeting only once a month as a "Committee of the Whole" instead of individual committee meetings. *(This would significantly reduce the amount of public air time devoted to committee issues.)*

Purcellville Infrastructure Committee Meeting, June 25, 2012

● *Topics: Water and Sewer Bills, 21st Street Discussion*

– There was a discussion as to whether water and sewer would be billed to residents on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

– There was a discussion of Phase II update of 21st Street and Councilman James Wiley, who is Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, said that there is no drainage in place on 21st street and that water runs on the sidewalks (photo below shows one of many drainages on 21st Street). There was a discussion on the impact of buses, tour buses, and delivery trucks on 21st Street. It might be a problem if the road is narrowed. Councilman Wiley suggested that businesses could call and ask the delivery companies to use smaller trucks.



Letters to the Editor

Unlimited Power for Loudoun Politicians

Dear Editor:

Political expedience" suggests that what a politician will do will be based on what is convenient politically rather than what is in the best interests of residents. On July 10, 2012 a dog and pony show will be held at the Purcellville Town Hall known as a "public hearing." The subject will be the utter destruction of the Town/County agreement known as the Purcellville Urban Growth Management Plan (PUGAMP).

There is no question that there are pros and cons to PUGAMP. But it depends on one's true agenda. I believe from speaking to countless people who participated in PUGAMP from the beginning, that they had nothing but true unadulterated care and concern for their town and county. None of them had a politically charged agenda, it was sincere, and the words in the overall plan reflect that.

The rush decision by the Mayor of Purcellville, and Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet

Continued on page 12

Developer Proffers and the Public Good: Part I

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

On June 6 the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) released its final rankings for the 2012 submissions to the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits program (LIHTC). Shreveport Ridge, a submission by Middleburg-based Windy Hill Development Company (WHDC) to construct and manage 98 affordable dwelling units (ADUs) proffered by the developer of Brambleton, received the highest ranking with a score of 750, providing the project with access to more than \$1.4 million in federal income tax credits to underwrite construction.

So the question is ...

As WHDC prepares to close on its \$2.45 million land purchase from Brambleton for the project, a number of interesting questions arise. Does the use of tax credits provide developers who agree to construct ADUs or workforce housing with a means to transfer that financial liability back to the public? Does the importance of ensuring an adequate inventory of affordable work force housing outweigh the public's expectation that the for-profit residential development community at least cover some of the infrastructure costs they create? Should density bonuses be retained by developers when fulfillment of a proffer is shifted to a third party or is this generally how proffer obligations are discharged?

Public discussion of these questions began last year at meetings of the County's Joint Housing Trust Fund Committee. In March of this year, the Board of Supervisors gingerly touched on the subject in response to WHDC's request for letters of support for Shreveport Ridge's VHDA application. In a multi-part article, The Blue Ridge Leader will attempt to understand the implication of this new approach. This month, we focus on the County's use of proffers as they relate to affordable housing. Next month, we will take a closer look at the WHDC model and its implications for affordable housing development and County proffer policy.

What is a "proffer?" ...

Proffers are the mechanism by which the Virginia General Assembly allows localities to partially offset the capital costs associated with residential development. These costs include the construction and expansion of public facilities such as schools, playing fields, roads and other infrastructure to accommodate the service needs of the new residents.

Under this mechanism local governments can request capital contributions from a developer in return for approving additional density. Such contributions can take the form of a cash payment for each additional unit above the base zoning, in-kind contributions, such as acreage for a school or public safety center, or a combination of both. A legal document, running with the property, binds the County and landowners to the terms. Where a developer chooses cash contributions, the expectation is that the cost will either be passed through to the homebuyer in the purchase price or absorbed as a cost of business by the developer.

A change in county proffer policy ...

Prior to 1993, developers could proffer affordable dwelling units, as the original owner of Brambleton did in its 1988 applica-

tion. This reflected a belief that the construction of low-income housing could be considered a capital cost of the government.

In 1993 the Board of Supervisors revised the Zoning Ordinance mandating that most (but not all) land development projects proposing 50 or more residential units make at least 5 percent of the units affordable dwelling units. Developers who agree to higher percentage of ADUs receive a density bonus of 10-20 percent.

The Zoning Ordinance defines an ADU as "units for which the rental and/or sales price is regulated pursuant to the provisions contained in [the ordinance], as adopted by the Board of Supervisors." The stated intent is to make homes available for purchase by households whose income is between 30 percent and 70 percent of the median income for the local statistical area and available for rental by households whose income is between 30 percent and 50 percent of the Washington Area Median Income (AMI). The current AMI is \$107,500. This is a \$1,100 increase over last year.

Clearly, such housing will not fit into every development proposal. Thus, the ordinance offers developers the option of making a cash payment in lieu of building units. Developers, with the agreement of the Board of Supervisors, can also proffer an alternative housing mix to offset the ADU requirement. This is what the Kincora developer did in its 2010 application.

Who is paying the costs?" ...

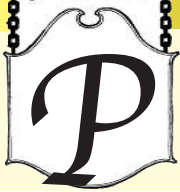
According to discussion between County staff and the Board of Supervisors, a significant number of developers in Loudoun choose to make cash payments rather than actually build units. In such cases, the financial liability clearly falls upon the developer. In the case of Shreveport Ridge, however, Brambleton will not only shift the cost of constructing the proffered ADUs to WHDC, while still retaining the additional density granted to it by the County, it will also receive \$2.45 million from WHDC for the purchase of the 5.48 acres on which WHDC will construct the units.

The LIHTC program "encourages the development of affordable rental housing by providing owners a federal income tax credit." According to the VHDA website, "It also provides incentives for private investors to participate in the construction and rehabilitation of housing for low-income families." Federal tax credits, however, lower the total revenue received by the federal government. In offering such credits to create one public good, affordable housing, Congress must then either cut its budget correspondingly or make up the difference from other revenue sources.

According to documents submitted by WHDC to the County, this is not its first successful submission to the LIHTC program. It has secured such credits for two projects in Middleburg (Levis Hill House and Llewellyn Village Apartments) plus a third project in Fauquier County (Piedmont Lane in The Plains). However, it appears to be the first time the program will be used in Loudoun County to meet a developer's legal obligation to provide the County with proffered affordable dwelling units.

NEXT MONTH: The Windy Hill model and its implications for the future.

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Writing Excellence at Blue Ridge Middle School

Blue Ridge Middle School principal Brion Bell announced that several times this past year students have been recognized by local and national competitions and organizations for their excellence in writing.

Under the guidance of Mrs. White and Mr. Kursman, three eighth graders, Mary Callihan, Alexandra Van Zandt and Emily Baer were honored by Scholastic Writing Awards for the South Region-at-Large. Callihan won a Certificate of Merit recognizing the top 20 percent in each category, and Van Zandt received the Silver Key (top 15 percent). The highest award in regional competition is the Gold Key (top ten percent). This year, Blue Ridge has one Gold Key winner, Baer.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Walker, eighth grader Dasha Berringe wrote each day towards her word count goal during National Novel Writing Month's Young Writers Program, which provides youth with a month-long creative experience that improves self-esteem and teaches perseverance.

Seventh and eighth grade students were also published by the national Creative Communication organization: Lizzie Bunce, Chris Cerne, Samantha Hinton, Emily Baer, Isabelle Janda; Benna Jannings; Elena Larcia; Jordan Rivers; Riley Ruments, Erin Slupe, Harriet Smith, David Tunder, Lizzy Elliehausen, Jamie Heuer, and Mar Keane. Sixth grade student David Huffman and seventh grade student Chad Drake both entered the Young Writers of America nation-wide contest. Their poems will be published in the prestigious Award-Winning Young Writers of America anthology. Eighth grade student Cori Dowden received publication and eighth grader Sara Emerson received publication as well.

The Northern Virginia Writing Project's Falling for the Story recognized sixth graders Carleigh Rahn and Jessica Lu. School level winners were Jasmine Lu and Jasmine Williams.

Finally, Noah Wade, Riley Toohill, Hannah Waring, Sofie Saunier, Gretta Simons, Samantha Hinton, and Emilie Peterson were chosen as Parent and Peer Best of Genre Winners for their writings in Mrs. Walker's classes.



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<p style="text-align: center;">WILLOWIN</p>  <p>Extraordinary 15 room colonial boasting 3 beautifully finished levels. High ceilings, sun filled rooms, gleaming wood floors and a gourmet country kitchen with top of the line appliances. Features a new stable, riding ring and board fenced paddocks, plus a carriage house garage and attached garage. Ideal rideout in fabulous area. \$1,095,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FOREST HILL</p>  <p>Custom log home with extraordinary views of the valley in a very private and secluded setting. An open floor plan features soaring ceilings, walls of windows, wood floors and stone fireplace. Wood burning stoves on main and walkout levels, an Aga stove for the true gourmet chef, lots of rooms for office, crafts, exercise, etc., and a wonderful loft are featured in this charming residence. \$679,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRAPSHIRE COURT</p>  <p>Beautiful 4 Bedroom Colonial on 5+ acres in gorgeous setting • Approximately 3,700 square feet (plus unfinished walkout level) • Hardwood floors, high ceilings, lovely décor in pristine condition • Fabulous barn, paddocks and ride-out in excellent location • Located in a wonderful area of Waterford within minutes of Leesburg and the Toll Road • Fabulous price! \$650,000</p>



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New Ann Taylor Concept Store

On July 13, 2012, Ann Taylor will open a new concept store at Tyson's Galleria marking the brand's first new concept store in McLean. The Ann Taylor at Tyson's Galleria grand opening will be celebrated with an in-store shopping event for clients and the public on Saturday, July 21 from 1-5 pm, including a live DJ, refreshments, sweets, raffles, and a gift with any purchase over \$100.

"Our new concept stores are a reflection of our new fashion direction," said Lisa Axelson, who is head designer. She continued, "They are light, modern, feminine, and designed to showcase the full Ann Taylor collection while making our client feel comfortable and welcome."



FROM THE FARM

— By Uta Brown

When the heat index reaches 110 degrees, as it has been doing recently, I try to keep in the shade, or stay indoors. But my lavender, about halfway from full bloom, seems to thrive in it. Hot and dry, I walk by the lavender patch and smell the pungent odor. (I can smell the fennel also, but its more subtle.)

If you love lavender we will be cutting the long stems and tying bunches up during pick-your-own. I will never forget the wonderful lavender-rhubarb tea that Judith Thieman made me years ago. Although I grow both lavender and rhubarb, I haven't a clue as to how she made it.



Rhubarb is one of those odd crops that no one ever grows because no one thinks it sells. Only, as soon as you start to grow it, it becomes a desired commodity and you find you never have enough of it. I am growing Glaskins Perpetual, a British variety (or so I've been told) and hope it will make it through the summer heat. My father-in-law grew green rhubarb for decades in a patch near the house, and never had a problem with the heat. Now that the weather is warming, it is becoming more difficult to grow rhubarb in full day sun, and impossible to grow any of the red varieties, even in the shade. (If you have found a red variety that survives this heat, please let me know.)

The beans and the tomatoes are thriving. However, excessive heat while the plants are blooming can hurt the bean set and lower the quality of the beans themselves; heat increases the toughness of the flesh and hinders seed formation. I put shade cloth over the varieties that are blooming the most, give them water, and hope for the best. Beans

grow fine in half day sun. Trellising is a great way to save space by growing pole beans, which are very comparable to the bush beans. I'm growing pole limas as well. The water in my pond is very shallow but it is growing dozens of cattails, sweet flag and water orchids. There are other grasses and broad-leaved plants springing up in the water that I am not familiar with. This breaking out of water plant diversity makes me appreciate the background "seed bank" that is available everywhere but only expresses itself when the right conditions allow it to. Every day, as I pass the pond to get to my tomatoes, I see the dragonflies swirling over it. Two of them land for seconds on the long blades of

sweet flag but never together. They zip back and forth, dramatic and noticeable in black and white coloring, while the third is a muted brown. The brown one likes to dip into the water again and again until it takes off suddenly and disappears. There are some hundred or two of tadpoles. As I approach the bank I see them rippling the surface of the water, and letting me know they are still there, and still healthy. One day they might disappear, the lunch of some passing bird. Usually, a few are left to grow. I add water from time to time in dry periods. This small but already complex ecosystem sprung out of the rains earlier in the season when water collected at the bottom of the pond I had never completed. Now it must see the season out, and I will enjoy it for the rest of the year. Which is the most graceful way I can get out of dealing with the pond for now.

Uta and her husband Sam operate Crooked Run Orchard. See www.CrookedRunOrchard.com for the farm's pick-your-own schedule.

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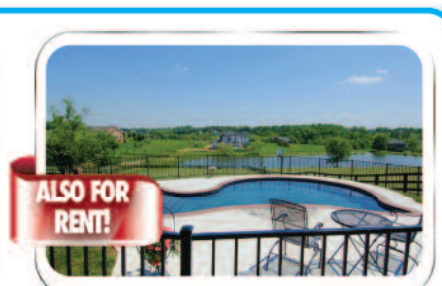
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Governor McDonnell Announces \$11.4 Billion in Transportation Improvements

Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell announced that the Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved \$11.4 billion in allocations for state transportation improvement projects. The six-year program distributes funding for highway, road and bridge projects as well as rail, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and other transportation improvements across the state.

"The ... program advances projects that will relieve congestion in the most heavily traveled areas of the state and improve numerous roads and bridges throughout Virginia," said McDonnell. "The program also supports a better multi-modal system, moving more people with fewer cars." Transportation Secretary Sean T. Connaughton said, "As a result of the

governor's commitment to transportation, the CTB is moving ahead with critical projects that not only improve transportation but also are good for the economy and stimulate jobs."

Each year the six-year program reflects the latest projected revenues and transportation priorities. Several public meetings were held last fall and this spring to gather citizen input. Priorities and funding breakdowns include:

- Complete projects under construction;
- Complete preliminary engineering or right of way phases of other projects;
- Maximize federal funding;
- Address safety issues by funding deficient bridges and pavement;
- Support transportation projects procured

Continued on page 12

Wild Loudoun

— By Andrea Gaines

It's "baby season" at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC), a Millwood, Virginia animal hospital and shelter that takes in injured and orphaned birds, small mammals and reptiles, nursing them back to health and releasing them back into the wild.

In March baby birds, possums, racoons and foxes — many from Loudoun County — start showing up, having fallen out of their nest, been struck by a car or lost a parent. Each animal is given the medical care it needs — including surgery when necessary — and, depending upon the species, stays at the Center until it has developed the strength, and hunting and foraging skills it needs to survive on its own. Injured adult animals get the same kind of care, and, in the best case scenario all survive their trauma to resume a wild life.

The Blue Ridge Leader was introduced to the center when one of our writers came upon an orphaned baby possum in her yard. Baby possum had been at the BRWC for about five weeks when we visited there to write this article, and was now snooping around in its enclosure, snacking on carrots, and seeking comfort in a fabric sling designed to mimic its mother's pouch. Hopefully it will mature to the point where it can be released, and come to represent another one of the center's thousands of rescue success stories.

When you visit the center you realize how truly special the people and the place are. If you love animals, particularly the wild kind, it's a great relief to meet doctors and caregivers whose mission in life is making whole the world of a wild animal that was once in a life threatening circumstance.

For here, the things that break our hearts

Celebrating the Rescuers at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center



Left and above: bobcat kitten and barn owl siblings. Photos by Dr. Belinda Burwell and the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center

also mend our hearts. The two barn owl siblings above were found in an abandoned nest in a barn as very young birds. Completely dependent on their parents for food — the mating pair that had somehow disappeared — they were taken to the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center where they were raised and cared for, with center staff and volunteers helping them develop, as closely as possible, the skills their natural parents would have passed on to them. For example, certain center techniques teach young owls, hawks and other birds of prey to hunt live prey. And, a special barn at the center allows eagles, owls, hawks and others to fly in a circular pattern that helps them strengthen and test their wings, preparing them for release. When these two barn owl siblings were old enough and strong enough, they were returned to the barn where they were found and given the chance to resume life in the wild.

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center was founded by wildlife veterinarian Belinda Burwell. It began as an information hotline,

Continued on page 27

The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center seeks to raise \$1 million for a new facility which will double its capacity to assist injured and displaced wildlife. To join the effort go to www.BlueRidgeWildlife.org.

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Public Asked to Name Two New Parks

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has directed the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services to engage the public in the naming of two new park sites.

The first park site is a proffered, 4.11-acre active and passive park located at the intersection of Braddock Road and Goshen Road near the Stratshire Crossing community in the Dulles District. The existing site includes the following amenities:

- Basketball court
- Game court (e.g., tetherball, four-square)
- Nonstandard playing field for practice or pickup games
- Benches
- Buffered landscaping
- Wooded area
- Twenty-eight parking spaces

The second park site is a proffered, 9.5-acre active park located in the Stonegate community on the west side of Smith Switch

Road, north of Gloucester Parkway and south of the intersection of Farmwell Road and Waxpool Road in the Broad Run District. The existing site includes the following amenities:

- Two irrigated lacrosse fields
- Concession stand with bathroom facilities and meeting space
- Asphalt trail providing access to the W&OD trail
- Sixty parking spaces

Anyone interested in proposing names for the park sites can submit the recommendation via email to prcs@loudoun.gov or in writing to Diane Ryburn, Director, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, 215 Depot Court, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175. Please include your full name, mailing address and phone number. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 pm on July 27, 2012. For more information, please call 703-777-0343.

Transportation Improvements, continued from page 10

under the Public-Private Transportation Act;

- Roads, highways, bridges, debt service – \$9 billion;
- Rail, transit and other improvements – \$2.4 billion; and
- Total – \$11.4 billion.

The CTB also approved FY 2013 annual budgets for the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

The CTF budget identifies the estimated

revenues and the distribution of the revenues related to the transportation agencies. FY 2013 budget totals for these efforts break down as follows:

- CTF (VDOT, DRPT, Airports, Ports) – \$4.7 billion;
- VDOT (construction, maintenance, debt service, etc.) – \$4.2 billion; and
- DRPT public transportation and commuter assistance programs, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, administration and other costs) – \$509 million.

“Green” Visitor Center at Temple Hall Features Materials Recycled From Leesburg Barns

At the recent ribbon cutting ceremony for the new visitor center at Temple Hall Regional Park, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) Board President Brian Knapp highlighted the center’s LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

NVRPA achieved this certification in part because by using recycled local building materials in the center’s construction. The Town of Leesburg donated lumber and stone from two barns on the former Kincaid Farm property for the project.

The ceremony took place under the center’s open-air pavilion that features recycled framing timbers from the two barns. In addition to the framing timbers, wood from the barns was used for siding on the outside of center’s main building and for paneling and trim inside the center’s main meeting room. Stone from the barn’s foundations were used to construct retaining walls.

“The reuse of the Kincaid Farm barn materials was a great partnership,” said John Creamer, the town of Leesburg’s utility maintenance manager, who led the recy-



cling effort. “The town saved probably \$18,000 in demolition and disposal costs, the Park Authority achieved LEED certification for their visitor center, and the history of Kincaid Farm has been preserved for future generations.”

The two Kincaid Farm barns stood on property adjacent to the Town’s Water Pollution Control Facility, near the present day intersection of Route 7 and Battlefield Parkway.

The town purchased the property in 2002 for the construction of a new utilities maintenance facility, which was completed in 2008.

“LEED,” or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is program that provides independent, third-party verification that a building, home or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at achieving high performance in the areas of “sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.”

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 5

Clarke to gut PUGAMP is a well disguised scam to hand over thousands of acres to developers with no checks and balances in place. This decision will remove all true public input, just as the Town of Purcellville officials have been doing systematically, as they continue to make decisions behind closed doors, and refuse any idea that would require any form of a true open and transparent government.

In the most recent Town Council meeting as a Town Planning Commissioner was giving his report and recommendation on PUGAMP he went beyond the normal 2 minute speaking limit, but was abruptly cut-off by the Mayor who apparently was not interested in listening to the details that Commission members had spent time working through regarding the plan to end PUGAMP.

The true facts are not being provided as to the far reaching long-term consequences to Loudoun County residents inside and outside the Town boundaries.

Allowing the rush to dismantle PUGAMP is a generous way of handing Purcellville a credit card with no limit. The scheme will allow for unbridled growth, boundary line adjustment schemes, major annexations, and rezonings to much higher densities than now in place.

When politicians spend less than one-tenth the time to kill a state sanctioned contract between two public bodies, while

failing to reveal their true agenda and its consequences, I say “No, not so fast.” Get your priorities straight and stop deceiving the people you swore you would serve. Stop the spin and tell the truth!

– Kelli Grim, Purcellville

Warning – Snapping Turtles

Dear Editor:

I read the two pieces in the June 2012 edition about helping “Box” turtles, and snapping turtles, across the road to protect them from cars. While I agree and have done so many times, a cautionary word must go out about the real dangers of snapping turtles. Snapping turtles have an amazing ability to reach well back to the rear portions of their shells with their long almost elastic necks. Their bite is extremely dangerous and powerful and can inflict serious damage. It is often reported that the head of the snapping turtle has to be cut off to cause the massive jaws to release. Growing up with a grandfather who hunted snapping turtles for their meat I witnessed that myself many times. If some unknowingly picks up a snapping turtle to help it to the other side they could be seriously injured in the process. The message is to be sure what you are picking up is in fact a box turtle and not a snapping turtle. See photos and info on the snapping turtle at www.critterzone.com.

– Jim Schatz, Lovettsville

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Metro Vote, continued from page 1

the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (the entity in charge of the project's construction) had not yet completed its design of the project. While iterating her support for Metro in principal, she questioned what the actual price for the project would be. She then stated, "I support rail but not in the way it has been packaged." Geary Higgins (Catocin-R) reiterated Clarke's concerns, stating "I think we could have done better [with the package]."

In arguing the need for rail, York noted that the airport property effectively prevents the addition of any further significant east-west roadways, stating, "This [decision] gives us the ability to add the capacity that is needed in Loudoun County." Other Supervisors echoed his statement.

The Silver Line, one of the biggest public works projects in Loudoun since the construction of Dulles Airport, is expected to have a similar impact on the County's future. The extension has been anticipated for decades with past Boards approving plan amendments and rezoning applications that significantly increase density around the stations. While some of these approvals, such as Moorefield Station, were contingent on the actual arrival of Metro, most were not. Thus, the current Board faced significant pressures to validate those past decisions.

The mood in the Board room was quietly expectant as the Board members slowly gathered for the meeting. The general belief was that Metro had the necessary five

votes with Ken Reid (R-Leesburg) serving as the swing vote.

The prior evening during the Board's public input period, opponents of rail made a number of personal attacks against Reid. For many years, Reid had been a vehement opponent to Dulles Rail, supporting Bus Rapid Transit as a less expensive and more efficient alternative. However, last year, Reid's long-time employer, Reston developer and Executive Director of a variety of anti-rail, pro-bus special interest groups, Christopher Walker, passed away. This was the subject of particularly harsh comments by John Grigsby of Hillsboro, a long-time property-rights, pro-development, Republican activist. In answer to such comments, Reid stated that while he still believes that supporters may have "stars in their eyes" about all the benefits Metro will bring, the businesses in Ashburn seemed to want it and so long as they were willing to pay for it, then he would support it.

As Grigsby's comments made clear, the debate has made for strange bedfellows. Young Democrats activist, Valerie Suzdak offered her thanks and appreciation to the wise decision of a Republican Board. Slow-growth conservation organizations joined with the development community in support of rail's extension, while long-time property rights advocates and past allies of the development community made slow growth arguments they once attacked. York also noted this dichotomy in his closing comments.

Redskins, continued from page 1

had neither the undivided support of the General Assembly nor members of his party. A recent article in The Washington Post reports that in a rare act of bipartisanship the House of Delegates twice rejected the proposal earlier this year.]

According to the Virginia Public Access Project, (VPAP) McDonnell received \$50,000 in campaign contributions from the Redskins organization, making the team one of his largest individual corporate donors. It was also the largest donation recorded by the team on VPAP, some three times the amount it contributed to Mark Warner's One Virginia Political Action Committee (PAC) and five times the amount it contributed to the Virginia Republican Party's Virginia Joint Republican Caucus. In addition, McDonnell and his PAC, Opportunity Virginia, received \$185,000 in contributions from Redskins co-owner, Dwight Schar.

The state portion of the deal was originally announced as a \$4 million economic development and job creation grant. However, based on the board item and comments made by supervisors and staff at the June 19 meeting, it appears that the Virginia Lottery has also agreed to contribute \$6 million to the effort for a total state commitment of \$10 million.

John Hagerty, a spokesperson for Virginia Lottery, explained that the \$6 million figure represents a 4-year agreement to continue the lottery's successful Redskins-themed scratcher game, which has generated over \$58 million in revenue over three years at an approximate cost of \$6.6 million paid to the Redskins. According to Hagerty, the \$1.5 million per year price tag of the new agreement includes the right to use the Redskins'

logo on the scratcher tickets, media promotions in the Northern Virginia market, sponsorship and special event opportunities, and prizes for lottery players, such as season tickets, individual home game tickets, and seats at the 2013 NFL Draft.

Under a 2000 amendment to the Virginia Constitution endorsed by 80 percent of Virginia voters, all Virginia Lottery proceeds (the funds remaining after winner pay-outs and operating expenses) are reserved for educational purposes. In short, the greater expenses, the fewer funds available for allocation to the public education system. According to Hagerty, the Virginia Lottery currently offers 50 different scratcher games and sales of the Redskins game tickets are on a par with the others.

It is not yet clear when the County became involved in the governor's negotiations with the Redskins. County staff and Chairman York attended at least one meeting with the governor in 2011 to discuss a possible public-private partnership for the construction of an indoor training facility. According to a source with knowledge of those discussions, the Redskins were to contribute the site, while the County would build the facility. Public access to the facility, when not in use by the Redskins, would be negotiated. It does not appear that the last Board chose to act on that proposal. This was confirmed by Chairman York, who stated that the June 19 agreement supersedes those discussions.

In August 2011, the Redskins submitted plans to the County's Building and Development Department for an indoor facility housed in an inflatable bubble with a public announcement made by team General Manager Bruce Allen the following month. The

Above Ground Winery to Celebrate 1st Anniversary

Above Ground Winery will be hosting its 1st anniversary celebration, Saturday, July 21 from noon to 4 pm at 105 E. Main Street. The \$30 entrance fee includes blind flights of white, red and dessert. "The purpose of blind tasting is to educate wine consumers of colors, aromas and flavors found in each wine," said owner Mary Beth Barbagallo, "without the persuasion from tasting notes."

The education-focused event will also include simple common pairings in a fun atmosphere. "We believe that wine tasting should be unpretentious and fun, so this event celebrates, not only our one year anniversary, but our light-hearted look at sipping wine,"

Barbagallo continued. The event is for both novice and experienced wine enthusiast. Included in the fee is light fare, a logoed wine glass and a gift card valued at between \$5 and \$100. Seating is limited and reservations are suggested. At 6 pm to 10 pm the tasting room switches over to the inaugural 80's Party. Come dressed in your best 80s outfit and listen to great music from that decade. Bring a picture of yourself in the 80s to be entered in a drawing for a gift card to Magnolia's at the Mill. The 80s party is free. For more details and to register for the blind tasting go to www.agwinery.com, or pay at the door.

Kincora Receives \$80 Million Transportation Loan From State

The Commonwealth Transportation Board has set aside \$80 million from the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank to finance roads in Loudoun County connected with the 400-acre Kincora development project.

Kincora broke ground in the fall of 2011 and could take a decade to build. It includes 4 million square feet of office space, 500,000 square feet of retail space, 570 hotel rooms, a baseball stadium and a community arts center. The 400-acre site is 3 miles from what may

eventually be the end of the silver line extension of Metrorail, should that extension be approved.

The loan proceeds will be used to extend Gloucester Parkway from the Nokes Boulevard/ Route 28 interchange to Loudoun County Parkway and to complete Pacific Boulevard from Severn Way to Russell Branch Parkway. The loan application was collaboration between the Loudoun County Industrial Development Authority and developers of Kincora.

"bubble" opened this May. At that time, Allen indicated it was only the first of many upgrades planned for the Ashburn facility.

The June 19 vote is not the first sponsorship agreement between the county and the Redskins. In 2009 the Board of Supervisors agreed to a 2-year, \$250,000 sponsorship deal. That deal was negotiated by a team made up of staff from county administration, the Department of Economic Development (DED), Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association (LCVA) and members of the CEO Cabinet. The latter is an advisory group of local CEOs established by the County DED. In 2010, however, after members of the Board of Supervisors began raising questions about the group's refusal to observe open meeting laws and other requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Cabinet transferred its affiliation to the Chamber of Commerce.

The new agreement, while twice the cost of the older agreement, includes additional features, such as four annual business development meetings at the park, the use of the indoor practice facility for up to four recreational or sporting events, a limited number of game tickets each year for four home games at FedEx Field, and presenting sponsor status at one home game each year. This last includes a private suite with 24 tickets. The 2012 agreement also promises an appearance by a Redskin team executive, coach or member of the player personnel department at a Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce event.

The Chamber of Commerce is a private membership organization, whose events generally require payment by attendees. Atten-

dees, who are members of the Chamber, generally pay \$10-\$50 per event. And though non-members can attend most events with the payment of an additional surcharge.

In May 2010, under the county's partnership agreement with the Redskins, the Chamber booked team coach Mike Shanahan as the featured speaker in its Leadership Luncheon series. Individual tickets were sold to members at \$45 and non-members at \$65. In addition, the Chamber offered two sponsorship opportunities, a gold sponsorship for \$750 and table sponsorships at \$450. An email request to the Chamber of Commerce for information as to what purpose receipts in excess of luncheon expenses might be used went unanswered.

When asked to comment on the use of public funds to support the activities of a private, membership organization, a major purpose of which is to lobby the government, Board Chairman York stated, that the reference in the Draft Agreement to the Chamber of Commerce was "an example, where a member of the Skins could appear." He further stated, "We [the County] do joint activities to promote economic development with the Chamber. I have no issue with using the hotel tax revenues to promote that which helps to put heads in beds, and as we have learned over the years, businesses make up a huge part of the numbers of overnight stays in the county."

Like the 2009 agreement, the new agreement will also be funded with Restricted Use Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues rather than property tax revenues. The TOT is a county tax on "limited-stay facilities," such as hotel rooms. Of the percent tax charged, 2 percent is allocated to the county's

Outdoor Dining Pleasures

Outdoor Dining Guide

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Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

– Europe & the Summer of Uncertainty –

– By Amy Smith

It's no secret that what's happening in Europe is driving financial markets worldwide. Markets dislike uncertainty, and at this point, uncertainty is high.

Here's a brief review of what has led to the current situation and how various types of investments have been affected.

High noon on the continent

To qualify for a second bailout from the European Union and the international Monetary Fund, the Greek government agreed in February to adopt strict austerity measures intended to fund its budget deficit and debt burden, and to specify additional cuts by June.

However, in the wake of May's Greek parliamentary elections, it's unclear whether that agreement will hold up. The political parties that signed off on the bailout agreement were eclipsed in the elections by political parties who campaigned against its austerity program. Recent elections were held due to those parties being unable to form a coalition.

One of the major areas of uncertainty is whether the new Greek government will try to renegotiate the rescue package. That would mean a showdown with Germany and other countries which have stood firm against renegotiating an agreement that was difficult to get adopted in the first place. In addition to ques-



tioning why it should support countries which are unable or unwilling to balance their budget, Germany is reluctant to jeopardize its stellar credit rating. Also, it benefits from being able to borrow at the super-low interest rates made possible in part by high demand from investors who are taking money out of Greek banks and putting it into safer investments, such

as the German bund (the equivalent of our Treasury bonds.)

European countries that have adopted strict budget cuts designed to reduce deficits have found themselves facing slower economic growth, angry voters, and even greater difficulty balancing their budgets. Since the recent election of Socialist Francois Hollande as president of France, there has been increased talk about the need to balance austerity with pro-growth measures. But from Germany's perspective, if Greece is allowed to renegotiate its bailout to try to stimulate growth, what is to stop other countries who are struggling to meet their own austerity guidelines from making the same demands?

Why don't other countries simply kick Greece out of the eurozone?

Many Germans are asking themselves the same question. However, there are several reasons why leaders are struggling to avoid a

Continued on page 29

Hotel Development in Fredericksburg is First Under State's New Tourism Development Program

The Virginia Tourism Development Financing project, approved by the General Assembly in 2011, provides "gap" financing for tourism development projects which are identified as critical to local economies. The city of Fredericksburg will be the first locality in the state to use the program to create a five-story, 96-room hotel and

mixed-use development known as the Eagle Village Project.

The Virginia Tourism Development Financing Program allows approved tourism projects to temporarily retain a portion of state and local tax revenue generated from the project combined with a matching contribution from the developer.

Continued on page 26

Toll Brothers Fine, continued from page 1

Overlook in Winchester.

"When the EPA works within the bounds of its authority to enforce environmental regulations, I join in that effort to protect Virginia's natural resources and the interests of her citizens," said Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

"This settlement will help protect the nation's waters from the harmful pollutants contained in stormwater runoff from construction sites," said Ignacia S. Moreno, assistant attorney general for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice.

The original complaint against Toll Brothers, filed simultaneously with the settlement agreement, alleged over 600 stormwater violations, the majority of which involved Toll Brothers' repeated failures to comply with permit requirements at its construction sites, including require-

ments to install and maintain adequate stormwater pollution controls.

The settlement requires Toll Brothers to obtain all required permits, have site-specific pollution prevention, conduct additional site inspections beyond those required by stormwater regulations, and document and promptly correct any problems. Proper construction manager/contractor training is also part of the settlement.

The state of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia have joined the settlement and will receive a portion of the \$741,000 penalty. Virginia will receive \$17,023. The settlement includes Toll Brothers sites in 23 states.

The consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court.

Redskins, continued from page 13

General Fund and used to fund the county's annual operations. These are known as Unrestricted TOT funds. The remaining 3 percent of the tax collected, the Restricted Use TOT funds, are earmarked for activities that promote "tourism, travel, or business that generates tourism within the County." According to county budget documents, the County receives approximately \$2 to \$4 million each year in Restricted Use TOT funds.

By a Memorandum of Understanding, the county transfers 75 percent of the Restricted Use TOT funds received each year to LCVA (now known as Visit Loudoun). This is a private industry association, which promotes tourism in Loudoun County. Its membership includes local hotels, B&B's, wineries, and other tourism-related entities. The Board of Supervisors determines how to allocate the remaining funds. In past years the board has approved their disbursement to individual organizations, such as America's Cup Polo, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, and the Round Hill Arts Center, for special projects, such as the Wayfinding signage program and the Sports Tournament Grants Program, and for marketing materials, such as the Farm Tour brochures.

With the financial crisis and the need to provide property tax relief, staff recommended, and the board approved, the funds appropriation for staff salaries and operations. These appropriations included the Franklin Parks Visual and Performing Arts Center, the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, a Special Events Coordinator position within Fire & Rescue, existing DED staff positions which provided support for tourism activities, and approximately \$250,000 to enhance DED's

efforts to increase the County's international visibility.

In 2008 as the Board debated the initial agreement with the Redskins, several supervisors questioned whether the use of TOT revenues to fund corporate recruitment activities met the spirit or the letter of the state law allowing the county to impose such a tax, especially since Visit Loudoun, using its own allocation of TOT funds, had already entered into a sponsorship agreement with the team. Supporters of the agreement argued that since the bulk of TOT funds were received from business travelers, the agreement qualified as promotion of business tourism. However, the staff report presented to the Board of Supervisors highlighted how the sponsorship would help county DED staff reach executives who might be interested in locating their businesses in Loudoun County and provide a unique destination for "schmoozing" with prospects.

In order to ensure that the funds be used strictly for business tourism, then Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton made a motion that the future proposal focus solely on the tourism aspects – no skyboxes, no annual event for "business leaders and targeted prospects," no "Off Day Tours" for VIP corporate guests, no participation in sponsor events. This motion failed 3-5-1. As a result, the agreement contained a number of hospitality features, including a hospitality event at Redskins Park for up to 200 invitees, five-tours of Redskin Park for up to 10 invitees per tour, and invitations to Redskin Corporate Sponsor events for an agreed-upon number of County personnel and guests.

The Blue Ridge Leader submitted a public

records request to the county for the names of invitees to these hospitality events, including designation of those attendees who were business prospects and whether those prospects established or expanded business activities in Loudoun County.

The county responded with a list of attendees to the 2009 VIP Reception held at Redskins Park and a copy of a May 2010 presentation to the board evaluating the benefits accrued from the partnership. The response also noted that the county had failed to take advantage of the opportunity to hold a VIP Reception in 2010.

However, the county withheld information about participants in the small tours and Redskins sponsorship events under a clause within the Freedom of Information Act that exempts "memoranda, working papers or other records related to businesses that are considering locating or expanding in Virginia, prepared by a public body, where competition or bargaining is involved and where, if such records are made public, the financial interest of the public body would be adversely affected." An amended request was submitted asking for just the names of County staff, elected officials and/or members of the Economic Development Commission and CEO Cabinet. The county responded that no such records existed.

The public record indicates that neither the last Board as part of the May 2010 evaluation nor the current Board as part of its June 19 decision requested or received such information as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of the investment.

State Program Assists Young Farmers

Farming is not an easy career to jump-start or keep going, but Virginia's Farm Link program – which helps to connect prospective farmers and those interested in passing their farm operations on to new owners – is making a great effort.

Farm Link maintains an online database that introduces retiring Virginia farmers to new bloods hoping to become farmers themselves. It also features a series of statewide workshops and events designed to keep agricultural land in production for generations to come.

Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture Matt Lohr will speak at an upcoming workshop. His family has owned the same Virginia farm operation for more than 100 years, and he's the fourth-generation operator. "The topic of transitioning farmland and farm businesses from retiring owners to aspiring farmers is crucial for the continued viability of agriculture in Virginia," Lohr said. "I am excited for our agency to be a partner in this important issue."

One facet of the effort is the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers Program, which is designing a Certified Farm Seekers Program. "We're really helping to elevate the Virginia Farm Link database through this program," said Stefanie Kitchen, an intern with the program.

More information is available at vafarm-link.org.

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Carver School Alumni Going Strong

Alumni from the historic Carver School in Purcellville – built in 1947 as the first modern elementary school for blacks – met for their annual reunion on June 23. 175 people attended the event.

The historic school opened in 1948 and initially served 250 students. The building was closed as a public school in 1971, and after a monumental historic preservation effort reopened as the site of the Carver Senior and Community Center in 2007.

The reunion was well attended and recognized several former students of the school through the reading of a roll call of the approximately 270 members of the Alumni Association. There was also an unveiling of two plaques – one recognizing George Washington Carver and one recognizing Joseph and Lena Cook.

George Washington Carver, the school's namesake, was born into slavery but went on to become one of the most prominent scientists and inventors of his time. The Cooks purchased the land where Carver School was built. They then sold it to Loudoun



County for the purpose of building an elementary school for African American children.

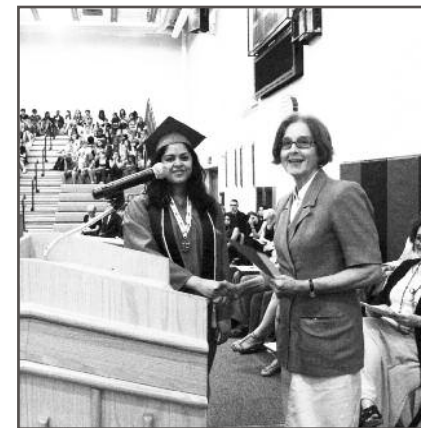
Purcellville resident and alumni member Reggie Simms was also recognized for his artistic and civic contributions to the Carver Center and the greater community. Reggie designed the plaques honoring George Washington Carver, and the Cooks.

The Carter Gospel Singers of Alexandria, VA. provided the music for the event.

Leesburg Garden Club Awards Scholarship

Each year the Leesburg Garden Club chooses a Loudoun County public high school senior planning to pursue a degree in Horticulture, Environmental Studies, Conservation or related areas of study to receive a \$1000 college scholarship.

This year's \$1000 Leesburg Garden Club scholarship winner is Sumaiya Choudhury, a Heritage High School graduating senior. Sumaiya will be attending Virginia Tech, where she plans to study Environmental Engineering.



Gladys Lewis, President of the Leesburg Garden Club presenting the Leesburg Garden Club scholarship to Sumaiya Choudhury at the Heritage High School Awards Ceremony.

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

Keepers of the Sun

– By Donna Williamson

A native, long-time favorite symbol of summer, the sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.) is gaining new fans with colorful new varieties. Easy-to-grow, this beautiful, strong plant with exuberant flowers, provides high-quality nutrition to birds and people, and is a source of healthy oil – everything about sunflowers is generous and bountiful!

The sunflowers we see at the county fair, impossibly tall with huge seed heads, are only one form of the large family of aster relatives. These are annual plants. There are also wonderful perennial sunflowers, like *Helianthus angustifolius* and *H. salicifolius* that come back each year in your landscape. Those are for another day.

Sunflowers are easy to grow from seed. Look on the seed package to find out the mature size of the plant. Some varieties grow 8-12 feet tall, others only two feet. Maze builders discovered that waiting until July to plant sunflowers dwarfs the big ones to only five feet tall rather than the taller growth possible when planted earlier. The warm soil and even weather allow for fast growth.

Sunflowers easily thrive in most good-draining, fertile soils. Don't overfeed them. Too much nitrogen fertilizer will result in weak stems, lush leaves, and fewer flowers. Sunflowers develop deep roots with broad spread to support their substantial growth. While drought tolerant for most of their lives, they need decent watering from 20



days before to 20 days after flowering. You will see the tiny flower buds forming. These buds will follow the sun throughout the day. Once the flower opens, it will face in a northerly or eastern direction to avoid searing southern and western sun. If rain is not adequate, watering about one inch per week is good.

As you might expect, sunflowers love the sun; at least six hours is minimum for good flowering. If you make your rows heading north to south and at least three feet apart, the plants will receive sun from morning to evening without shading each other. Since you may also be considering a career in cut sunflowers, you may want to plant all different kinds. Try to group similar sizes together for ease of planting and harvesting. Watch for weed competition the first month or so after the seedlings emerge; after that they will out-distance most weeds.

Continued on page 26

CARING FOR YOUR SUMMER GARDEN



The forecast is calling for some very hot and humid weather. The best things you can do for your garden include: Regular, early-morning watering; picking off damaged parts of plants and unwanted bugs; and weeding to let your plants take in the maximum amount of nutrients and water.



INSPECT PLANTS DAILY
Powdery mildew and Japanese beetles are two of the summer's major challenges. For mildew: Pick off affected parts of the plant and put in a hot compost. For the beetles: Inspect your plants daily and pick off any unwanted insects.

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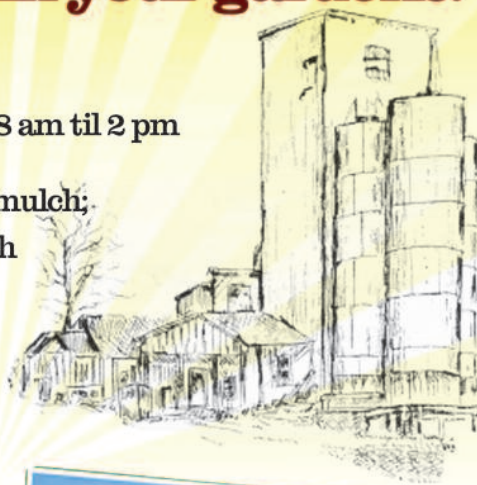
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News From Woodgrove High School Champs – We're AA State Champions in Soccer and Softball! –



Soccer: Row 1 (left to right): Samantha Winkler, Maddie Beebe, Ashley Bonner, Lexi Clarke, Dakota Stephens and Lucy Etro; Row 2 (left to right): Ashley Tilly, Jordan Latorre, Sarah Hardison, Jackie Scott, Jessica Hutchison and Coach Erin Barrett.



Softball: Row 1 (left to right): Katie Sholl, Courtney Bogan, Chase Acton, Mackenzie Moler, and Allie Reid; Row 2 (left to right): Paige Schaffer, Meghan Roush, Ashley Cole, Delanie Daughtry, Corinne Vennitti, Rachel Harris, Lexa Plichta, Sarah Stiles and Madison Krablin.

Sports Awards



Captains: (left to right) Lexi Clarke, Lucy Etro, Courtney Bogan and Allie Reid.

Hamilton AAA Upper Loudoun Little League Champs



Front Row (left to right): Blake Burton, Henry Trochil and Ethan Chisholm. **Third Row:** Manager Matt Werner and Spiro Karagiannis. **Second Row** (left to right): Jayden Sierzega, Bradley Walker, Evan Winnett, Wade and Bo Drenning. **Player Not Pictured:** Nick Wade.

Round Hill Student Named 2012 Brine National All-Star

Max Pyle, son of Steve and Tammy Pyle of Round Hill, an eighth grader at Blue Ridge Middle School, has been named as a 2012 Brine National All-Star and has been selected to represent the Washington DC region in the 2012 Brine National All-Star Lacrosse Academy and National Lacrosse Classic to be held in Boyds, Maryland June 30-July 3, 2012.



Max Pyle

The Brine National All-Star Lacrosse Academy brings the top 160 middle school lacrosse players in the country to one venue, where 8 regional teams will compete to become the 2012 National Champion.

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AA Upper Loudoun Little League Champions – the Round Hill AA Rangers!



Front row (left to right): Thomas Haller, Bennett Franzen, Ethan Hughes, Austin Everett and Colin Reynolds. **Second row** (left to right): John Biondo, Cameron Prack, Collin Ploeger, Riley Smith and Kyle Shultzaberger. **Back row, Coaches** (left to right): Rob Shultzaberger, JB Haller, Rick Reynolds and Chris Everett.

Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth 13u Orioles Champions



Front row (left to right): Ryan Michon, Jim Warnsdorf, Jake Rodal, Cory Casper, Jax Bradley, Luke Andrews and Max Cave. **Back row** (left to right): Manager John Michon, David Zhang, Brett Donaty, Ryan Beckwith, Aedan Pettit, Tommy Wozny, Parker Gondella, Dawson Rice, and Coaches Darren Casper and Bob Donaty.

Upper Loudoun Little League Scholarship

Upper Loudoun Little League Scholarship Winner Josh Arter (right) shaking hands with League President Norris Beever.



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2013 Babe Ruth 13-15u World Series Seeks Host Team Manager Candidates

Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth will be hosting the 2013 13-15u Babe Ruth World Series, and with that, has an automatic seed for a host team.

GLBR is looking for individuals interested in managing the host team. The Board will select the manager in mid-August, with tryouts to begin shortly thereafter.

Interested candidates need to send an email with your intent by July 20th, 2012. Candidates will be contacted after July 20th to schedule interviews.

Send your email to DMCommittee@glbr.org. Any questions concerning the position may also be sent to DMCommittee@glbr.org.

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► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► CHANGES IN THE LAWS OF AGENCY

– By Carl Fischer

The laws of agency as it relates to real estate in Virginia change July 1, 2012.

As you may know, early on in real estate, once agents began to represent sellers, all "licensees" were paid by, and thus worked for, the sellers. Agents who worked with buyers, still had a fiduciary responsibility to the sellers, and even though they showed properties to would-be buyers, built great rapport, and spent a lot



of time working with them, they did NOT work FOR them.

Somewhere in the mid '90s, "Buyer Agency" began to appear, and for the first time, licensees, even though usually paid by the sellers, actually worked with and FOR the interests of the clients they represented: the buyers.

And as you might expect, this seemed to improve the odds for equal treatment in a transaction, it also set the stage for still further complications ...

Today's licensed real estate professionals

("licensees" in the parlance) are held to ever higher standards by the Virginia Real Estate Board (VREB), and through it's licensing and oversight arm, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR).

No longer does a prospective licensee sit through a few days of classes, take a simple test, and be rewarded with a license that permits him to practice real estate in the commonwealth of Virginia. He still must now take a considerably larger amount of classroom training before he gets his

license, but he must also take a rigorous 30+ hours of classroom training in the first year following receipt of his license.

And the broker, who oversees and bears direct responsibility for the actions and professional conduct of all licensees under their aegis, has an even greater burden (as you might expect) not only to achieve that broker license, but to maintain it. My "continuing education" requirement to remain an active broker is an additional 24 hours of classroom education for each renewal of that license.

Continued on page 29

CAMP KID SCOOP
Smart Fun in the Summertime! www.kidscoop.com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at:
www.kidscoop.com
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SKIN PROTECTION

SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SEEK and SLIDE

Can you say that five times fast? Australian children learn at an early age the five steps to protecting their skin from the sun. They are:

SLIP on protective clothing like a T-shirt.
SLOP on sunscreen—SPF 30+.
SLAP on a hat with a brim.
SEEK some shade.
SLIDE on sunglasses.

Yeeouch!
If you forget to slip, slop, slap, seek and slide, your skin can burn. A burn from the sun is called a **sunburn**.

A sunburn can be very painful and is much like a burn from fire. Your skin will turn red, and if the sunburn is bad, you may get blisters. As the burned area heals, your skin peels, which can be very itchy.

How to Treat a Sunburn

- Take a cool bath or use wet cloths to cool down the burned part of your skin.
- Apply special lotion for sunburned skin.
- Don't use soap, as this could dry and irritate your burned skin.
- Stay cool and rest.
- IMPORTANT:** If watery blisters appear on your skin, you should see your doctor.

Aloe

Standards Link: Health: Know how to maintain and promote personal health.

B&W

Find It
Find these things hiding in this picture: a banana, a house, a crayon, a fish, a surfboard and a dinosaur.

Sort It
After finding the hidden pictures, sort each object by the number of syllables.

1 syllable	2 syllables	3 syllables
------------	-------------	-------------

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Recognize syllables in words; decode words with two or more syllables.

How Sunburns Happen
The sun's _____ are made up of **ultraviolet (UV)** radiation. Too much _____ to UV rays can not only _____ a person's skin, but also trigger more _____ problems, such as skin _____ and eye damage.

The sun scorched some of the words out of this paragraph. Can you replace them?

EXPOSURE BURN RAYS
CANCER SERIOUS

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Use grade-level appropriate vocabulary in speech.

Extra! Extra!
Put Healthy Words Into Your Mouth
Look through the newspaper for as many words as you can that you think relate to good health. Select five words. Try to use these words when speaking for the rest of the day.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Use grade-level appropriate vocabulary in speech.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
Can you match each snake to its shadow?
Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

The Online Scoop
Play this game that teaches simple steps to protect yourself from too much sun. Go to: www.kidscoop.com/kids.

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY
www.kidscoop.com

Action Language
Look at the models in newspaper ads and write three words that describe the women—and men—in those ads. Discuss how ads influence our ideas of beauty and body types.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Know how different media, techniques and processes communicate ideas.

Write On!

Best Book of the Summer
Tell other kids about a book you think they should read this summer.

Kid Scoop Together: Newspaper Hat
Hat-making fun for two!

- Drape a page of the newspaper over your friend's head.
- Wrap tape around your friend's forehead—outside of the paper.
- Crinkle up the paper hanging below the tape and shape it to form a creative hat brim.
- Decorate the hat with strips of construction paper, feathers, flowers, small toys or whatever you like!
- Repeat and have your friend help you make your own hat.

Send us pictures of yourselves in your newspaper hats. We will post them on our website.
thescoop@kidscoop.com

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS
This week's word: **SEEK**
The verb seek means to try to find, to look for.

When outside, seek shady places to play.

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

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

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



Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW

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

– By George E. Humphries

The name of the eatery reported on in this review is a bilingual pun. The French language "savoir faire" is idiomatic for a human attitude of justified social confidence – "a sureness in social behavior" as one of my dictionaries puts it. And in English, among the definitions of the word "fare" is "range of food" and "material provided for consumption or enjoyment."

So the name Savoir Fare is a bilingual play on words – reflecting a sure and confident hand in the kitchen and a wide range of good food. How much more educated fun can you get?

The restaurant is tucked away in the tiny village of Round Hill on Route 7 west of Purcellville. There, on the ground floor of the only significant commercial building in the village is a jewel of a restaurant in the lovely tradition of rural France, where I was blessed to spend a couple of years and found it impossible to get a bad meal.

Savoir Fare, like those rural French restaurants, is a dining experience to put on the list of "worth a trip." And at only four miles west of Purcellville, it's not a long trip.

Owner and Executive Chef Joan Wolford, who has provided catering to Washington and Virginia area VIPs for more than a quarter of a century, runs Savoir Fare restaurant and its catering operation with flair and distinction. She started her Virginia cooking career at the Heart in Hand in Clifton, and then founded the Hamilton Garden Inn in Hamilton, Va – a fine restaurant that we remember fondly. There she began the catering business that has graced hundreds of

weddings, banquets, vineyard parties, and a host of other events, and which she operates from the same kitchen as the restaurant in Round Hill. In other words, she knows food. On several recent visits, we have invariably experienced excellent food and service.

The dinner menu, which changes weekly to accommodate fresh vegetables and other seasonal fare, recently featured an array of salads including one with parmesan, pear, and walnuts and another with goat cheese, fresh berries, and almonds. Four appetizers included Fried Crab Medusas, Seared Peaches Stuffed with Gorgonzola and Bacon Dust, and "Vietnamese" Summer Rolls filed with shrimp and local vegetables.

The five entrees, apparently the standard number, included a Chef's choice of available fish, a Filet Mignon with Creamy Bacon Horseradish Sauce, a satisfyingly tender Pork Tenderloin with Garlic Mango Sauce, and Shrimp, Chicken, and Sausage Gumbo, each with an appropriate wine suggested. On another visit a guest was able to choose a Lamb Salad entree, which sported ample and large chunks of lamb just off the stove and reportedly tasty and tender.

Other entrees have included Chicken Piccata, Handmade Potato Gnocchi, Fresh Ground Meatballs in Marinara Sauce, Lamb Bourguignon, and Pan-seared Grouper. Desserts are made on the premises and vary from week to week.

All the offerings are prepared with a French flair. Entrée prices range from the teens to up to \$25. Dinners are served evenings from 5 to 9 Wednesdays through Saturday. Lunches, available Tuesday through Friday, are also enticingly creative and reasonably priced with almost nothing higher than \$10. The Savoir Fare wine list

Continued on page 22

Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard

Merdog...

It It's me again, Sushi the brave and mighty Cairn Terrier. Right now I am down in the dumps. I don't like this vacation business, no siree, I don't like it at all. I miss my family, and I just don't understand why I can't go on this thing they call beach week? I want to go see an ocean some day. I wonder what lives in the sea.

"Hey diddle dee dee and diddle dee dum ... a mermaid's finger and a mermaid's tongue. The flip of her scaly tail and a swish of her hair ... a wink from her eye and you will die ..."

Aye Tiki, that's a creep tune. What is a mermaid anyway?

"Well now Sushi," said Tiki, "come under the story tree in the shade, lay down and I will tell you all about them." I love it! I do love it when Tiki tells a story. There is no one better at tall tales than the queen bee herself. She gets that far away look and when her Chihuahua brown eyes start twitching in the delightful way of hers, you know it is going to be a doozy!

"Now you see Sushi, Mermaids or Muruchs in Gaelic, are the same as Maighdean Mhara's or sea maidens." Seriously Tiki, how do you know all these things and funny words? "Sushi, shhh. Lay on your back and watch the clouds float by and let me tell the story."

"Just like anything in life Sushi, there is the good and the bad, and my mother always taught me to know myself and love myself; for when you can be true to yourself, you will get through life much easier."

Well, that was just the lesson one little merdog had not learned yet. His name was Sushi and he lived near a cove by Fenwick Lighthouse. He loved swimming

in the waves and dodging reefs with his best friend - a mermaid named Angel of Light.

"Cling to your soul before you grow old ... We will steal your heart and then tear you apart ..."

Sushi loved to swim and dive among the out cropping of rocks that divided the island from the ocean yonder that joined the world together beyond the lands.

He loved playing in this area because he was entertained not only by the constant wave pool provided by the wakes of the boats coming and going, but also by these creatures called humans that fished off the rocks.

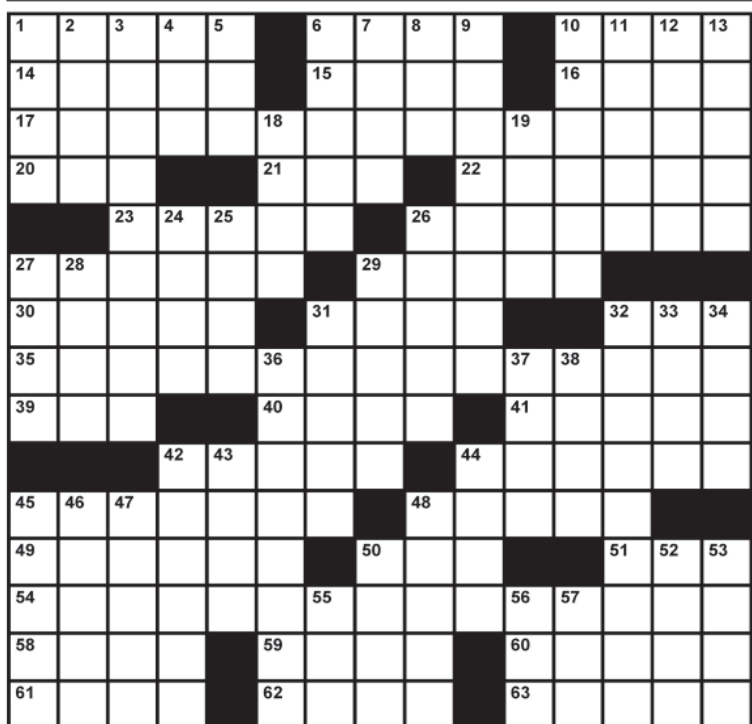
Often times he tickled himself pink and in fits of laughter as he grabbed a fishing hook and made the fisherman believe they had caught something significant. Then swimming swiftly he tied the line to the propellers of a boat only to have the creature be pulled from the rocks into the crashing waters.

Now, Sushi's best friend Angel warned Sushi this was a dangerous sport, and he should play and work like a good little merdog. Sushi was stubborn and did not like being told anything by anyone. He did not think about his actions and how he would hurt those who loved him most when he was the funny and smart Sushi. You might say when his evil twin side came out, he was very selfish.

One day Angel and Sushi got into a big fight. Angel told Sushi she would not play with him until he could find satisfaction in diving and riding the waves without snagging dangerous hooks and playing with other people's lives. Sushi growled and stormed off in spite. He sobbed to himself, feeling very sorry that no one ever understood him. His evil

Continued on page 28

Nursery Rebellion – By Sally York & Myles Mellor



Across

1. Accord
6. Flub
10. Certain reptiles
14. Birthplace of Columbus
15. Parrot
16. Islamic division
17. Mary
20. "Mârouf" baritone
21. ___ pendens
22. Gives up
23. Turn to crime?
26. "___ Row"
27. Treat for the idle rich?
29. Singer Lenya
30. "Encore!"
31. Harmony
32. Andy Warhol painting
35. Jack and Jill
39. Affranchise
40. Clip
41. Whimpered
42. Beth's preceder
44. Misrepresents
45. Presidential favors
48. Traction aid
49. 2002 film

50. Baby's first word, maybe
51. Bow
54. Little Jack Horner
58. Cave
59. ___-Altaic languages
60. Fiats
61. Meets
62. Gerbils, maybe
63. Senior member

Down

1. Eastern pooh-bah
2. Buffet
3. In a snit
4. "Sesame Street" watcher
5. Cry of disgust
6. Arctic
7. Wood sorrels
8. Law man?
9. Cloak for the pocket
10. Radiant
11. Treat rudely, in a way
12. Pied one
13. Pert
18. Flamboyance
19. Lean to one side
24. Final notice
25. 007
26. Drawing medium
27. Reprimand, with "out"
28. Arch type
29. "Blue Velvet" director
31. Trades
32. Aggressiveness
33. Away from the wind
34. Goes with mobile
36. Cut surgically
37. Cutlass
38. Sinuous dance
42. Conforms
43. Balcony section
44. Alliance
45. Metallic sounds
46. Mites
47. Move, as a plant
48. Barbecue fuel
50. Beach nuisance
52. Ending for disc-
53. ___berry
55. Fury
56. Like some socks
57. Duran Duran girl of song

We Are All Part of the Solution

If we do our share, we can breathe cleaner air!

Help do your part
to keep the air clean
for all of us to enjoy
by incorporating
these actions at
work and at home.

On the days that are designated Unhealthy Air Quality Code Orange or Air Quality Code Red, employees and citizens are encouraged to:

1. Cancel or postpone outdoor programs and activities, particularly those involving children or the elderly.
2. Postpone the use of any gasoline powered equipment, including lawn mowers, tractors, construction equipment, etc.
3. Cancel, postpone, or significantly limit local and long-distance use of vehicles. Ride the local or commuter buses or carpool!
4. Refuel all business and personal vehicles after dusk or the day before unhealthy air quality is predicted.
5. Consider Telecommuting.

This message is brought to you by the Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services.

www.loudoun.gov/commute

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Don't Hold Back! Let Yourself Go!

Local Songwriter Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders Band Live CD – Features Nitty Gritty Dirt Band Founding Member – Les Thompson

– By Carol Morris Duker

In the 15 years of music since leaving his corporate engineering career, singer/songwriter and guitarist Andrew McKnight has heard one question from fans more than any other; “when will you make a live record?”. And the answer always was “when I find the band that I am comfortable with to capture the energy of the songs in a different way than a solo performance,” he says.

That time has arrived with One Virginia Night (OVN), a limited edition live CD and bonus DVD set with his band Beyond Borders, which also features founding Nitty Gritty Dirt Band member Les Thompson.

OVN was captured in front of an enthusiastic capacity crowd near McKnight's northwestern Virginia home, and is a crisply delivered collection of concert favorites and a few lesser known gems drawn from his five solo CD discography. It includes two songs co-written with Thompson as well as their smoldering bluesy take on the traditional “Worried Man Blues” and an original each from bandmates Stephanie Thompson (“What Kind of Person”) and drummer Lisa Taylor (“It Means a Lot”). The DVD contains an additional three tracks, including McKnight's award-winning “Good Things Matter”, and a healthy dose of the between-song storytelling his audiences have relished.

For Les Thompson, the band and the album mark a full-fledged return to the music business that he left in 1972 after the Dirt Band's twice-platinum classic *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?* He and wife Stephanie Thompson have played music informally together for many years, but he spent the bulk of the past two decades at his Cabin Studios recording many regional roots and old-time music artists.

Those projects included McKnight's two most recent solo CDs, and Stephanie Thompson sang harmony on a couple tracks on each. When they finished McKnight's latest *Something Worth Standing For*, he invited them to join him onstage for the CD release concerts. “I sort of surprised myself” by agreeing, Les Thompson chuckles, “but I liked everything about working with Andrew – his personality,



the music, and his approach to the business too.”

A longtime friend and an award-winning singer/songwriter in her own right, Taylor was just returning to performing after several years focused on raising her family. She had drummed on McKnight's 1998 release *Where This River Runs*, and he was elated to build the new band's sound on a foundation of her solid and tasteful rhythms.

Since their collective debut at Washington's prestigious Kennedy Center in March 2008, the foursome have developed an energetic and eclectic take on McKnight's songs that goes beyond Appalachian, beyond blues, beyond folk. Valuing the artistry of taut arrangements over flashy instrumental jams, they have earned acclaim in particular for their exquisite 3- and 4-part vocal harmonies as well as the unusual and constantly changing combinations of instruments.

After touring primarily as a solo acoustic artist for the past 15 years, with the band McKnight plays electric guitar about half the time. Les Thompson's signature clawhammer banjo is a big part of the band's sound. And while Taylor sticks primarily to the drums, the Thompsons trade instruments frequently throughout the show - upright bass, acoustic guitar, and percussion.

Perhaps more importantly, they have become family. And like all families, they have been through some hard personal times together. The band was on hiatus for many months while Les Thompson battled throat cancer. Taylor's father passed away from cancer two weeks after the concert recording; she played his drums in tribute during the show. Supporting each other through personal hardships brought them closer to each other's families.

“I've always valued the people above the prowess” in considering bandmates, McKnight muses. “But now that I am a parent and a little more seasoned, it really hits home just how much family matters. Playing and making music with people you love is just an indescribable experience – beyond words”.

For more including videos, music, essays and more: www.andrewmcknight.net

Hunt Country Gourmet, continued from page 21

features nine white, ten red, three sparkling, and two dessert wines coming from Australia, Austria, Argentina, France, Italy, and Spain, as well as California and Virginia.

As noted earlier, *Savoir Fare* follows the tradition of France and other parts of Europe of having great restaurants in small towns and bucolic locations. One excellent Vietnamese-run restaurant I visited in France

was in the middle of a vast acreage of wheat. *Savoir Fare* could hold its own in the realm of little gems in the country.

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.

The Polka Dots: Uppity Women

– By Carol Morris Duker

“We are uppity women.”

Sisters Aislin and Nora Kavaldjian are also Polka Dots. If you're not familiar with them, a brief bio on their website perhaps says it best: “Once upon a time, two girls were born. Soon they started singing. Their friends came over to play. The rest is history.”

Most girls their age are caught up in the traditional mysteries and challenges of adolescence. Aislin and Nora, on the other hand, are focused, driven and deeply committed to a craft.

The Lovettsville, Virginia, sisters have musical talents that have been evident pretty much since birth. Parents Jill and Haig say that older daughter Aislin, from the time she was tiny, would sing. Jill explains that “she wasn't able to speak, but she could carry a tune. As she got a little older I realized she had a real ear – she was just a little kid, but she was good.”

Aislin started piano lessons when she was three – something most instructors are not inclined to recommend. And she loved it. She played all the time, improved rapidly, until she out-paced her piano teacher. Nora took to



stringed instruments, and after starting out on violin, later switched to mandolin.

These girls understand that they are not typical. Growing up, they were not into the same things their friends were into. Mom, Jill, describes how the transition to middle school was an eye opener for them: “Having been raised in the cocoon of Lovettsville elementary school, moving on to middle school meant riding the bus with high school students, and it was a bit intimidating. Add to that a huge new student body, and the girls immediately felt swallowed up.”

Continued on page 30

77th Annual Loudoun County Fair July 23–28

– By Andrea Gaines

The countdown to the Loudoun County Fair has begun.

The fair, now in its 77th year, features an exciting week of attractions, carnival rides, animal exhibits, vendors, music and amazing crafts displays.

Featured performers and attractions include a demolition derby, professional bull riding, and “The Freestyle Connection” – a “BMX” bicycle stunt show. The fair also features the educational agricultural magic show “Acracadabra”, which will entertain fairgoers while educating on topics such as healthy eating, going green and science.

Musical entertainment includes *The Fabulous Hubcaps* – one of the nation's most sought after oldies and classic rock show

bands, and Brent Woodall & The Natchez Trace Band – a group that has worked with Hall and Oates, Aerosmith, Talking Heads, Dire Straits, BB King, Muddy Waters, and more.

Fair Dates and Hours: July 23 – 28, 2012. The hours vary throughout the week. For an updated schedule of events, see the official website or call (703) 777-3835.

Location: Loudoun County Fairgrounds, 17564 Dry Mill Rd., Leesburg, Virginia. (Near the intersections of Routes 7 and 9.)

Admission: Daily – Purchased at gate - \$10.00 per adult; \$5 per child ages 6-12; ages 6 and under are free. Weekly Passes – Purchased at gate, \$25.00 per adult, \$10 per child ages 6-12, ages 6 and under are free.

See www.LoudounCountyFair.com for more information.

Kiss a What?

Michael Oaks, known to friends and family as “The Re-Love It Guy” is trying to raise money for 4H scholarships and to help maintain the Loudoun County Fairgrounds.

Oaks – the owner of the Re-Love It consignment shop in Purcellville – has entered the Loudoun County Fair's annual “Kiss a Pig” contest.

Whomever raises the most money for the 4H will have the privilege of kissing a real



live pig. No, really, we mean it and Michael wants to do it!

The pig will certainly NOT be as cute as the one we've shown here, but that's the fun of it!

Want to help Mr. Oaks in his quest to kiss a pig? Bring your donations to Re-Love It on 21st Street in Purcellville ASAP ... then, join the fun at the fair on July 28th when the winner (will it be Michael?) gets one on the kisser!

Join us in July!



Independence Day at Franklin Park



Wednesday July 4 ~ Starting at 6:00 PM
\$5 per Carload

Bring the family for an evening of music, food, fun and fireworks! Gates open at 6 pm, enjoy the Celtic group, *The Sound of Sleaf* and *The Franklin Park Big Band* will headline our mainstage. *The Loudoun Symphonic Winds* will accompany the fireworks display which will begin at around 9:20

The Spotlight Studio: 13--The Musical

Thursday July 5 ~ 7:00 PM
Friday July 6 ~ 1:00 PM

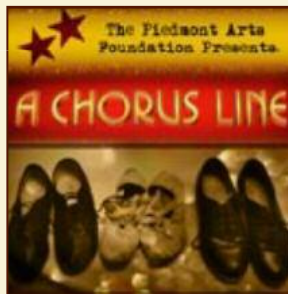


13 is a musical with lyrics and music by Jason Robert Brown and a book by Dan Elish, with Robert Horn newly joining as co-librettist. The story concerns the life of 13-year-old Evan Goldman as he moves from New York City to Appleton, Indiana, and his dilemma when the move conflicts with the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah.

Tickets Available at the Door
content may not be suitable for children

Pie Arts: A Chorus Line

Thursday - Saturday July 12-14 ~ 8:00 PM
Sunday July 15 ~ 2:30 PM



A Chorus Line is a 1975 musical about Broadway dancers auditioning for spots on a chorus line. The book was authored by James Kirkwood, Jr. and Nicholas Dante, lyrics were written by Edward Kleban, and music was composed by Marvin Hamlisch. The mission of the Piedmont Arts Foundation is to support Loudoun County, Virginia Secondary Schools, focusing primarily on theater arts & Drama Department supplemental funding.

\$10 In Advance - \$12 At the Door

Reserve tickets online at www.piearts.org, or calling the Arts Center

BITWC Theatre: The Miss Firecracker Contest

Friday July 20 ~ 8:00 PM Saturday July 21 ~ 8:00 PM
Sunday July 22 ~ 3:00 PM

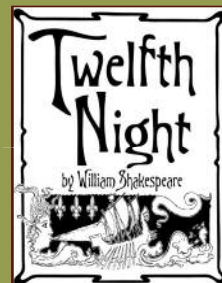


A comic volcano of a play erupting from Mississippi, populated by offbeat but vital larger than life characters. Carnelle Scott, 'Miss Hot Tamale' is rehearsing furiously for the Miss Firecracker Contest - hoping a victory will salvage her tarnished reputation.

All Seats ~ \$15, To reserve, Call 540-554-8889

Not Just Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Friday July 27 ~ 8:00 PM Saturday July 28 ~ 8:00 PM
Sunday July 29 ~ 3:00 PM



Shakespeare was a master manipulator of mistaken identity and nowhere does he use this device to more effect than in Twelfth Night. When twins Viola and Sebastian are separated in a shipwreck, they soon find themselves caught up in adventure and romance with all of the eccentric residents of the land of Ilyria.

All Seats ~ \$15, To reserve, Call the Arts Center

For more information, Visit us at
www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Call us at 540-338-7973

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2011-2012 Show Sponsors

July



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

☉ **Saturday, July 7, Annual Independence Day Celebration at Hillsboro's Old Stone School!** Bring your friends and family to the Hillsboro Community Association's annual Independence Day celebration! Festivities start at 6 p.m. Fireworks show at dark. For more information go to www.hillsborova.org.

Bluegrass Jam at the Vineyards

Saturday, July 7th, Notaviva Vineyard will be hosting a bluegrass jam. The Clay Shooters will be there to kick things off, and folks are invited to bring their instruments and join in!

There will be BBQ for sale as well. The jam is from 4-7pm. For more information go to notavivavineyards.com

☉ **Saturday July 7, 10 am to noon, Saturdays in the Garden** – Master Gardener volunteers will staff the Demonstration Garden at Ida Lee Park in Leesburg on this first Saturday of the month. Bring your questions and curiosity about growing vegetables, ornamentals, or just wander our 1/3 acre of theme gardens and enjoy the shaded pergola! The garden is across from the pool; open daily dawn to dusk. For more information, contact the Loudoun Extension Office at 703 777-0373.

☉ **Thursday, July 12, 7 pm, Loudoun County Master Gardeners' monthly Free Lecture Series**, Endless Summer Harvest, 36474 Osburn Rd. in Purcellville. July topic is Hydroponic Farming presented by Mary Ellen Taylor of Endless Summer. Tour of greenhouses follows lecture. Call the Extension Office at 703.777.0373 or visit www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

☉ **Saturday, July 14, Hat Fashion Show**, 2 pm to 5 pm at the Carver Senior Center in Purcellville. The Carver Alumni will be sponsoring Mary Elizabeth Bryant-Bennett. Mary will show vintage hats, vintage mink hats and mink stoles, new winter and summer hats, and models will modeling their favorite hats. Refreshments will be served.

Congratulations Cash & Rachael!

Dock Diving is a canine sport where dogs jump off a dock into a pool. You may have seen this fun activity on ESPN or David Letterman. Recently, two dogs adopted from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter by Hamilton resident Tamra Spink competed at the DockDogs Eastern Regional Championships at the Wisp Resort in McHenry, MD. Teams came from Florida, New Hampshire, Wisconsin – all over – to compete. Tamra's dog Rachel (chocolate lab in photo) won her division and is now the Eastern Regional Novice Champion, which includes a \$100 DockDogs credit and an invitation to the DockDogs World Championship (Worlds) in November. Tamra's black lab Cash competed against some of the fastest dogs in "Speed Retrieve" and came in 5th in the finals. Tamra is waiting to see if he will get an invitation to the Worlds. Congratulations Cash, Rachael and Tamra!



☉ **Saturday, July 21, Purcellville Wine and Food Festival.** 4 pm to 9 pm along 21st Street.

☉ **Saturday, July 21, join the Town of Middleburg for a special Celebration Saturday event.** Celebration Saturdays, is an event series that gives visitors to Middleburg a chance to experience the town's shops, galleries and restaurants in a unique way, every third Saturday through December. In addition to great food and shopping, visitors to Middleburg can also enjoy the Middleburg Farmers Market every Saturday from 8 am – 12 pm. Throughout the month of July, Duchessa will donate \$2.00 from every transaction to wounded veterans. The Bluemont Concert Series will also be taking place in Middleburg on Saturday nights in July. Visit www.bluemont.org for additional information.

☉ **Saturday, July 21, Art Show, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Carver Senior Center in Purcellville.** The Carver Alumni will be sponsoring local artists. There will be about 11 artists and they will be displaying their art and items will be for sale. Refreshments will be served.

☉ **Friday & Saturday, July 27 & 28 Mosby Heritage Area Association talk and tour on the Battle of Second Manassas.** Come hear and learn from historian & author John Hennessy. Talk is July 27, 6:30 pm at the Hill School in Middleburg; tour is July 28, 8 am to 3 pm departing from the Rector House, Marshall, Virginia. Call 540-687-6681 or go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org for pricing/information.

☉ **Saturday, July 28, 11 am to 5 pm Mosby Heritage Area Association's "Rendezvous at Rector's Crossroads."** Stories about life in the village of Rector's Crossroads during the time of the American Civil War, by the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group. Rector House, Marshall, Virginia. Tours of historic sites in the village nearby Goose Creek Bridge will be offered during the day. Call 540-687-6681 or go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org for pricing/information.

Applications Accepted for 2012-13 Loudoun County Youth Advisory Council

Applications for the 2012-2013 term of the Loudoun County Youth Advisory Council (YAC) are available online at www.loudounteens.org. All Loudoun County students in grades 9-12 are eligible. YAC includes representatives from each Loudoun County high school and the home-school community.

Students meet twice a month during the school year and focus on communications, community service, fundraising, special events, and the annual Loudoun YouthFest celebration. "It's really great to meet kids from different schools in the county. We enjoy working together and bringing teens together," said Yein Ha, Youth Advisory Council President.

For more information or an application, interested students can contact yac@loudoun.gov or call 571-439-4725.

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; 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. 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. alpost293.web.officelive.com. Phone: 540-338-0910.

☉ **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.

☉ **Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous**, a 12-step support group for men and women. Meets Tuesdays 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Rd. NW, Leesburg, VA. Newcomers welcome. Visit www.foodaddicts.org or call (540) 809-9572/(703)216-6242 for more information.

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

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

☉ **NEW! Movie Night In Purcellville – It's Free!** Every Tuesday night From June 19 to July 24. Purcellville, in partnership with Moonflicks/ Northern Virginia Party Rental and Purcellville Teen Center, Inc., announces the new Purcellville Film Festival. 7pm at the Historic Bush Tabernacle – roller skate for free afterwards until 10 pm. *Cars 2*, June 19, *We Bought A Zoo*, June 26, *Casablanca*, July 3, *Just Go With It*, July 10, *Happy Feet 2*, July 17, and *O'Brother Where Art Thou?*, July 24.

☉ **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, Leesburg, VA 20175. Children 3-5. To register, call 703-669-0000 x 1 or email julieg@audubonnaturalist.org.



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

June 11 through August 6, 2012, Loudoun County Public Library summer reading program. 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! Highlights for children and families include live musical, visit-

ing authors, professional artists, and chances to win great prizes! The teen program for ages 12 to 18 and includes imovie workshops, live music, a film competition and the 3rd annual anime-con! 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.

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Tourism, continued from page 15

"Virginia's tourism industry provides thousands of good, quality jobs across the state, which is why I have made tourism a key part of my economic development initiatives," said Gov. Robert McDonnell.

"Tourism is a \$20 billion industry in our state and more than 200,000 Virginians are directly employed in the tourism industry," said Lt. Gov. and Chief Jobs Creation Officer Bill Bolling. "That's why Gov. McDonnell and I have been working so hard to increase funding for tourism promotion and support the development of critical tourism infrastructure.

The University of Mary Washington Foundation is the lead partner on the Eagle Village project, with the city of Fredericksburg and Fredericksburg Economic Development Authority as supporting partners.

The roughly \$13 million project will include five-story, 96-room hotel with about 1,500 square feet of meeting space and 6,000 square feet of retail. According to local figures, the project is estimated to generate \$3.27 million for the city in tax revenues over 10 years.

Sunflowers, continued from page 17

Sunflowers make great cut flowers and are always cheery in summer bouquets. Seed heads can be dried for winter bird feeding. But you might have to fight off this summer's birds who will find the ripe seeds delectable!

Beyond their beauty, sunflower seeds contain valuable phytochemicals (beneficial plant chemicals) that are reputed to help us fight off cancer and protect against heart disease. Sunflower seeds are considered the best whole food source of Vitamin E, providing 76% of the recommended daily allowance in just one ounce of seeds. A good source of protein, phytochemicals, and fiber is available to you with just a small handful of sunflower seeds. And you can grow your own!

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 dwfinegardening.com, 540-877-2002.

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Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21

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

Wild Loudoun, continued from page 10

fielding questions from the public about wildlife issues and offering non-lethal solutions to nuisance wildlife problems. The hotline also provided advice about how to help injured, orphaned, sick, or displaced wild animals.

In 2004, Belinda and the BRWC began their actual wildlife rescue operation, opening a wildlife hospital and rehabilitation center on 1,000 acres of family conservation lands. Previously, Belinda had worked to transport injured wildlife to the nearest medical facility that accepted wild animals - typically hours and hours away. Now, she was set up to provide that care in very her own modest wild animal hospital.

Most of the veterinarians in the area do not accept wildlife patients. And, while many people are trained and certified to care for injured wildlife in their homes, there are simply not enough home-based wildlife rehabilitators to care for the increasing number of orphaned and displaced wildlife. The center attempts to fill that gap.

In 2004, the BRWC also began offering education programs in schools and around the community to teach the public the importance of conserving native wildlife.

Wildlife is a valuable part of healthy ecosystems and a healthy environment. And, so the Center's programs also educate the public about how they can preserve wildlife through the preservation of habitat and a healthy relationship with the animals

that use that habitat.

Since opening its doors in 2004, the BRWC has experienced exponential growth in the number of calls and animals coming in. It is the only facility of its kind in the region. Its caseload has increased more than 700 percent over the past 7 years. Our area's dramatic increase in residential and commercial development displaces and injures more and more wild animals each year. Since opening its doors the BRWC has rescued and assisted more than 6,500 injured, orphaned, sick and displaced wild animals. These numbers include more than 220 different species, some of which are on Virginia's official Endangered Species List.

Over the years the center has conducted education programs with over 20,000 children and adults, and has answered more than 30,000 calls for help from the public. If Belinda had her way there would be a facility like this "every one-hundred miles." BRWC plans to plans to build a larger wildlife hospital and rehabilitation center, with an environmental education center, breaking ground in the spring of 2013.

To replace their small cottage, the center will build a 4,000 square foot wildlife hospital and rehabilitation center with an environmental education center designed to foster a connection between the public and the wildlife. Donations can be made at www.blueridgewildlife.org .

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

No – don't look it up on Google Maps or anything; there is no Vantage Point, Loudoun County – as far as I'm aware. I just sorta came up with my own name for this place – but it's a good description of the feeling you get when you're here. I mean, think about it: anywhere you can get the sensation of looking DOWN on Shorthill Mountain (to the east) is a pretty good little perch. Sure, I'm aware that there are many more elevated spots along the Blue Ridge, but, either the views are either blocked by greenery, or, they're off limits as private property – or, then again, maybe I just haven't (yet) found them.

I recently sort of stumbled upon this one- delivering mail out north of Round Hill; we like to say, "It's not just a job – it's an adventure." And, breaking my own tradition in this string of articles on special places – I'm not 'advertising' the names of the local roads to get to this specific location- primarily, because the only access has a really 'hairy,' barely-one-lane tight corner with an obstructed view. I've already pretty much given out the coordinates, anyway.

I'm reminded that it'd be a great spot to sit in fall- when the big birds of prey are making their way down along the slopes of the hills on their way south for the winter. Probably not a bad place to see some terrific leaf color, as well.

It's also a great little hideaway – just about any old time – from the toils and tribulations of the rest of the County; up here, you really can get away from it all – you literally rise above the mere trivialities of us everyday, 'lower' mortals. Yup, sitting in this spot- with these views – some of the activities and concerns in – say - Leesburg, or Purcellville – or even nearby Round Hill- can seem pretty small in comparison. It's a nice way to put things in perspective – you know – our little part in this big, old world and all.

And, I never get tired of it – whether I visit the place a couple days in succession - or if I'm sent up there after a few weeks' interval. Not that I get much chance to do a lot of sightseeing during duty hours; but, with a view like this – it just about reaches out and grabs you.



The word 'spectacular' comes to mind – but I know how critics like to watch out for writers' overuse of superlatives; Jack Kerouac was criticized for his 'wow's and 'mad's, and John Muir

was known to have used the term 'glorious' in describing many of his surroundings. So, I guess I'll have to stick to things like: panoramic, uplifting, inspiring and empowering – and I'm probably going overboard with those. Let's just say – that it's a high place and it makes you feel good to be there.

And you know – it even makes you feel good to be wherever it is you get to after you 'come down' from here. It's OK to go back to Leesburg or Purcellville or Round Hill after you've been here. Because you know where it is, and you can always go back. And, part of it even seems to stick with you.

But, if you do go, just watch out for that hairy, barely-one-lane tight corner with the obstructed

Vantage Point



view. I don't want you to become part of the story.

I will give it this: it's a great place to watch the sun rise – burning away all the fog down in the valleys.

And, who knows? In the next few years, I may just 'stumble upon' a whole bunch of other – higher, more panoramic vantage points in Loudoun County – places to put this one to shame.

Well, maybe not that extreme.

But – I will keep looking – you never know what's just around the corner ...

Got Hacked?

– By David L. Schartung

Ever get the impression that someone knows a lot more about you than they really should? Is there someone who often alludes to activities in which you have recently engaged? Does he or she mention changes in your surroundings despite not being around you? Do you ever hear sounds such as clicks and electronic beeps during your phone conversations or while listening to your recorded phone messages?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, there is a significant possibility that your computer or phone has been hacked and you may be a victim of stalking by someone monitoring any number of aspects of your digital life.

The hacker is usually someone with whom you have had an exchange of information, in person or on the Internet, knowingly or unknowingly. The hacker can also be someone parked outside your home armed with a wireless computer or a phone along with an array of spy tools.

Hackers also tend to be quite stealthy and maintain a vested interest in your activities. This person could be your spouse, someone you are dating, a classmate, or a co-worker. Hackers can track almost every move you make using a myriad of hacking tools that are capable of creating quite a good picture of you and your day-to-day activities. The hacker can be so effective that the victim can later become convinced that there are video cameras and listening devices throughout the victim's home, workplace, and in their personal vehicle.

Almost anyone can become a victim of hacking. Initially, victims tend to be unaware of being monitored until things begin to "add up." Then the panicked, frantic search for safety, privacy, and sanity ensues. It can often seem that no friend, neighbor, authority figure, or family member can provide meaningful assistance. Many times this lack of help in dealing with the stalker ends with tragic results.

Victims tend to be avid users of wireless phones, computers, and other communica-

tions devices. They use text messaging and email services and are commonly members of social sites on the Internet. These services and the information you provide to them are supposedly private and protected. But astonishingly, these sites are a primary source of information for hackers and offer the first hints of being monitored. Until now, we had become accustomed to living in our safe environments thinking nothing of entering and sharing personal information on electronic devices.

There are a number of precautions that a victim can take against the hacker or stalker. The earlier these steps are taken, the safer users will be. If you suspect your phone or computer has been compromised, some or all of these steps may need to be taken:

1. Examine your cell phone and consider making serious changes, starting with your passwords. If you don't use passwords at every opportunity, you should. The longer and more complex you can make the passwords, the better. But there are no guarantees that even longer passwords will be much bet-

ter because they take only a little longer to crack. Make sure to lock the phone when not in use and require a passcode to reactivate it for use. It may become necessary to literally dispose of a compromised phone.

2. If you continue to use your smart phone for email or to store contacts when you suspect you have been hacked, you are making a grave mistake. The hacker may access your contacts and through a process called spoofing, use their phone information to reconnect with you. When possible, have face-to-face conversations and the phone somewhere out of hearing range.

3. Consider setting up a new email account with strong passwords, and access that email from a location other than your home computer or your smart phone. Using a computer at the local library to setup and use that email account might be the ideal way to stay "functional." Meanwhile, do not allow anyone, including immediate family members, to use your personal computer, phone, or other electronic communications and stor-

Continued on page 29

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Sushi, continued from page 21

twin inside his soul screamed in his head.

Cling to your soul before you grow old ... We will steal your heart and then tear you apart ...

Sushi swished his tail and swam straight for the fishing lines. He grabbed a hook and swiftly tied it to the propeller of a super powerful boat; wickedly laughing in the face of all who loved him. He was so much smarter than everyone else. Suddenly, the powerful boat lunged forward unexpectedly – Sushi's merdog mane caught in the tangled line around the propeller. Unable to free himself, Sushi flipped and sloshed like a rag dog banging against the bottom of the boat. His life flashed before him as he went unconscious.

Rays of light beamed through the waters as the Angel of Light worked quickly and deftly cutting the line that dragged Sushi out into the open sea. Using the cut lines, Angel tied Sushi to

her back and shriled into the water for help. She swished her mertail with tremendous strength, carrying the lifeless dog to safety. Teams of merdoctors were waiting on the shore ready to take action to save Sushi.

Upon awakening days later the young defiant Sushi realized he had been given a second chance in life. A new miraculous life! Angel of Light left no words unspoken that somber day. Once alone she spoke to Sushi in her stern but calm voice.

'Sushi, my dear little merdog, said Angel calmly. 'You jeopardized others not to mention your own life. Thank the great mer God that no one else was killed or hurt! Don't be an idiot and try not to get too tied up in life.'

Sushi's mertail, as beat up, broken and bruised as it was, slumped in the sand – and, with tears in his eyes, said to Angel, "I get it." – 'Til next time, Love, Sushi

Hacked, continued from page 28

age devices until the hacking incident is resolved.

4. If you use a broadband router, set your security and firewall to the highest level. Call upon a network specialist for assistance in setting up this configuration because this must be done correctly for the safeguards to work as designed.

5. Strongly consider turning off your cell phone's tracking service (GPS) and remove applications that require or turn on this tracking or location service.

6. Use extreme caution when synchronizing your phone with your main computer. Synchronization of data can leak information to unintended or unknown locations at a time when you must take complete control of your information. It may be necessary to curtail use of the "Cloud" as well.

7. Spyware can be used to turn on the cell phone's camera to view surroundings or use the microphone to listen in. The hacked cell phone does not have to be turned on for these functions to be activated. Victims have been known to cover the cell phone camera lenses with black tape. The same precautions were taken with personal web cams connected to the computer or built into the computer.

8. Consider that your phone calls can be monitored and it may be necessary to use another phone and identity. Keep that identity secret so the hacker can't connect the dots and rediscover you.

9. Remember, some hacking software will begin to record conversations when certain key words are spoken in a conversation, such as your name or something else closely associated with you. Pressing keys on the keyboard also cause installed key-logger recordings to begin and eventually transmit information back to the hacker.

10. Consider also that a tracking and recording device may also be inside your vehicle.

It is rare for all these precautions to prove necessary. Until sufficient technical safe-

guards are deployed and legislation is passed and enforced, we need to take steps to protect ourselves. It is important to safeguard your digital information and keep it out of the hands of people who can and will use that information to cause harm. The harm can be emotional, physical, and financial.

Unfortunately, the process of passing laws fielding new technology cannot keep pace with the technology used by hackers. Fortunately, we are becoming more aware of risks associated with technology.

Right now, we must protect ourselves even before the slightest perception of being hacked. If you find yourself experiencing symptoms of being hacked or stalked, refer again to the precautions listed above. Doing so, will provide a roadmap to help combat and cope with a seemingly hopeless situation.

About the Author: David L. Schartung is retired from the U.S. Air Force and holds a Masters Degree in Management from SUNY Binghamton, New York. He has been managing NOVA Computer Systems, Inc., a retail computer repair facility in Leesburg, VA since 1994. He has interviewed and assisted a number of customers in dealing with, and preventing, privacy and security issues.

Amy Smith, continued from page 15

Greek exit (dubbed a "Grexit").

Leaving the eurozone would mean abandoning its shared currency. Greece would need to pay its bills and debt in some alternate currency such as a "new drachma." Any such currency would almost certainly be worth less than the euro, and reduce the value of any assets or accounts held in Greece. The danger of the Greek government defaulting on debt owed in euros could shake Europe's banking system-already fragile because of the real estate collapse in many eurozone countries.

Fearing that possibility, investors have already begun pulling money out of Greek financial institutions. That has raised concerns about the potential impact of a run on the country's bank.

What does it all mean for my portfolio?

As the flight to quality has become a stampede in recent weeks, the prices of U.S. Treasury Bonds have seen a strong rally. Investors have become willing to accept record low interest rates as a tradeoff for the relative security offered by Uncle Sam. Sooner or later, that trend is almost certain to reverse, but so far, that uncertainty abroad has been good news for Treasuries. Unfortunately, investors who

have relied on Treasuries for income and now want to roll over the proceeds of maturing bonds might be disappointed with today's low interest rates. If that's the case for you, you may need to explore supplemental sources of investment income to replace any reduction in investment income from Treasury bonds.

Uncertainty in the financial markets could persist for month but it's important to keep it in perspective. While you should monitor the situation, don't let every twist and turn de-rail a carefully constructed investment game plan.

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, (703)669-5022. The opinions and recommendations here are those of the columnist. Contents prepared by Broadridge Investor Communications Solutions, Inc. Copyright 2006-2012. All rights reserved.

REAL ESTATE TICKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

I'm telling you all that to tell you this: The changes in agency law which go into effect July 1 are so significant, that I, as a licensed real estate professional since 1989 had to take a 3 hour non-credit course on these proposed changes, just so I could explain to you (or any other first-time prospect) on the "occasion of our first substantive discussion" about real estate, the nuances of agency law as they relate to how we can work together ... So here, in a nutshell, is what I learned:

Agency, in a real estate context, means "every relationship in which a real estate licensee acts for or represents a person by such person's express authority in a real estate transaction, unless a different legal relationship is intended and is agreed to as part of the brokerage relations, such as and independent contractor. (Virginia code 54.1-2130). Any real estate licensee who acts for or represents a client in an agency relationship shall either represent such client as a standard agent or a limited service agent."

This quote was taken directly from the Student Outline given me at the start of my mandatory three hour course.

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.

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

or what their consequences should be. I do feel strongly that the incident should serve as a teaching tool for parents. As parents, we are responsible for modeling appropriate behavior and for teaching our children appropriate values and morals. I hope Ms. Klein does several talk shows and that the topic remains hot in the media for awhile since the exposure, as unpleasant as it is, is good for parents and children to see. And yes, I think we all feel badly for Ms. Klein, and I too hope she continues to benefit monetarily from the hardship she endured.

Dr. Mike,

My children are really good friends with our neighbors' children, and I am pretty good friends with their mom. Both of our neighbors work full time, and the children's grandmother cares for them during the week. Grandma does a pretty lousy job watching her grandchildren who then end up spending most of their time over at our house with my kids. I am a stay at home mom and have never minded helping my neighbor out with her kids here and there, but since school has been out, I find that I am carrying the burden while grandma passively watches on. Not to come off like a frugal jerk, but I am also funding

way too many lunches and snacks. How do I talk to my neighbor about the situation without upsetting our friendship or the friendships of our children? I can't be the daycare center I've become for the rest of the summer. – H in Loudoun County

H, While I agree that you need to say something to your neighbor, I also think you need to approach this with care and respect. I would advise you against saying anything negative at all about the children's grandmother. Even if you feel that she is underperforming in her role as a caretaker to her grandchildren, she is still a member of that family. By complaining about grandmother not doing her job well, you run the risk of hurting and upsetting your neighbors. The better approach would be to focus on how things are impacting you. I would tell your neighbor how expensive things have gotten for you with having all the children over at your house for meals and snacks and that you simply cannot afford things at the current pace. This statement then opens the door for an open discussion without a harsh confrontation. You could then brainstorm with your neighbor on how things should change. If the discussion with your neighbor does not go well, as a stay at home mom,

you could also make some changes of your own. You could begin to plan out or schedule the day's activities for your children, which would include some time with the neighbor's children and some time without them. You could also leave the house more frequently with your children to run errands and for planned activities (e.g., visiting the library, pool, park, having a picnic, etc.).

Dr. Mike,

I heard your radio interview last week on the teacher sex scandal in NYC, and I completely disagree with you. Your position is that the 18-year-old student who bet his friends that he could have sex with his 27-year-old teacher (and did) is a victim? How is he a victim? He is a young adult who did something stupid, but he's hardly a victim of sexual abuse.

– H in Loudoun County

H, I agree with you that the young man is not a victim of sexual abuse. At 18, he is at the legal age of consent to engage in sexual relations with other adults. But that does not mean that 18 year olds possess the full capacity to manage themselves across all adult situations. The research on development has clearly shown that the frontal lobe

– the area of the brain responsible for exercising good judgment, impulse control, problem solving – is still developing into the early to mid-20's. As a society we know this is true and it is evident by the laws and restrictions we place on young adults. For example, younger adults cannot rent cars on their own or legally drink alcohol. My point in the interview is that the teacher should have known better and is certainly the more responsible between the two. First, she is an adult in every sense of the word. And second, she was the young man's teacher and thus held a position of authority and power over him. Just as bosses should not sleep with their employees due to the inherent power differential in their relationship, teachers should also not sleep with their students for the same reason ... even when the student is 18.

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 clinician. He and his team are here to serve our Loudoun children, teens and adults. To learn more about Dr. Mike and the APS team, please visit: www.ashburnpsych.com or call (703) 723-2999.

The Polka Dots, continued from page 23

Roots music is not exactly a core value of most teen agers. Overwhelmed and underappreciated, they stuck together and sought comfort on the periphery. They were each other's best friend. While other girls courted neurosis obsessing about boys, mean girls and fitting in, Aislin and Nora were doing their own thing attending concerts with their parents, of all people, and getting more and more into their music. They knew they were unusual, but weren't particularly bothered about it. On their road less travelled, they developed a palpable confidence that bespeaks their fulfilled, happy, grounded selves.

Nora, in particular, has a childlike candor that her dad, Haig described this way: "Ask her what she thinks of your new dress, and she may tell you, without being mean-spirited, that it's rather unattractive and she doesn't care for it at all." What you ask for is what

you get – not exactly a formula for success in an environment that celebrates conformity.

By the time they were fifteen and thirteen, Aislin and Nora were studying mandolin and fiddle at the knee of Fiddlin' Dave Van Deventer. Dave is a folk hero to young roots musicians, and his band, Furnace Mountain, has made a name for itself and tours internationally. After only a year with Dave, he encouraged the girls to perform at Watermelon Park in Berryville, an outdoor venue for bluegrass and roots music. After their success there, it was inevitable that the girls, led by Aislin, decided to form a band.

Different friends came and went as the band got its footing, but the core sound was always about Aislin and Nora. Between the two of them, they sing and play fiddle, banjo, mandolin, cello, bass and guitar like all get out. Aislin's voice, especially, moves easily

from earthy, alto resonance to traditional high pitched bluegrass, to a dead on soprano.

The Polka Dots are led by 19 year old Aislin (fiddle, banjo, bass, accordion, vocals); and includes 17 year old Nora (mandolin, bass, ukulele, vocals), Kris Consaul (guitar, bass, ukulele, vocals) and new teen members Abby Whitmer (fiddle, vocals) and Kelly Hart (cello, vocals).

The Polka Dots are honest-to-God sincere, and so is their music. Their unique sound, borne out of the local roots music movement, is rustic, engaging, and full of texture. Their sound pays homage to a mix of genre, including old timey blues, antique jazz, bluegrass, folk and gypsy music, and relies heavily on the fiddle.

Their music is at the same time charming and full bodied – by no means Lite. The girls put themselves into the music, and it shows.

Catch a show if you can. This is a band worth listening to. And watching.

The Polka Dots are rapidly gaining a reputation. They play a wide variety of venues throughout the region, including the Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville, local Farmer's Markets and regular appearances at Beans in the Belfry in Brunswick. MD.

View a clip of their performances at www.youtube.com/user/PolkaDotsMusic.

Their website is: www.thepolkadots.org.

Upcoming Polka Dot Performances:

- Purcellville Food & Wine Festival, Saturday, July 21, 5pm – 9pm, 21st Street, Purcellville;
- Beans in the Belfry, Saturday, August 4, 7pm – 10pm, Brunswick, MD.

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Salamander Resort & Spa, the much-anticipated luxury resort being built in the village of Middleburg, VA, will open in August 2013.

Set on 340 acres amid Virginia's famed horse country and lush vineyards, yet only a 30-minute drive from Washington, D.C.'s Dulles International Airport and an hour from the nation's capital, the 168-room resort is already 65 percent complete. With a stated goal of achieving the Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond ratings, Salamander Resort & Spa is the only luxury resort in the United States scheduled to open in 2013.

"I am delighted to finalize this opening timeline," said Resort Owner Sheila C. Johnson, who is also CEO and founder of Salamander

Hotels & Resorts, the hotel company overseeing the design, development and management of the resort. "This property has been my passion ever since I set foot on it nearly a decade ago. It is unmatched in ease of access and equestrian heritage, and it promises to be the finest new destination to open on the East Coast in many years."

Johnson announced the schedule alongside Middelburg Mayor Betsy Allen Davis as they formally dedicated the town's new water and wastewater treatment plants. Using state-of-the-art technology and costing \$11 million, the facilities were built by Salamander and recently began serving the town's residents and businesses.

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