

Blue Ridge LEADER

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pages 6 & 7

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& Loudoun Today

August 2012

Governor McDonnell Visits Salamander – FLITE Initiative Celebrated –

At an event on July 26, Salamander Resort & Spa owner Sheila C. Johnson marked roughly one year until the opening of the Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, VA. Together with Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and First Lady Maureen McDonnell, Johnson co-hosted a reception to celebrate the participating Northern Virginia wineries and farmers of the First Lady's FLITE (First Lady's Initiative Team Effort) program. The 168-room resort is scheduled to open in August 2013.



Left to right: Sheila Johnson, Gov. McDonnell, Maureen McDonnell.

"In a little over a year, my dream will become a reality," said resort owner Johnson, who is also CEO and founder of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, which is overseeing the design, development and management of the resort. "This promises to be one of the finest resorts in America, and we are committed to serving and promoting Virginia's bountiful vineyards and farms."

The event featured eight wineries from Loudoun, Fauquier and Fairfax counties and was attended by 200 area dignitaries, VIPs and wine enthusiasts.

"Salamander Resort & Spa promises to be one of the country's great resorts and a huge asset to Virginia," said Governor McDonnell.

"Sheila Johnson is a true entrepreneur and her vision is one of excellence."

Designed to blend into its natural environment and replicate the architectural traditions of Virginia's countryside, the resort features rooms and suites inspired by renowned designer Thomas Pheasant, a 23,000-square-foot lavish spa and unique "treehouse" treatment rooms, a full-service equestrian center with a 22-stall stable and practice ring, Virginia Piedmont-inspired dining overseen by James Beard-nominated Chef Todd Gray, a dedicated cooking studio, wine bar and culinary garden, 12,000 square feet of conference and event facilities – including a 5,000-square-foot grand ballroom – and a restored 100-year-old Stallion Barn.

More Purcellville Roundabout Construction Set to Begin

More major road construction is set to begin again in the town of Purcellville.

The traffic circle or roundabout at the intersection of Main Street/Business 7 and Rt. 287 will soon be demolished and removed, to be replaced with a larger roundabout that is a part of the Southern Collector Road (SCR) network.

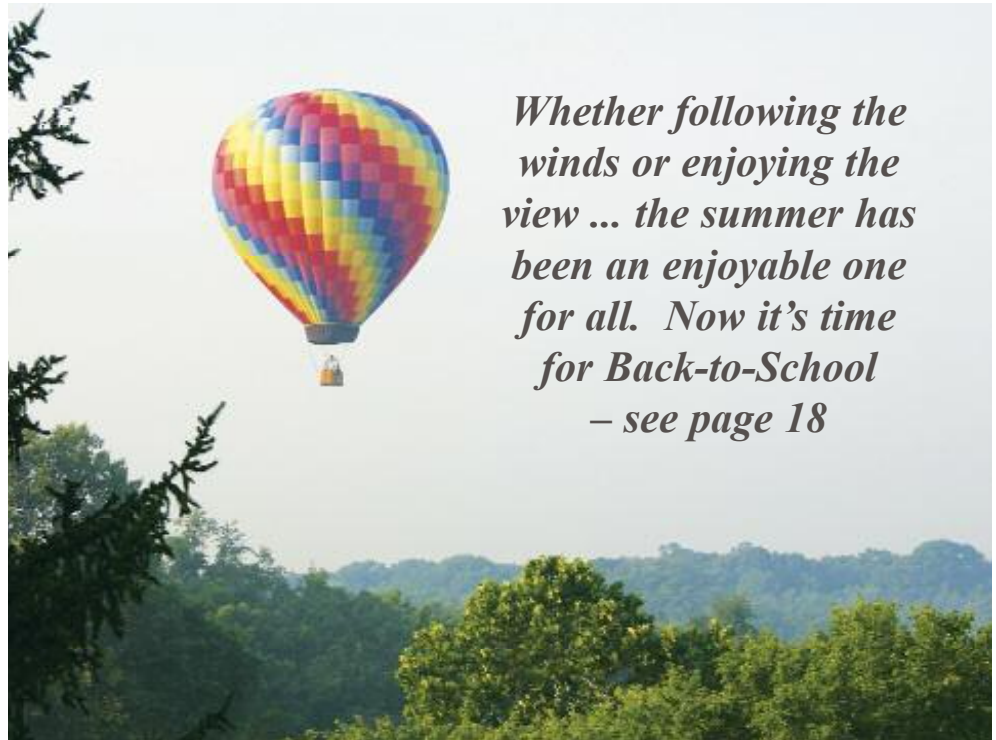
The original roundabout was proffered – or given in exchange – by the developers of

the Harris Teeter shopping center, which opened just a short time ago.

Construction will begin in September. It is reported that the second roundabout will be two lanes and located approximately 90 feet from the current traffic circle (graphic on page 13).

New traffic patterns can be tricky adjustments for drivers – particularly traffic

Continued on page 13



Whether following the winds or enjoying the view ... the summer has been an enjoyable one for all. Now it's time for Back-to-School – see page 18

"Feds Feed Families" Food Drive Kicks Off

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th) helped kick off the 4th annual Feds Feed Families food drive in Virginia at the U.S. Geological Survey. Wolf was joined by Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11th) and John Berry, the director of the Office of Personal Management (OPM).

Wolf worked with Barry and OPM to create the program three years ago. To date, more than 8 million pounds of food has been collected by federal employees across the country.

The Congressman, who meets

Continued on page 10



Left to right: Congressman Wolf, OPM Director John Berry and Kathryn Medina, executive director of the Chief Human Capital Officers Council.

Presidential Campaign 2012:

President Obama will speak at Loudoun County High School on Thursday, Aug. 2. The BRL will provide periodic updates of Loudoun County appearances by candidates of all parties. Send us your notices to editor@BRL.com.

Wild Loudoun, page 10



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Ask Dr. Mike



Dr. Mike,

My husband and I were at the movies the other day with our 8-year-old son. There were two teenage boys in front of us who were holding hands, which was uncomfortable for my husband to see. He was uncomfortable with having our son witness other boys display romantic affection in public in that way. My husband became so upset that we had to change seats, which upset both my son and me since we ended last minute with horrible seats. This wasn't the first time we had to leave some place because of my husband's disdain for homosexuality. My husband is vehemently against homosexuality, and so is his entire family. As Christians neither of us endorse homosexuality as a lifestyle, but his strong views concern me since I DO NOT want to raise a homophobic child. Your thoughts on this delicate topic are appreciated. – I. in Loudoun County

I., I think you need to have a very seri-

ous conversation on this topic with your husband as soon as possible. Based on what you have written, it appears your husband's beliefs on homosexuality are likely rooted in the way he was raised and have been with him for a long time. Convincing him to believe in things differently at this point would probably be met with strong resistance. Rather than focusing on homosexuality as the main issue, I think you should instead discuss the importance of your role in raising your son so that he will be happy and successful in life and not angry, judgmental or close-minded.

Perhaps discussing how homosexuality is viewed in today's society may be a good start to the conversation. While your husband does not accept homosexuality as a lifestyle, our society as a whole has. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder and the American Psychological Association followed suit in 1975. The World Health Organization finally recognized homosexuality as a normal variation of human sexuality in 1990. As you know, many states now recognize gay marriage, which has had changing implications for employee benefits and insurance. And same-sex couples are also now adopting in larger numbers than ever. The point for your husband to get is that his son is growing up in a world that has become increasingly accepting of homosexuality and other alternative lifestyles.

Your son is going to be exposed to all sorts of people across his development and life, and he is not always going to be able to

simply change seats or remove himself from individuals or groups he does not approve of. In your conversation, I think you should get behind your husband with what you both agree on. Perhaps, as Christians, neither of you endorse homosexuality, and you both certainly have every right to raise your son with the values, morals and faith-based lessons you feel are most appropriate. At the same time, I would point out to your husband that his overt, negative disapproval and disdain for homosexuality will likely only cause your 8-year-old son emotional conflict over the coming years. At 8, your son is beginning to identify more with his father, but again, the world in general is not as negative or disdainful of homosexuality as your husband seems to be. Your son should enter preadolescence and adolescence with limited conflict as his own sexuality and beliefs are forming.

The take home lesson for your husband is that he has a right to raise his son with the values and morals he espouses and holds true for himself, but he also has a right and responsibility to teach his son to be tolerant, non-judgmental and accepting of others.

Dr. Mike,

We are launching our third and final child into the world at the end of summer. She is 18 and will be heading off to college. I have been very unhappy in my marriage for many years but have stayed because I wanted all of my children to be raised in an intact home. Well, I accomplished my goal, but it is now my time to move on and to give to myself. I am not angry or sad at this point, rather I am very happy and am excit-

ed about the next chapter of my life. I haven't communicated my unhappiness to my husband at all, so I'm sure the news will come as a shock to him. Any advice on how I might have "the talk" with him would be appreciated.

– A. in Loudoun County

A., I recommend seeking the assistance of a well-seasoned couple's therapist and to introduce your thoughts and feelings in the context of the marital work. Your next steps as a wife and mother will be very important ones with the main goal of preserving your wellbeing and the wellbeing of your children and husband.

I understand that you are done with your marriage and have been for some time, but, as you noted, this will likely come as "a shock to him" since you have not openly communicated your problems over many years of unhappiness. A good couple's therapist should be able to help you both dismantle your marriage respectfully or mend what needs to be mended. I have had many couples show up at my office intent on getting divorced and then with hard work, changes and time, the marriage is saved.

On the other hand, I have had many couples show up at my office with stated smaller issues, and with work, we discover that the marriage is over. Regardless of your outcome, you have your children to think about in addition to yourselves in the decisions you and your husband make. Remember, being parents to your children does not stop at 18, and you will be co-parenting your children for the rest of your lives. You will

Continued on page 29

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Merchants Unite Over Shared Meals

The dinners started in April and have continued on the third Wednesday of each month. The gatherings began as local merchants felt the need to discuss where the town of Purcellville was going with its downtown enhancement project on 21st Street, which includes a major hotel project on land owned by John Chapman and Mark Nelis.

Mary Beth Barbagallo, owner of Above Ground Winery, heard the concerns of her business neighbors and decided to invite them and Mr. Chapman to the dinner. This gave business owners an opportunity to ask Chapman directly about his proposed hotel and what it might mean – good and bad – for their businesses.

“This is what the business community needs, a place to gather and share marketing and community ideas – and a way to express their opinions!” Barbagallo said.

The group continues to grow. In June, the real estate company Atoka Properties joined the dinner and in July, Purcellville Copy was in attendance. There is no formal agenda, no dues and no mandatory anything. “We work hard at our businesses and don’t care for the formality of agenda driven meetings. I think this gives business owners an opportunity to let their hair down, relax, talk about families and vacation and share recipes and a new way of doing things,” Barbagallo said. “We start out the dinner with a tour of the business that is providing the meal and then head over to the Above the Ground Winery tasting room for appetizers, dinner and dessert. Everyone takes turns and is eager to bring

something.”

Some of the things the group is considering are a comprehensive directory of businesses, a resource reference guide and a community outreach program. Barbagallo said “when you know the business owner, you know the business better.”

As part of the effort, Above Ground started giving other downtown merchants gift cards to share with their frequent and valued customers. “I challenged other businesses to use the month of August to purchase from two other local businesses and to bring in their receipts for a drawing. My family went to Haute Dogs for lunch and then to The Doggie Wash to pick up food for our pets. It’s all about sharing and spreading the support around,” said Barbagallo.

First Friday Purcellville will start in September, encouraging the community to shop local – and that effort is also on this business group’s radar. Above Ground Winery is kicking off the inaugural First Friday Purcellville. (Details at www.agwinery.com)

The merchant’s pot-luck dinner is held the third Wednesday of the each month at Above Ground Winery at 105 E. Main St. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 15. For more information and to be added to the list of email, businesses can contact Mary Beth at marybeth@agwinery.com

“What a great idea Mary Beth had! Not only is it an enjoyable evening where we have a chance to connect with each other on a personal level ... we share ideas on how we might help one another succeed!” said Butterfly Gourmet owner, Debra Randazzo.



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Critical Fire Station Location Being Revisited ... Again

— By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

In December 2011, Joyce Sowa woke up in time to watch blood spurt from her chest as her estranged husband pulled out the knife with which he had stabbed her. As she turned and reached for the telephone, he stabbed her in the back. Dialing 911, she attempted to escape from her attacker. Before she passed out on the stairwell, with further wounds to her eye and arm, she told the 911 operator, "I'm dying."

Within minutes of receiving the call for help rescue workers from the Aldie Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company arrived at her home in the village of Aldie and arranged for her transport by helicopter to Fairfax Hospital. "The doctor said if the first responders hadn't made it when they did, I wouldn't have made it. When my sister arrived at the hospital, she was told I probably wouldn't make it."

Sowa was still recovering from her wounds when a few weeks later, after a closed session during their first meeting, the Board of Supervisors, led by newly-elected Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke (R), directed staff to initiate a public process to explore alternative sites for a long-needed replacement fire and rescue station for the Aldie company. Although the prior Board authorized the purchase of a station site on the eastern edge of the village behind the state weigh station in 2008 and invested some \$250,000 of county funds in sitework plus another \$430,000 in architectural and engineering plans, the new Board voted for a do-over.

At the Feb. 14, 2012, meeting county staff presented and the Board approved a work plan for this public process. At that same meeting the Board also went into a closed session to discuss the sale of the property purchased in 2008.

Since then, according to sources who asked to remain unnamed because they were not directly involved in the process, the county has received two offers of properties for sale, one at the west end of the village and one east of Gilbert's Corner. They have also received three offers to purchase the

"Although the prior Board authorized the purchase of a station site on the eastern edge of the village behind the state weigh station in 2008 and invested some \$250,000 of county funds in sitework plus another \$430,000 in architectural and engineering plans, the new Board voted for a do-over."

county property. Lewis Rauch, Director of the Loudoun County Office of Construction and Waste Management, confirmed the receipt of offers for the two alternative sites, but preferred not to go into details because the Board had not yet been briefed.

According to Rauch, he has sent a memo to the county administrator requesting the item's placement on a future Board meeting agenda. With the Board in recess, such presentation will likely not occur until the fall. According to Rauch, "Once we have direction from the Board, we will do a public input session, but we need direction from the Board."

None of this had anything to do with Sowa, her experience, or her doctor's opinion about the timing of her rescuers. When Clarke made her January motion, she stated, that the new search would "be a public process which is different from what the Board has engaged in the past with respect to this particular facility." However, she chose not to publicly disclose the generous campaign contributions — \$2,990 — she received from opponents of the original replacement site.

Campaign finance records posted on the Virginia Public Access Project and the Federal Election Commission websites indicate that neither donor had previously written a check for a local or state election. One donor appears never to have written a campaign check before his donation to Clarke; most of the other donor's prior campaign contributions were to his law firm's political action committee.

Clarke and her donors insist that alternative sites for the firehouse exist and that the community was not invited to participate in the first process. However, history suggests otherwise. According to a presentation

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Developer Proffers and the Public Good: Part II

— By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

Last month, the Blue Ridge Leader examined the use of tax credits and other public funds to meet the affordable housing requirements proffered by private developers to offset the costs of residential development to taxpayers. We began this series with an overview of the county's use of proffers as they relate to affordable housing; we continue with a closer examination of one example involving the non-profit Windy Hill Foundation, its for-profit subsidiary, the Windy Hill Development Company, and the developers of the Brambleton community.

Since its inception in 1983, the Windy Hill Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has been a key actor in the effort to provide an adequate supply of affordable housing in Loudoun County. Its five projects on the western edge of Middleburg provide a variety of housing types with monthly rents ranging from \$400 for a one-bedroom cottage to \$775 for a three-bedroom apartment. Median family income of tenants ranges from \$11,300 for seniors living in Levis Hill House to \$33,000 for the residents of Virginia Lane. In total, Windy Hill Foundation provides 67 units of rental housing, much of it subsidized, to individuals and families who might not otherwise be able to continue living in Loudoun County, where, according to the foundation's website, in 2011 market-priced units ranged from \$1,289 per month for a one-bedroom unit to \$1,885 for a three-bedroom apartment.

In the last few years, Windy Hill has begun to look at ways to expand its activities outside of the Middleburg area. It initiated a project in Fauquier County and began conversations with several Loudoun County developers regarding their proffered and mandated affordable housing requirements. It also made some changes to its corporate structure.

According to its 2009 Annual Report, the Windy Hill Foundation established a for-profit entity, the Windy Hill Development Company, LLC (WHDC), "for the purpose of providing real estate development, consulting, and construction management services for the benefit of Windy Hill Foundation, Inc. and the programs conducted by it." Kim Hart, the executive director of the foundation and its public face, became the president of WHDC.

The foundation also set up a series of incorporated subsidiaries to serve as the general partners in a series of limited partnerships. With these new entities, Windy Hill applied for Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to fund the construction of Levis Hill House and the Fauquier County project. Credits were also used to fund the rehabilitation of the foundation's Llewellyn Village Apartments.

The federal rules governing the LIHTC required the foundation to transfer ownership of the properties to limited partnerships. Thus, in March 2010, according to the Foundation's 2009 Annual Report and its 2011 operating budget, the foundation sold Llewellyn Village Apartments to the tax credit investors for \$250,000 plus their assumption of a first mortgage lien. The 2011 operating budget also noted that Levis Hill House was now owned by tax credit investors.

What was the thinking behind this change in strategy, structure, and asset ownership? Initial calls to Hart about this story went unreturned. During a chance meeting, Hart agreed to sit down for an interview. A phone message was left to schedule the interview to which Hart's assistant responded. She passed on a request that written questions be submitted to which Hart could instead respond in writing. Questions were submitted to Hart on July 14, but no responses were received. Questions were then forwarded to members of the Windy Hill Board. Most Foundation Board members contacted did not respond; one referred questions to Hart or to Foundation President and Board Chair Joe Boling.

According to documents submitted by the WHDC to the Loudoun County Joint Housing Trust Fund Committee, the changes offered the Foundation certain benefits. First, although the Foundation retained management control over the complexes, operating revenues and, more importantly, expenses no longer appeared on its budget. Instead, they were allocated to the partnerships that owned the properties. Another benefit was the release of the foundation from the need to raise funds to meet the mortgage obligation on properties.

Yet, according to tax and audit records for the period between 2007-2009 as well as the 2010 operating budget, rental revenue generat-

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We Welcome Your Letters to the Editor!

Submissions may be sent to Editor@BRLeader.com, or via mail to PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325. Please include your name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.

Letters to the Editor

Who is Attacking Supervisor Ken Reid?

Dear Editor:

Leesburg Supervisor Ken Reid, as many know, voted to opt in to Metro despite a decade long career of advocating against it. Ken justifies this last minute flip with confusing doubletalk that maintains his opposition to the project and support of it in back to back sentences. Ken does have both bases covered in the event of success or failure. Ken's recent constituent email said this, "Although I was a staunch critic of the project, and am still quite skeptical of its benefits

... " In this same mass email, Ken Reid stooped to a new low. After having betrayed his friends in the Opt Out group, whom he worked with for months to educate the public before he flipped to vote Loudoun into Metro, Ken is now using nonsensical claims that these grassroots consumer advocates are attacking him.

Why would Ken betray his friends and constituents a second time? Probably for the same reason he did it the first time, MONEY. Ken is pretending that the respectable

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

Committees at a Glance

Committees at a Glance is a feature of the Blue Ridge Leader informing our readers about the inner workings 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 3rd Edition we discuss recent actions and discussions at the Loudoun County Government Reform Commission (GRC) and various committees and actions of the Purcellville Town Council. (Note: The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors established the GRC and appointed its thirteen members on January 3, 2012. Chairman Scott York, who sponsored the initiative, laid out four goals: (1) identify efficiency opportunities; (2) explore innovative ways to lower costs; (3) consider privatization and outsourcing opportunities; and (4) identify ways to enhance government transparency, accountability, and customer service.

Loudoun County Government Reform Commission

Meeting, June 28, 2012

● *Topics: County Police Force, Loudoun Water Governance, County Debt Status, Privatization Update, Year Round Schools*

– The commission voted to recommend that the county not pursue creation of a police force at this time, but continue to leave law enforcement activities under the Sheriff.

– The commission discussed (but delayed a formal recommendation) whether all Loudoun Water customers should pay the same rates. Dale Hammes, the Director of Loudoun Water, informed the committee that such a change would require central system customers to subsidize those on community systems, such as the Raspberry Falls and Lenah Run communities by approximately \$350,000 to \$500,000 per year.

– Co-Chair Scott Hamberger presented an analysis of the county's debt, concluding that county staff and past Boards should be commended for establishing and following a

set of conservative fiscal policies that enabled the county to maintain its financial health through the recent "black swan" event. The commission recommended that the Board continue to abide by the county's established policies.

– The commission discussed its subcommittee's initial recommendations for privatization. The initial focus will be the Office of Capital Construction and Waste Management.

– The commission received a report on the potential for year-round schooling.

Purcellville Town Council and Planning Commission Joint Public Hearing, July 19, 2012

● *Topic: Zoning Amendments*

– The Purcellville Town Council voted unanimously to approve two zoning amendments. One was to allow the addition of a Brewery, Winery and Distillery as a permitted use in all commercial districts. The other was to allow indoor commercial recreation facilities as a permitted use in the MC, MI and CM-1 zoning districts.

Purcellville Town Council Work Session: July 24, 2012

● *Topic: "City Status" for Purcellville, zoning amendments to allow student housing in residential districts,*

– Councilman Tom Priscilla asked the town to lobby the Virginia General Assembly to remove the moratorium on city status. (Background: Purcellville gave up the right to seek "City Status" with the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP). Now that the County and Town of Purcellville, at the town's request, are in accord to abolish the agreement/contract, Purcellville is seeking city status. In 2010 one of Purcellville's top priorities was to look into "City Status.")

– The committee discussed amending the zoning ordinance to allow for student homes in residential districts (up to eight students per house). Presently, the state statute allows for no more than three unrelated adults living together in one house. Planning director Patrick Sullivan indicated that this ordinance would accommodate the needs of Patrick Henry College (PHC). Councilman Tom Priscilla said that the ordinance change would be just for PHC students. Mayor Lazaro added that he hoped that Patrick Henry would not own the homes because if the college did purchase the houses it would take them off the tax rolls. He also directed staff to investigate how other college cities address the issue. Vice Mayor Joan Lehr said that the properties would be owned by the school and she did not want to get involved with lease agreements.

– There was brief discussion about landscaping issues along A Street as part of the Hirst Farm Subdivision incompleting work. Mayor Lazaro said that the county and town are working to resolve the issues of

the pond that has to be configured into a dry pond. (Background: The BRL has previously reported that the Town of Purcellville failed to secure a performance bond from the developer.)

Loudoun County Government Reform Commission

Meeting, July 26, 2012

● *Topics: County Assessor's Office Reporting Structure, County Financial Organization, County Debt Policies, Subcommittee Updates*

– The commission heard opinions from the county treasurer, the commissioner of revenue, the deputy county administrator, the assessor, and the chief financial officer regarding the location of the assessor's office within the county government structure and opportunities for streamlining the financial function for greater efficiency. Staff provided benchmarks from five other counties for the commission's consideration.

– The commission finalized its recommendation that the Board continue to abide by the county's established fiscal policy.

– Subcommittee 1 presented a video about Sandy Springs, GA – "the city which out-sourced its government." The subcommittee handed out an initial list of specific areas to be considered for out-sourcing and privatization for study by staff.

– Subcommittee 2 provided updates on its consideration of the fire and rescue function, Loudoun Water governance, and adult day care. Efforts will be made to finalize its reports on these areas for consideration by the full commission at its September meeting. The subcommittee members thanked two citizens, Scott Lutz and Cynthia Klebonis, for a memorandum detailing numerous ways to enhance the transparency of Loudoun Water.

Letters to the Editor, continued from facing page

Loudoun residents that he worked with are after him and that he needs to raise money to defend himself. This is a disgusting lie and is an insult to the people of Leesburg whom Mr. Reid supposedly represents.

Ken is asking for sympathy letters to the editor in his behalf. I suggest people use their letters to instead ask these very crucial questions. Those who will profit will pay they say.

- 1.) If the Williams Purple Tax District is going to pay all Metro costs, why cap it at 20 cents/100?

- 2.) Will you collect money from the Williams Purple Tax District to pay for the roads and schools and utilities that will come with the Metro-related development?

- 3.) If you decide to cut the school budget to help pay for Metro, as Supervisor Buona is already suggesting, do you really think money spent on the Metro black hole is good for your people in Leesburg?

4. If/when the Williams Purple Tax District under-produces, will you support a tax on businesses countywide?

Ken, the new Opt Out is here to stay. If the Opt Out Group had not stirred aware-

ness of this Metro scheme, the taxpayers would probably be paying 100%.

Now we are demanding that supervisors opt out of the optional yearly payments to Metro and the endless Metro taxes that Ken himself has said over and over again are unavoidable. See Ken Reid's anti Metro video on Youtube here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUcwrPPMOIY

– David LaRock, Loudoun Opt Out Group

A Town Out Of Control

Dear Editor:

I am still trying wrap my head around the picture in the paper a few months ago showing two roundabouts. But, it is true that the current one lane roundabout at the corner of Rt. 287 and Main St. is going to be torn out, and a new two lane roundabout will be built in mid-September approximately 90 ft. away paid for by the residents and businesses of Purcellville. Further investigation confirmed that the decision to wait until the middle of September to begin construction is the Town's decision alone as this is the town's project. Virginia Department of Transporta-

tion (VDOT) can only make suggestions, and comments, but the ultimate decision on the time frame is made by the town officials.

Over the past five years while attending town meetings I have constantly heard empty promises from Mayor Bob Lazaro and most Council Members about how the building of the Southern Collector Road (SCR) would not hurt the Crooked Run Orchard Farm operations.

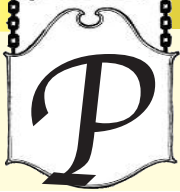
Let's fast forward to 2012 and set the record straight with the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. When the town took over seven acres by "Quick Take" Condemnation, they took a barn, one third of their parking spaces for customers, nearly one hundred fruit bearing trees, a critical roadway that lead to the back 45 acres, and removed hundreds of mature canopy trees ... and this is working with the Browns? The town did the exact opposite of what most municipalities do when a business or farm needs access to their business. It is common practice for the design and construction plans to include an easement, and this could have been done for Sam Brown. Also, in a

meeting with the town this year, Mr. Brown was told that the SCR construction would include the closing of his residence and "honor system" farm store driveway. Is this working with the Browns?

I find it extremely disturbing that the road construction will not begin until mid-September in front of Crooked Run Orchard and this is the busiest three months of their business. Also this major construction project will begin just as schools open, and our roads are much busier with commuters. Surely they could have started the roundabout this summer and been close to completion before school starts. How much more poor planning, mean spirited, untruthfulness, wasteful spending, and putting families safety at risk can the residents, and businesses in and around Purcellville tolerate? The Town actions are apparent in their utter disregard for the last historic, working farm in Town. How much concern do you think the Town will have for Nichols Hardware (100 year old, historic business) and the existing 21st St. businesses when the Town begins the

Continued on page 10

Shop Local, Shop Old Town Purcellville!



"Shop Local" isn't just a catch-phrase, you know. It's a movement with a sincere message about getting back to what's real. It's a term that challenges people to return to their roots – and the roots of their communities. The Blue Ridge Leader, still homegrown and family owned, is proud to be a part of the Shop Local movement in Old Town Purcellville, where we urge everyone to keep it right here. Where our roots are.

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Back to School Prayer Walk August 25

– By Mark Gunderman

Capital Community Church (CCC) will conduct its annual Back to School Prayer Walk on 25 August 2012, at 10:00 a.m. For the past several years CCC has prayed for the schools, families and surrounding communities prior to the start of the school year. Last year CCC covered almost 60 elementary, middle and high schools and facilities in various communities and townships throughout Loudoun County, which encompassed multiplied

thousands of families and tens of thousands of souls.

Among the topics for which Capital Community prayed were, protection for students and staff of each school against all forms of harm; strength and wisdom for faculty and staff members; a fruitful and productive year for all; the strengthening of marriages and families in the surrounding communities; and restoration of broken homes. This year CCC would like to invite all interested churches in Loudoun County

to join in as the body of Christ for this year's walk. If you would like to have your church participate, please contact CCC Prayer Coordinator Samantha Francis at Sfrancis@CapitalCommunity.org. Stripped in.

Town staff confirmed the September time frame with the Blue Ridge Leader, but would not discuss the details of whether or not the roundabout would initially open as one or two lanes.

Rise & Shine Scholarship 2012

The Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers have given their Rise and Shine scholarship to Hannah Danjou.

Hannah graduated from Woodgrove High School and will be attending NVCC in the fall.

Hannah is a clogger who also choreographs, teaches regularly on the local level and will teach the BRTC clogging camps again this year.

Hannah was given the \$1,000 scholarship for her commitment to the performance, promotion and preservation of America's traditional dance.

Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers was established in 1997 to provide a wholesome, family friendly environment where clogging could be taught and practiced and to provide traditional Americana entertainment to the community at large.

In the past 15 years of its existence, BRTC has trained over 450 dancers and performed at more than 350 venues.



Hannah Danjou

Happy Birthday, Mr. Charlie Clark!

Mr. Charlie Clark of Purcellville celebrates his 105th birthday on August 23rd of this year. Born in 1907, Mr. Clark is a former Private First Class in the 3238 Quartermaster Company of the European Theater during World War 2.



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Leesburg Will Move Town Elections from May to November

The town of Leesburg has received pre-clearance from the U.S. Department of Justice to move elections for town offices from May to November.

The Justice Department's action was taken under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to move town elections for mayor and council from May to November in even-numbered years, and for the elections to continue to be nonpartisan.

In November 2011, a referendum to move

Town of Leesburg elections from May to November was passed by Leesburg voters. In March 2012, the Virginia General Assembly approved an amendment to the Leesburg Town Charter, changing the date of town elections. Senator Mark Herring and Delegate Randy Minchew sponsored the Leesburg Town Charter Amendment. In May 2012, the Town submitted the approved Town Charter amendment to the U.S. Department of Justice for pre-clearance.

Woodgrove Announces "Fore the Wolverines" Charity Golf Classic

The Woodgrove Wolverine Athletic Booster Club (WWABC) has announced the date for their Fall 2012 Golf Tournament.

The "Fore the Wolverines" Charity Golf Classic will be held at Stoneleigh Golf and Country Club on Monday, September 17, 2012. Proceeds from the tournament funds WWABC sponsored senior scholarships. This year, the inaugural golf tournament enabled the WWABC to award \$1000 scholarships to nine well deserving Wolverine senior students.

Woodgrove High School would like to congratulate 2012's "Fore the Wolverine" scholarship recipients: Lydia Cromwell, Ellen



Fuller, Brad Gilson, Lisa Hemphill, Dane Mullins, Meg Nelis, Matt Reed, Caroline Vangsnes, and Brendan Wells. Please come out and support the Wolverines at Stoneleigh on September 17.

For more information, please contact Jan Lokie at seminole84@aol.com.

On the Market ... with Sam Rees



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



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Wild Loudoun

American Kestrel

– By Andrea Gaines

With dramatic coloring – and a body almost like an oversized parakeet – the American Kestrel is one of the most exotic birds you will see in Loudoun County.

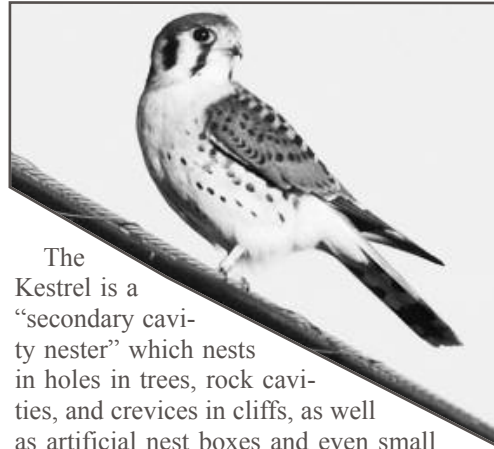
That perfectly shaped aviator you see on a passing telephone wire just might be a kestrel ... so slow down, pull over to the side and take a good look. Is it relatively small? Does it have a distinctively small curved beak? Does it have dark markings and dots on its head and breast area and a pretty grayish head? Does it have short cropped wings? Does it look like it is about to take off like a rocket after something?

Kestrels are small, open-land falcons – perhaps the most common diurnal (daytime) raptors (hawks, owls, falcons, etc.) in North America.

While declining according to recent local bird counts, the American Kestrel is still a fairly easy bird to find in appropriate habitat. but, many suspect that it is in a long-term decline in northern Virginia.

The loss of open habitat from human development and the natural reforestation of former agricultural areas may contribute to this. But, kestrels also face competition from native birds such as the Cooper's Hawk. All time highs for Cooper's and all time lows for kestrels seem to correlate ...

Populations of the American Kestrel also may be affected by a scarcity of nest sites.



The Kestrel is a "secondary cavity nester" which nests in holes in trees, rock cavities, and crevices in cliffs, as well as artificial nest boxes and even small spaces in buildings. (Leave these spaces undisturbed!)

The number of suitable breeding cavities limits the breeding density of the American Kestrel, and the availability of secondary nest sites.

Both sexes of the American Kestrel are easily identified by the thick, vertical black streaks behind and in front of their white cheeks, or "mustache" marks, but they also have a much less noticeable black spot behind each back mustache mark, toward the rear of the rufous (reddish) nape.

These black spots resemble a pair of eyes (ocelli, or false eyes) when the bird is viewed either from the rear or from the front when the head of the bird is bent over working on prey. The American Kestrel's habit of bobbing its head may help make its neck spots look even more elastic, except perhaps to a voracious Cooper's Hawk which has otherwise identified it by its prominent "mustache" marks or otherwise!

Letters to the Editor, continued page 5

unnecessary construction project downtown for the benefit of their newly crowned developers' "Tourist District" project? How will the 21st Street-Old Town businesses survive when there is no access to their stores for months? Does the Town care? The Developer?

Did anyone even stop once to think about the safety of our children in planning the deconstruction of the current roundabout, and construction of the new roundabout in the middle of September when the corner will be filled with precious cargo on hundreds of school buses? Why not?

– Kelli Grim, Purcellville

Great Food and Wine Festival

Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Town of Purcellville for an excellent event last Saturday. The Old Town Wine and Food Festival

demonstrated a big commitment in time and energy by the town elected officials and staff, in co-operation with many local merchants and all of the sponsors and vendors, to the success of this endeavor. The economic vitality of Purcellville's historic downtown was well displayed to many residents and new visitors. This exciting festival was extremely well planned, well organized, well executed, and well attended. The weather cooperated as well as it could, and it looked to me like everyone who showed up had a great time! Thanks a lot to everyone who participated, including musicians, wineries, food vendors, the police department, the volunteer rescue squad, shops, restaurants, guests, all the many volunteers who made it possible and everyone else who helped, and let's do it again soon!

– Robert Lauten, Chairman, Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee

Food Drive, continued from page 1

regularly with representatives from local food banks and pantries for updates on donation needs, is constantly encouraging civic organizations, businesses and schools to hold food drives, especially in the spring and summer when donations drop off dramatically.

Wolf also had language inserted in the fiscal year 2012 spending bill that funds the Department of Agriculture to allow public schools to donate unused food after learning many school districts were not donating

excess food out of concern they were not covered under the Good Samaritan Act, which protects donors who give to food banks in good faith from all liability. Wolf's language amends the law that created the national school lunch program that provides free or low-cost lunches to needy children to ensure schools are covered under the Good Samaritan Act. For more information on Rep. Wolf's efforts to fight hunger, visit wolf.house.gov.



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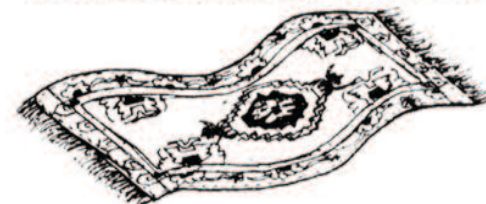
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Extraordinary all brick colonial on **10+ acres** •Fabulous stable, Riding Ring and Board Fenced Paddocks, all in a gorgeous setting at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains •Property is Pristine with Brilliant Gardens •Brick-walled terrace •Towering trees offering total privacy •3 finished levels in the residence are impeccable •Completely updated with newer gourmet kitchen and baths. **\$1,139,000**

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Closing Exercises at Loudoun Country Day School, Class of 2012



Twenty-seven students received their certificates of graduation in front of proud parents, teachers, and friends at the 58th Closing Exercises of Loudoun Country Day School on Friday, June 8.

In his opening remarks, headmaster Dr. Randy Hollister welcomed all in attendance. Mark Rossi, chairman of the Board of Trustees, also welcomed all guests. Dr. Hol-

lister celebrated each graduate with a personal tribute, a traditional part of each graduation ceremony. After an address by Class of 2012 student council President Chris Miller and several musical selections, Board Chairman Rossi and Dr. Hollister presented each student with his or her certificate.

Nick Fouty received the Philip E. duPont

Continued on page 27

Scout Heading to Black Sea With World Renowned Oceanographer

One hundred years after the Titanic sank to the bottom of the ocean, Dr. Robert Ballard, a life scout and a world renowned oceanographer responsible for discovering the legendary ship, has invited an Eagle Scout and future leader in marine archaeology to explore the mysteries of the Black Sea.

Alex Overman, an Old Dominion graduate from Hamilton, has been selected as the Eagle Scout Argonaut to accompany Dr. Ballard's team aboard Exploration Vessel Nautilus from July 24 – 26. The opportunity has been made available through the National Eagle Scout Association, the Boy Scouts of America's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiative, and Ballard's JASON Project.

The JASON Project, managed by National Geographic Society and Sea Research Foundation, was founded by Ballard and is an internationally acclaimed, exploration-based program that links students – inside the classroom and out – to real science and

scientists through technology intensive, inquiry based curricular experiences. JASON's National Argonaut program has provided hands-on, scientific fieldwork to more than 400 competitively selected students worldwide.

Overman was awarded the scholarship for his interest and university studies in oceanography, his commitment to a career in the industry, and for his short essay explaining why he should be selected as the Eagle Scout Argonaut. NESA and the BSA sponsored the trip in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout Award and in keeping with the organization's focus on the importance of incorporating STEM into its current advancement programs.

Before joining the expedition in Istanbul,



Alex Overman

Continued on page 18

Proffers, continued from page 5

ed approximately half of the foundation's operating income with grants and donations providing the other half. Even with lowered debt service and operating expenses, the loss of significant rental revenue, combined with the need to provide substantial rental subsidies for Levis House residents, resulted in a projected operating deficit in the 2011 budget. Funds from the sale of Llewellyn Village Apartments were expected to cover that deficit.

A third intended benefit was the creation of an on-going revenue source for the foundation. The LIHTC program authorizes the payment of a developer fee, asset management fees, and management fees. Rental income in excess of any loans is distributed between the partners. While the program regulates the size of fees that any entity can receive for its role, the revenue stream can still be meaningful. In the case

of Shreveport Ridge, it appears that key participants will share more than \$7 million in various fees, operating revenues and other outlays. (See Chart 1)

In addition, WHF-III, Inc., MARG Rural, LLC, and the investor syndicate will share in any revenues received at the end of 30 years from any switch to market rate rental units, the conversion of rental units to condominiums, or the sale of the entire property. While the Foundation would have a first refusal on any sale, questions relating to whether they would take advantage of that right or how they would finance such purchase went unanswered.

As with any investment, there is a potential downside. The county's average median income might decrease rather than increase leading to a decrease in rents or operating expenses might rise faster and higher than

recent rates of inflation. Almost all of this risk is borne by MARG Rural, LLC and its affiliates.

What does the county receive? A March 2012 memo from Kim Hart to the Board of Supervisors provided a list of benefits to the county. The second table compares the requirement of the proffer with the Windy Hill proposal. (See Chart 1)

In addition, Brambleton has agreed to assist Windy Hill with architecture and engineering costs and will build a number of shared community facilities, including a swimming pool.

Clearly, there are benefits to the county in terms of the "green" construction, the reporting, the number of handicapped accessible units to be provided, and the length of the commitment. Though, as Hart notes in his memo, the 30-year commitment is not discretionary on the part of Windy Hill, but a requirement of the LIHTC program.

No one seems to doubt that the county needs a larger supply of affordable housing for its residents whose income falls substantially below the average median. The question is the means by which that supply is created.

Congress approved the use of tax credits for low income housing in 1986, indicating their belief that encouraging the private sector to expand the nation's stock of low-income housing (as opposed to direct investment of federal funds) outweighed the resulting loss of tax

revenue. Windy Hill's leveraging of the program to build such housing in Loudoun County is in keeping with Congress' expectations and has the potential to fund future affordable housing projects.

The question as iterated in Part I, is the appropriateness of the Windy Hill / Brambleton model, in which the developer who has already received financial benefits from the County and taxpayers for their promise to produce affordable housing, receives cash from sale of land to a third-party who agrees to take on the financial risk of the project.

In March, as the Board discussed whether to approve WHDC's request that the county submit various letters of support for its LIHTC application, a majority of the Board, including Scott York (R - At-Large) and Janet Clarke (R - Blue Ridge) did not seem unduly bothered by this question.

However, Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian) raised this very question. In response to her concerns, County Attorney Jack Roberts stated, "The proffers don't dictate how the Developer implements the proffers. It sets a requirement – this road has to be in there, affordable housing units have to be done by a certain point in time...We don't look at how they accomplish it, just that they do accomplish it."

Next month: The Proffer Question

Chart 1

Source of Funds	Amount	Recipient
Density bonus for ADU proffer		Brambleton
Land Sale	\$2.45 million	Brambleton
Development Fee	\$1,965,480	WHDC REBJ
Management Fee	Approx. \$1 million over 15 years	TM Associates Management, a corporate affiliate of REBJ
Syndication Fee	5–15% of the total tax credit value (approx. \$715,000 to \$2 million)	Boston Capital
Tax Credits	\$14.25 million in federal tax credits over a 10-year period in return for an up-front investment of approx. \$13.5 million	Corporate Investors
Annual Asset Management Fee	Approx. \$133,000 over 15 years	Boston Capital
Partnership Management Fee	Approx. \$133,000 over 15 years	WHF-III, Inc. (wholly-owned subsidiary of WHF) & MARG Rural, LLC (affiliate of REBJ & TM Asso.)
Net Revenue Allocation	Approx. \$1.2 million	WHF-III, Inc., MARG Rural, LLC Corporate investors

Chart 2

	Proffer Requirement	WH Proposal
Length of Commitment	20 years	30 years
Qualifying Income income	< 60% of median income	40-50% of median
Handicapped Accessible	5 units	34
"Green" Construction	No	Yes
Reporting	Annual report submitted by building owner	Annual inspection by VHDA and independent audit
Priority to Current County Residents	Priority given to referrals from County wait list (if any) or by qualifying income	Yes

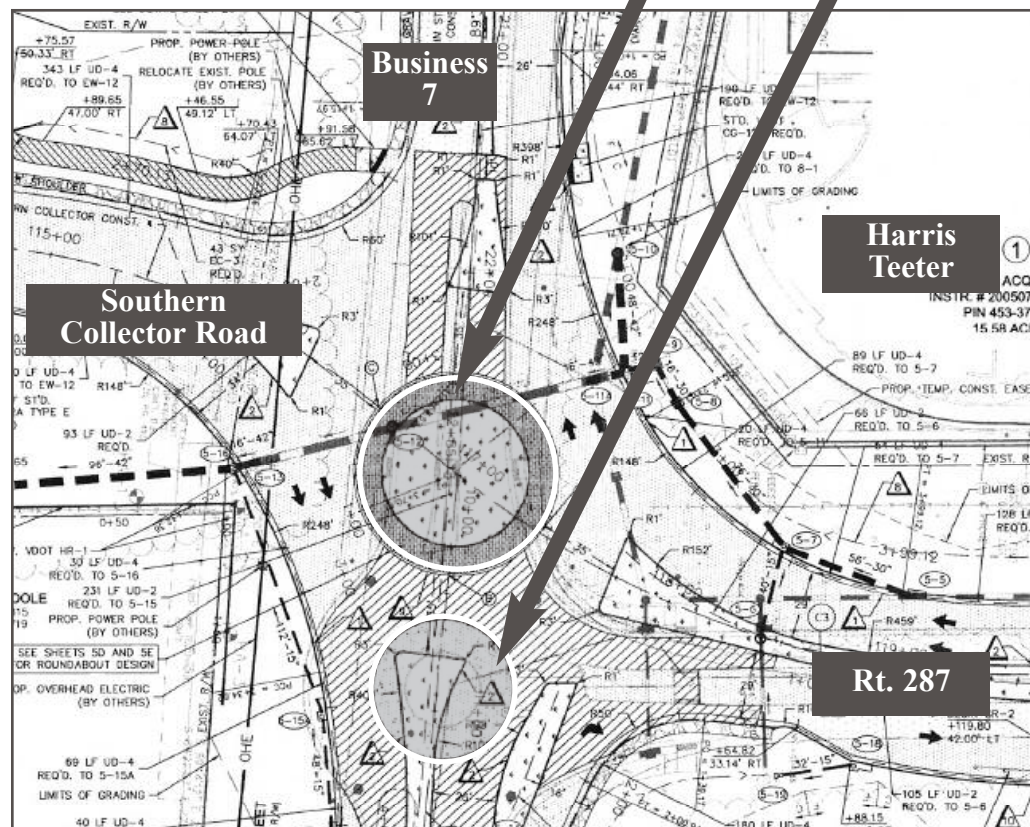
Roundabout, continued from page 1


patterns that involve roundabouts.

Because of that, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has recommended to the town to open the roundabout as a one lane road when the projected is first completed, allowing motorists to safely adjust to the change. Single lane roundabouts in a new location are easier for motorists to negotiate. A second lane could then be striped in.

Town staff confirmed the September time frame with the Blue Ridge Leader, but would not discuss the details of whether or not the roundabout would initially open as one or two lanes.

Location of new roundabout Location of current roundabout




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Aldie Fire Station, continued from page 4

delivered by county staff to the Board of Supervisors in September 2011, the search for a new site began in the spring of 2007. Over the next eighteen months, county staff considered 20 properties without success. In fact, several of the properties proposed by opponents had already been considered and rejected by county staff.

In some cases, the landowner was unwilling to sell (county policy prefers to avoid condemnation if a willing seller can be found and rejects outright the condemnation of property if the property is in use as a residence). In other cases, environmental factors, such as steep slopes (Aldie is at the bottom of the Bull Run Mountains) or floodplain (Aldie sits directly on the Little River) eliminated a property from consideration. In other cases, road and traffic conditions were either unsafe or would overly delay the company's response times in its primary service area. When the Little River Estates developer offered to sell the county one or more lots, staff and the Board quickly agreed to purchase two lots at the development's entrance, just behind the Route 50 weigh station.

It is clear from public records that the developer was already facing financial difficulties when he made his offer to the county. The extent of those difficulties was reinforced when a creditor of the developer contacted the Board of Supervisors just after the county's public announcement of the purchase, seeking confirmation of the sales price and closing date. At the time of the county's purchase, only two lots had been sold to homebuyers, and only one of those sales had closed prior to the county's purchase. Thereafter, the developer's bank foreclosed on the unsold lots.

Based on legal filings, it does not appear that the developer ever informed his customers of his decision to sell two lots at the cul-de-sac's entrance for the construction of a firehouse nor does it appear that the homebuyers undertook independent research to investigate purchasers of the adjoining lots.

With regards to statements by Clarke and others, that there was no public process, former Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton commented that there was no one living on the neighboring lots and no one but the developer to ask for input. Input from the existing Aldie community had been solicited at the beginning of the site selection process through the volunteers. The received message, according to statements made by staff in both public and private meetings before and after the purchase, had been to find a site within the village, or at least no further east than the intersection with Route 15. This was confirmed by the president of the Aldie volunteer company, Bernie Boteler.

According to the September 2011 presentation, the two lots purchased by the county met all of the criteria established by the Aldie volunteer company, the county's professional fire & rescue staff, the engineers, and the Board. The property was west of Gilbert's Corner, on ground that was relatively flat yet high enough to avoid the frequent flooding experienced by the current station. There was easy access to Route 50. There was a willing seller and a price, which while high compared to the properties' assessed value, was still within budget.

The criteria in the current search remain the same – with one exception. Despite the desires of the volunteers and the recommen-

dations of county fire and rescue staff that the new firehouse be located west of Gilbert's Corner, the search area was expanded to include properties east of Gilbert's Corner.

Boteler stated that the volunteers are very concerned about a site east of Gilbert's Corner and the impact it would have on the company's ability to respond to its core community. Does Sowa believe that she would still be alive today if the emergency team had come from a site east of Gilbert's Corner? "No, never," she exclaimed.

As for a property on the western edge of the village, the county's mapping system indicates that any property of 5 or more acres will have environmental or topographical challenges: wetlands, floodplain, sharp grades. Overcoming such challenges typically carries a significant price tag.

Should the Board decide to move forward with an alternative site, it must write off the approximately \$250,000 spent in sitework on the original site. However, according to Rauch, his staff hopes to recycle much of the building design work prepared for the original site despite the substantial tailoring undertaken to meet the neighbors' requests.

Such a decision will also continue to delay the station's construction, as sitework on a new site is undertaken, land use applications are filed with the county's building and development department, and bids for construction are solicited. Given that the September 2011 presentation and earlier documents indicate that the current station fails to meet standard county requirements for public safety operations, this leaves professional fire and rescue staff and volunteers to continue operating in substandard conditions for as long as another

24 to 36 months. The alternative, according to a member of the county's Fire and Rescue Department, is to renovate the existing firehouse or implement some other stopgap measure. This, too, has a price tag.

One decision has been made, however, with another pending. In 2011, the opponents of the site filed lawsuits against the county and the developer. They also sued their neighbors down the street, whose houses, built by the company that purchased the lots from the bank, were smaller and less expensive. Plaintiffs argued that a fire house and the half-million dollar homes of their neighbors were inappropriate based on the covenants the sales agent showed them. That the developer never legally filed these covenants was irrelevant to both plaintiffs and the circuit court judge, who ruled in their favor. Still, even as they directed staff to sell the existing two lots and begin the site search anew, the Board directed the County Attorney to file an appeal with the Virginia Supreme Court. As of July 18, the court had not yet indicated it would hear the county's appeal.

What happens if the county wins its appeal and successfully sells the property, but fails to find an economically viable site? Clarke did not respond to either email or telephone inquiries for this story. Not having been invited to participate in the new search, Boteler referred this question to the county's Fire & Rescue Department. County staff prefers not to dwell on such possibility either on or off the record. Joyce Sowa considers most of this irrelevant. She, like most county residents, just wants to know that emergency services will always be close at hand.

Patio Pleasures

Outdoor Dining Guide

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Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

What Does the Supreme Court Ruling on the Health-Care Reform Law Mean for You?

– By Amy Smith

On June 28, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a landmark decision, that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) including the provision that most Americans carry health insurance or pay a penalty, is constitutional.

The ACA, signed into law in 2010, made sweeping reforms to health-care coverage in the United States. Many provisions of the law have already taken effect. A number of other provisions are scheduled to take effect in subsequent years, including the requirement that most Americans and legal residents have qualifying health insurance (exceptions apply) or pay a penalty in the form of a tax. Here's a summary of some of the important provisions that are already in place, and those that are on the way by 2014. In effect now:

- Children can no longer be denied insurance coverage because of pre-existing conditions;
- Payment of \$250 rebate to Medicare Part D beneficiaries subject to the coverage gap (beginning January 1, 2010) and gradually reducing the beneficiary coinsurance rate in the coverage gap from 100 percent to 25 percent by 2020;
- Insurers will not be able to impose lifetime caps on insurance coverage;
- All plans offering dependent coverage will be required to allow children to remain under their parent's plan until age 26;
- Insurers cannot cancel or deny coverage if you are sick except in cases of fraud; and

- Adults with pre-existing conditions will be able to buy coverage from temporary high-risk pools until 2014, when coverage cannot otherwise be denied for pre-existing conditions.

Key provisions effective on or before January 1, 2014:

- Increasing the medical expense income tax deduction threshold to 10 percent from the current 7.5 percent (January 1, 2013);
- Increasing the Medicare Part A tax rate by 0.9 percent on wages over \$200,000 for individuals (\$250,000 for married couples) and assessing a new 3.8 percent tax on some or all of the net investment income for these higher-income individuals (January 1, 2013);
- All Americans must carry health insurance or face a penalty (in the form of a tax) of up to 2.5 percent of household income on individuals with exceptions for economic hardship, religious beliefs, and other situations (January 1, 2014);
- Adults with pre-existing conditions cannot be denied coverage or have their insurance cancelled due to pre-existing conditions (January 1, 2014);
- A requirement that states establish an American Health Benefit Exchange that facilitates the purchase of qualified health plans and includes an Exchange for small businesses (January 1, 2014);

Continued on page 29



Russell Baker – All Grown Up

– By John P. Flannery

When word got around that Russell Baker, who twice won the Pulitzer Prize for his writing, for commentary and then biography, was going to speak at St James Church in Lovettsville, neighbors reached for their book shelf copies of "Growing Up," Baker's memoir, hoping to get his autograph and to hear from the man who wrote how three strong women helped him "amount to something."

Charles Kaiser, an author, former New York Times reporter, Wall St. Journal columnist, and close friend, said of Russell, "he's a national treasure."

Tom Bullock, President of the Lovettsville Historical Society, said he wished "the media today would allow people to be creative and write a good and thorough story."

After serving as a police reporter for the Baltimore Sun, Russell joined the Washington Bureau of the New York Times to cover Washington, the White House and presidential politics. His by-line appeared over more than 4,000 "Observer" columns (three a week for the New York Times) with his signature brand of humor (one collection of columns is titled, "No Cause for Panic.") Russell wrote marvelous "treatments" of noteworthy books (for the New York Review of Books) (refusing to say they were "reviews" – as he thought it unseemly to dispose critically of an author's long hard work at writing in a 4,000-word review) ("Looking Back – Heroes, Rascals,



and Other Icons of the American Imagination," contains several of his outstanding "reviews"). Not to be outdone by Benjamin Franklin, there is a "Poor Russell's Almanac" with many marvelous observations such as, "The dirty work at political conventions is almost always done in the grim hours between midnight and dawn. Hangmen and politicians work best when the human spirit is at its lowest ebb."

A close friend, Art Buchwald, wrote a tongue-in-cheek blurb for one of Russell's books: "I refuse to say a nice thing about Russ Baker. I have no intention of helping him get ahead in this world."

Baker once described Murray Kempton as a "writer" and "not a plain reporter," and a "man learned in history, acrobatic in grammar, skilled in irony and willing to use it" and able to "laugh at the pretensions of his own trade." Baker could have been writing about himself

Continued on page 18

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Of Lilies ... Toads ... & Gardening Friends

– By Donna Williamson

August is an interesting time in the garden. Fall veggies can be planted, taking advantage of the warm, sunny days to get young plants going. Kale, spinach, lettuces (leaf lettuces withstand frosts better than head lettuce varieties), cabbage, pansies for winter color (unless you have deer), and peas will all enjoy a warm start and the cool temps that follow.

It's also a time of ripening – tomatoes, peppers, figs, and raspberries are all delicious. Fruit on dogwoods and viburnums is ready for the birds. Some perennials and woody plants can get moved around as the nights cool.

This year the dahlias have been spectacular in my garden and I hope in yours. I'm looking forward to Bob Wollam's Dahlia Festival on September 23-24 in Jeffersonton just south of Warrenton. Bob has eleven acres in flowers for his cut flower business and it's open for walking around during this open house. Such fun! So many different kinds of beautiful flowers! And Bob is a fountain of good information. (www.wollamgardens.com)

And that reminds me ... I have gotten such wonderful information from fellow gardeners. Talking to each other about good plants and the lousy ones, of great varieties for our climate and those that give up too easily is an excellent way to learn to be a good gardener.

Bob Wollam told me that the toad lily (*Tricyrtis* spp.) 'Sinome' was the best one for our hot climate and has performed beautifully for him. There are many varieties available and most that I have grown get scorched leaves and generally look tatty by the time they bloom in September. Not



'Sinome'. It's elegant, flowers beautifully, and no scorch.

My dear friend, Kathy, told me about the autumn coral bells (*Heuchera villosa*) as good performers one year when I was complaining about the short, woody lives of typical coral bells. It now turns out that breeders have been using *Heuchera villosa* as a parent for some delightful varieties like 'Caramel' and they are solid performers in the garden, just as she said.

Catalogs and gardening magazines are no longer places to get good plant information like this. They have been taken over by the marketing people. But your gardener friends – priceless!

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.



WEED AND ORDER: GET READY FOR AUTUMN PLANTING

August is a perfect time to browse gardening websites, magazines and catalogs to determine what type of perennial flowers you would like to bloom in your garden next year. Order bulbs now to plant in September. In the meantime, keep up with your weeding!

If you are considering a new garden, need help choosing bulbs for next year, or would like some help keeping up your existing landscape, please contact us to speak with one of our talented design, plant or maintenance specialists.

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Even though hyacinths, daffodils, tulips and crocuses are all great for your spring garden, you might want to consider experimenting with something new in 2013.



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It's Back-to-School Time

Putting a Little Nutrition in Back-to-School

Butterfly Gourmet – a cool little culinary spot that opened in Old Town Purcellville recently – is here to rescue departing college students from what owner Debra Randazzo sees as “artificial mac & cheese and overly salty ramen noodles.”

Butterfly Gourmet is offering a cooking class geared toward college students – or any beginning cook – entitled, “Beyond Ramen Noodles!”

The class, planned for Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm will be held at Butterfly Gourmet shop at 148 North 21st Street in Purcellville.

It will be led by chef Victoria Cortes and cover basic food preparation skills – giving students three or four easy, affordable, healthful meals they can add to their reper-

toire as they hit their college dorms.

Chef Cortes will demonstrate how to prepare the recipes. Students will be sampling everything that is made, as well as taking printed copies of the recipes home.

Students wishing to shop Butterfly Gourmet that evening will be given a 10 percent discount on all merchandise. Randazzo suggests, “just stop in or call 540-441-7094 to register.”

The class is \$65 if paid in cash or \$70 if using a credit card. Check (and like!) Butterfly Gourmet’s Facebook page for menus.

The next class planned is a Singles cooking class on Sept. 13. Says Randazzo, “Come eat, drink and maybe meet someone special!”

Loudoun County Schools Start Back Up Monday, August 27th – remember to keep these basics in mind ...

- Always stop for school buses – it’s the law
- At a crosswalk, children and crossing guards have the right-of-way
- And, remember, shop Loudoun County for back-to-school clothes and supplies

“Loudoun Is Learning” With Great Back to School Tools

Loudoun Learning is the one and only educational supply store in the area. Founded in 2002 it offers educational tools to help make learning fun and rewarding, and has created a supportive system for teachers and parents to shop a variety of award winning products through a colorful and inviting store front in Leesburg.

You can find the brads that you need to make that unique spinner ... flashcards that range from identifying letters of the alphabet to chemistry terms ... litmus paper for your next science experiment ... pattern blocks for the child interested in designing their own puzzles ... stickers galore to be used as a reward or for the avid scrap booker ... workbooks ranging from dot to dot to getting ready for your GED test. For more information go to www.loudounlearningcatalog.com.

Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth 13U All Stars are the District 8 Champs

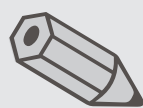
– By Renee Ventrice



Back row left to right: Coach Dan Sullivan, Hunter Gore, Curt Doescher, Jake Wernle, Jacob Hand, Dominick Marinelli, Lawton Riggs, Bryce Pearson, Coach Mike Marinelli. **Front row left to right:** Joey Skov, Carsten Wahl, Ryan Studebaker, Danny Sullivan, Hunter Keim, Gino Ventrice, Sean Clark, Coach Mike Keim.

The Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth 13U All Stars are the District 8 Champions. The GLBR “LoCos” shut out their opponents scoring 32 unanswered runs in the District tournament: 17-0 vs. Stafford, 7-0 vs. Manassas and 8-0 in a rematch against Stafford.

The LoCos kept their cool playing in record heat and humidity, with impressive focus and hard work. A speedy, accurate outfield turned potential doubles into outs at second base. Double plays, athletic catches and solid teamwork in the infield kept their opponents from reaching third base in almost every inning. The performances from the mound were spectacular, with strike out after strike out.



Plan to re-establish bedtimes routines at least one week before school starts. Limit night time electronics use – the stimulation can affect sleep patterns.

2013 World Series Host Team Tryouts August 11 and 12

The 2013 World Series Host Team Tryouts will be held on Aug. 11 and 12 with make-up dates of Aug. 14 and 18 at Franklin Park, Fields 4 & 5.

Dates and Times

Saturday, Aug. 11: 2-4 pm
Sunday, August 12: 2-4 pm

Make Up Dates:

Tuesday, Aug. 14: 6-8 pm
Saturday, Aug. 18: 10-Noon

Players should attend both tryout dates on August 11 & 12 or a combination of two tryouts with the second date being one of the make up dates. Any questions should be emailed to DMCommittee@GLBR.org.

Scout, continued from page 12

Turkey, Overman will travel to Rhode Island and Connecticut to tour the University of Rhode Island’s Inner Space Center and Mystic Aquarium’s Ocean Exploration Center, both facilities that Ballard uses in his work. Overman will act as a mentor to the two high school-aged Argonauts on the trip, which is in line with the JASON Project’s and BSA’s goal of promoting the sciences among high school-aged youth.

“We are thrilled to welcome Alex aboard the E/V Nautilus this summer,” said Ballard. “His experience and commitment to STEM education will be an asset to the expedition team and his fellow Argonauts. As a Life Scout myself, I look forward to future collaborations with the JASON Project and Boy Scouts of America’s STEM initiative that prepare the great scientists and explorers of tomorrow.”

The STEM initiative gives Scouts an opportunity to explore relevant occupations and experiences with the aim of helping them develop a skill set critical for the competitive world market. In addition to opportunities like the Black Sea expedition, the BSA has launched the NOVA Award program, a new initiative that encourages all Scouts to explore the STEM fields. It leverages inter-

active learning opportunities ranging from exploring the engineering of roller coasters to finding the trajectory of a true Scouting staple, the bow and arrow.

“The Boy Scouts of America is known for teaching survival skills. Today, STEM is a survival skill,” said Bob Mazzuca, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. “The BSA has a long-standing commitment to preparing young people for success. We help them learn beyond the classroom in ways that are unique, interactive, and a whole lot of fun.”

“Earning my Oceanography [merit] badge through Scouting and participating in a 100-day sea voyage with the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy fueled my passion for studying the sea,” said Overman. “I can think of no better opportunity than to learn from Dr. Ballard’s team and I look forward to kicking off my career with this once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

People worldwide can experience the next generation of deep-sea exploration 24 hours a day at nautiluslive.org. Overman will participate in a live webcast on July 25 from the E/V Nautilus. Visit jason.org for more information and to tune in.

Russell Baker, continued from page 15

although Kaiser said, “the difference is you always knew what Baker meant.”

Russell got to comment on British mores as the host of Masterpiece Theater (succeeding Alistair Cook); he confesses, however, that he thought some friend was playing a joke when he was first invited to take on the assignment.

The golden thread weaving through what Russell has said and done is an elegant and honest telling of the stories that make a life.

In his memoir, “Growing Up,” Russell describes how his mother was after him to decide what he’d become.

When he was 11, he showed her a composition he’d written and she said, “maybe you could be a writer?”

Russell recalled: “I clasped the idea to my heart. I had never met a writer, had shown no previous urge to write, and hadn’t a notion how to become a writer, but I loved stories and thought that making up stories must surely be almost as much fun as reading them. Best of all, though, and what really gladdened my heart, was the ease of the writer’s life. Writers did not have to trudge through the town peddling from canvas bags, defending themselves against angry dogs, being rejected by surly

strangers. Writers did not have to ring doorbells. So far as I could make out, what writers did couldn’t even be classified as work.”

Ed Spannaus, the Secretary of the Lovettsville Historical Society, introduced Russell to the 150 people at St. James Church. Russell explained how, when he left Morrisonville for Lovettsville, “it was like going to Washington, DC.” When a cloud of dust was spotted, you could hear the screen doors slamming, he said, everyone gawking, to see the passing car. There was no electricity. No running water. You went to sleep when it was dark. You arose when it was light.

Russell read from his writings in a soft, clear voice, standing upright, tall, his hair falling light on his forehead, his arms on either side of the rostrum, animated, not so much reading it seemed as talking while remembering fresh once again, like it was yesterday, what it had been like to live a few miles south of Lovettsville when his mother insisted he had to make something of himself.

He signed copies of his memoirs after his talk.

You just know his mother always knew Russell would make something of himself.

Wolf Asks Cuccinelli to Examine Toll Structure on Greenway

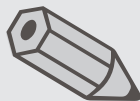
Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th) asked the Virginia attorney general to have his consumer protection office examine the toll structure on the Dulles Greenway. "I believe you have the ability to give these residents a way to fight what I call 'highway robbery,'" Wolf wrote in a letter today to Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli. "If there were ever a group of consumers in need of protection, it is those who pay the Greenway tolls."

Wolf, a longtime critic of the TRIP II, the firm that operates the Greenway, and its for-

eign-based parent company, Macquiere Ltd., believes the original state law allowing a private corporation to own and operate the Greenway is flawed because it fails to protect the consumer.

"When I am in Loudoun County, the tolls on the Greenway are a recurring issue and a continual source of aggravation," Wolf said. "Peak tolls on the Greenway are as much as \$4.80 for a one-way trip. When this is combined with the tolls on the Dulles Toll Road

Continued on page 27



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► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► CHANGES IN THE LAWS OF AGENCY, PART II

– By Carl Fischer



July 1, 2012, has now passed, and the new regulations put in place by the Virginia Real Estate Board (VREB) and through its licensing and oversight arm, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) are now the law of the land.

So from this date forward, when you engage for the first time ANY licensed real estate agent or broker here in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be prepared to declare how you would like him to provide services

for you. You have three choices:

- 1) As a STANDARD AGENT, who has the normal and usual responsibilities to represent you as in the past. But he may also have additional duties which you and he must agree to, in writing; or
- 2) As a LIMITED SERVICE AGENT, (formerly a limited service representative), who acts for or represents a client with respect to real property containing from one to four residential units, pursuant to a brokerage agreement that specifies that he will NOT PROVIDE one or more of the duties set forth in a specific list itemizing such services; or
- 3) As an INDEPENDENT CONTRAC-

TOR, whose role in NOT that of an agent, but may be referred to as a “transaction broker”, among other terms. In this capacity, the service you barter for (and agree to) is best characterized as a third-party facilitator whose job it is to seek agreement between the parties so as to achieve the goal of the client (you). The standards and duties of the agent in this capacity is far more limited on your behalf than either of the other two.

The forms that set all of this information out are now available to the public through the Virginia Real Estate Board (VREB), any local association of Realtors (NVAR, DAAR, NNAR, etc), or by simply asking a

licensed agent or broker to provide you with same.

If you're thinking of buying or selling real estate soon, I would encourage you to get your hands on this information and review it carefully BEFORE you actually need it. That way you won't feel additional pressure when your agent says to you: “How would you like me to work for you?”, knowing that he will then ask you to SIGN A FORM memorializing that agreement.

Remember, your agent MUST get this agreement SIGNED before your conversation with him continues ... it's now the law!

Residential Market Activity in June

Here's a look at the market activity taken

Continued on page 29

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
 Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: www.kidscoop.com
 © 2009 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 25, No. 36

Sea Lion School!

Ella's teacher gives her a direction, but Ella doesn't listen. Instead she goes off to play. Her pal, Indigo, who's a little older, looks from her teacher to Ella. Then she goes off to play too.

Does this sound a little like a kindergarten classroom? It is a bit like that, except this classroom is a large tank of water, and one-year-old Ella and two-year-old Indigo are sea lions at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, CA. They're going to school to learn how to perform in the sea lion show.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know that animals have different structures that serve specific functions in survival.

Meet Indigo

Indigo was born at an animal park in Nebraska. Because she was raised by her sea lion mother, she can now help Ella learn how to be a sea lion.

Meet Ella

As a nearly newborn sea lion, Ella was stranded on a beach in Southern California.

Sea Lion Sizes

Male sea lions can grow to be **K,AAA** pounds, and measure up to **V.L** feet long. Females can weigh up to **LSA** pounds and reach lengths of up to **R.R** feet.

Ella is now **SS** pounds and Indigo is **VS** pounds.

Wildlife experts watched over her for 24 hours, but her _____ never came for her. Knowing she would die if they didn't _____ her, concerned humans took Ella to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, where sea _____ experts are raising her.

“We had to take turns bottle _____ her when she first came,” said **Sam**, **Sea Lion Supervisor** at the theme _____.

“Sea lions don't know how to _____ when they are born so we had to teach Ella to swim.”

Oops! Ella took some of the words out of this story. Can you replace them?

LION MOTHER HELP PARK
FEEDING SWIM

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand the meaning of words from context clues.

CODE K L B T S R J V W A
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Kid Scoop Puzzler

At the end of training class, Indigo and Ella get a special treat. Color the shapes with one dot BLUE. Color the shapes with two dots RED to reveal this crunchy treat.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

The Online Scoop To learn more about Ella, Indigo, Peabody and other sea lions at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, go to www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

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

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

STRANDED EXPERTS POSITIVE TARGET TRAINER TANK OKAY TRUST FLIPPER INDIGO LIONS TREAT LISTEN FISH BALL

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Play with the Parts of Speech

Select an article from the newspaper and cross out every noun, verb and adjective. Ask friends for new nouns, verbs and adjectives to replace the ones you crossed out. Read the article with the new words.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing.

Write On!

Sea Lions at School

Imagine you were at school one day and found sea lions walking into your classroom.

Kid Scoop Together: Old Man Peabody

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom's Peabody is 28 years old. Sea lions in the wild usually live only 15 to 18 years, so Peabody is really old for a sea lion.

The Show Must Go On

When he was nine years old, growths on his eyes made him blind. Sam became his “seeing-eye person,” and he actually continued to perform in shows. Recently, eye surgery returned his sight.

See video of Peabody at www.kidscoop.com/kids

Try guiding a reading buddy through this maze. Have them close their eyes and hold a pencil. Direct them through the maze by saying things like “Draw a straight line downward, now STOP. Move the pencil to the left, now down” and so on.

START **END**

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: BEHAVIOR

The noun **behavior** means the typical actions of a person, animal, thing or group.

For some sea lions, balancing a ball on its nose is a natural **behavior**.

Try to use the word **behavior** 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 ..."

Fields of Athenry Kitchen Patio

– By George E. Humphries

Snickersville Turnpike, gliding along north to south in between Route 7 and Route 50, is well known for its beautiful scenery and horse farms. Now those enjoying this lovely country route have a place to stop along the way for an elegant lunch prepared from locally produced ingredients, at the new "Fields of Athenry Kitchen."

The farm, named the Fields of Athenry – from an Irish ballad by the same name – sells pasture-raised, hormone and antibiotic-free beef, pork, lamb and poultry, raw milk cheeses, local wines and more. Until recently, the farm's owner, Elaine Boland also stocked her farm shop refrigerators with smaller quantities of freshly made stocks, stews and chilies crafted in her own farmhouse kitchen. She also dabbled with opening up her farm patio to weekend shoppers and wanderers craving a freshly grilled lamb sausage sandwich and a glass or two of wine.

At the end of July, Fields of Athenry took an even bigger step when Elaine brought on a well-known culinary locavore named Wes Rosati, making him the Fields of Athenry's new resident chef. On July 28, the Fields of Athenry showcased its new patio service with a lunch menu celebrating locally grown, fresh and wholesome fare. Regular lunch service will start right after Labor Day.

Reviewing a kitchen on its first day of operations is quite unfair. A parallel would be putting to sea in an untested ship, the crew of which had just been assembled and never worked together before. Fraught!

But the Fields of Athenry kitchen had advantages which offset some of the limitations and hazards of a start-up operation, not the least of which was a very talented and experienced chef who among other things on his resume, was Executive Chef at the Lansdowne Resort.

Chef Rosati set up his serving operation



on the terrace where he dispensed dishes from his eight item menu to a steady flow of customers, several of them families with small children enjoying the countryside and a view of nearby pastures with sheep and horses. The day was blessedly mild, the terrace setting was appealing, and the food excellent. We critically tasted four of the eight items (Grilled FOA Kielbasa with a whole wheat pasta salad; BBQ Beef Brisket with a roasted carrot and beet salad; Chicken and White Bean Chili with raw milk cheddar; and Grilled Burger of FOA Ground Beef). We then feasted on a generous sampling of four others, which included FOA Seasoned Turkey Sliders garnished with pepperjack cheese and avocado and freshly made pickles; a Wedge Salad with FOA Bacon and raw milk cheddar; a Grilled Lamb and Beef Meatloaf Sandwich; and a Ragout of Red Wine Braised lamb with whole wheat pasta and grilled zucchini. We are pleased to say that all were excellent; there were no misses among them.

Along with the food, wine and beer are available.

The Fields of Athenry farm shop is adding a substantial list of prepared foods to its already extensive offerings of meats, cheeses, and other goods. FOA will also be selling sauces and "kits" of spices and mari-

Continued on page 28

Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard

Coming Home

Before the school year starts it is my master Mrs. B's tradition to have a fun family gathering around the grill one last time for the summer.

The cool evening breeze was settling in. Bernie and Laino (farm daughters) were down by the fields near the Beaver Dam Creek putting their ponies away for the night. Mr. B was working the grill and good smells began to fill the air. Mrs. B, family and friends filled the tables with yummy treats to compliment the dinner. Before I knew it, we all gathered round Grandfather under the story tree. I love family times like this because you never know what kind of a whopper of a story Grandfather will come up with!

Grandfather cleared his throat; ahhh um. Grandfather always did this as it bought him time to think and he stroked his chin. He began;

"Drifters in love many long years ago came upon a ledge of rocks hidden under some ancient maple trees. Beaver Dam Creek trickled quietly below, lulling them in, to make this their new home. That they did. Midnights had come and gone. One cool evening after a storm had cleared; two young Cairn terrier pups were born. Both mother and father were proud of the son and daughter that had come to them under the moon and stars."

Nellie, the farm Border Collie and I looked at each other. Grandfather lovingly winked at me as if to say – hush now and listen. My ears were in full alert!

"Many moons came and went and before they could blink the proud parents knew they could not keep their son and daughter from moving on in the world. One night in the moons golden beams the brother and sister were gone. The sister drifted off towards Leesburg, Virginia, where she would follow her dreams. The brother drifted towards Middleburg, Virginia, where he would work as a great

Fox hunter.

Now this is a story about the sister named Philomena.

After she ran away from home she learned about life – with a bright tooth Cairn terrier grin she learned she could have anything from anyone as she understood human's desires and their need for love. Always restless though, one human home after another, soon wore out its excitement and she would travel on. She traveled a one way path towards Sterling, Virginia as she knew her life would be more exciting than where she had been. Upon her arrival she saw the city lights at the foot of the hills. Her heart was beating and would not be still. The city lights beckoned her in. She shook her wiry Cairn terrier coat, sleeking her form with her tongue and practiced her best white toothy grin. She knew what she wanted, she knew what she was after, for Philomena loved to play and dance and grin. Sterling had what she wanted. Into the city she went."

"It was the same way back in all the other towns she had left. Human's would feed and care for her. Groom her hair for her. Be silly fools for her."

"One shop keeper found her and knew Philomena would be the answer to draw more customers in. The shop keeper had a handsome dog like no other Philomena had seen in her travels. He was a real cowboy's dog, much like Nellie there."

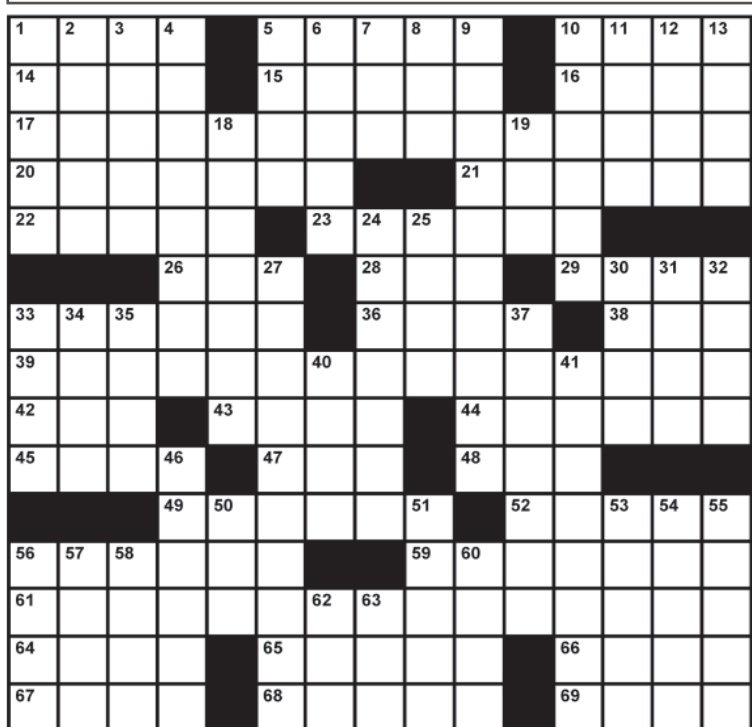
Nelly and I glanced at each other hanging on Grandfathers every word.

"The cowboy dog was sleek, long and firm in body. He knew he was different and not like the rest. Philomena grinned and danced as her heart leaped for joy to gain his affection. The strong handsome Cowboy did not play like the

Continued on page 28



Case Study – By Sally York & Myles Mellor



Across

1. Anita Baker, for one
5. Dandruff
10. Latte locale
14. High-five, e.g.
15. Hollywood agent "Swiftly"
16. City on the Yamuna River
17. CASE
20. Punishes legally
21. Sneak
22. Microwave, e.g.
23. Tree adornment
26. Lookout point
28. "Welcome" site
29. Q-Tip
33. Retro car
36. Decorous
38. Clod chopper
39. CASE
42. U.N. workers' grp.
43. Merlin, e.g.
44. Actor Wesley
45. Call to attention
47. Atlanta-based station
48. Scale notes
49. Good-for-nothing

52. Kind of battery
56. Catalog
59. Knotting technique
61. CASE
64. Nanking nanny
65. Woven fabric
66. Canal of song
67. British Conservative
68. Garden tool
69. Bluster

Down

1. Indian state
2. Andean animal
3. Accounts
4. The Mikado, e.g.
5. Pivot
6. Art able to
7. Action film staple
8. Backstabber
9. Most musty
10. Intrigues
11. Long, long time
12. At liberty
13. Benjamin Disraeli, e.g.
18. Moves screen text
19. ___ simple
24. Pier 1 merchandise
25. Bust maker
27. Recurrent
30. Congressional enforcer
31. Bang-up
32. Panhandles
33. Radar image
34. Congers
35. Freudian topics
37. Cartilage disks
40. City near Sparks
41. Ailment
46. Grin modifier
50. Encouraging word
51. "South Pacific" hero
53. Mrs. Bush
54. At full speed
55. Found a new tenant for
56. Doctor's abbreviation
57. Clash of heavyweights
58. Antares, for one
60. Assert
62. Affirmative action
63. Archaeological site

Community Togetherness

All Ages Read Together

— By Sue Civileto

All Ages Read Together (AART) is a non-profit organization that provides individualized school readiness programs to prepare children for a successful Kindergarten experience and beyond. AART is dedicated to serving low and moderate income preschool aged children.

AART serves local preschool aged children who have little to no exposure to reading and books. The youngsters are paired with senior citizens who help them learn essential skills to prepare them for kindergarten. These volunteers are mostly retired members of the community who work with a teacher on reading and other activities. These dedicated volunteers willingly provide time and talent to encourage and help educate the young learners.

This free program provides the children with an early taste of a classroom setting and inspires a lifelong love of learning. For most of the children who participate in AART, this will be their only preschool education before they enter elementary school. AART:

- Provides first exposure to books and reading;
- Gives free books to start in-home libraries;
- Prepares children for kindergarten; and
- Is a resource for children and families.

By the end of the program, each participating child will have at least ten books with which to create their own personal library.

Sandy Shihadeh is the co-founder of AART. Sandy worked for Loudoun County's parks and recreation department for 13 years. In 2006, she left her job and along with her sister, began the non-profit organization, All Ages Read Together.

The Fall 2012 session will begin in September. The following locations will be available: Carver Center, Purcellville (571-258-3400); St. James Episcopal, Leesburg (703-777-1124); The Senior Center at Cascades, Sterling (703-430-2397); Herndon Senior Center, Herndon (703-464-6200); Coppermine II, Herndon (703-793-3366); Hutchin-son Elementary, Herndon (703-925-8300).

If you are interested in volunteering or have a child that you would like to register for September, there is a registration form available on line. You can also use this form to make a cash donation. The website is www.allages-readtogether.org.

Please consider helping to provide this valuable program to children in our region. \$25 brings books for one week at a site. \$50 brings books for two weeks at a site. \$200 provides site supervision for one week. If you would like further information, please contact Sandy Shihadeh at 571-309-7089 or info@allagesreadtogether.org.

Are you interested in speaking to Sue Civileto about your organization? She'd love to hear from you — please email her at communitytogetherness.com.

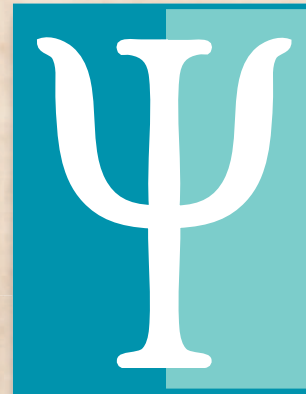
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Q: What Do Del McCoury and Watermelon Boats Have in Common?

A: Both are part of the family fun at Shepherds Ford Productions' Watermelon Park Fest happening along the Shenandoah River September 20-22, 2012!

Join us for the 9th Annual Watermelon Park Fest, a three-day Americana Roots Music Festival in Clarke County featuring music, workshops, camping, kids activities & more. Early Bird ticket prices through August 31. Admission is FREE for kids 12 and under! Visit www.watermelonparkfest.com or call us at 540.955.1621 for information and sales.

Present this coupon at the Fest Store to receive a FREE, really cool, Watermelon Park Fest Sticker!

WWW.WATERMELONPARKFEST.COM



Illustration by Jill Evans Kavaljian

It's Hot Out There! ... But Cool Things are a 'Happening!

Franklin Park Arts Center Welcomes New Crop of Home Grown Musicians

— By Andrea Gaines

The way music instructor Frank Keims effuses about the musicians known as “The Immortals” ... you’d think he was doing an introduction for the latest inductees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Immortals are a rotating group of young musicians drawn from Keims’ Loudoun Music Instruction business in Lovettsville.

In 2006, Keim began calling the parents of his most gifted students to push the idea of offering these young musicians the opportunity to challenge themselves with college-level music instruction and the chance to join with a real live band. This group of young men and women would be pushed hard. They would

need to maintain certain grade levels at school. They would be tested like undergrads and be given the opportunity to write music, and jam with and exchange ideas with others as talented as themselves. His most promising students loved it. And, not because it was some kind of teenage indulgence.

These high school level musicians study things such as major scale theory, melody composition, modulation, vocal technique, inversions, stage presence, song writing and arrangement, and more. And, they travel and perform in professionally scheduled shows, including a **signature local event at Franklin Park Arts Center on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012 at 7 pm.** 2012 Immortals members include Julia Hiser, a sophomore at Woodgrove High School studying piano, synth and vocals;

Joseph Keim, a sophomore at Woodgrove High School studying drums, piano, synth, and vocals; Ryan McCall a freshman at Woodgrove High School; Travis Guyton, a junior at Woodgrove High School; Tyler Scheerschmidt, a freshman at Woodgrove High School; Erin Taylor, a freshman at Woodgrove High School; and Abbe Scheerschmidt a junior at Woodgrove High School.

Also ... the Sun & Moon Come Out At Franklin Park on Sunday, Aug. 5 at 8 pm.

Maddy Curtis and Laura Keim are not strangers to the Loudoun County music scene. Both have been performing all around the county for a number of years, although not with one another. To change this unwanted

trend, they are now teaming up as an unconventional duo for a wonderful afternoon of music. They are both outstanding musicians and singers, and they will fill your ears with beautiful melodies and harmonies that will provide one excellent concert.

For tickets and information for both performances go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.



Old Times & New Times at Watermelon Park Fest

— By Nora Kavaldjian

Nestled in the curve of the Shenandoah River in Berryville, VA., is a grassy park crisscrossed with dirt roads, peppered with old trees, and holding a handsome stage at the crest of a hill overlooking the water. While the park is filled with campers all summer, every September this stage is brought to life by Watermelon Park Fest, Sept. 20–22: a festival celebrating traditional music. Bluegrass,

country, jazz, old-time, Americana, and more coexist at the three-day festival, each taking their turn at the main stage, side stage, and dance tent – as well as in the sprawling camps that spring up in the park, where there is always another jam to be found even long after the sun has set.

Old-timers will remember Watermelon Park Fest when it hosted musicians like Johnny Cash and Patsy Cline, but more and more the festival is attracting younger fans. I have

been going to Watermelon Park Fest for several years now, beginning when I was about 12 years old, and even through that time I’ve seen how much attendance has grown and how many people around my age – and younger! – have been taking an interest in the festival. Still, the question must be asked – what is there for a kid to do at Watermelon Park Fest? Quite a bit, as it turns out.

Watermelon Park is primarily a music festival, but it’s more like one gigantic party. The

extensive camps house people of all kinds – musicians, music fans, hippies, vacationers, and many others – and no matter who you are, there’s bound to be someone like you. I remember, one or two years ago, when a family first came to the park and camped... in their gigantic, home-altered school bus. I could barely believe my eyes when I caught sight of the bus, light lavender with delicately painted green vines on its sides. In any case,

Continued on page 29

11th Annual Something HOT

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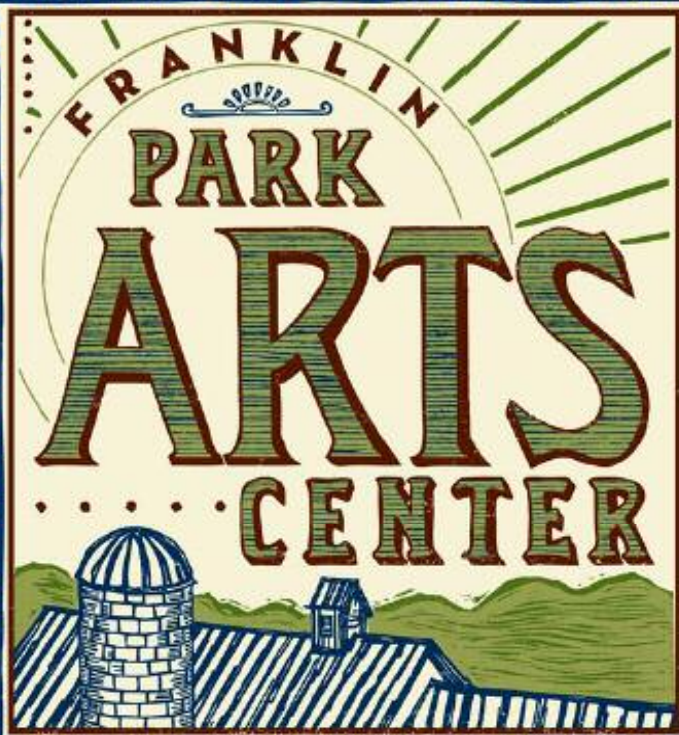
Be there! ArtSqaure!

ART

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- studios
- classes

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the center of Loudoun's visual arts



August Events!



The Immortals

Saturday August 4 ~ 7 PM

\$7 All Ages Tickets at the Door

The Immortals are a group of teen musicians who have achieved amazing success in Loudoun County. Formed from students of Frank Keims' Loudoun Music Instruction in Lovettsville, The Immortals have performed at Youth-Fest, Rock the Field and were even invited to play at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame! This will be the final concert before college for some members!

Maddy Curtis & Laura Keim: Sun and Moon

Sunday August 5 ~ 8 PM



\$12 Adults \$10 Stu./Sen.

Tickets at the Door

Maddy Curtis and Laura Keim are not strangers to the Loudoun County music scene. Both have been performing all around the county for a number of years, although not with one another. To change this unwanted trend, they are now teaming up as an unconventional duo for a wonderful afternoon of music. They are both outstanding musicians and singers, and they will fill your ears with beautiful melodies and harmonies that will provide one excellent concert.

Don't Miss Our 2012-2013 Season's Opening Weekend!



Last Ham Standing

Friday September 21 ~ 8 PM

\$12 Adults; \$10 Student; \$5 Child

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American Shakespeare Center: Twelfth Night

Saturday September 22 ~ 2 PM

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August

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

☉ **Saturday, August 4, 10 am to 4 pm, Mt. Pleasant Annual Church Picnic, Public invited!** Taylorstown, VA. Classic country and gospel music – The James Boys. Food for sale, activities for kids. For more information, call 540-822-5331.

☉ **Saturday, August 4, 16th Annual Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) Butterfly Count.** Participate for the morning starting at 9 am or join LWC for the full day. See more than 50 species of butterflies. \$3 fee per adult goes to the North American Butterfly Association (fee is waived for Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy members). Contact Nicole Hamilton for details: nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.

September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril by Dennis E. Frye, Chief Historian Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

On Sunday, August 12, the Lovettsville Historical Society's 2012 Lecture Series will feature prominent Civil War historian Dennis Frye speaking on the grave crisis that confronted the nation in Summer and Fall of 1862, which is the subject of his latest book, September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril.

In September of 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee invaded Union soil, capturing Harpers Ferry and panicking entire cities, especially in western Maryland. The Confederate advance caused the North to rethink the fight, questioning whether it were better to redouble the war effort, or give up and let the South pursue its own course. As Mr. Frye puts it: "For three weeks in September, the air was electric,

☉ **Saturday, Aug. 4, Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee Program at Burwell-Morgan Mill, 15 Tannery Lane, Millwood, VA. 7:30 pm.** The MHAA Gray Ghost Interpretive Group will present a living history program titled "1864: The Year of Clarke's Torment" emphasizing life in Clarke County during the American Civil War.

☉ **Through Sunday, August 5, "Big Piece of Paper" Art Exhibit** sponsored by Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center. Exhibition features works in a variety of media by local and regional artists who have incorporated a large piece of brown Kraft paper into their artwork. Call 540-338-7973, or see www.franklinparkartscenter.org for more information.

☉ **Wednesday, August 8 & 15, 5 pm to 8 pm, Oatlands After Five.** Wander the garden, bring a picnic, a bocce ball set, or just spread a blanket on the front lawn, relax and enjoy the scenery. Select Wednesdays will feature wine sales. Visit www.oatlands.org for event updates.

☉ **Saturday, August 11 – MUSIC!** Market Street Coffee, 1020 E. Main Street, Purcellville, VA. Meade Skelton, a piano playin' cowboy, will perform from 7:30-9:30 pm.

nerves were at the breaking point, and the whole of the North held its breath."

Mr. Frye has especially drawn on newspapers of the period, to show just how fragile the national bond had become by the September 1862. Mr. Frye, the chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Park, is also a prominent lecturer, guide and preservationist, and was an associate producer for the movie Gods and Generals. September Suspense, released in June, is his eighth book, and will be available for sale and signing at the August 12 lecture.

The lecture will be held on Sunday, August 12, 2012, at St. James United Church of Christ in Lovettsville, at 2 pm. For more information go to www.lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org.

Recurring Events

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

☉ **Birding Banshee**, Saturday, June 9, 8 am – Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy/Friends of Banshee Reeks monthly bird walk (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.

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

☉ **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.

☉ **Cooking Demonstrations, Patio Lunch and Fun, Saturdays throughout August, September & October at Fields of Athenry Farm!** Join the eager farmers & chefs at the farm for a delicious taste of freshly-prepared foods and wines on the farm patio (right after Labor Day)! Enjoy lunch and tastes from the farm's new prepared foods menu, 11 am to 5:30 pm. Enjoy cooking demon-

strations, too. Details at www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com.

☉ **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: Middleburg-Bridge@aol.com.

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

☉ **Teen Center – Friday Night After Hours** 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.

☉ **Youth Volleyball.** Registration is now open for Loudoun Youth Volleyball's Fall 2012 season until September 9. The league offers numerous divisions for middle and high school girls and boys. All skill levels are welcome. Volunteer coaches are needed and training is provided. Please visit www.loudounyouthvolleyball.com for more info and to register.

☉ **Saturday, August 11, Classic films!** The Tally Ho Theatre in historic downtown Leesburg, Virginia is airing DOUBLE FEATURES of classic films. The lineup includes: • Troll 2 (8pm) • The Room (10pm). Tickets are \$5 per film or \$7 for the DOUBLE FEATURE.

☉ **Sunday, August 12 Ice Cream Social!** Philomont VFD Auxiliary's Ice Cream Social at the Philomont Firehouse. Live music, home-made

ice cream contest. Donations only. 4 pm to 6 pm.

☉ **Saturday, August 18, Quilting Workshop.** Joshua's Hands offers summer workshops designed to reconnect people with our American heritage! Quilting workshop from 10 am to 2 pm. No experience necessary. All materials will be provided. They ask attendees to "pay what you will." Information at www.JoshuasHands.org.

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Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21

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LCDS Graduation, continued from page 12

Memorial Award. The Philip E. duPont Award is given to the graduating eighth grader who most visibly demonstrates concern and compassion for fellow LCDS students. Megan Mazzatenta and Rachel Wilmans were co-recipients of the Headmaster's Prize. The Headmaster's Prize is given to a member or members of the graduating class who best exemplify the philosophy of the school, which includes a supportive attitude, daily evidence of supporting the rules and standards of the school, the qualities of good citizenship, and a genuine love of learning. The recipients of these two awards are selected by the middle school faculty.

Loudoun Country Day School's 2012 Graduating Class: Anwer Sayed Adem, Omar Mohamed Ahmed, Esther Lillian Beauchemin, Aidan Michael Bruecken, Emily McCann Cleland, Ben William Cross, Darby Spencer Dettra, Chaz Laurence DiLoreto, Jack Carter Forrest, Nicholas Marc Fouty, William Martin Greening, Ann Tait Hall, Jessica Lynn Herman, Wilder Joseph James, Molly Fairbank Kavanagh, Olivia Lattanzi, Megan Teresa Mazzatenta, Christopher Julian Miller, Kylie Beatrice Miller, Tyler Benjamin Nightingale, Eli Gavin Robertson, Alexis Morgan Russell,

Lindsey Meredith Rus, Matthew Thomas Suder, Rachel Grace Wilmans, James Douglas Woods, and Lexie Elizabeth Zwanziger

Students have been accepted to the following secondary schools: Blair Academy (Blairstown, New Jersey); Deerfield Academy (Deerfield, Massachusetts); Episcopal High School (Alexandria, Virginia); Flint Hill School (Oakton, Virginia); Foxcroft School (Middleburg, Virginia); Hotchkiss School (Lakeville, Connecticut); Lawrenceville School (Lawrenceville, New Jersey); Loudoun Academy of Science; Madeira School (McLean, Virginia); Middleburg Academy (Middleburg, Virginia); Paul VI Catholic High School (Fairfax, Virginia); Potomac School (McLean, Virginia); St. John's College High School (Chevy Chase, Maryland); Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology; and Woodberry Forest School (Woodberry Forest, Virginia).

According to Headmaster Dr. Randy Hollister, "It is noteworthy that three students from this year's eighth grade class were accepted to the Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology. This is an impressive list of schools. We are happy for our students and their families."

Greenway Toll Structure, continued from page 19

and the new Beltway Express Lanes, Loudoun residents are going to face dramatically higher transportation costs than most other residents in the Commonwealth.

"These outrageous tolls cause cars as well as large trucks from most area businesses to divert to side roads and residential streets," Wolf continued. "Route 7, often the only available alternate route, is at capacity around the clock, including weekends. When large trucks divert from the Greenway, they clog local roads and often use neighborhood streets. This puts additional stress on these roads, adds to congestion and puts the public at risk. No one wants their children playing in the front yard or on the sidewalk when a large truck rolls through their neighborhood

all to avoid a toll."

Wolf has been vocal in calling for distance-pricing on the road similar to other public and private toll roads in the county and has worked with Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton to establish a Dulles Greenway Advisory Committee to study ways to make the road more user-friendly.

In May, the design for new signs clearly stating what tolls will be prior to users committing to take the road were approved. One sign will be placed on the west-bound Dulles Toll Road prior to the Route 28 exit, while two more will be placed on Route 772 in both the east and west-bound directions. Wolf requested that the signs be erected.

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

I guess most kids have a thing for airplanes, and there's at least a part of me that wants to stop and look every time one flies over – and the bigger the plane, the bigger the draw. And, oh, yeah – sure, there are lots of little 'putzers' that fly over my house in and out of the Leesburg Executive Airport – even some reasonable sized corporate jets; that's fine, but I'm still more lured to scan the horizons for the big boys – the jumbo jets looming out there on the edge of the skies – on their way to and from Dulles. I guess if 500 million customers can't be wrong (that landmark just occurred this past June), that makes our international hub one of the most popular places in these here parts, and I'd have to agree; it's really been inevitable that I would come to write about this thriving location at some point in this ongoing – movable – series.

See, for me, part of the allure of Dulles Airport is just in that raw energy about the place – all those people – and the machines of course – on their way to some important place or other. And, when I'm there, I always get the sense-memory of my time spent in New York City – a very fast-paced portion of my existence.

But it's not just the rush-rush of catching a plane or arriving from elsewhere that I've done at Dulles; No, I've really had a wide-ranging collection of

experience at this – one of my absolute favorite places in Loudoun County. Of course it's always brought my family together, and for that it's got a special – eternal – place in my heart.

Beyond that, I've seen many wonders: the Airports Authority's expansion projects like the underground train system – I got to watch it develop from the planning stages – same goes for new runways, concourses, air traffic control tower, parking garages – the mind boggles. I've spoken to fighter (and cargo) pilots during the annual Dulles Day Festivals; hey – I even got to witness the landing and takeoff of one of the first Pokemon (remember Pikachu?) 747's at one of those events. I attended the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Berlin Airlift in 1998- and still recall some of the moving commentary from military and civilian leaders. I witnessed – right from the side of the runway – the supersonic Concorde come in and land – for placement in the Air and Space Museum on the southern end of the Airport. That rare beast made more noise in landing than the other big, commercial jets did in taking off – my ears are still ringing.

And, speaking of the Udvar-Hazy Center for just a moment – I was on hand when they wheeled



the SR-71 Blackbird up to the door for enshrinement in the massive display hall – a real Valhalla for air and spacecraft. I even saw the un-crating of their Flying Tiger (a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk) and spoke to the (now, alas, late) World War II Ace Don Lopez about the historic stamp hammered home by these relics and their pilots. The Smithsonian made sure I got to talk to Senator and Astronaut John Glenn about orbiting the Earth (and to actor John Travolta – about a shared favorite passion – relic airplanes).

But- back to Dulles Airport proper – we'll talk about the Museum at greater length some other time; you'll recall that I've an especial affection for this monster, juggernaut of a place- as imposing as it is – in many respects – in great part, because it's drawn my family together at various times- either bringing loved ones to my home or taking me to them. And that's the predominant feeling I get every time I pass the Airport – remembering the magical connections that it's allowed me to experience over the years.



Dulles Airport

I only hope this relationship continues as we both (the Airport and I) sally forth into the future. See – Dulles just turned 50 this year – and she's still growing – a mere youngster by all indications. Any of us humans hovering around that milestone certainly don't want to be doing too much expanding – at least in the physical sense.

But, I'll still look for common ground with my big, lovable friend down in the southeast corner of the County. Maybe we can celebrate 100 together. (Image courtesy of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.)

The Monster That's Eating Your Roof

– By Valerie Joyner

If you look at the north facing roof any single family house built with asphalt shingles in the past ten to fifteen years, you will most likely see black stains flowing down the shingles. In some cases there are additional colors in the stains like reds, greens or gray. What is growing on your roof is a complex set of living organisms that is adapting to a new food supply, your roof. These roofs can be seen in Purcellville and adjoining areas. Depending upon conditions of humidity, shading, adjacent trees or vegetation, color, age and slope of the roof, the stains may be minor or major in nature.

What's growing on these roofs is a combination of algae, lichens, fungus, moss and bacteria. These organisms will only grow on areas of the roof shaded from the sun. In addition, the organisms need moisture and

food to grow. The main reason that the organisms don't grow on east, south or west areas of a roof is that the sun usually heats those areas above the boiling point of water which destroys the cells of the organisms. (In addition, the ultra-violet light from the sun is a strong disinfectant, and will destroy organic cell DNA.)

The reason that these organisms are on your roof in the first place is that the modern asphalt shingle contains limestone and/or marble dust as filler that increases shingle weight to provide resistance to wind damage. Chemically, limestone is calcium carbonate and identical to the stuff that you put on your lawn to make your grass grow better. It turns out that limestone is cheaper than asphalt and other non nutritive stones. The fungus that is eating your roof, *Gloeocapsa Magma*, loves limestone, as evidenced by the way it attacks

old tombstones and statues made of limestone. The fungus has developed a symbiotic relationship with the other organisms on your roof, in that, the lichens and moss form a protective coating that absorbs water and shields the fungus from any remaining sunlight.

So what can you do about it? Well it's a two step process as shown the TV program "This Old House." The procedure uses zinc metal strips to kill the lichen and fungus long term and bleach and water for immediate treatment.

For more information about how tackle the problem, here are several websites:

- www.z-stop.com
- www.saversystems.com/roof-cleaning-articles/155-asphalt-roof-cleaning-a-stain-prevention
- www.nachi.org/asphalt-comp-shingles-part42-96.htm

Hunt Country Gourmet, continued from page 21

nades to make spreading a healthy family table easy. Chef Wes also will cater groups at the farm.

Fields of Athenry is just off route 734, otherwise known as Snickersville Turnpike, not far from Philomont and 0.2 miles southeast of Hibbs Bridge, a notable landmark being both the terminus of Watermill Rd. from the north and Hibbs Bridge Rd. to the south.

For many reasons, as the Michelin Guide puts it, Fields of Athenry is worth a trip. The countryside along the Turnpike is delightful, the Fields of Athenry farm is a very pleasant setting, the products for sale are unique in their content, and the restaurant fare is delicious.

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

Sushi, continued from page 21

rest for he was insanely jealous. He hurt inside for his shop keeper had brought into his territory a young little flirt. He shot Philomena a look, as if looks could kill, and she knew this young cowboy had his fill of her. He growled and he fussed at her scaring her more and he sent her away from the shop with her tailed tucked under and her heart forlorn. For you see, Cowboy was the star of his shop and no one but no one was going to intrude upon his thunder. Defiantly, Cowboy ran Philomena out."

Grandfather continued ... "Philomena was tired and sad. She decided to return back home. She had learned that the grasses look greener over the fence, but when all was said and done, life with her family was really the best. Homeward, Philomena trotted. Her heart was filled with joy as she remembered the love, peace and tranquility of her home by creek in the woods. As she thought about the cool running waters, the shade of the trees, the chasing of butterflies and the honey of the bees, she realized that her home really was the sweetness of life and that was something

she could have only learned to appreciate from her long wandering travels."

"She now knew that family is something you never forget and that the countryside has pleasures that are better than best."

So now my dear farm family ... think about Grandfather's story. Summer has come to a close and it is time to get your school books under your nose. Study hard for life is short. Good schooling brings competence, structure and responsibility. Make your Moms and Dads proud. Make "home", proud.

(And, come out to the farm and visit – fall is just around the corner! Love, Sushi!

My Master Elaine Boland runs Fields of Athenry Farm ... 38082 Snickersville Turnpike, Purcellville, VA 20132. We sell farm fresh meats, cheeses and more! And, we sometimes serve lunch on the farm patio. See us at www.fieldsofathenry-farm.com.



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REAL ESTATE TICKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

from the Metropolitan Regional Information System (MRIS) for the month of June (chart):

As you can see, there continues to be some improvement in the number of properties sold, and of the dollar volume year-over-year, and the days on market continues to drop, showing strength in the dominant sector of sales, but notice that the days on market month to month has increased by 13 percent, indicating that there's not as much "sense of urgency" in the market this past month as there was the month prior... could just be "summer doldrums"; we'll see.

Thinking about "moving up"?

At the risk of repeating myself too often, let me suggest that if you have been toying with the notion of selling your present home in order to take advantage of the incredibly low interest rates available today, and more importantly to grab a real "buy" in the more elevated price range you're dreaming of, NOW is the time to do exactly that.

In our area, the "affordable" homes are extremely "picked over", and as new listings come on the market priced somewhere within reason, they go very quickly (days, not weeks). You must still be able to write immediately, and be prepared to "escalate"

the price if you really want to get it.

What's different now is the fact that the homes just a notch above where you now live are starting to move. And this fact, after so many years of inactivity, will inevitably result in higher price points in the days ahead.

So if a move "up" is a part of your dreams for tomorrow, do it now.

Commercial and Investment Real Estate

There has been a steady increase in investor activity in this area. In our next issue, we'll take a look at what is driving this phenomena, and review some strategies that can afford you real promise for income growth, even in this chaotic market.

If you have specific questions you'd like answered right now, call me at 703-727-5025 or drop me a line at carl@ucnv.net.

Carl Fischer is the Broker/Owner of United Country Real Estate, specializing in commercial, investment, and selected residential properties, as well as Northern Neck of Virginia waterfront homes. He is licensed in Virginia and West Virginia, and is a member of the Dulles Area Association of Realtor (DAAR) as well as the Northern Neck Association of Realtors (NNAR)..

Amy Smith, continued from page 15

- Tax credits will be available to qualifying families to offset the cost of health insurance premiums (January 1, 2014);
- Employers with more than 50 employees must offer health insurance for their employees or be fined per employee (January 1, 2014); and
- Imposing taxes or fees on health insurance providers and drug companies, while doctors and hospitals will receive less compensation from government sources (January 1, 2014)

So is this it? While the Supreme Court has ruled the ACA constitutional, it may still face challenges as Congress may seek to repeal the law. The ultimate fate of the health-care

reform law may be determined by the outcome of the November election.

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

Watermelon Park Fest, continued from page 23

the camps are certainly a place to have fun – the vast majority of families that come are hospitable and cheerful, and many will welcome another guest to their party, their dinner table, or their jam. The environment of WPF is perfect for the cultivation of new acquaintances and friendships, or the growth and development of old ones.

Another activity, particularly for the much younger crowd, is the kids' tent. Though there's already a play set built into the park, the WPF folks set up a special tent with kids' activities running throughout the three days of the festival. Activities include art projects and live performances – I know this first hand, as my band the Polka Dots was enlisted to play a little concert at the kids tent one year; the next year we led a kids' musical parade all around the camp! And another kids' project, is the Watermelon Boat: Children would be given watermelons and a helping hand in creating hollowed-out boats, which were then set afloat in the Shenandoah River near the stage. I watched the boats floating as I performed, and I must say that I was a little jealous that I

didn't get to make one, because they were seriously amazing – floating down the river, a parade of green and red-pink.

Of course, the most important attraction is what the park is known for: the music! All through the three days and three nights of the festival music can be found everywhere, from the main stage to the camps. But one very important aspect of WPF is the casual, personal level on which everything is taken. Once, I even got to hug the headlining band, the Carolina Chocolate Drops, just because they were there! It had been late and I had nearly been asleep, but I still managed to grab an embrace from Rhiannon and Dom before they packed up their instruments. From jamming with the famous to just having fun in the audience, the music scene at WPF has something for everyone. And that goes for the entire festival as well – so full of life and energy, Watermelon Park Fest always leaves you with a smile on your face and a tap in your toes, already excited for next year's festivities.

Statistic	Values	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$251,832,379	+3.86%	+13.15%
Closed Sales	578	+5.86%	+13.11%
Median Sold Price	\$404,950	-1.23%	+1.24%
Avg Sold Price	\$435,696	-1.89%	+0.03%
Avg Days on Market	54 days	-10%	+14.89%
Avg Sold to Orig List Ratio	97.15%	+0.34%	-0.41

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

be at the same graduations and the same weddings, and you should work to resolve your issues as a couple now (together or divorced) so as not to place any undo conflicts or problems on your children later.

Dr. Mike,

I just learned from my husband that he cheated on me when he spent a year abroad as a college student one year into our relationship. He told me that the affair he had has caused him great stress and guilt and that he couldn't keep the secret any longer. I understand that we were 20 at the time and that was 14 years ago and before our marriage, our children, our house, etc. I'm still very hurt and angry about what happened and we haven't spoken for days. I'm sure our kids are picking up on the terrible energy and tension in our home. I also feel stupid for making such a big deal out of this because we have such a beautiful marriage and life together and a lot of time and effort went into to creating all the good that we have. He has always respected and trusted me, and I have always respected and trusted him...or at least I thought there was always mutually shared respect and trust. Not sure what to do. – C. in Loudoun County

C., The hurt that comes from being betrayed by a loved one does not have a statute of limitations. While the affair happened 14 years ago, it was after you made a commitment to one another, and he broke that commitment by cheating on you. You have every right to feel what you are feeling, and your husband should give you time to digest the hard news. Some things to keep in mind while you are processing things. First, you were both 20 at the time and 20 year olds do stupid and impulsive things sometimes. Second, you were not married. Third, since you have been married you note that you have both worked hard to co-create a wonderful life, which now includes children. Fourth, your husband did not need to say a word about his dishonest behavior from 14 years ago, but it seems he did out of his respect and love for you. In time, this wound should heal. If it does not, I recommend you seek the assistance of a couple's therapist to help the two of you work through this news.

Dr. Mike,

It seems as though my 12-year-old son has developed a fear or phobia due to the Aurora, Colo., shootings. We were going to see the film as a family the other day, but

he pulled me aside to tell me that he was scared something might happen. My husband and I then did everything we could to reassure him that nothing would happen but to no avail. We didn't end up going to see the movie. My son is very sensitive, so we aren't really surprised by his response. Any thoughts on how to help my little guy get through this? – F. in Loudoun County

F., The Colorado shootings were naturally very upsetting to many parents and children, and as the director of a private mental health practice and a psychologist, I have been inundated with numerous questions from many of my patients' parents this past week on the matter. Children develop fears and phobias when they are unable to manage the feelings they are experiencing in response to a stressor or trauma. You write that your son is a sensitive boy, and it may be the case that his temperament or personality style has left him emotionally vulnerable to adequately deal with the horrific news. I recommend a few things to consider to get your son back on track.

First, your son is watching how you act or react to the news as parents, so you need to remain calm and reassuring. Be the strong pillars he can lean on to get through

this, by focusing on clarification and support when discussing the shootings or the Batman movie. Second, you may want to gradually expose your son to the stressor in order to overcome his fears. Perhaps you could suggest a going to a different movie; just being in a movie theater would be a good first step for him. You could perhaps also recommend watching Batman movies on DVD and in the comfort of your home.

By mastering his anxiety by gaining closer proximity to the stressor, your son's fears should lessen over time. Watch your son's emotional and behavioral functioning closely over the next few weeks. If he becomes more clingy and dependent or acts younger, if he becomes increasingly avoidant, if he continues to discuss the movie or what happened, if he demonstrates increased anxiety with separation, or if he just seems to be worried or preoccupied in general, I recommend taking him to a child psychologist for a consultation.

Michael Observantine "Dr. Mike" is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological Services (APS), a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinicians. He and his team are here to serve our Loudoun children, teens and adults. To learn more about Dr. Mike and the APS team, please visit: www.ashburnpsych.com or call (703) 723-2999.

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Purcellville Wine and Food Festival Brings Good Times to Old Town



The Purcellville Wine and Food Festival enjoyed a healthy turnout on July 21 in Old Town Purcellville.

21st Street merchants opened their doors and dressed up their outdoor spaces.

Martha Mason Semmes (small inset photo) let her hair down in a flash mob street dance organized by Sara Johnson, a dance instructor at Loudoun Valley Community Center.

Revelers enjoyed live music from the likes of The Polka Dots, Andrew McKnight, Acoustic Burgoo, Andros, Mark Cullinane, and Michael and Paige. (Catch the dance on the Blue Ridge Leader facebook page: face-

book.com/purcellvillewineandfoodfestival.)

Local wineries held wine tastings. Restaurants and vendors offered food for sale. Kudos to the town for a great time!

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 NEW LISTING 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 5000 sq ft, 1.4 acres Leesburg \$825,000 LO7893389	 NEW LISTING 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2500 sq ft, .09 acres Ashburn \$439,900 LO7893308	 PRICE REDUCED 4 BR, 2 BA, horse farm, 11.41 acres (2 lots) Lovettsville \$649,900 LO7844509
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EVEN MORE! Lovettsville \$150,000 2.8 acres Leesburg \$599,000 Commercial Bldg. on 1/3 acres	RENTALS Bluemont \$1300/month Leesburg \$3800/month Sterling \$1700/month Waterford \$3350/month	 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 3588 sqft 3.58 acres w/ pool Leesburg \$589,990 LO7816890
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