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October 2012

Autumn Hill Neighbors Say No to Massive Development

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

Last December Brookfield Autumn Hill, the owner of the Autumn Hill property north of Purcellville, filed a lawsuit requesting that the court order the county to allow construction of 492 town houses (quadruplexes) using a communal well and septic system. Efforts by Supervisor Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge) to broker a compromise between the developer, the county, and the surrounding communities have not borne fruit.

Neighbors of the property exhibit near unanimity in their opposition to the original concept and to a new proposal that would allow construction of approximately 250 homes on the 75 acre property. Ed McCawley, a director on the Chestnut Hills HOA Board, surveyed members of the community this summer. Contacted by email, he responded, “Our community members are unanimously against both

“One neighbor, William Baker, said, ‘It doesn’t make sense. There’s nothing between Leesburg and Round Hill that compares to what they want to do on that property. It doesn’t fit.’ ”

such developments.”

The primary concern appears to be the project’s sheer scale. One neighbor, William Baker, said, “It doesn’t make sense. There’s nothing between Leesburg and Round Hill that compares to what they want to do on that property. It doesn’t fit.” Other concerns include its construction of a segment of the Northern Collector Road and the use of an alternative septic system.

The legal issue is a proffer requiring the development to be served by Purcellville water and sewer. The developer argues that if the town refuses to provide utilities, the county

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New Purcellville Apartment Complex Project in Planning Stages

Attorney and developer Mark Nelis, a member of the Loudoun Government Reform Committee, spoke to the board of the Home Owners Association (HOA) of Old Dominion Valley in late September. Nelis is representing Nusbaum Realty which is considering a multi-family housing rental project on part of the Stupar Property on Hirst Road in Purcellville across from the Purcellville Public Safety Center. Nelis said that his client is interested in possibly purchasing 13 acres of the 20+ acre parcel that is located within the town limits of Purcellville and backs up to Old Dominion Valley Subdivision. Nusbaum Realty envisions developing an apartment complex on the 13-acre parcel.

Background

The Stupar Property, which was annexed into the Town of Purcellville over two years ago, is listed as “retail pads for lease,” as if it

were zoned for multi-use commercial already. However the property does not have zoning that will permit the type of development Nusbaum is seeking. Thus a public process to change the zoning will be required. The property is listed by Renaud Consulting, commercial real estate specialists; the listing agent is Mark Fontaine (whose family owns Renaud). Fontaine is the president of the Purcellville Fire Department.

Nusbaum has already completed a feasibility study and engaged Bowman Consulting. The project, if it goes forward, would consist of rental apartments for “certain characteristics of society,” Nelis stated. The tenant’s income would range from \$35,000-85,000; the rent would be in the \$900-1,200 per month range. “There is an acute need for affordable housing in Western Loudoun,” said Nelis.

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First Friday Purcellville to Continue With Halloween Theme



Photo Sarah Huntington

The overwhelming excitement and success of Purcellville’s inaugural First Friday event has driven the momentum for the second merchant event planned for Friday, Oct. 5.

Merchants experienced patron excitement and increased sales from the weather-perfect evening in September.

Each month, through December, mer-

chants will continue to endorse and offer specials for visitors in the downtown area – from specially priced products and free items for the kids, to live music and wine tastings from all over Virginia.

Coordinator of the event, winery owner Mary Beth Barbagallo said, “I decided to

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Emancipation Day 2012 “This is my home away from home ...”

– By Andrea Gaines

More than 250 people gathered at the Carver Center (the former Carver School) on Saturday, Sept. 22 for a very celebratory Emancipation Day.

Emancipation Day is an annual Purcellville, VA-based event that marks President Abraham Lincoln’s original Emancipation Proclamation, a watershed moment for the many African Americans – including slaves and former slaves – who called Loudoun

County home in the Civil War era.

This year, as in past years, the event drew families, freedom lovers, former Caver Center students and more from all over the east coast and beyond.

This year’s event was particularly meaningful for its robust attendance and wide variety of activities – from spiritual music to speakers to artistic displays and historic characters, including one young African

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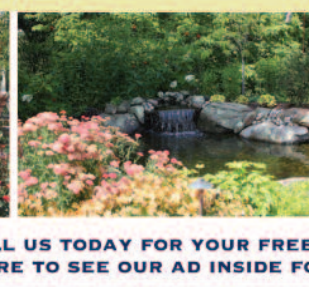
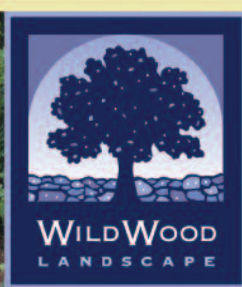
Living With Coyotes

Interviews with Virginia’s candidates for United States Senate, page 10.

Harvest Time ...



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Dr. Mike,

What are your thoughts on the Asperger's teen support group, Loudoun Gamer's Union? The group meets monthly at the Rust Library in Leesburg. I was told by the librarian who runs it that the group promotes gaming for teens while the parents meet separately in another room with her. As a mother of a teen with Asperger's, I am always open to new social possibilities, but am reluctant to try this one for a few reasons. First, my son games plenty enough and I don't see how the meeting is therapeutic. Second, I was told that there is no formal guidance for the teens. Third, what in the heck does a librarian know about Asperger's and what would we as parents speak to her about? Why would our local public library even sponsor or endorse something like this given all the possible liabilities? A in Loudoun County

A, I support the group in general, but I understand and appreciate your concerns and will address them in full. The Gamer's Union, which is hosted by the Rust Library in Leesburg, is not a treatment group. Rather, the purpose of the group is for teens with Asperger's Disorder to meet and to have fun doing what most teens like to do ... play video games. Lack of socialization is a key feature to Asperger's Disorder, so creating a forum for these teens to get together is really a great thing and therapeutic in my opinion.

The group is also advertised as being a networking opportunity for the parents of teens with Asperger's Disorder, which is also a good thing. I think your concerns regarding supervision and guidance are valid, and I too have concerns. More specifically, the library advertises that the group is for anyone between the ages of 12 years and 21 years. That is a huge age spread for a non-

Ask Dr. Mike



structured or loosely supervised social function for individuals on the autistic spectrum. Young and middle teens with Asperger's are in a much different place developmentally than individuals in their late teens or early 20s.

I do not know about the librarian's knowledge base on Asperger's, however, he/she is not purporting to be a pediatrician or child psychologist. I gather that his/her role then is to facilitate dialogue in support of parents. I would certainly hope that he/she is not there to give specific advice, referrals or recommendations to parents.

Lastly, to your point on liability. I suppose if something bad were to happen to a minor with Asperger's attending the group, the library (and the county for that matter), could possibly be held responsible. I think you should have an open mind. Why not attend the group with your son with the sole expectation to meet others and to have fun. If your son enjoys himself, and you feel comfortable as a parent, perhaps it can become a regular outing for the two of you. For more information about the Gamer's Union, you are invited to call the Rust

library at (703) 777-0323 or contact them online at library.loudoun.gov.

Dr. Mike,

My father has a terminal illness, and his doctors claim that he has "weeks to months" to live. Our 3-year-old daughter is very close to her grandfather, but my husband and I are struggling with how to let her know that her grandfather is dying. My husband thinks we should start preparing her now, but I am inclined to wait awhile longer. I also think that I have not yet come to terms with the pending loss of my father, which is why I am delaying the news to our daughter. We are Christians, and perhaps this is the right time to introduce the idea of heaven to her. The situation is just very sad for us as a family. Your thoughts are appreciated. E in Loudoun County

E, The loss of a parent is one of the most significant losses to face, so please take care of yourself as your situation unfolds. Whether that's speaking to your husband, family members, friends or a therapist, your focus should be on you first as you prepare for your father's passing.

While you cannot protect your child from the death of her grandfather, you and your husband can and should address the topic with care. Toddlers in general lack the notion of death being inevitable, irreversible or permanent. Developmentally at 3, your youngest child likely has a rudimentary understanding of death vis-à-vis the fairy tales or stories she knows or actual experiences she may have had with a pet, insect or flower. Given your situation, I recommend you start out with a conversation on illness with your daughter. The point being that grandfather is very ill and that bodies slow down when they get old. Discussing the topic of your father's serious illness is a

respectful way to prepare your daughter for his passing.

As long as your father is healthy enough to have visitors, I think your daughter should spend as much time as possible with him before he passes. Of course you will need to consider your father's health and needs, but your daughter's visits will also help her begin to understand the seriousness of his illness and the nearing end.

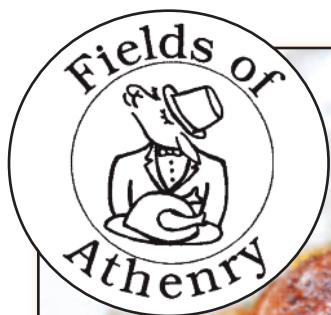
I would also encourage you to read a few age-appropriate books on the topic to your daughter. "The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages" by Leo Buscaglia is an excellent book on loss for children of all ages. "What's Heaven?" By Maria Shriver is also a good book for your situation.

I think you should have the specific conversation of death soon after your father passes. The conversation should be both loving and brief. At 3, your child could react to the news in a number of ways – she could become sad, tearful, clingy and increasingly dependent. She could have a meltdown or become silly and aloof and immediately distance herself from the topic or reality. At 3, death and heaven are demanding topics to grasp, so you and your husband will just need to supportively follow your daughter's lead as she grieves her grandfather.

As a mother who is close to losing her father, I would like to share a very moving excerpt from Judith Viorst's book, "Necessary Losses."

"When we think of loss we think of the loss, through death, of people we love. But loss is a far more encompassing theme in our life. For we lose not only through death, but also by leaving and being left, by changing and letting go and moving on. And our losses include not only our separations and

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Fundraising for a 27-Year-Old Breast Cancer Patient

A Hamilton family has organized a raffle to help a 27-year-old breast cancer patient.

Jocelyn Rodearmel was diagnosed in November 2011 with stage IV metastatic, triple negative breast cancer. The family is raising money to help with medical bills.

"It has been very difficult at times, to deal with all of this cancer stuff," Rodearmel said. "I think I expected that, to some extent. But what I never expected happening was all the outpourings of love and support from so many, from near and far away, and even from total strangers.

"It has been amazing and inspiring to see how many people care and to see their compassion and how much they want to help. Sometimes it's hard to take it all in."

The raffle offers tickets to win a Robert Griffin III autographed jersey, a Ryan Kerrigan autographed football, a Chris Cooley autographed jersey or an autographed football by Brian Mitchell. (Order tickets by leaving a message at 540-338-4530 or sending an email to giftsforjocelyn@gmail.com. Cost is \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five tickets. The drawing is on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Purcellville Tag Sale on Main Street. Tickets will also be available at the tag sale.)

Rodearmel graduated from BYU-Idaho in 2010 with an Animal Science degree, and loves animals. Her mother, Cynthia Johnson, calls her a "pied piper of animals," they find and follow her everywhere. She hopes to be able to live long enough to marry, raise a family, and enjoy some of the "normal" experi-

ences life has to offer.

"There are no words to share the pain of my heart as I watch my daughter, a brave young woman so young, dealing with such difficulties and tough decisions in her life," Johnson said.



"There are no words to share the pain of my heart as I watch my daughter, a brave young woman so young, dealing with such difficulties and tough decisions in her life ... As a mother, I want to see her experience so many more things that life has to offer ..."

— Cynthia Johnson Jocelyn's mom

"As a mother, I want to see her experience so many more things that life has to offer, especially the joy and love that is there for her, from God, family, friends, and as we are seeing, even strangers. I hope and pray she will be able to feel what is being given to her. I know that through this illness she is beginning a journey to understanding how much she is loved!"

To donate make checks payable to Jocelyn Rodearmel (memo line – Jocelyn's Cancer Fund), and mail to PO Box 56, Paonian Springs, VA 20129.

Donations can also be made by Paypal at giftsforjocelyn@gmail.com or go to www.giveforward.com/giftsforjocelyn.



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OpenBand Rejected ... Again

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

To the surprise of many, a second Board of Supervisors has rejected OpenBand's franchise application. The supervisors, six of whom received significant campaign contributions from M. C. Dean, OpenBand's parent company, and its employees, had hoped to negotiate a compromise that would satisfy both customers and OpenBand. These efforts failed. On Sept. 18, 2012, the Board, led by Supervisors Ralph Buona (R-Ashburn) and Shawn Williams (R-Broad Run) whose constituents are served by OpenBand, voted against the renewal 5-3-1.

OpenBand provides bundled telecommunications services – telephone, cable television, and Internet – to several central Loudoun communities. Decades-long agreements made with the communities' developers require residents to pay for OpenBand's products whether or not they use them.

While the county has no legal authority to regulate telephone and Internet service providers, it regulates the terms under which cable providers and open video systems operate in the county through franchise agreements. These agreements are subject to periodic renewal, offering the opportunity for renegotiation.

OpenBand began this renewal process in late 2009. County staff negotiated a draft agreement for review by the Board-appointed Cable and Open Video Systems Commission. Commission members immediately heard from dissatisfied OpenBand customers, who questioned the company's compliance with its prior franchise agreement, the quality of the service provided, the lack of timely technological upgrades, and the general lack of competitiveness created by the long-term agreements. In March 2011, a split commission ultimately relayed a recommendation that the Board of Supervisors approve the franchise agreement.

The last Board made several efforts to adjust the agreement to address some of the customers' complaints. However, OpenBand refused to accept key amendments and last November the prior Board of Supervisors voted 8-1 to deny the franchise agreement.

OpenBand Campaign Contributions Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Eugene Delgaudio	\$10,000
Suzanne Volpe	\$ 8,750
Janet Clarke	\$ 6,550
Matt Letourneau	\$ 6,000
Ralph Buona	\$ 5,750
Ken Reid	\$ 1,500

Source: www.jimburton.org

M. C. Dean and its CEO, William H. Dean, have long supported Republican candidates in Loudoun County and elsewhere. According to the Virginia Public Access Project, the company has contributed \$264,652 to Republican candidates since 2000; Dean has personally contributed \$42,000 in that period.

“The last Board made several efforts to adjust the agreement to address some of the customers' complaints. However, OpenBand refused to accept key amendments and last November the prior Board of Supervisors voted 8-1 to deny the franchise agreement.”

According to a campaign finance report analysis on www.jimburton.org, M. C. Dean, its CEO, and employees contributed \$37,050 directly to the 2011 campaigns of Buona, Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge), Eugene Delgaudio (R-Sterling), Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles), and Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian). The company also contributed \$15,000 to the Loudoun County Republican Party in October and November 2011. On February 10, 2012 William Dean, the company's CEO, presented Ken Reid (R-Leesburg) with a check as well. Delgaudio, Letourneau, and Volpe were the three votes against denying the franchise agreement; Clarke abstained.

Both Buona and Williams held out hope

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The Push For Central Water To Western Loudoun

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

The following report documents discussions that occurred in the Government Reform Commission dealing with a subject extremely important to Western Loudoun Communities. This month we present an objective report of the discussion which occurred, without going into the possible consequences of some of the decisions. Next month we will go into detail about possible consequences, primarily to Western Loudoun, if the Commission and the Board adopt some of the suggestions being made.

The Government Reform Commission concluded its study of Loudoun Water governance at its Sept. 26 meeting and adopted seven recommendations to forward to the Board of Supervisors. Much of the discussion centered on two proposals which were not included in the final recommendation.

Purcellville resident Tanya Matthews and Round Hill resident Mark Nelis, both of whom serve on the commission, led the effort to address issues raised during the Commission's February public input sessions, examining changes to Loudoun Water's structure and management that would enhance transparency, accountability, and fiscal management.

Nelis and Matthews received significant input from Loudoun Water's general manager and board treasurer, Dale Hammes, and suggestions from residents of Raspberry Falls. The Loudoun Water Board reviewed the initial recommendations and submitted a written response with additional suggestions.

Three recommendations addressed communications: Maximizing information posted on Loudoun Water's website, an annual presentation to the Board of Supervisors, and posting meeting information on the county government website. The Commission also suggested creating a formal appeals process and professional criteria for appointment to the Loudoun Water Board.

Two recommendations dealt with land use policies in western Loudoun. The first suggested that the Board of Supervisors review policies requiring community systems for certain subdivisions. The second recommendation, generated by Loudoun Water, proposed amending the zoning ordinances to prevent community system infrastructure from reducing “the number of developable lots allowed” in a subdivision.

The Commission removed a recommendation to establish uniform rates. Central system customers in suburban Loudoun typically pay a lower rate than residents whose community systems are managed by Loudoun Water. Using an analogy to the standard rates charged by electric utilities, Nelis tried to retain this proposal in the final recommendation but failed. Western commissioners were reluctant to further incentivize community system customers' already significantly higher water usage; eastern commissioners were reluctant to subsidize the higher operating costs of community systems with increases to central water rates.

Loudoun Water proposed that the Commission recommend a policy change supporting “consolidation of service areas by interconnection of community systems with other community systems or the central system, when feasible.” Currently, such connections require land use approval by the Board of Supervisors. Where such interconnection would link the central system to the Rural Policy Area, an amendment to the county's Comprehensive Plan is required.

According to Hammes, the Loudoun Water Board has been examining this issue for several months. Meeting minutes provide insight into those discussions. During the Aug. 30 meeting of the Loudoun Water Board's Path Forward Committee, members discussed Loudoun Water proactively spearheading consolidation of the community systems and connection to the central system:

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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

Why I'm Voting for Mitt Romney

Dear Editor,

I have been asked why I would vote for the Romney/Ryan ticket and feel a little like Elizabeth Barrett Browning so “let me count the ways.” But since I have a strict word limitation, I will just mention a few of top reasons.

Consider the U.S. and Argentina at the beginning of the 20th century. Both were mostly agricultural countries with abundant natural resources. We chose to go the route of individual freedom while Argentina chose the route of collectivism and provided everything for their citizens. The U.S. had historic growth and Argentina had consistent poverty. They tried to pay off their debts by print-

ing money and faced hyper-inflation. Now, today, this administration is printing money while the costs of some basic commodities are increasing rapidly. We are at the verge of a huge economic downturn due to the policies of this administration.

Gov. Romney is a man of unquestionable high moral values. He has consistently given to charitable causes with not only his money but with his time and energy. He has passed this trait on to his sons as one cherished family heritage. Romney gave away his entire inheritance to charities.

Professionally, Gov. Romney has developed numerous businesses and has become wealthy in his own right by being an astute

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Valerie Cury Joyner

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Andrea E. Gaines

Advertising

Judy D. Harbin
Carol Morris Dukes

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Hot News Tips: tipline@BRLeader.com
Webmaster: webmaster@BRLeader.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

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Committees at a Glance

Committees at a Glance

informs our readers about the inner workings of local government and how actions and decisions impact our everyday lives. Here we discuss a recent meeting of the Purcellville Town Council.

Purcellville Town Council Regular Meeting Work Session – Sept. 25, 2012

● Topic: 21st Street Streetscape Work

The staff report for this meeting focused on a part of Phase 2 of 21st/23rd streetscape improvements to include additional survey requirements and "Property line and right-of-way discrepancies."

The town and Kimley-Horn (engineers hired by the town) had a meeting at town hall in late August with developers Mark Nelis and John Chapman to discuss the issues that they need completed to move forward with their proposed hotel project on 21st Street. Recently the town council voted unanimously to create a tourism district for their property. Once in the newly created district they can have up to 9 years of certain tax breaks (they pay the tax and the town reimburses them back with grant monies).

The council voted unanimously (with Mayor Lazaro, and councilmembers McConville and Wiley absent) to approve approximately \$89,000 to do the study for the right-of-way and property line issues involved. Kimley-Horn has engaged Rice Associates to look at certain parcels in preparation to resolve conflicts with common property lines. There are 12 pin numbers identified which include numerous businesses on 21st Street (on both sides of the street). The scope of the work is as follows:

- ◆ Certified boundary surveys for the 12 properties
- ◆ Boundary line agreement plats, easement and dedication plats; and
- ◆ Meetings and coordination.

The meetings will be held to "assist in the resolution of boundary related issues."

Loudoun County Government Reform Commission – Sept. 27, 2012

● Topic: Loudoun Water, Adult Day Care, Privatization, Schools

Loudoun Water was the primary topic as the Commission adopted seven recommendations to forward to the Board. However, much of the discussion centered on two proposals absent from the final recommendation. (See article on page 4)

Sterling appointee, Woody Turner, presented initial suggestions for the county's Adult Day Care program. According to Turner, the Board of Supervisors initially asked the commission to research the program's steep increase in costs over the prior year. This was easily answered: staffing and operational expenses incurred in opening the new Eastern Loudoun Center.

Expanding the scope, Turner investigated ways to decrease the county subsidy. The commission discussed revitalizing an already existing fundraising organization, expanding means-testing to include household income, and changing the pricing model from a single subsidized rate to a cost-neutral rate with individually determined discounts based on need. No decisions were taken.

On privatization At-Large Commissioner John Whitbeck reported that CH2MHill, the service provider featured in the video, *Sandy Springs, Georgia: The City That Outsourced Everything*, had agreed to review staff's initial evaluations. Possibly the evening's most

Continued on page 9

What Are They Talking About?

This is the first in an occasional series, which will showcase some of the more interesting public comments made by members of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors during their regular business meetings. **DISCUSSED HERE:**

"Distance Pricing", and potential toll increases on the Greenway ... new Potomac River crossing, including to possibility of tunneling under the Broad Run Farms community ... new taxes to fund construction of a new Loudoun sports stadium ...

"I'm all in support of somehow finding a funding mechanism to purchase the Greenway for Loudoun County residents." (Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge) during a Sept. 5 discussion of whether the Board should endorse legislation by the General Assembly to study the feasibility of distance pricing on the Greenway.)

"I think what would be more helpful ... is to have the state look at the feasibility of tunneling this under the river and under the Broad Run Farms community. [Tunneling] may also be more palatable to Maryland because then it doesn't destroy, it doesn't hurt the views of the river and so forth." (Ken Reid (R-Leesburg) during a Sept. 5 discussion of whether the Board should endorse legislation by the General Assembly to study the feasibility of a new Potomac river crossing.)

"There's always the possibility that because it is a non-profit, privately run organization [the Loudoun Museum] could go away. I would appeal to this Board to consider looking into the county purchasing those historical items and maybe even having our own museum or finding a way to display them ourselves." (Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge) during a Sept. 5 discussion of whether to release \$31,500 in county funding to the museum.)

"Nobody will be paying a tax. No taxpayer dollars will be used unless you're

actually paying to go into the stadium. The average taxpayer who chooses not to do that won't have any impact. It only deals with literally people who are buying a ticket to go into the stadium." (Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles) during a Sept. 18 discussion of whether the Board should request legislative authority from the General Assembly to enact an admissions tax on tickets sold for events at a Loudoun professional or semi-professional stadium. Revenues from this tax would be used to pay for the stadium's construction.)

"With all due respect to my friend Supervisor Volpe, when I look from University Center up to that power line I'm looking at River Creek, I'm looking at Lansdowne, I'm looking at Howard Hughes Medical Institute. And don't take this wrong, but Broad Runs Farm is a very, very small neighborhood. Lansdowne is huge. River Creek is huge. So I don't know how we possibly rip down those kinds of houses, when you've got another neighborhood where, frankly, they are sitting on a tainted well ... and, in many respects, if they were bought out it might be the best thing that ever happened to them." (Ralph Buona (R-Ashburn) during a Sept. 18 discussion of whether the Board should endorse legislation by the General Assembly to study the feasibility of a new Potomac river crossing.)

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 4

businessman and understanding the business climate. An yes, he did build them. As a governor, he worked with both sides of the aisle or he would never have accomplished anything. Both houses were heavily controlled by Democrats. Hence, his record shows the ability and the willingness to work with both parties.

And, the top negative reasons start with contrasting that to President Obama. He has never had to make a payroll and has never had a job outside of the public sector. He has no experience to discover what is required to build a business. He has not put in the time to develop relationships within Congress to enable him to work with both sides of the aisle. He is an excellent speaker, with a teleprompter, probably a good golfer (he seems to play a lot), and might be a good guy to have a beer with. However, his policies have been demonstrably disastrous for the country. Furthermore, we really do not know him. Why all the secrets? He has never produced a long firm birth certificate. Why

are his college records sealed? Could it be that he claimed to be a foreign born student? Why spend millions to conceal everything if he has nothing to hide.

Yes, count me as firmly on the Romney/Ryan voting team. – Ben Belrose, Purcellville

Why I'm Voting for Barack Obama

I will vote for President Barack Obama next month so that he can continue fighting for the economic and social welfare of all Americans, while he brings our troops home from Afghanistan and maintains peaceful and productive relations with our friends and allies.

When Barack Obama won the 2008 election, I was delighted but thought, that poor man. Who would want to become President when the country was engaged in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and faced the threat of international terrorism? The U.S. economy was in crisis with major banks, investment and insurance companies, and

even General Motors close to failure. Millions of homeowners were facing foreclosure, industrial production and sales were slow and millions of Americans were being laid off. Rising health care costs plagued families and businesses while tens of millions of Americans had no health insurance. In our private economy, his power to boost production, create jobs, stabilize credit, and protect homeowners was limited.

The powerful U.S. military had been bogged down in Iraq for years while the campaign in Afghanistan needed greater emphasis and new approaches.

It seemed Barack Obama faced years of thankless hard work and frustration. Yet President Obama remained positive, brought our troops home from Iraq, transformed U.S. operations in Afghanistan, and decimated Al Qaeda's leadership. Osama bin Laden is dead.

President Obama certainly deserves credit for averting a national depression, ending the recession, and turning the economy

around. Production is growing, house values are increasing, more homes are being built, and employment is growing slowly but steadily. With passage of the health care reform bill, millions of Americans who had no coverage will receive medical care; coverage will not be denied because of some pre-existing condition or job layoff, and costs will be reined in.

President Obama has done all this while his congressional opponents have consistently voted to block his efforts to create jobs, build the economy, and serve the people of the country. He worked hard to win bipartisan support but was consistently rebuffed. Employment would have been greater and the economy would have grown faster if the congressional opposition had worked for the good of the country rather than for the defeat of the President.

I will vote for President Barack Obama because I believe he will continue to work for the American people – not just for the benefit of very wealthy individuals and very pow-

Continued on page 6

Virginians' Push For Property Rights

It's Not Over Until They Count The Votes

— By Wayne F. Pryor

As county Farm Bureaus began holding this year's annual meetings and picnics, their leaders began reminding members about the property rights referendum that will be on the Nov. 6 ballot.

It's a proposed amendment to Virginia's constitution that would protect your land from eminent domain abuse, and many of our producer members are very familiar with it. A year ago, they signed nearly 14,000 postcards to their state legislators in support of the amendment.

That was a tremendous — if not surprising — effort, but the Farm Bureau won't be finished working on getting this amendment passed until Election Day.

Your Farm Bureau organization has spent years building support for this amendment and shepherding it through two successive sessions of the state legislature. While it received bipartisan support, the ultimate decision will be made by Virginia's voters.

Question 1 on the Nov. 6 ballot will read: "Shall Section 11 of Article I (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development; (ii) to define what is included in just compensation for such taking or damaging of property; and (iii) to prohibit the taking or damaging of more private property than is necessary for the public use?"

Voters will be asked to choose "Yes" or "No."

If a majority of Virginia voters approve the proposed amendment, then the state constitution will be changed to incorporate the new language. The changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 2013.

Essentially, the amendment will cement the following protections for Virginia's landowners:

- No more private property can be taken than is necessary to achieve a stated public use;
- The condemner will have to prove that the intended use is public; and
- Property owners whose land is taken will be ensured fair compensation for their losses.

Opponents of the amendment have said Virginia's constitution already provides those protections. But, the Farm Bureau and other organizations don't believe it currently goes far enough. The proposed amendment would tighten the state's definition of public use, which at the moment is left to the discretion of the General Assembly. This new language in the constitution would ensure that your land cannot be taken and given to another private owner for development.

That's a detail too important to overlook.

Responsible voters owe it to themselves to be familiar with everything on the ballot before they step into the voting booth. That's why the Farm Bureau will be working in the coming weeks with the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Forestry Association, the Virginia Poultry Federation, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Americans for Prosperity and other organizations to build public awareness of the ballot initiative.

If you own property — or one day aspire to own property — I hope you will make time to vote on Nov. 6.

It's been a long campaign to get the proposed amendment on this year's ballot, but the fight's not over until officials count the votes. Be sure to make yours count.

Wayne F. Pryor is the president of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

Loudoun's Master Gardeners Accept Applications for Class of 2013

The Loudoun County's Master Gardener program is accepting applications for the Class of 2013.

The program is seeking individuals who are willing to give back to the community through volunteering and who have a desire to learn about gardening fundamentals. A gardening background is helpful but not required.

Master Gardeners are volunteers whose mission is to educate Loudoun County residents about safe, effective and sustainable landscape management practices. Volunteers receive extensive training under the auspices of Virginia Tech and the Loudoun County Cooperative Extension office to provide unbiased research-based horticultural information to the community.

"I signed up for the Master Gardeners program expecting to learn a few things about gardening. What I experienced far exceeded those expectations. From the depth and quality of the classroom instruction to the many opportunities to plug in and serve throughout the Loudoun County community, I am so thankful that I signed up for this program and look forward to continuing to be a Master

Gardener in the years to come. The new friendships gained have been an added bonus!" said Meredith Shipman, Class of 2012.

Programs include a year-round help desk to provide diagnosis, support and general horticultural and environmental information to individuals; seminars and clinics at community venues; the award-winning Demonstration and Teaching Garden at Ida Lee Park in Leesburg; speaking engagements that promote the proper care of lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits and vegetables; and special events throughout the county.

Training will begin on Jan. 29 and continue through April. Classes are held twice weekly in the mornings. Applicants also must complete 75 hours of volunteer work in their first year.

More information about the program and copies of the application are available at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org. An open house to answer questions will be held on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m., at the Loudoun Extension Office at 30 Catocin Circle, SE, in Leesburg.

First Friday Purcellville, continued from page 1

offer more choices in wine tasting, so bringing in Cobbler Mountain Cellars of Delaplane, Virginia, is just the beginning. With the cost of fuel going up, many folks are cutting back on their weekend travel. So we bring the wine to them. As we enter the fall season, we can find so many reasons to get outside, this is definitely a family-friendly event."

The event expands beyond 21st Street and includes businesses on Main Street.

Participating businesses will feature hors d'ouerves, wine, photography, art and

music — and some will offer more than one treat. There will be several wineries exhibiting their craft along with live music. The fun begins at 6 p.m. and continues until 9 p.m. The First Friday event will continue through December. Follow Purcellville First Friday on Facebook for the updates.



*Andrew McKnight
Photos Sarah Huntington*

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 5

erful financial institutions. I believe President Obama will continue to support fairness in our economy, respect for individuals, openness and honesty in government, intelligence and reason in policy choices, responsibility in the judicious use of our natural resources, conservation of the environment and wildlife, cooperation with international allies, and relentless protection of U.S. national security.

Finally, I find the Republican platforms to be cynical and informed by dubious thinking (Ayn Rand!). Water does not flow upwards and money does not trickle down! As a liberal I may be disappointed that more laws were not enacted while Obama had the Presidency and both houses in his first two years, but passing universal healthcare was a remarkable feat; long overdue for a great and humane country. The economic impact will prove to be very significant. Hope & Change may seem elusive in the face of gridlock, but I believe more than one term (and, as Obama is fond of saying, maybe more than one president) will turn the tide for us.

— Shirley Lyle Volberg, Purcellville

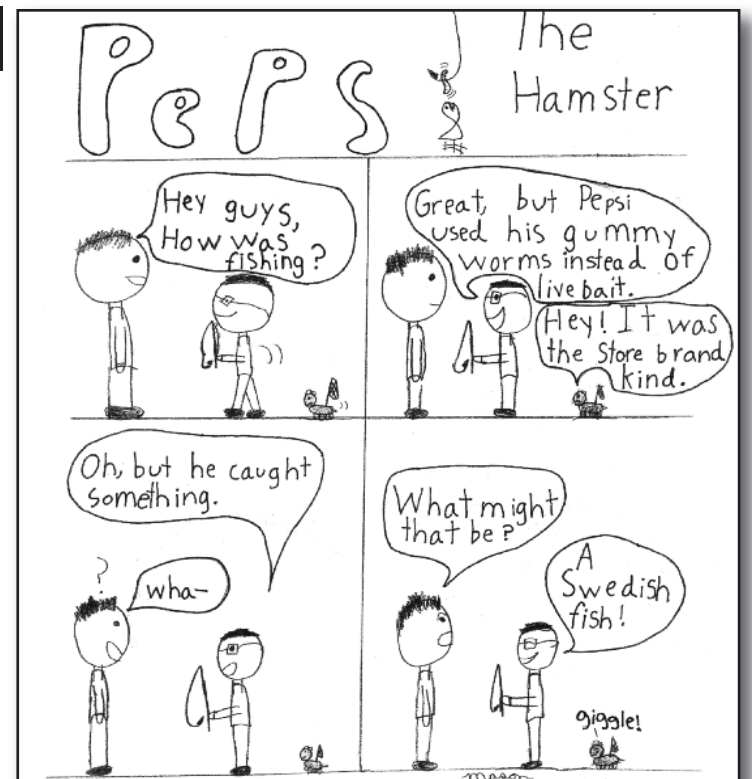
Who Will Represent All Of The People, All Of The Time ... Honestly?

Dear Editor:

I am deeply disappointed to have recently found out that my Loudoun County and Blue Ridge District representatives, Janet Clarke and Scott York, do not feel inclined to be open and transparent with all of their constituents, all of the time. Mrs. Clarke's recent actions are completely contrary to her flowery promises during the campaign. She stated in many speeches and on her website that she would "create more transparency, openness, and accountability in government to promote better communication between individuals and their elected officials." I would like to know when she decided that she would completely exclude Blue Ridge District residents living inside and outside the Town of Purcellville from two meetings regarding Autumn Hill and the "pending lawsuit" between the property owner/developer and Loudoun County.

Only because I try to stay informed on pressing issues, that I came across correspondence from Janet Clarke that was sent to only one HOA community and a few

Continued on page 7



Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

Roth IRA Conversions: Opportunities and Deadlines

— By Amy Smith

Potential increase in federal income tax may make 2012 Roth conversions attractive.

When you convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, the conversion is generally taxed as ordinary income (except for any after-tax, non-deductible contributions you've made). With the "Bush tax cuts" set to expire at the end of 2012, federal income tax rates will jump up in 2013. Unless Congress acts, we'll go from six federal tax brackets (15, 25, 28, 33, and 35 percent) to five (15, 28, 31, 36, and 39.6 percent).

While there continues to be discussion about extending the expiring tax cuts, many believe there's little chance of resolution until after the November election.

While no one can predict what Congress will ultimately do (or not do), 2012 may present an opportunity to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA at a potentially lower tax cost than if you wait until 2013.

You can convert now, or you can take a wait-and-see approach—you have until Dec. 31 to make a 2012 Roth conversion. Either way, if converting turns out to be the wrong decision, you'll have until Oct. 15, 2013, to "undo" your conversion, and it will be treated for federal tax purposes as if it never occurred.

Keep in mind that the potential 2013 tax rate increase is just one factor to consider when deciding if and when you should convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. If you'll need to pay the conversion tax with IRA funds, or if you think you'll be in a lower tax bracket when you begin taking distributions, a Roth conversion may not be right for you.

You have until October 15, 2012, to undo a 2011 Roth conversion

If you converted a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA in 2011, and your Roth IRA has sustained losses, you may want to consider whether it makes sense to undo (re-charac-

terize) your conversion. You have until October 15, 2012, to undo your 2011 conversion. (If you've already filed your federal income tax return for 2011, you'll need to file an amended return if you re-characterize.) A re-characterization can help you avoid paying income tax on the value of IRA assets that have been lost. When you re-characterize, your conversion is treated for tax purposes as if it never happened.

Whether it makes sense to re-characterize your 2011 Roth conversion depends on several factors, including the extent of the losses in your Roth IRA, and your expectations of where the markets may be headed. Your financial professional can help you decide if a re-characterization is right for you.

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 are those of the columnist. Contents prepared by Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc.

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Letters to the Editor, continued from page 6

other adjacent residents to the Autumn Hill proposed development of 492 homes near Woodgrove High School. This is now a lawsuit issue that is riddled with ridiculous claims of future losses which make the suit laughably frivolous, but certainly gives great cover for both parties to keep their discussions in closed meetings. I read the response by County Attorney Jack Roberts as he argued very eloquently the thin ice this lawsuit is based upon. But it is a very serious subject that Purcellville residents and the town officials have had many long, crowded, and heated meetings. My question is why two meetings were held by Blue Ridge Supervisor and county staff, and the 5,000 registered voters of Purcellville were not invited, nor did we receive one word about this issue after the meetings were held. One meeting was at the Purcellville Train Station in July and the other at the Purcellville Fire Rescue Squad building in August. Who gives these elected officials

the right to exclude any interested and concerned Loudoun County residents? Janet Clarke claims to be working with Chairman York, "towards an outcome that works best for the community." She went on to say in her letter to the Chestnut Overlook HOA, "the County will work on your behalf the best we can, based upon your input." I am greatly concerned to have Mrs. Clarke "negotiating" on behalf of Purcellville, it cost the county and the town well over \$7 million dollars, after she continually voted to continue to file lawsuits against the county to stop the building of a much needed High School in western Loudoun and caused the opening of the high school to be delayed by two additional years. It is a shame that residents must be so diligent just to find out what is going on. We should be offered the facts and details without having to ask, and when we provide our input it should be "We The People" that are listened to and not

Continued on page 21

Locally Grown WildWood Landscape Moves to Restore Nursery Site

WildWood Landscape, LLC one of the area's most successful landscape companies, has moved their central Purcellville location west ... to the corner of West Main Street and Bell Road. The spot is the former home of John Deere Landscapes and Overbrook Nursery. WildWood owner Jason Dengler, who built his award-winning company from the ground up in Purcellville — has dreamt about owning this site and making it beautiful inside and out.

"We are very excited about our plans for this 11-acre location. We loved Overbrook Nursery. It was a place to learn about plants, and they were friendly to homeowners and professional landscapers alike. They had well-educated staff to assist with everything from gardening and purchases to loading. A lot of what we know and appreciate about gardening and the gardening business we learned from Overbrook; we want to recreate that experience for our customers," Dengler said.

Even though the building and grounds are currently undergoing renovations, WildWood welcomes the community to stop by to learn more about their plans. Right now, customers can purchase mulch, top soil, compost and gravel. In addition to landscape design, construction and maintenance WildWood will expand its business in 2013 to

"We are very excited about our plans for this 11-acre location. We loved Overbrook Nursery ... A lot of what we know and appreciate about gardening and the gardening business we learned from Overbrook; we want to recreate that experience for our customers."

include retail sales of gardening materials and a wide variety of healthy plants, unique display gardens, bountiful plant and gardening information, delightful sitting areas and — most importantly — helpful staff who are expert and passionate gardeners themselves to assist customers.

Among WildWood's goals will be guiding customers through the process of how gardens come together and creating a dynamic garden-center destination — a place where families want to come and spend the day.

And, with education being a high priority, Dengler hopes to "provide the resources for landowners to learn how they can restore the natural canopy and soil in Loudoun County through sustainable gardening practices.

WildWood Landscape, LLC is located at 36328 Bell Road, Round Hill, VA, 20141. Their shop will be open Monday through Friday 9 a.m to 5 p.m. Telephone (540) 338-7190, Fax (540) 338-6905. Website: www.wildwoodlandscape.com.

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Finalists Chosen for Loudoun County's Premier Small Business Awards

The Loudoun County Chamber has announced the names of the 34 finalists selected to compete in eight industry categories in Loudoun County's recognition of small business excellence, the 2012 Small Business Awards.

The 34 finalists were selected by a blue ribbon committee of business leaders and industry experts, who carefully examined a record number of 347 nominations.

Beginning on Friday, Sept. 28 through Thurs., October 4, the public is invited to cast ballots to determine winners in the eight industry categories at www.loudounchamber.org.

"Just to be chosen as a finalist for Loudoun County's premier business award is a tremendous honor. The competition for the Small Business Awards is incredibly fierce, with 347 of the most dynamic, innovative and successful companies in the region striving to earn the most prestigious recognition for business excellence in Loudoun County," said Chamber President Tony Howard.

On Nov. 9 at The National Conference Center, the winners will be announced before more than 400 county business and community leaders at the annual Gala Awards Ceremony.

The 2012 Small Business Awards finalists and categories include:

Non Profit Organization of the Year:
Art Square

Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice /LAWS
Loudoun Habitat for Humanity
The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

Tourism & Entertainment Business of the Year:

Above Ground Winery
Goodstone Inn & Restaurant
Market Table Bistro
Stage Coach Theatre Company

Franchisee of the Year

Allegra Print, Signs & Design
Crown Trophy
Lisa Svendsen, Tastefully Simple
Independent Consultant
Plato's Closet Dulles

Retailer of the Year

Chantel's Cakes and Pastries
Loudoun Valley Floors/Loudoun Carpet Care Company
Loudoun Learning, Inc.
Re-Love It A Consignment Shoppe
Transition Triathlon, LLC

Technology Business of the Year

Capital Computers & Networks
Gallop Web Services, LLC
Image Matters, LLC
MESH Multimedia

Service Business of the Year

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Potomac Falls Express Lube

& Car Wash
The Catoctin School of Music
Total Equine Veterinary Associates

Home Based Business of the Year

A Poetic Peace
Country Way
Larry Miller, Inc.
Olivera Music Entertainment
Story Pie Press

Rural Business of the Year

Endless Summer Harvest
Notaviva Vineyards
Sunset Hills Vineyard
Wegmeyer Farms

The 2012 Small Business Awards sponsors include Middleburg Bank, Comcast Business Class, Comcast Spotlight, Charron Consulting and The National Conference Center. Tickets are on sale now and key sponsorship packages are also available. For more information contact the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce at 703.777.2176 or visit www.loudounchamber.org.

Minor League Baseball Team Coming to Loudoun

The Loudoun Hounds – a minor league baseball team that has been working to find a home in Loudoun County for over a decade – is just one pitch away from that dream.

VIP Sports & Entertainment and the team have announced a deal to move to One Loudoun – a large, multi-use development at Route 7 and Loudoun County Parkway in Ashburn. The project includes the construction of a new ballpark with seating for up to 10,000 fans – complete with 5,500 fixed seats.

"We are thrilled to have reached an agreement with the Loudoun Hounds. One Loudoun is the ideal location for this sports and entertainment venue and we are proud to be working with Bob Farren to make his vision for a new ballpark in Loudoun County a reality," said Bill May, vice resident of Miller and Smith, the parent company of One Loudoun. Bob Farren is the CEO of "HoundsNation."

The Loudoun Hounds had been planning to relocate to the planned Kincora development, but that plan did not move forward due to a lack of infrastructure at that site.

The Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today would like to congratulate all of the business and nonprofits chosen as finalists in the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Small Business Awards, including many of our advertisers.

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Committees at a Glance, continued from page 5

enlivening discussion was its review of a draft response to Loudoun County public school staff's evaluation of the commission's May memo regarding benchmarking school costs to county economic indicators and trends in the student-employee ratio.

At issue were not just the conclusions drawn by school staff in their June evaluation but the failure to forward or to even communicate its existence to the commission. According to Hamberger, School

Superintendent Edgar Hatrick, when questioned, explained that after presenting the information to the school board, he had not received specific direction from them to contact the commission.

As the commission worked through the draft, Dulles District Commissioner Barbara Munsey played "Mom," inserting some levity into the discussion with advice to "exhale, release the rage."

Emancipation Day, continued from page 1

American child dressed up as President Lincoln himself, complete with stove-top hat and crisp black suit.

As Syracuse, New York college student Richard McKinnon said: "This is my home away from home."

For Richard, who travelled to the celebration with his mother Sarah McKinnon, the event is a family affair.

Sarah McKinnon attended the Carver School in the first grade. But, decades and decades later her connection to the building and the place remains strong. "I still love my little home town," said Sarah.

Other attendees are equally moved by the history the Emancipation Day celebration helps all to hold on to.

"I was one of ten [students] that integrated Loudoun Valley High School," said Sylvia Smith, who now lives in Lorton, VA. "The Emancipation Day celebration means a lot because we made a path for the young

people here today to get a good education. I lived in the area when the NAACP came to town and went to the school board for greater equality for all students."

Sylvia, who attended the Carver School in 1953, also as a 1st Grade student, graduated from Loudoun Valley High School in 1966.

The former Carver School is now the Carver Community Center. Today, the building serves as a gathering place and a place that provides exceptional care to the county's seniors.

Art shows, plays, concerts and more occur regularly. A full service cafeteria serves thousands of meals per year. History – preserved and on display – is everywhere. Many former students have donated memorabilia to the center, turning it into a living museum for the hopeful students who had passed through its hallowed halls. Thankfully, on Emancipation Day 2012 all of this came to life, once again, for all to see.

Donated Cars Help Needy Families

Steering more low-income families toward affordable homeownership opportunities, Loudoun Habitat for Humanity is "driving" donors to Habitat's "Cars for Homes" vehicle donation program.

Cars for Homes™ takes donated cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, RVs and other vehicles – running or not – and sells them through automobile auctions, recyclers or salvage yards to raise funds that help build simple, decent homes.

Funds generated from vehicle sales benefit the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate and community where the donation is made.

Here in Loudoun County, donors can call the Cars for Homes™ toll-free number or process their car donation online at www.carsforhomes.org. Donor contact, title and vehicle information is collected and,

upon acceptance of the donation, arrangements are made for the vehicle, keys and title to be picked up for processing.

Loudoun Habitat for Humanity receives over 80 percent of the sales proceeds after towing fees and other expenses. Donors receive an acknowledgement letter for their car donation and can check with the Internal Revenue Service or their tax advisor for information on the tax deductibility of their vehicle donation.

"Donating their vehicle to help low income families is a great way for people to give back to the community while helping the environment.

It truly is a win-win situation and we are grateful for all the support from Loudoun County," stated Jeff Dee, Loudoun Habitat for Humanity's executive director.

OpenBand, continued from page 4

that negotiations could continue and a deal could be reached in the future. However, neither pulled punches.

Buona reminded his colleagues, "As we review the franchise agreement, one of the things that we as a Board have to look at is, is it in the best interests of our citizens. And, in my view, when you look at a company that's operating in the county ... serves roughly 4,000 people and roughly 3,000 are litigating against the system ... I just can't reconcile that with that being in the interest of our citizens and our constituents." He later explained, "I

told OpenBand, 'It's real simple. Cut a deal with Lansdowne on the Potomac and I'll vote yes.' And they didn't."

Williams, "a resident of Southern Walk and a dissatisfied OpenBand customer," asked his Board colleagues to send the proper message to constituents and to OpenBand. "I certainly don't want to send a message to the community that we're endorsing this service," he stated. "And I think the message from the Board tonight is that we need to deny the franchise." That, indeed, was the message the Board sent.

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Interviews With Virginia's Candidates for Senate – By Tim Jon

George Allen (R)

George Allen served as Virginia's 67th governor (1994-1998) and held one of the commonwealth's two Senate seats from 2001 to 2007; he also represented Virginia's 7th District in the US House of Representatives from 1991 to 1993. He served in the General Assembly in Richmond from 1983-1991- as a delegate from the 58th District. I've talked to George Allen about pigs, dogs and lots of other things; this is our first interview since his 2006 re-election bid for Senate. He currently faces Tim Kaine in the race for that same position.



Tim Jon: We often hear of campaign financing as sort of a necessary evil for successful election bids; how much time and energy has your 2012 team expended in this area, and what's your take on this issue, from a moral standpoint?

George Allen: While too much time is expended on fundraising, I'm a strong advocate for Americans' right to free speech and political expression. That's why I support reforms to federal laws to allow more freedom and disclosure with campaigns more responsible for the message, similar to Virginia's approach.

TJ: The idea of political compromise has almost come to be synonymous with failure these days- at least in some circles. How do you intend (as a US senator) to deal with elected leaders outside your own political party- after the election and it's time to go to work?

GA: As governor, we brought people together across party lines to cut taxes and achieve historic reforms that improved opportunity, safety, and education for all Virginians and helped create over 300,000 new private-sector jobs. In the Senate, I worked with Hillary Clinton on health screening for newborns; Ron Wyden, a Democrat from Oregon was a great partner on technology issues and together we kept harmful new taxes off the Internet. Looking ahead, jobs for Americans will be my top priority, and I look forward to working with senators in both parties who share this mission.

TJ: The Environmental Protection Agency has come under a lot of fire in recent years; how important is the philosophy of preserving nature's resources- like the Chesapeake Bay fishery (or that of the Gulf Coast), for instance?

GA: We have a responsibility to ensure the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Piedmont and the Chesapeake Bay for future generations. We can be good stewards while responsibly and safely producing oil and natural gas off our coast and using coal cleanly for affordable and reliable energy. With voluntary programs, respectful of property rights, Virginia's farmers, businesses and local governing leaders can achieve our shared goals of clean water, air and land without the over-reaching, costly policies from EPA and other federal agencies which harm the livelihoods of families.

TJ: Our country's infrastructure (roads, bridges, utility systems, etc) may not be as exciting as some topics, but we use them every day; how do we afford upkeep on these networks, many of which require attention due to age and stress?

GA: We can start by streamlining Washington's approval process which delays projects and drives up costs, cleaning up the mess at MWA and getting rid of wasteful labor requirements that are a bad deal for taxpayers and toll-road users and take jobs away from Virginia contractors. I will lead with a law to allow Virginia to safely produce oil and natural gas off our shore, and then use the hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties for roads and transportation.

TJ: A lot of hard-working, privately insured Americans struggle with medical bills – with or without 'Obamacare.' What's the answer?

GA: Obamacare has made things worse while taking over \$700 billion out of Medicare and is a major impediment to small businesses hiring. This unpopular law needs to be repealed and replaced with positive solutions such as affordable, personal, portable Health Savings Accounts and allowing small businesses to band together across state lines for greater competition and choice and less costly insurance.

Continued on page 28

Tim Kaine (D)

Tim Kaine served as Virginia's 70th governor (2006-2010), and led the Democratic National Committee from 2009-2011. When I first interviewed him back in 2001, he was mayor of Richmond- running for lieutenant governor. He currently faces George Allen for one of Virginia's Senate seats.



Tim Jon: We often hear of campaign financing as a necessary evil for successful election bids; how much time and energy has your 2012 team expended in this area, and what's your take on this issue, from a moral standpoint?

Tim Kaine: I'm extraordinarily grateful for the support I've received from across Virginia. We've been pleased by the show of grassroots support from more than 30,000 donors, especially in low dollar donations. I truly believe that in the age of super PACs and secret money, it will still be the grassroots support that puts me over the edge in November.

TJ: The idea of political compromise has come to be synonymous with failure in some circles. How do you intend (as a US senator) to deal with elected leaders outside your own political party?

TK: I have always made an effort to work with members of both parties to move Virginia forward. As a member of city council, as a mayor, and as lieutenant governor and governor, I worked across the aisle to cut billions in spending including my own pay, construct new schools, reduce crime, and improve the business climate of our commonwealth. I didn't always agree with those on the other side of the aisle but we never let a disagreement spoil a relationship. Bipartisanship is what Virginians expect of their senators and I look forward to continuing that tradition.

TJ: The Environmental Protection Agency has come under a lot of fire in recent years; how important is the philosophy of preserving nature's resources- like the Chesapeake Bay fishery (or the Gulf Coast)?

TK: I was proud to work across state lines as governor to lead the effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Working with industry, we developed a plan that protected a treasured Virginia resource while also ensuring a rebound in crab and oyster populations that has helped businesses flourish as well. This is the right model moving forward.

TJ: What role should the US Government take in the Middle East with the looming threat of a nuclear Iran? Should we take a

more active stance with North Korea- considering their potential weaponry?

TK: There's nothing more important than America's security, and I will never hesitate to approve action to secure our homeland. However, we must leave all options on the table and exhaust all economic and diplomatic options before we commit our resources and the lives of our brave service members.

TJ: How does America continue to fund a 21st century military that remains ahead of all would-be dangers- be they from other powerful nations, or a single terrorist?

TK: We've made great strides in the past four years to eliminate many members of the Al Qaeda leadership and fight terrorism but we must remain vigilant. I will continue to support necessary resources to bolster border security and combat new 21st century threats like cyber attacks.

TJ: Our country's infrastructure (roads, bridges, utility systems, etc) may not be as exciting as some topics, but we use them every day; how do we afford upkeep on these networks, many of which require attention due to age and stress?

TK: Infrastructure is an absolute necessity for economic growth and I will continue to be a voice of support for maintenance and construction of roads and bridges across Virginia. Investing in infrastructure helps our economy in two ways – it creates jobs now and raises our platform for future economic growth. However, it's important that state and federal governments are full partners in infrastructure development so local taxpayers aren't left with the bill.

TJ: A lot of hard-working, privately insured Americans struggle with medical bills – with or without 'Obamacare.' What's the answer?

TK: The Affordable Care Act was a good first step to expand access to health care for millions of Americans, reduce prescription drug prices for seniors, and curb abuses by insurance companies, but we have more to do. We need to reduce overall costs in the health care system by pursuing policies like allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices to save billions, but I will not support radical overhauls to turn Medicare into a voucher program.

TJ: What do you like most about your opponent?

TK: George is a spirited campaigner and really enjoys himself on the trail.

TJ: Thanks for your time and attention.

2012 Voting Information

Voting Deadlines: Last Day to Register – Oct 15; Deadline to Apply for Absentee by Mail – Oct 30; Deadline to Apply for Absentee in Person – Nov 3. **Absentee Voting in Loudoun County:** Registrar's Office, 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA, 20175; Cascades Senior Center 21060 Whilfields Place, Sterling, VA 20165; Dulles South Multipurpose Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, VA, 20152.




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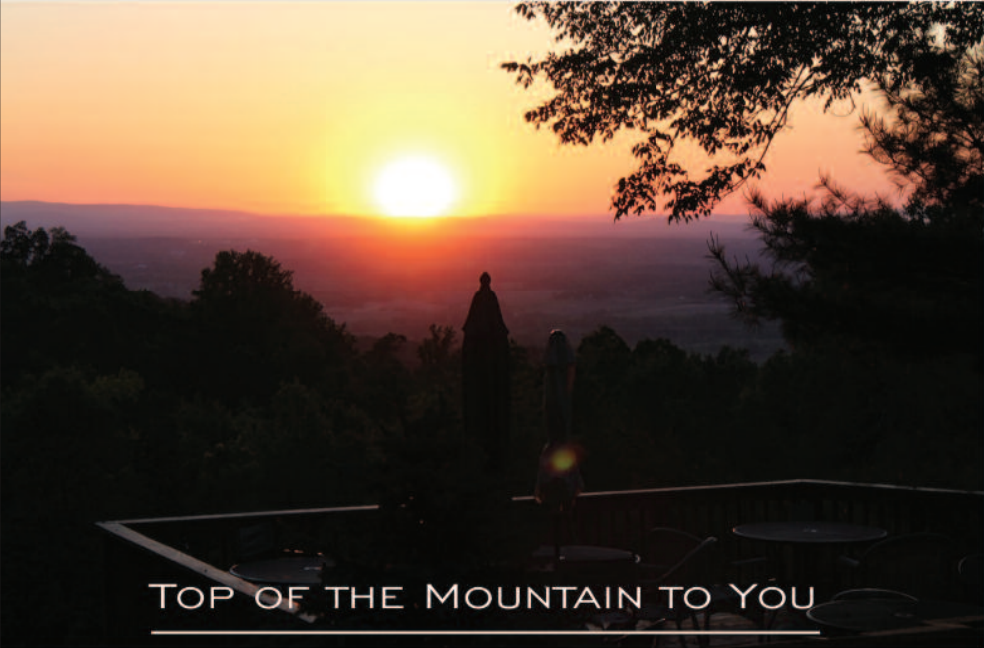
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The Hill School

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Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 9:00 am

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Artist Recognized for Mural

Artist Penny Hauffe has been recognized by Loudoun county Day School Headmaster Dr. Randall Hollister, for painting the beautiful mural inspired by a huge and venerable maple tree at Loudoun Country Day School's former campus. The maple arches over the doors leading into the library, with a small raccoon in the corner holding a sign with the artist's name. Interspersed among the branches are various birds, including an owl that echoes other paintings in the former library on Fairview Street.



Penny had previously created a mural with the students of LCDS outside the office foyer on the former campus. Each child added a small picture to the wall – frogs, flowers, and butterflies predominated. More recently, the class of 2012 dedicated a huge painting of the school's eagle mascot on the gym's wall in May, again a commissioned project by Penny Hauffe. Art teachers

Renee' Edmonston and Silvia Souza will be incorporating students' stenciled pictures running up the stairs in the grand foyer after Penny paints grass along the baseboards, echoing the grass she painted under the maple tree.

Miss Hauffe's mural is on permanent display over the library doors for everyone to enjoy.

Dedication Ceremony For Fallen Soldiers October 13

The War Memorial Trust Fund will have a dedication ceremony for four Loudoun County citizens who lost their life serving in our fighting forces of our great nation in the cause of peace.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Oct. 13 at the Loudoun County Courthouse Leesburg, Virginia from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The ceremony will honor:

- ♣ Scott Lange Kirkpatrick, US Army, Iraq 2007;
- ♣ Stephan Lee Mace, US Army, Afghanistan 2009;
- ♣ Douglas J. Green, US Army, Afghanistan 2011; and
- ♣ Michael M. Quin, USMC, Assignment Afghanistan 2012.



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A Refreshing Look at Sunrooms

– Builder Sponsors Innovative Community Open House –

If you were shopping for a new home, and had a particular subdivision in mind, the first thing you'd want to do is visit the developer's model home.

This must have been on the mind of the owners of Total Remodeling Systems and their sister company Four Seasons Sunrooms as they decided to host a "Community Open House" at the home of a customer who'd just had a custom sunroom added to their home.

The Community Open House – scheduled

for Sunday, Oct. 7 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Lovettsville – will allow the public to tour the sunroom, chat with the owners of the home, and enjoy some light refreshments. The open house, said a community representative, will give people the "perfect opportunity to see first hand the quality, elegance, and workmanship that we provide every client."

The October open house will be held at 12060 Catoctin Farm Lane, Lovettsville, VA 20180. For details call 540 678-3700.

Water, continued from page 4

determining opportunities, preparing business case analyses, conducting public outreach, and submitting the necessary land use applications to the county. Hammes explained that the suggested change in land use policy would enhance Loudoun Water's flexibility.

Nelis, a land use lawyer, suggested that this proposal fell under the recommendation to amend the zoning regulations. Noting that growth tends to follow infrastructure, Bob Gordon recalled the long-standing citizen anxiety typically accompanying discussions about extending utilities west of the Goose Creek. "I worry that we don't know enough about the implications," he concluded. Commissioners expressed concerns about the proposal's late inclusion and the lack of accompanying research. Commis-

sion Chair Tom Julia spoke for the majority in concluding that he was "reluctant to recommend this without fully understanding who benefits."

One item unaddressed by the Commission study and recommendations is Loudoun Water's authority to approve system expansion and to issue revenue bonds without Board of Supervisors oversight. Asked about the omission, Matthews responded that they were "trying to address the issues raised at the public hearings and didn't go there." However, past decisions regarding the timing and scope of expansion of service to the Transition Area and the long-term water storage plan partnership with Luck Stone are significant drivers behind the 3 percent annual rate increases central system customers face over the next few years.

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Loudoun County Farm Color Tour October 20 - 21

The Loudoun Fall Color Tour attracts thousands of visitors from across the country to the beautiful Loudoun Valleys, with views of the Blue Ridge, Short Hill and Sugarloaf Mountains; all just minutes west of Washington Dulles International Airport. The Fall

Color Tour is held annually and is a free self-guided tour showcasing local, active farms in the county. The weekend event is also used as a teaching mechanism to inform consumers of what products are grown and available locally.

2012 Fall Color Tour Participants

Farms	Master Gardener	Company
Alpacas of Middleburg	Demonstration Garden	Corcoran Vineyards & Brewing
Al's Orchid Greenhouse	Mill Road Farm	Doukenie Winery
American Academy of Equestrian Science	Mountain View Farm at BCES	Fabbioli Cellars
Blooming Hill	Purcellville Southern States	Hunters Run Wine Barn
Brossman's Farm Stand	Stoneybrook Organic Farm & Market	Loudoun Valley Vineyards
Buchanan Farms	Sunny's Corner Foundation	North Gate Vineyards
Butterfly Hill Farm	Temple Hall Farm	Sunset Hills Vineyard
Chicama Run	Ticonderoga Farms	Village Winery
Clyde's Willow Creek Farm	Wagenburg Farm	Willowcroft Farm Vineyards
Crooked Run Orchard	Wegmeyer Farms	Zephaniah Farm Vineyard
Davlin Farm	Willow Hawk Farm	
Day Spring Farm		Other Venues
Donkey Meadows		Grandale Restaurant
Equine Rescue League	Wineries/Brewery /Distillery	Great Country Farms
Fair Oaks Farm	868 Estate Vineyards	Natural Mercantile
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Champion Football League of Northern VA Plays 4th Successful Game of the Season

The Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia's (DSANV) Champion Football League of Northern Virginia (CFL) played its fourth successful game of the season on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012 at Freedom High School in South Riding.

"It is amazing to see the passion, dedication, and hard-work of every player in the CFL. Each individual has unique abilities that help form a strong team when everyone unites and works together," said Bryan Ray, president of DSANV.

The league was founded last year by the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia and is the first football league in the Northern Virginia area serving individuals with disabilities.

In its second year, the CFL has seen a significant increase in enrollment. September 29th's game had close to 40 champion players on the field, with over 30 players from Freedom High School's Football team serving as coaches and mentors to the Champion players.

In addition to the Champion players, the CFL has added cheerleading to their games this season. There were 6 Champion Cheerleaders coached by 15 Freedom High School Cheerleaders, totaling 21 cheerleaders for the game on the 29th.

"We are thrilled to have cheerleading at all of the CFL games this season. Their excitement and team spirit really inspires the crowd to show even more support for all of the

"It is amazing to see the passion, dedication, and hard-work of every player in the CFL. Each individual has unique abilities that help form a strong team when everyone unites and works together ..."

Champion players," Ray added.

To start off September 29th's game, each player and cheerleader made their way through the tunnel on to the field as their names were announced over the PA system. The crowd filled with nearly 100 family members, friends of the players and cheerleaders, and other onlookers, was very supportive and enthusiastic throughout the whole game.

As is the case in every CFL game, every player scored a touchdown and the score ended in a tie, making for happy teams and players on both sides.

"At DSANV, we hope that as the CFL season continues, every player and cheerleader will experience the dynamics of teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership. Through the CFL and Champion Cheerleading, we want every participant to grow as football players, cheerleaders, and as people who will make a positive impact in their community," Ray finished.

The CFL meets at Freedom High School in South Riding, VA each Saturday at noon until Saturday, November 3, 2012.

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Planting Garlic in the Fall

– By Donna Williamson

In the old days, I used to separate garlic cloves purchased from the supermarket and plant them in my garden. I wasn't careful about where I planted them, not necessarily giving them the good drainage they needed year-round. They never did very well and were dismissed until my first trip to Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, Pennsylvania. At that time, Chris Woods was director and I was stunned by his vision and technique. I had never seen such a beautiful and skillful garden.

When he planted a garden with lavender, 'Colchester White' centaurea, and swirling hard neck garlic, I knew I was in a new world of gardening. My friend Karen and I talked with Chris at length about his work at Chanticleer and at harvest time, he generously sent us some garlic. Ever since, I have been growing the hard neck 'Rocambole' garlic (in my mind it's the 'Chanticleer' garlic) in my garden and in the gardens of my willing design clients.

I've learned from Chris. Often I plant the garlic as a counterpoint among mounding perennials or grasses like Mexican feather grass (*Nasella tenuissima*), a cool season grower with thin leaves – soft and full of movement. Sometimes I like it with one of the dwarf catmints, perhaps 'Select Blue' or 'Little Titch'.

Garlic emerges very early in spring and develops a fantastic spiral stem or scape for the flower bud. It looks like a swan in the



garden. As the plant develops, the swirl unwinds and the scape elongates with the pointy flower bud swelling and becoming more rounded. Cutting off the swirling scape before the flower develops can have a delicious side benefit: roughly chop the scapes and sauté in butter for a delicate garlic side dish. Removing the garlic flower bud allows the plant to put its energy into the bulb rather than the flower.

Delicious hard neck garlic is rare to find in a supermarket as it doesn't keep as well as

Continued on page 31

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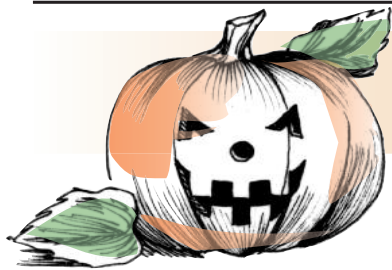
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Letters to the Editor, continued from page 7

developers, and those with special interests. Elected officials must earn our respect. Open and transparent government is our right!

– Kelli Grim, Purcellville

Open Letter to Loudoun County Chairman Scott York from Former Supervisor Stevens Miller

Dear Sir:

I am sure you will remember the several conversations you and I have had about Sterling district supervisor Eugene Delgaudio. Thus, we both know what you think of his fitness for office. In 2007, you had the political and personal courage

to endorse Mr. Delgaudio's opponent.

You did not let party or politics stop you from acting in the best interests of your community.

In the Washington Post's September 25 article alleging official misconduct by Mr. Delgaudio, you are reported to have said there is nothing you or your board can do to discipline one of your members.

However, in 1996, when you were the Sterling district supervisor, you and your colleagues on that board of supervisors used your legislative authority to take disciplinary action against another sitting member of the board. That member sued, alleging a violation of his constitutional rights.

You and your board won that suit. The disciplinary actions you took were allowed to stand in "Whitener v. McWatters, et al," 112 F.3d 740.


The Whitener matter is proof that, indeed, there are actions you can take and that you, in particular are aware of this. I call upon you to take such action now. Just as your board did in 1996, I call upon you to convene an ad hoc ethics committee to recommend appropriate action in response to Mr. Delgaudio's misbehavior in office, and to take that action.

The last time you were part of such an undertaking, the misconduct alleged was nothing more than harsh language. This time, according to the Post reports, it involves misuse of official station, a violation of the public trust that is the heart of American democracy. If an ethics committee was appropriate back then, it is much more urgently appropriate today.

You did the right thing in 1996. You did the right thing once again, in 2007. On neither occasion were you held back by any fear of partisan reprisal or repercussion. The people of Loudoun county have rewarded you for that courage and leadership with the highest honor they could bestow, by re-electing you, again and again. I call upon you to, once again, prove yourself worthy of that honor. Convene an ad hoc ethics committee, investigate the facts, and take such action as is within the power of your board to punish the misconduct of one of its members. Your party may not thank you, but your people will, and there are many more of us, than there are of them.

– Stevens R. Miller, Dulles District Member,
2008-2011 Loudoun County Board of Supervisors


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The Farrell Team Gives Back at Fields of Athenry Farm

— By Andrea Gaines

On a day that was as beautiful as the purpose of the event, The Farrell Team, a team of personal mortgage advisors that is part of First Home Mortgage in Leesburg held an impressive celebration demonstrating what it's like when companies truly "give back."

The event, held at Fields of Athenry, the family farm of one of the Farrell Team's members, Mary-Teresa Boland, raised over \$4,000 in donations ... but not just any kind of donation. Fields of Athenry is a local producer of fresh, hormone and antibiotic-free meats, including beef, pork, poultry and lamb. Guests at the event could make a cash donation if they choose. Or, they could purchase one of four food bundles which would be distributed



The Farrell Team, left to right: Carrie McCormack – Client Relationship Manager; Mike Farrell – Vice President, Residential Lending; Amy Lodes – Senior Loan Officer; and, MaryTeresa Boland – Marketing Manager.

over the holidays to the people and families served by several of Loudoun County's most effective charities: the Purcellville Food Pantry, Loudoun Interfaith relief, and The Good Shepherd Alliance.

Mike Farrell, head of The Farrell Team, wanted to do something for the community that would go beyond just writing a check to help the needy. "My career has grown tremendously," said Mike. "I wanted to give back some of that good fortune, and I wanted to give in a way that literally helped put a roof over peoples' heads, and put food directly into the pantries of families struggling to put dinner on the table," continued Mike.

Fields of Athenry owner Elaine Boland makes regular charitable donations of her



farm's fresh meats, cheeses and more. A portion of each food bundle purchased – whether it be the \$100 "True Turkey" or the \$25 "Poultry Paradise" – is being donated by the farm.

Two very special guests attended the event and also donated their time. Teresa Scanlan, Miss America 2011 was there and local photographer Sarah Huntington donated her time so that families and kids could get their picture taken with Teresa. And, *America's Got Talent* finalist Drew Stevyns wowed the crowd with his music and charm.

Then there was the food! Fields of Athenry resident chef Wes Rosati worked the grill assisted by Chef Benedict Zappone, laying out quite a spread for guests including Beef Sliders with House-made Pickles and Raw Milk Cheddar ... Hoisin Braised Turkey Lettuce Wraps ... BBQ Chicken Sliders with Pickled Red Onions and more.

The "giving back" will continue through the holidays, and The Farrell Team hopes to make this farm celebration a yearly event.

Photos Sarah Huntington

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6 through 13

- Oct. 6 – Leesburg Volunteer Fire Open House. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Leesburg Fire Station #20, 61 Plaza Street NE, Leesburg. Details at www.leesburgfire.org
- Oct. 6 – Sterling Volunteer Fire Open House. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sterling Park Fire Station #11, 104 Commerce Street, Sterling. Details at www.sterlingfire.org
- Oct. 7 – Purcellville Volunteer Fire Open House. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Purcellville Safety Center, 500 N. Maple Avenue, Purcellville. Details www.purcellvillefire.org
- Oct. 7 – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Founders Hall, Station 6, 20688 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. For details visit www.ashburnfirerescue.org
- Oct. 7 – Round Hill Fire and Rescue Chili Dinner. 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Station #4, 4 Main Street, Round Hill. This is a free event. Details at www.roundhillvfd.org
- Oct. 13 – Neersville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Country Breakfast. 8 to 10:30 a.m. at Station 16, 11762 Harpers Ferry Road, Neersville. For details call 540-668-6974.
- Oct. 13 – Hamilton Volunteer Fire Open House. 12 to 4 p.m. at Hamilton Safety Center, 39701 East Colonial Highway, Hamilton. For details visit www.hamiltonfire.com
- Oct. 14 – Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Open House. 12 to 4 p.m. at Ashburn Fire Station #6, 20688 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. For details visit www.ashburnfirerescue.org
- Oct. 14 – Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Open House. 1 to 4 p.m. at Lovettsville Fire Station 12, 12837 Berlin Turnpike, Lovettsville. For details visit www.lovettsvillevfr.org
- Oct. 21 – Arcola Volunteer Fire and Rescue Open House. 1 to 4 p.m. at Arcola Fire Station #9, 24300 Gum Spring Road, Arcola. For details visit www.arcolavfd.org
- Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue weekly Bingo night on Saturdays throughout October. For details visit www.lovettsvillevfr.org or call 540-822-5258.



Left to right: Drew Stevyns, Teresa Scanlan, Elaine Boland and Brad Boland.

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Living With Coyotes

– By Andrea Gaines

You see it from a distance ... something that looks a bit like a dog or maybe a fox.

But something about it is different. It has a tail that droops down in a relaxed fashion – unlike the foxes you see darting across a field with their tails in straight alignment with their spine.

What you might be looking at is a coyote – otherwise known as an American jackal or prairie wolf. Coyotes are found throughout North and Central America, ranging from Panama in the south, north through Mexico, the United States and Canada. And, yes, they are also occurring in our part of the country in greater and greater numbers. For coyotes are adaptable creatures, and, unlike their cousin the wolf, the coyote's range has actually expanded.

They are not picky eaters. They hunt rabbits, rodents, fish, frogs, and even deer. They also happily dine on insects, snakes, fruit, grass, and carrion. Coyotes also readily reproduce in metropolitan areas. They have even colonized cities like Los Angeles, and are now found over most of North America. Coyote populations are likely at an all-time high.

Coyotes have a reputation for being “a very savvy and clever beast.” But, that’s not a reason to fear them, or worse, decide you just can’t live with them.

As a recent Humane Society educational seminar in Loudoun County explained, coyote killing programs are not only largely ineffective, they target all of the animals in a particular area instead of the small number of coyotes causing problems with their human neighbors. Coyotes have also evolved to protect their numbers against human killing programs by increasing their reproductive rates – breeding at an earlier age, having larger litters, and actually increasing the survival rates among their young.

So, how do you live with a coyote? You avoid things that attract coyotes into your space and you otherwise avoid encounters with them.

Some Tips From the Humane Society:

- Feeding coyotes is a big mistake ... and so is “unfeeding” them. When coyotes get accustomed to people its hard to shake them of that habit. More than likely, that kind of coyote is doomed ...



- Avoid feeding your pets outside, but, if you must, feed them only for a set time during the day (for no more than one hour) and remove the food bowl as soon as your pet has finished their meal.
- In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable.
- If you compost, use enclosed bins and never compost meat or fish scraps. Good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, can also help discourage coyote activity near your home.
- Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave them out overnight, they are more likely to be tipped and broken into.
- In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise litters, they concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which the young are sheltered. At these times, they may become highly defensive and territorial, and challenge any other coyote or dog that comes close to the pups ... so keep your distance!
- Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into certain neighborhoods. Know where your pets are and keep them close to home.
With a little bit of knowledge and a little bit of care we humans can keep a safe distance while welcoming the sight of a coyote in our midst.



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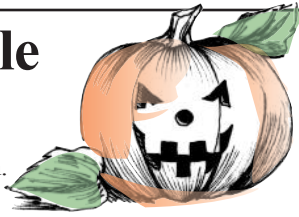
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Second Annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party



Miss America, trick or treaters and a costume contest will all be part of the fun at Purcellville's second annual Halloween block party Saturday, Oct. 27.

Michael Oaks and Kim Patterson-Oaks, owners of Re-Love-It consignment shop, are busy coordinating the party along with assistance from the Purcellville Business Association. Traffic will not be allowed on 21st Street from 6-9 p.m. with a rain/snow date of Sunday Oct. 28 at the same time.

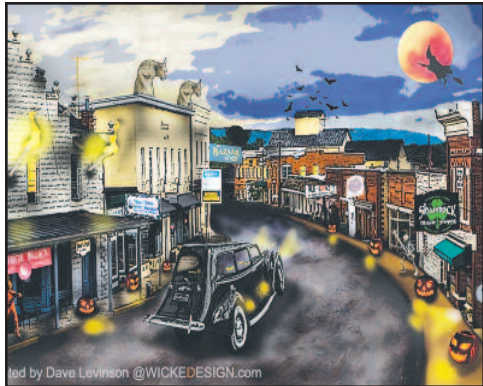
"This is a town wide event that is supported by businesses around town," said Michael Oaks. "The snow didn't stop us last year, and nothing is going to stop us this year from making it bigger and better. This event is for the kids of our community- kids from 1-99 years old."

The event will start with a free show by a comedy improv group Last Ham Standing

from 6-7 p.m. It will be followed by a costume contest with four divisions: Children up to 5 years old, 6-12 year olds, teens and adults, and pets. The judges of the contest will be Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro, Purcellville Chief of Police Darryl Smith, Loudoun County Supervisor Janet Clarke, and special guest Miss America 2011 Teresa Scanlan. Cash and trophy awards will be presented to the winners of the contest. There is a Grand Prize of \$500 for the best over all costume.

There will be all types of games for children to play, and all of the stores on 21st street will have candy for the trick or treaters. Music will be live and there will be food booths and drinks available. "Re-Love It is all about giving back to the community that we love," Patterson-Oaks said. "Organizing the Purcellville Halloween Block Party is just one of the ways to show thanks to the great people of Purcellville."

Giant Food is the main sponsor for the event and other sponsors include: Re-Love It a Consignment Shoppe, Butterfly Gourmet, Dr. Annette Hudler, TMG Construction, Nichols Hardware, Loudoun Veterinary Service, Atoka Properties, Market Burger Fries & Shakes, Piper Dan's Keltic Shoppe, Boodacades BBQ, Dental Smiles, Casper Insurance, Middleburg Bank, Anthony Hudimac CPA and Clarke County Bank.



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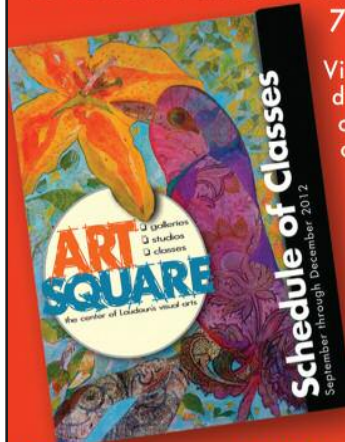
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Oct. 27
3pm
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Oct. 28
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Oct. 13
7pm



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October



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.

☉ **Wednesday, Oct. 3. Presentation by Legal Services of Northern Virginia**, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Free at the Carver Center, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville. Learn more about LSNV's services, as well as about powers of attorney.

☉ **Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m. The Chestnut Story**, lecture by Catharine Mayes about the effort to breed a blight resistant chestnut. Loudoun Extension Office, 30 Catocin Circle, SE, Suite B, Leesburg. www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

☉ **Friday, Oct. 5, monthly movie matinee, 12:30-2 p.m. at the Carver Center**. Admission \$1 for "Gosford Park" at the Carver Center, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville.

☉ **Oct. 5-7, the 15th annual Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War: The Chancellorsville Campaign, April 30 – May 6, 1863**. Authors and historians will present nine talks at the Middleburg Community Center, along with a guided tour of the Chancellorsville battlefield. Full registration \$425. Friday & Saturday talks \$200: www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

☉ **Oct. 6-21, Art at the Mill. Burwell-Morgan Mill in Millwood**. Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays – Fridays: 12-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students free. For more information go to www.clarkehistory.org.



☉ **Saturday, Oct. 6, 10K Run 5K Walk at Franklin Park. Benefits Friends of Loudoun Mental Health**. For information, go to www.loudounfriends.org.

☉ **Saturday, Oct. 6 and Sunday, Oct. 7. Charity wedding gown sale to benefit Brides Against Breast Cancer**. Oct. 6, 6-9 p.m., \$25 VIP / Pink Power Hours admission and Oct. 7 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$5 general admission. Westin BWI, 1110 Old Elkridge Landing Road, Baltimore, Md. Information at www.bridesabc.org

☉ **Oct. 7-13, Fire Prevention Week**. Events include Oct. 7 Purcellville Volunteer Fire Open House. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Purcellville Safety Center at 500 N. Maple Ave., Purcellville. For details visit www.purcellvillefire.org. Oct. 13, Hamilton Volunteer Fire Open House. 12 p.m.-4 p.m. at Hamilton Safety Center located at 39701 East Colonial Highway, Hamilton. For details visit www.hamiltonfire.com.

☉ **Thursday, Oct. 11. October flu shot clinics at the Carver Center**, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Provided by

INOVA Health Source and open to the community. Medicare Part B no charge, otherwise \$30.

☉ **Saturday, Oct. 13, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Fall feast for Roszell Chapel United Methodist Church**. Salad, chili, Brunswick stew, hotdogs, drinks and dessert. Cockrill's Hunter Oaks Farm at 19530 Silcott Springs Rd. about 4.5 miles south of Purcellville on Rt. 690. Free-will offering.

☉ **Saturday, Oct. 13. Scout Along the Turnpike with the Mosby Heritage area association** from noon to 5 p.m. at Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie, the Aldie Mill at 39401 John Mosby Highway, and Rector House at 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall. Members of the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group give a first-person interpretation. Visit any or all three sites in any. Admission is free. Go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org for more information.

☉ **Sunday, Oct. 14, Hillsboro UMC Hymn Sing**, 37216 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro at 6 p.m. For info, contact: 540-668-6347

☉ **Oct. 19-Oct. 21 Growing Stage presents "The Sound of Music."** At Franklin Park, Purcellville, tickets are \$20 all seats. To reserve call 540-338-7973. (More Franklin Park updates at right)

☉ **Friday, Oct. 19, Monster Bash at Ida Lee**. Games, pumpkin decorating, crafts, snacks and dancing. Performance by Peter McCarty, One Man Band. Register early, as space is limited. This event is open to children up to 6 years of age with parent or guardian. For more information, call 703-777-1368 or visit www.idalee.org.

☉ **Friday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 20 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Roads to Antietam (Mosby Heritage Area Association)**: Talk and tour with Dennis Frye. Lecture at The Hill School, 130 South Madison St., Middleburg. Tour departs Saturday from Leesburg from the Courthouse parking lot. Talk and tour:

MHAA members \$90, non-MHAA members \$110. Go to www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

☉ **Oct. 20 and 21, 6 p.m., Earth Dances**, an evening length multi-media dance performance and walking excursion presented by professional modern dancer and Bluemont resident Jen Stone. For more information contact: Jen at 963-8801 or jenclark@stonefrog.com.

☉ **Thursday, Oct. 25. October flu shot clinics at the Carver Center**, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Provided by INOVA Health Source and open to the community. Medicare Part B—no charge, otherwise \$30.

☉ **Oct. 26 and 27, The Loudoun School of Ballet's JAZZ&CO DANCE will perform at Franklin Park Arts Center**. Friday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 27 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors and can be reserved by calling 540-338-7973.

☉ **Friday, Oct. 26, Halloween costume dance**, 1-3 p.m. for ages 55 and up. Admission is \$3. Carver Center, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville.

☉ **Saturday, Oct. 27, Big Band Swing Dance, 7-10 p.m. For all ages**. Music from the Franklin Park Big Band. Admission is \$10. Carver Center, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville.

☉ **Saturday, Oct. 27, Carver Memorial Gazebo Dedication**, 1-3 p.m. The Advisory Board will be dedicating the Carver Memorial Gazebo that stands on the side yard of Carver Center, 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville. Dedication will include a vocal performance by Cindy Crosby, remarks and refreshments.

☉ **Sunday, Oct. 28, Loudoun Symphony Chamber Players at Franklin Park in Purcellville**. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors. Go to www.loudounsymphony.org.

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Visit the Village
Saturday, October 20th • 9am – 5pm
**47th Annual Village-wide
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Join us for a day of ...

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- Artisan Demonstrations
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Raffle Prizes:

- Golf Foursome at Creighton Farms from Creighton Farms
- Hot Air Balloon Ride for Two from Balloons Unlimited
- 14KT Gold Necklace from Diamonds and Rust

Visitors can tour the restored Aldie Mill. The 17th Mississippi Regiment will be demonstrating military drilling and musket firing.

Directions: West on Route 50 (John Mosby Hwy) into Loudoun County towards Middleburg. Go 1 mile west of Gilbert's Corner traffic circle (Intersection of Rt 15 and Rt 50). **Parking at Aldie Elementary on Meeting House Lane.**
For more information, visit www.villageofaldie.com

► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► STABILITY IN PRICE LEVELS AT LAST

— By Carl Fischer



For the past six months, I have shared with you the ongoing transition in our local residential real estate market. I have described first the accelerating pace of sales beginning way back in the Spring, followed next by the predictable decline in the number of affordable homes available to buyers. For the purposes of this discussion, I am referring here to homes in the \$500K and under category.

As the sales inventory declined in this price range, as you might expect, properties began to turn more quickly. Soon, we were beginning to see a real “sense of urgency” in buyers.

For my part, I began to recommend that buyers searching for a home carry with them there lenders pre-approval letter, and a check for the earnest money deposit, so that when we found the right house, they could write their offer immediately.

By late May, a long-forgotten practice that was “normal and usual” in the late '05 and '06 time frame, (the use of “escalator clauses”) was once more back in play. And I used that method to the advantage of my buyers in more than one instance.

Our market has always enjoyed an advantage: The Washington real estate market has always been blessed (cursed?) with the overflow effects of DC metro's

sprawling impact of the housing demand. Prices here have risen quicker, and fallen less abruptly. Sales activity has historically been later to slow, and quicker to recover than most areas of the country. And this “Great Recession” has been no different in that respect.

National publications affirm that the long slide in house prices is now over: What is different now is that the entire nation confirms that the long period of uncertainty relative to house prices is over. Numerous articles in the national press point to the fact that, for the most part, our national period of uncertainty over housing prices is clearly at an end. Over the past several weeks, articles in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post have all spoken to this new reality.

The National Association of Realtors reports that sales in August of this year jumped 7.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.82 million, which is the highest since May of 2010 when the federal home-buying tax credit fueled a buying frenzy nationally.

Here's a look at Loudoun numbers for August. What about the foreclosure “overhang”?

The answer to that question is not so clear. From my personal point of view, I absolutely believe there are still a very large number of “non-performing assets” on bank balance sheets, but there seems to be no one element

August 2012 Real Estate Market Statistics for Loudoun County, VA

Statistic	Values	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$206,105,109	+ 5.24%	- 10.21%
Closed Sales	479	+ 2.79%	- 6.45%
Median Sold Price	\$377,000	- 2.16%	- 9.16%
Avg Sold Price	\$430,282	+ 2.39%	- 4.02%
Avg Days on Market	50 days	- 12.28%	- 5.66%
Avg Sold to Orig List Ratio	97.12%	+ 0.71%	- 0.3%

that suggests a breakthrough in how to deal with these loans, and no willingness on the part of the note-holders to accelerate the process.

Divergent interests: One of the “Catch 22” aspects of this dilemma is that the responsibility for action, by and large, rests with note servicers, not note-holders. Many of these notes are parts of a package of mortgages purchased by the note-holders as CDOs, or collateralized debt obligations, so the note-holders do not deal directly with the delinquent borrowers. In fact, the note-servicers actually make more money the longer the debt collection process drags out. So there is a structural disconnect in this process whereby the interests of the note-holders many times is relegated to a 2nd tier priori-

ty, subordinate to the profit-making interests of the note-holders.

What does all this mean to me?

Two things are clear:

- 1) In the absence of less expensive homes available, rents will continue to rise at an alarming rate, and
- 2) with the Fed now on record declaring its intent to hold interest rates near 0% until sometime in late 2015, there is little probability that there will be any pressure to “buy now” for fear that the mortgage rates will climb significantly.

But that may lull you into a false sense of security, because one other thing is also true: in the absence of plentiful homes for sale, the price of both re-sales and new construction will continue to rise. And, those prices

Continued on page 31

Commercial, continued from page 1

Nelis stated that the developer wants to go through Old Dominion Valley's open space for the town water and sewer connections. He said, “There is no demand for commercial in this town. It's kinda over for a while.” He added that there are vacancies all over town.

HOA board president Blair Pack said that his wife might have a concern about placing high density income restricted housing next to Old Dominion Valley. Nelis responded that he took offense at the comment. Pack added that he would not be in Purcellville much longer and the development wouldn't affect him. “We are not going to oppose it,” Pack said. He invited Nelis to the Old Dominion

Valley Annual Home Owners Meeting on Nov. 7 at 7:30 pm at the Purcellville library.

The Blue Ridge Leader called Old Dominion Valley board member Kamie Bledsoe and asked her if she had a comment about the tentative proposal. BI

edsoe said, “I am elected by the community to represent them. They don't even know about this proposal, so who knows what direction they will want us to take on this issue.”

Mayor Lazaro is on record as stating that he is not in favor of any further residential growth.

George Allen Interview, continued from page 10

TJ: What role should the US government take in the Middle East – with the looming threat of a nuclear Iran? Should we take a more active stance with North Korea considering their potential weaponry?

GA: Whether it's to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, ongoing terrorist threats or the challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, America must be strong militarily and economically to protect our interests, stand by our allies from South Korea to Israel and be a beacon of freedom to oppressed people.

TJ: In light of the last questions, how does America continue to fund a 21st century military - one which remains ahead of all would-be dangers - be they from other powerful nations, or a single terrorist with a smug dirty bomb?

GA: First, we must stop the devastating defense cuts being forced by last summer's sequestration deal, placing our military and 200,000 Virginia jobs in jeopardy. Congress must set priorities, beginning with national defense and keeping promises to veterans. A strong military requires a strong economy so we can invest in modernization of our armed forces, in cybersecurity, and in intelligence programs to protect Americans.

TJ: What do you like most about your opponent?

GA: While Tim Kaine served as governor and that terrible tragedy hit the Virginia Tech campus, all Virginians came together, and I thought Tim did an outstanding job with that.

TJ: Thanks for your time and attention.



Girl Scout Earns Highest Award

Jordyn Keaney earned her Girl Scout Gold Award this summer.

Keaney, a senior at Loudoun Valley High School, planned and facilitated a free reading camp during the last week of June to earn the award. The camp, which was held at Purcellville Library encouraged first and second graders to continue reading over the summer.

Twenty children from local elementary schools attended the event. Each had an older reading buddy for the week. During the week the campers focused on reading strategies and sight words.

Tanya Bosse, family literacy program director at Loudoun Literacy Council, which sponsored the camp, served as advisor and guided

Jordyn throughout the project. “This year's summer reading camp ... was a huge success,” Bosse said. “Having a camp during the summer allows struggling early readers a chance to practice some of their literacy skills that they learned during the school year. Continuity is extremely important for early readers and the camp helped reinforce these skills in a fun yet challenging environment. Jordyn was able to rally so much support from the community that each camper was able to be assigned their own teen or adult volunteer each day.”

The Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Jordyn has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and set the goal early to remain a scout through her senior year.

“Fore the Wolverines” Hits the Links at Stoneleigh Golf & Country Club

Eighty-eight Wolverine fans and golfers teed off bright and early Monday morning, Sept. 17 at Woodgrove's home course, Stoneleigh Golf and Country Club in Round Hill, to compete in the second annual “Fore the Wolverines” Golf Tournament. All proceeds from the tournament fund senior student-athlete scholarships and other activities that further the mission of the Woodgrove Wolverine Athletic Booster Club (WWABC).

The weather was great, the course was gorgeous, and a good time was had by all. Aside from the tournament itself, the event featured a silent auction, raffle items, door prizes, breakfast, snacks and a delicious lunch catered by Stoneleigh.

Western Loudoun boasts amazing golfers proven by the tournament's 3-way tie for the team with the lowest score – 59.

The tie was broken by comparing back nine scores, and the winners were: 1st Place – Bob Caines, Charley Wooldridge, Zee Siekirski and Matt Donnelly; 2nd Place – Mike Briel, Steve Renner, Bill Zeleski and Curt Prosser; 3rd Place – Kevin Herbert, Bill Logan, Jim Heivilin, and Brent Christiansen.

The WWABC thanked Tournament Chair, Jan Lokie and her committee for their hard work, and thanked all of Woodgrove's golfers, volunteers and sponsors. Their efforts and participation in the tournament raised over \$12,500 for Woodgrove student-athletes.



1st Place Winners, left to right: Bob Caines, Charley Wooldridge and Zee Siekirski. (Matt Donnelly not shown)



2nd Place Winners, left to right: Mike Briel, Steve Renner, Bill Zeleski and Curt Prosser.



3rd Place Winners, left to right: Kevin Herbert, Bill Logan, Jim Heivilin, and Brent Christiansen.

Sushi ... “Tails” From the Barnyard

All of the Barnyard (and Wild!) Animals

I am Sushi, a small but mighty Cairn Terrier, I live my life to hunt foxes that prowl about the woods surrounding Fields of Atherny Farm. You see, it is my born and bred duty to protect and defend the poultry and fowl from the Sly Ones.

I have been told when telling a story not to have too many different characters, no one can keep track. But, I ask you, how in the world can I tell a story about Fields of Atherny Farm without including all of us animals that make this farm so unique and special? I am going to buck the rules of storytelling because this story cannot be told without all of my friends!

To start there is Gnarly Gander and his Goose Gang. Now Ol' Gnarly Gander is a Chinese Goose and tough as nails when it comes to protecting and defending the barn yard quackery pound. It is here that Mrs. Zaza, a Sabastapool Goose, loves to fluff her feathers and raise her babies along with all the other ducks and geese.

Then there is Mr. and Mrs. Bourbon Red Turkey, Mr. and Mrs. Bronze Turkey and Mr. and Mrs. Royal Palm. Mr. Royal Palm likes to stroll around the barnyard with his chest puffed up, while popping his wings, strutting with great pride. It is a delight to watch, especially when the Mr. Turkeys do the barnyard dance to attract their lady friends.

Sadie, oh Sadie, wait until you meet Sadie! Sadie, Sadie, Sadie, Lynden's Sadie Hawkins. There must be something in her name. This little pony swings and struts and twinkles. She's got what it takes some may say. Miss Sadie is a state champion pony and boy does she know it. She whinnies at the very call of her name and prances and dances and sings – she loves all of the attention. She loves to have her mane done in braids and loves to show off. She certainly loves children.

Miss Clover Bud, Miss Clover is a super duper Bullmastiff; it is Clovers mother LuluBell who taught me as a young pup the dangers of the Sly Foxes around the barnyard. Clover was born here at the farm on Saint Patrick's Day, hence her name



Clover, more ab her in the story, later. Last but not least L Percy and Lady Miss Gracious, Lord Percy i

barnyard rooster. He is a very prim and proper English Game rooster. Lady Miss Gracious is a flirtatious little hen that Lord Percy cares about quite dearly. When Lady Miss Gracious ruffles her feathers and shakes her tail Lord Percy crows to the high heavens. It just drives him crazy. It was a cool fall day, the sun was out and skies were blue. Just like today is. Lyndens Sadie Hawkins was grazing peacefully in her field with the other farm horses, Tink and Betty.

In a sunny spot on the farm shop patio, Clover was sound asleep on her back, paws in the air dreaming about catching foxes as she was making funny noises in her sleep. I tried my best not to laugh too loud with each snore and twitch Clover had. She really was in a deep dream.

From my perch on top of the big farm table I kept watch. Lady Miss Gracious was busy catching bugs and meandered further out into the field where the farm horses munched happily. It was high in the blue sky that my sharp Cairn Terrie eye caught the Bald Eagle cruising around and around and around. Lifting and floating in the high sky winds, gracefully, beautifully flying. So high he looked like a little spec of nothing bigger than a bug. Before I could blink the eagle dropped down upon the horse's field in one swift motion.

Clover wake up; I growled! Lord Percy was

Continued on page 31

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Constructions – By Myles Mellor

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Across

1. Shuttlecock
5. Ho Chi Minh City
11. Calendar abbr.
14. Brother of Jacob
15. Burning
16. Chemical ending
17. Developer
19. Pilot's announcement, briefly
20. Watery motion
21. Watch the bottom
23. Tree under which Buddha was born
24. Storage cylinder
26. Textile designer and printmaker Albers
27. 1545 council site
29. "Cheaper by the dozen" actress, Hilary
32. Kind of room
33. Crumb
35. Plane, e.g.
37. Parked oneself
38. Real estate listing information, often
41. Cow or sow
43. Kind of palm
44. Low card
45. Microscope part
47. Study, say
49. Medieval light

Down

1. Bidding
2. Meteorologist's line
3. Talk aimlessly
4. The Everly Brothers composition
5. Riyadh resident
6. Away from home
7. Under the weather
8. Moves restlessly
9. Foreboding
10. Roman fiddler
11. Gentleness
12. Wave catcher
13. One not wearing rose colored glasses
18. Eating places
22. St. Louis pro
25. Alfresco
28. Parent's order
30. FYI part
31. Contractor's measure
34. Ski lift
36. Opposite of sophisticated and advanced
38. All the renters on an estate
39. It may need massaging
40. Jersey call
41. Type of party
42. Greek woman who was a social climber
46. "Quiet!"
48. Clout
50. Fill up the tank again
51. Defoe character
52. Satellite of Saturn
55. A natural juice
58. Clods
59. Life lines?
60. Bond opponent
62. Kind of nut
65. 007 creator Fleming

Continued on page 33

Enjoy the Bounty & Beauty of the Season

Equestrian Events

58th Annual Running of the Virginia Fall Races, Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 6 & 7: Great outdoor family fun! Saturday highlights include the running of the Chronicle Cup timber classic and the Daniel C. Sands hurdle race. Saturday there will be a Family Fun Fair with petting zoo, pony rides and more. Full card of racing on Sunday ... Call (540) 687-5662 for more information. Glenwood is just north of the village of Middleburg on Route 626, Foxcroft Road.

International Gold Cup Race, Saturday, Oct. 20: 2012 marks the 75th running of this prestigious race. Full day of entertainment including six nationally sanctioned horse races, terrier races, and a tailgate contest. Ceremony honoring past and present Olympic equestrians. For ticket information call 540-347-1215 or order online at www.vagoldcup.com.

Fairs, Festivals & Other Fun Stuff

Waterford Fair, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 5-7: Virginia's oldest juried crafts fair marks its 69th anniversary this year when the annual Waterford Homes Tour & Crafts Exhibit returns to Loudoun County. 155 arti-

sans will demonstrate a variety of traditional craftsmanship. Tours of the village available. Tickets at the gate are \$17 per person per day, children 12 and under are free. Check web site for details/a list of ticket outlets – www.waterfordva.org.

Purcellville's 10th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale, Friday & Saturday, Oct. 13 & 14: An established fall tradition and a favorite area event, the Tag Sale draws bargain shoppers from throughout the region and beyond. The tenth installment of this award-winning event promises to be different and exciting. With the sale of the former Town Hall, the booth lots normally found on Main Street shift to the renovated Fireman's Field. This offers expanded parking, easier access to 90 vendors, a music area, food court and more. The Tag Sale headquarters shifts to the new location as well and will host a special sale and 50/50 raffle to raise funds for the Rise to the Challenge Scholarship fund. There is so much in store, so much to see and the Tag Sale offers one of the best places to shop and find a bargain. Plan to make it a day, shop, enjoy a great lunch and visit with old and new friends. The Tag Sale runs 8 am to 4 pm on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. More info at www.townwidetagsale.com.

Middleburg Humane Foundations 3rd Annual Fluted Hoot Music Festival, Saturday Oct. 13 at the Middleburg Community

Center: This year's artists include: Paul Barriere & Fred Tackett of Little Feat, Pete Durand, a local rock musician, Craig Fuller of Pure Prairie League & Little Feat as well as Craig's very talented son Patrick Fuller. There will be a live owl exhibit, cocktails with the critters, dinner & desserts, raffle, cash bar & artist meet & greet/ signings. Tickets are very limited. For more info: www.middleburghumane.com or call (540) 364-3272.



Justin Jones, The Bobby T. Project and Luke Brindley at Franklin Park Oct. 6

"BUNCEAROO Presents" will host The 9 Songwriter Series on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Purcellville Performing Arts Center in Purcellville VA at 7:00 PM.

In 2010, Justin was the first artist signed to 9:30 Records in Washington, DC and released a collection of songs called The Little Fox EP. Since that time, he has been fortunate to perform with Ray LaMontagne, K.D. Lang, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, Lucinda Williams, Drive-By Truckers and Badly Drawn Boy.

The Bobby T. Project (a.k.a. Bobby Thompson) blends original blues-rock with choice classic rock and blues covers, and displays experience through grooves, thoughtful lyrics, and searing guitar lines.

Bobby has shared the stage with artists like Mick Fleetwood, Bobby Parker, and has recently opened for Robert Randolph, John Popper, Indigenous, and The Wailers.

Luke Brindley has released four critically acclaimed albums in the last five years. Equally at home on the stage, *The Washington Times* says of his live performance "no song goes untouched by the energy and pure infectious joy of Luke's performance ..."

Tickets for the show are \$15 in advance, \$10 with a valid student id and \$25 for a VIP ticket which includes a 30 min meet and great with the artists. For more information or to purchase tickets online visit www.BUNCEAROO.com.

Family Stream Day Celebrates ... Water

On Saturday Oct. 13, Loudoun Families will have a chance to celebrate a lovely fall day and the streams in the county that link us all at the 11th annual Family Stream Day Event being celebrated this year at the Chapman DeMary Trail in Purcellville (behind the Medical Building at 205 East Hirst Road at the corner with Hatcher Avenue) from 11 am to 3 pm. The theme of this year's event is "Celebrate Water: County Streams Connect and Sustain Us" and local students have been asked to submit posters, essays, artwork, and photographs that reflect this theme and illustrate how the students feel connected to and connected by their local streams.

This event is co-sponsored by Loudoun Watershed Watch and the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance with special assistance this year from the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District Office who donated the prizes for this year's contest winners and The Nature Generation (formerly the Marasco Newton Foundation) who has worked for several years with students at Loudoun Valley High School to make the Chapman De Mary Trail an attractive, outdoor learning resource for everyone with interpretive signage and special areas such as the Butterfly Way Station that attract and support wildlife and give the students and the public opportunities to learn about the diversity of life in a stream valley habitat.

Free, family friendly, educational, and fun, the Family Stream Day event brings together over a dozen county groups who have a role in monitoring, maintaining, and teaching about the health of our local streams to offer engaging, hands-on



demonstration activities that will allow students and their families to learn more about the life in, on, and around local streams. Families will see small organisms who live in the streams, hear the birds who are depend on the streamside berries and insects for food, touch the bark of the trees that call the stream valley home, and smell the marvelous natural fragrances of leaves, flowers, water, and soil. The event will be held rain or shine, moving indoors to the Loudoun Valley High School in the event of bad weather.

To learn more about this event, the associated contest open to all county students including home-schoolers, and how monitoring of local streams is accomplished and what it tells us about stream health, go to the Loudoun Watershed Watch website at www.loudounwatershedwatch.org. To find out what outdoor activities are available for family outings and what Environmental Education resources are available for home, civic, and school support, visit the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance website at www.loudounnature.org.



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Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

departures from those we love, but our conscious and unconscious losses of romantic dreams, impossible expectations, illusions of freedom and power, illusions of safety – and the loss of our own younger self, the self that thought it would always be unwrinkled, invulnerable and immortal.

Somewhat wrinkled, highly vulnerable and non-negotiably mortal, I have been examining these losses. These lifelong losses. These necessary losses. These losses we confront when we are confronted by the inescapable fact ...

That our mother is going to leave us, and we will leave her;

That our mother's love can never be ours alone;

That what hurts us cannot always be kissed and made better;

That we are essentially out here on our own;

That we will have to accept-in other people and ourselves, the mingling of love with hate, of the good with the bad;

That our options are constricted by anatomy and guilt;

That there are flaws in every human connection;

That our status on this planet is implacably impermanent;

And that we are utterly powerless to offer ourselves or those we love protection – protection from danger and pain, from the inroads of time, from coming of age, from coming of death; Protection from our necessary losses.

These are a part of life-universal, unavailable, inexorable. And these losses are necessary because we grow by losing and leaving and letting go.

For the road to human development is paved with renunciation. Throughout our life we grow by giving up. We give up some

of our deepest attachments to others. We give up certain cherished parts of ourselves. We must conform, in the dreams we dream, as well as in our intimate relationships, all that we never will have and never will be. Passionate investment leaves us vulnerable to loss. And sometimes, no matter how clever we are, we must lose."

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I are planning a trip to the Caribbean together right before Thanksgiving. I am thrilled to finally have some time alone with him for an extended weekend in paradise, but he is only half thrilled. We have two boys under 5, and he doesn't think we should take trips without them given their young ages and so close to the holidays. I see the trip as a much needed get away for us as a couple, and he sees it as something he is doing for me and with great trepidation. My parents were also looking forward to spending time with our boys, but maybe we shouldn't go. Your advice is appreciated. P in Loudoun County

P, I think you both need to have a serious talk, and I think you both need to really listen to each other during that talk as opposed to defending your positions. As a general rule, I think it is important and healthy for couples to spend time together and away from their children. By refueling as a couple, you will likely be refueled upon your return as parents.

However, I think you need to better understand what is triggering your husband's "trepidation." How much of his discomfort with the trip has to do with your boys and their ages, the holidays or the status of your relationship as a married couple? I think you are also hurt by your husband's attitude, and I think he needs to reassure you

that he wants to spend time with you as his wife.

Your husband may also need plenty of reassurance – that your boys will have an adventure of their own with their grandmother and grandfather, that the grandparents will cherish their special time with your boys, that it is only an extended weekend, and that you as a couple deserve a fun weekend to celebrate and enjoy each other! Another option could be to look for a hotel that offers babysitting services. This will allow your husband to spend quality time with his children, while also allowing time for you to be alone as a couple.

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I have a very sensitive 3-year-old boy, and while Halloween is a fun time of year for our older kids, it is freaking out our youngest. We thought he'd get into the costumes and the event this year at 3, but even hearing his much older siblings plan out their costumes frightens him to the point of tears and meltdowns. We can't really protect him from every monster or ghoul that he might encounter on Halloween, but we also don't want to make his anxiety worse by pushing him too hard. We could use some advice. V in Loudoun County

V, It is not uncommon for a 3-year-old to experience uneasiness or fear in this way. Why just the other day I was at the Home Depot with my nearly 3-year-old son, who was startled and became tearful in response to a mechanized life size witch. We ended up walking by that witch a few times while shopping, and by the time we were checking out, he asked to go back and push the button himself to make it howl and storm. He laughed and laughed in response. The point here being that gradual exposure to the fear

served to slowly extinguish its hold on my boy. In fact, with exposure to the witch, he began to gain a sense of control and eventually mastery over the problem. I recommend a similar approach for your son where you slowly expose him to the idea of Halloween and all its joys. You might consider having him help you pick out pumpkins and carve some faces together. You might watch some age appropriate fun cartoons on Halloween together (e.g., "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown") or read some fun books on the topic together (e.g., "The Big Pumpkin").

You could also ask your son's friends and their parents about their Halloween plans and costumes when socializing. Maybe you could get your older children on board to wear only fun and/or happy costumes and not scary ones this year in support of their younger brother's fears. Hosting a Halloween party or gathering for your youngest son and his friends on Halloween afternoon or early evening may prove to be a fun way to help your son feel secure with the event while your older children trick-or-treat.

Keep in mind that your son has plenty of time to address and manage his fears. By gradually exposing him to his worries and fears now, and by his experiencing and re-experiencing his competency in those moments, I am hopeful that your son will be ready for a great Halloween this year!

Michael Oberschneider "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.

Garlic, continued from page 18

the multi-layered soft neck types. It has a stiff central stem with a single layer of cloves.

Once the stem turns brown, the garlic harvest can begin. Use a garden fork to loosen the soil. I dry the bulbs outside in a dry, shady spot for a month. Once dry, the roots and stem can be trimmed; the stem should not ooze any water – if it does, allow to dry longer. The papery covering of the cloves can be rubbed off and a fresh, clean papery layer will appear.

Save larger cloves for replanting in October/November in a sunny location with good drainage. It's very tasty and so beautiful. This

reminder of Chris Wood's generosity and vision is multiplied and renewed every year in my garden. He planted some garlic and made me a better gardener.

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.

Sushi, continued from page 29

heard screeching, Gnarly Gander was honking; Mrs. Zaza, along with all the duck and goose mothers ran into the barnyard with their young and hid in the shadows of the big brown barn.

Clovers massive muscled body leaped into action. I led the charge but Clovers long legs passed me by in one huge bound. Lynden's Sadie Hawkins could be heard neighing for Clover and me to come quickly. Sadie lunged into the air on her hind legs swinging madly at the eagle with her powerful hoofs. Tink and Betty turned to protect Lady Miss Gracious from the talons of the mighty eagle. Sadie swung her hoofs with all her might bucking and lunging. The eagle deftly darted back into the skies from hence it came.

It seemed as though we had dodged a bullet when my fierce little Cairn Terrier nose picked up another scent in the air that was unmistakable to a Cairn. Clover in tune with my body language growled deeply from within and bolted into the thicket along the fence line. Sadie, Tink and Betty with Lady Miss Gracious now safely riding on Sadie's back, stood at a safe distance neighing for

me and Clover to catch the nasty fox. The Sly One slipped under the fence and back into the woods laughing at us over his shoulder snarling – hahaha you didn't catch me this time – but don't you worry little doggies for I will be back!

Clover and I looked at each other, disappointed we were not fast enough to catch that nasty RED FOX and turned around to head back to the barnyard. Much to our surprise, Gnarly Gander and all of our barnyard friends honked, and quacked, and gobbled for their guardian doggy friends, our spirits were lifted at how much we really were appreciated.

I hope you will continue to read more of my Sushi Tails from the Barn Yard in the Blue Ridge Leader! – Love, Sushi



► REAL ESTATE TICKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

will rise faster due to the fact that renting, which is the alternative method of keeping a roof over your head, will drive those prices up faster than you might expect.

A lot to think about ..

Carl Fischer is the Broker/Owner of United Country Real Estate, specializing in com-

mercial, 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)

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

Stately, tree-lined side streets, unique shopping destinations, cultural events the year-round, comprehensive government services at your fingertips, multiple worthwhile dining choices, historic architecture galore, unending stories from the far (and more recent) past, and more atmosphere than most big-budget movie sets. I've often said that you couldn't blow off a scattergun in downtown Leesburg without hitting a lawyer or two, but there's so much more to this one-of-a-kind place than its plethora of private and public legal offices – most within a stone's throw of the historic courthouse square. The core of this little Town has so much charm that you could live here several lifetimes and still feel like a tourist in your own backyard. The word 'special' falls dramatically short in describing the inner quadrant of the Loudoun County Seat.

I felt it the first time I arrived here- over 15 years ago now – coming in from the Route Seven Bypass – entering on West Market Street and diverting on Loudoun Street- past the Loudoun Museum's old log cabin- then serendipitously passing by the whole Market Station complex. I thought, "What a cool place to be." I still do.

I often 'kick' myself for not taking full advantage of all that my Town has to offer- but then I remember that I'm pretty busy

earning a living in order to stay in such a nice place. Kind of a conundrum, I guess. I'm sure a lot of folks in greater Loudoun County fall into that category. But, take it from me - it's important to enjoy the 'time of your life,' while it's still yours to experience - even if only in subtle ways.

Lord knows I carry enough great experiences in Leesburg to last at least a lifetime: 10 years of attendance at every County Board and Town Council Meeting – not to mention just about any ribbon-cutting or other event coming to attention - some more "newsworthy" than others. And of course any political announcement – usually with an appearance on the Courthouse steps – to lend the mes-

Leesburg Historic District



sage all the more dignity. Those were the headline items. Then there were the human-interest tangents: like the annual Halloween Parade (driving among the thousands of screaming spectators who all wanted CANDY!), making an informal tally of favorite Christmas decorations, looking in on the Loudoun County School Board's activities – back when they still met at the old North Street Building, July 4th right up the street at Ida Lee Park (no matter how hot), and so on, and so on.

My new hometown downtown even served as a backdrop for lots of extracurricular activities: directing a series of summer Shakespeare plays outside in the Market Station Courtyard (making good use of their three-tiered balcony), appearing in the Loudoun Museum's annual fundraiser, Leesburg Hauntings – as well as some of the First Night Leesburg New Year's Eve festivals – put on by the Bluemont Concert Series and their partners. So – yes – I've had my share of cultural experience in downtown Leesburg- so I

have every reason to keep involved in its wide variety of offerings.

And, so I shall - when time and energy return to my disposal. A full- and very physical – work schedule has pretty much precluded my participation in most of the aforementioned events and things for the past several years. so – you really can take it from me, that it really is essential to take advantage of what your surroundings have to offer – while you can – because, like me- you never know when circumstances may sweep you up and keep you 'airborne' for a spell. And, like me – you'll put your time and energy where it's desperately need always – remembering those fulfilling, exciting times- and hoping to some day return to your true passions.

And, in the meantime – I keep all those Leesburg memories pretty close- all the more treasured since I live just a handful of blocks from the Historic District- and still give myself the occasional re-acquaintance with the Town's charms – short-lived though they may be. It's great to know that it's still here- just down the street or sidewalk – even if only in my daydreams.

And when I get back into the swing of my new old hometown's possibilities of cultural experience – perhaps I'll see you there – or just maybe you'll be one of my many fellow participants. Break a leg!

Autumn Hill, continued from page 1

must allow the use of an alternative. The county argues that proffers are part of a legally binding contract and can only be changed through a Zoning Concept Plan Amendment (ZCPA).

Although Brookfield Autumn Hill submitted such an application in February 2007, it focused most of its efforts on wooing town officials. There were discussions regarding annexation, commercial opportunities, and lower densities. The discussions culminated in a public charette process at the Purcellville Train Station.

However, in 2011 the company began drilling test wells and undertaking the necessary soil studies for a state permit to develop the property with communal well and septic. That spring, it officially withdrew its ZCPA and requested a formal determination as to the

necessity of using town utilities.

The county's proffer manager, Susan Glass, determined that "Brookfield ... has already stated and acknowledged that, in accordance with this said Proffer 5A, in order to develop the Autumn Hill project, the developer is required to enter into an agreement with the Town of Purcellville for provision of utilities, and that the Town has no obligation to provide utility service. I agree with this interpretation of the proffers."

Brookfield appealed Glass' determination to the Board of Supervisors in September 2011. The Board upheld Glass' determination and Brookfield filed suit in December.

This July the developer met with county staff to discuss submitting another concept plan amendment to delete the problematic

proffer and a Special Exception (SPEX) application to construct a utility plant adjacent to Valley Industrial Park. In an email sent to Juanita Tool, aide to Supervisor Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge), Assistant Planning Director John Merritt wrote, "[The developer] agreed that a SPEX and a ZCPA are necessary."

According to Merrithew's email, "The key discussion at the [meeting] was the applicant's admission that they filed the [pre-application meeting] for a special exception because they want to be able to tell the court they had pursued all available administrative relief." However, the County's defense suggests that such pursuit requires waiting until the Board actually acts on their applications.

Upon taking office Clarke quickly initiated efforts to negotiate a settlement, meeting with plaintiff's representatives in January and February. According to Clarke's calendar, a third meeting appears to have occurred on July 16.

After the July 16 meeting, Clarke sent a letter to adjacent property owners. The letter alerted recipients to the lawsuit, the "worst case scenario," and efforts to negotiate an out-of-court settlement "with less density as well as with proffered improvements that will benefit the community." The letter invited recipients to provide Clarke with input during a July 26 meeting.

Prior to the community meeting, Clarke and Brookfield's Bob Hubbell exchanged several emails discussing who should be there and what would be presented, including whether or not Clarke would present the pictorial representations of the lower density proposal that had earlier been sent to the county attorney. The emails also indicate that there was at least one additional meeting involving Clarke, Roberts, and the developer's attorney, Ty Lawson. Neither this meeting nor the July 26 com-

munity meeting appears on her county calendar although she did verbally disclose the community meeting during the Sept. 5th Board meeting.

Based on the community's desire to see Brookfield's designs, the company presented those plans during an August meeting with the Chestnut Hill community. Lawson began his comments by stating, "You have a different Board of Supervisors, Mr. Burton is no longer there and lawsuits have been settled. And we view that as positive."

In his presentation, Lawson suggested that the project would be a traditional community of 250 single-family houses or a mix of 150 townhouses with 100 single-family houses. Established as a condominium to meet the demand by "young and old professionals" for high-end condominium living, Lawson also suggested that the community would not generate additional students. "When you are a one- or two-bedroom community, you don't generate many kids."

Those who attended were not impressed. In an email to Clarke the next day, HOA board member McCawley laid out the issues and concluded, "Brookfield is clearly only interested in money. They have no interest in building a community that will be compatible with the surrounding area."

However, on Sept. 17, McCawley sent out an email stating, "The county is not going to settle the Brookfield lawsuit based on the current proposal. Therefore, Brookfield is moving forward with their lawsuit." McCawley did not respond to an email asking the source of his information. However, as such discussions take place in closed session, neither supervisors nor the county attorney could confirm the e-mail's assertion.

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Answers to crossword puzzle from page 29

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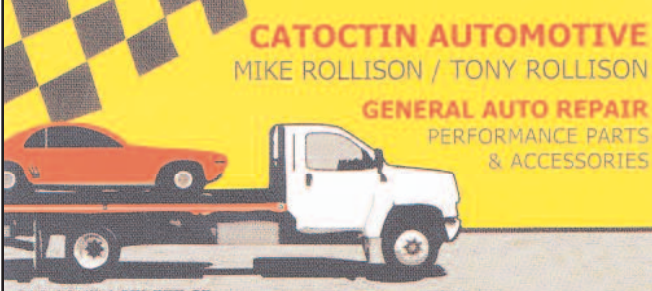
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