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November 2012

Proposed Changes to County Assessor's Office Raise Alarm

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

At its Nov. 13 public hearing, the Board of Supervisors will consider whether or not to transfer the real property assessment function to the Commissioner of the Revenue Office. The Government Reform Commission (GRC) recommended such a transfer in a memo dated Aug. 31, 2012. Although the Board seemed inclined to adopt the recommendation, state law requires a public hearing prior to the amendment of county ordinances.

Based on questions GRC members asked county staff, the treasurer and the commissioner of revenue, a key component of the recommendation was a concern with issues of governance and public perception. With one exception, the GRC members and their panel emphasized that a structure in which the county assessor reported directly to the board or indirectly through the county administrator created the opportunity for political manipulation of the county's revenue portfolio by the nine-member Board, reduced "the independence of the assessment function," and increased "the potential for the perception of impropriety" by the public.

"Either this crowd doesn't know what they're doing or they really know what they're doing and are trying to pull a fast one."

– Jim Burton,
Former Blue Ridge District Supervisor

However, there appears to be a key omission in the materials provided to the GRC, the GRC memo to the board, and the item prepared by staff for the board's public hearing. Under state law, employees of an elected constitutional officer, such as the commissioner of revenue, are at-will employees unprotected by either state or county grievance policies. They are essentially political appointees, subject to the same pressures as board aides, a program that is currently under review due to abuses alleged in a report by *The Washington Post*.

Former and current employees of the county, who asked to remain anonymous, worried that the change might leave assessors without protection from political pressure to reduce individual assessments. Under the current structure, assessors are

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"Minor" Special Exception Sought for New Purcellville Banquet Facility

There will be a public hearing Nov. 13 for a "Minor Special Exception" (SPM1) for a new banquet facility to include indoor and outdoor events. The property is located 1/2 mile south from the Town of Purcellville on Silcott Springs Road (690). The 234 acre property is currently vacant land and is zoned AR1 (agriculture rural-1). Under current zoning, the property owner could host ten events per year with a minimum of 14 days between events. The use is governed under policies of the Revised General Plan.

The Revised General Plan identifies appropriate rural business uses in order to provide opportunities for rural tourism and hospitality services. The potential uses include bed and breakfasts, country inns, rural retreats and corporate retreats, to name a few.

The property, which is listed under the name of River Bottom Land Trust, has



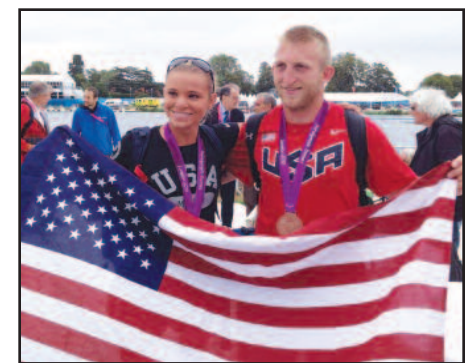
applied to build a 7,200 sq. ft. facility with two outdoor activity areas. "The applicant anticipates that a minimum of 25 events per year will be held at the site, however that number could increase in the future. The proposed Minor Special Exception for the

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Loudoun Valley Veterans Club to Hold Especially Meaningful Celebration

– By Andrea Gaines

Veteran's Day celebrations take many forms, from the quiet graveside service to the marching bands and potluck dinners. This Veteran's Day, which the nation will celebrate on Friday, Nov. 9 will be marked in an especially significant way by the Loudoun Valley High School (LVHS) Veterans Club as the school welcomes guest speaker and 2003 LVHS graduate Sgt. Rob Jones. A veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Jones lost the lower half of both legs as he was trying to



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Cub Scout Campers



Cub Scout Pack 1162 braved the cold weather in October and held its annual Fall Camp Out. More than 40 scouts participated in the camp out. The Pack, lead by Kevin

Bills, is accepting new members.

More information can be found at www.pack1162.org.

Wild Loudoun, page 8



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Ask Dr. Mike



Dr. Mike, I have two teenagers and a 9 year old and they (and their father) are addicted to their screens. We used to have family dinner and weekends together but now everyone is behind a TV screen, computer, iPad, gaming system or smart phone. It's driving me crazy. Any thoughts on how to unplug and reboot my family? – K in Loudoun County

K, It seems that you are alone in your position that screen time usage is a problem in your family, so eliciting change will likely be met with defense by others. I would start by speaking to your husband about how you feel. See if he can manage your expectations for change and make sure that your expectations are reasonable. Some examples might include: Reinstating family dinners, having a family activity over the weekend and doing homework and chores before screen usage. I would speak to your children only after you and your husband are in agreement and have a united game plan to share with them. Amish Night is a strategy I like to recommend to families who are drowning in screen time. This involves your picking a night once a week where no one in your family uses screens from the moment they walk into the house from their school day or workday. The point of Amish Night is to reconnect and rediscover yourselves again as a family – without any screen activity. You or your husband can check your smart phones in the garage for work related affairs (if you must) but no screens in the house during Amish Night. Remember too that pre-teens and teens rely on screens heavily in our society,

so much of what you are probably experiencing is quite normal. Best to you in finding the balance you are looking for with your loved ones.

Dr. Mike, I recently had a baby and while my husband hasn't been horrible, he also hasn't been as helpful as I had hoped. He refuses to sleep in our room with me because he is a light sleeper, and I am up breast-feeding every few hours during the night. He tells me "someone needs to go to work and make money." It also seems like he often puts himself first when the baby and I should be first. For example, the gym and weekend sports TV are way ahead of diapers, meal prep, help with the other kids and me. I can't do it all. I am physically and emotionally exhausted. Am I being hormonal? – D in Loudoun County

D, First of all congratulations on the new addition to your family! Regarding your struggles with your husband, I think you should start by being more sensitive to his needs and position rather than correcting him or pointing out how he is disappointing you

Continued on page 22

Whose farm is on your holiday table?



Fancy grocery stores in our area are lining up to sell you expensive, premium (and in some cases labeled-organic) meats for your holiday table. But ...

- Just because it's referred to as premium, doesn't mean it is truly fresh.
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An Interview With Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey

— By Tim Jon

Scott T. Ramsey currently serves his second term as mayor of Round Hill; he ran uncontested in the last town election this past May. He's had a strong voice — with clear opinions — in representing his community before the County Board, and served 6 years on Town Council prior to taking the dais as mayor. Scott Ramsey and his family have lived in Round Hill for the past 11 years; he's an engineer by trade.



responsibility to that population looms over our entire town government.

TJ: In contrast, historic preservation must also be a concern for the Round Hill government; how do you move through the 21st Century- and keep intact the treasures from the past? Or, do you?

SR: Round Hill has a rich history as a railroad town that is expressed in many of our homes and businesses. To preserve that, though, the town favors voluntary over coercive approaches. Round Hill recently achieved formal recognition and access to some beneficial tax programs by our listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In past years town residents have debated whether to adopt a historic zoning district with mandatory regulations on facades and uses, and just recently a council committee reviewed blight ordinances to see if they might work in Round Hill. But the town determined in both cases to avoid establishing a new adversarial relationship between town and homeowner.

TJ: The County Board voted to reduce the planned size of the future Sheriff Substation in Round Hill; will that work for the Town, and when's something going to happen with that?

SR: The Sheriff's office needs a new facility, and thus the town is supportive of the overall project. But Round Hill has supported a smaller substation from the beginning, with

Tim Jon: For many in western Loudoun, the water supply and the availability of municipal water and sewer services dictate building — and (to some extent) — living conditions. How much do these issues loom over your decisions as mayor of Round Hill?

Scott Ramsey: In terms of our budget, our staff and council time, the fees paid by our customers, and the impact of our decisions, utility issues are far more significant than most people realize. Round Hill has a unique situation in Loudoun County where approximately 80 percent of our system users live outside our town limits. We are a town of 560 ensuring water supplies and sanitation for a user population of 3,000, and planning for a final user population close to 5,000. The

Continued on page 21

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Apartment Complex Wrong For Purcellville

– By Karen Jimmerson

Growth has impacts on every aspect of quality of life that people care about: environmental, social amenity, economic welfare, and cost of living. Many current residents of Purcellville moved here because of the way it is; newcomers are attracted by the way it is; and few would argue that they made the choice based on what it might become.

I am opposed to the proposed high-density apartment complex off Hirst Road; a development that could bring in excess of 600 additional residents and would have nearly 10 percent of the town's population traveling through this corridor. This complex would be the fourth tax-credit (low-income) property in Purcellville, a town that has a higher ratio of tax-credit properties per capita than all other communities in Loudoun County.

Growth has many effects besides the need to build infrastructure to accommodate it but often reveals inadequate infrastructure at all levels. This development in particular will impact the loss of green spaces, increased traffic, crowded schools, crime, more social services/police outlays, and countless others that are not easily measured. Lowering our quality of life would be bad enough, but this growth and development will also increase our taxes.

The Comprehensive Plan for the town specifically points out the need to preserve open spaces for public use. Residents of Purcellville currently enjoy outdoor education and physical recreation provided at little or no cost with the Catoctin stream, nature trails, woods, and fields to play in. This wetland and creek provide a vital resource for our environment and when this land is gone we then must build recreation facilities and create systems for water runoff, all of which are expensive and taxpayer funded. Our Town Council says we can't afford to purchase open land yet purchased/rehabilitated a church that cost triple what a new building would cost. Since Bob Lazaro has been mayor, our debt has

increased by over 60 million dollars. This too will increase our taxes.

Our community is growing rapidly and the overcrowding of schools in western Loudoun was lowered in recent years with the opening of several new schools and will come back with this development and other high-density developments just outside of town limits. The Board of Education expects budget cuts of 68 million in the next budget. With limited resources we will continue to have difficulty in building new schools fast enough to accommodate this growth. The path to more schools is yet another tax increase.

I believe the current Purcellville Town Council believes that growth is justified on the basis that new residents will increase the tax base and support increased retail development. The growth of shopping opportunities is driven by growth in disposable income; the income demographic in this proposed apartment complex would not support the desired increase in commercial development. The influx of strip malls and larger stores may provide more shopping opportunities and encourage spending in Purcellville, but will negatively impact downtown areas, local small businesses, and transportation patterns. We should not allow the town to provide huge giveaways to real estate developers and landowners on the basis of unproven theories and become what we all moved to Purcellville to get away from.

Quality of life does not always deteriorate when population grows, however one recent study from U.C. Irvine found that less densely packed people are friendlier towards their neighbors. Since people are free to move, we can assume that the people who live in Purcellville did so because a small, friendly town appealed to them.

Declare your opposition by visiting GoPetition.com, Purcellville Residents Opposed to Apartment Complex Next to Catoctin Creek.

Purcellville's Water & Sewer Rates Fiasco

Taxpayers Foot the Bill For Overcapacity & Mismanagement

– By Valerie Cury Joyner

In late October, the Purcellville Town Council considered the issue of monthly billing for Purcellville water & sewer customers, and at a worksession meeting decided against it because it would initially cost approximately \$50,000 for the software required. (Customers are now billed on a bi-monthly basis.) But, this is as far as the town's cost-savings' ethic goes ...

Background – how much does it cost the town to produce water?

The answer of how much it costs the town to produce water is found in the budget for the water fund. The annual budget for the water fund is almost \$3.3 million ... but, after you subtract the cost of debt service (interest plus principle) and a charge back to the general fund, the budget is reduced to just over \$1.5 million. Using May as a typical month, the average amount of town water pumped was 586,000 gallons per day. So, let's round up to an even 600,000 and do the math. The formula is approximately \$1,500,000 (cost) divided by 600 times 365 days = cost per thousand gallons ... or \$6.96. So, the cost of Purcellville water per customer is \$6.96 per gallon.

In actuality, however, the water rates start at \$6.35 and go all the way up to \$54.55 per thousand. So, anyone who is paying \$54.55 is paying substantially more than it costs. Of course there are fixed charges each period also – called meter fees or basic bimonthly charges. But, one starts with a base charge and adds on according to the amount of water used. The income section of the budget calls for withdrawing \$823,000 from reserves to balance the budget. That is why the water rates are going up so fast. Either the town expands to absorb the overcapacity businesses and residents are paying for, or the rates must go up even more. The

revenue expected from the water fees this year is \$2.1 million. In order to break even, the fees need to go up by the shortfall amount (\$823,000). Therefore, the rate for water must increase by approximately 40 percent to break even. (FYI, in comparison, Loudoun County's water base rate is only \$2.04 per thousand.)

Background – how much does it cost the town to process sewage?

Let's use the \$600,000 figure as the usage for the sewer system.

The sewer influent is dependent on weather in that an extremely old system like Purcellville's is subject to rainfall influent. For the month of May, the number is reasonably close. So, performing the same analysis on the sewer (wastewater) fund budget, leads to the following ... The budget is just under \$4.4 million. After the cost of debt service and charge back is subtracted, the budget is just over \$1.4 million. Using a similar formula to the water, the sewer cost is \$6.43 per thousand. So, the obvious question that one might ask is that why does the Purcellville sewer system charge customers \$14.21 per thousand if the real cost of processing and operating the plant is only \$6.43? (Loudoun County charges only \$4.02 per thousand.)

The answer to this is in "making the mortgage." The debt service for the Purcellville sewer plant is just over \$2.4 million. It becomes even bigger when you realize that this year the budget calls for over \$1.7 million to be transferred in from reserves. Furthermore, sewer fees are only expected to bring in \$2.5 million. In other words, the fees must increase by \$1.7 million to break even. And, this must be increased before the reserves are exhausted. Thus, the sewer fees must increase by another 68 percent in order to break even.

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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

The Real Meaning of Aloha ... Lost

Dear Editor:

I have come full circle from Moloka'i, Hawai'i back to the old Quaker Brown Family Farm, where I once lived and worked in the late seventies. Much has remained the same, but there are some drastic changes.

The heritage of the farm dates back 250 years. By all rights it should be made a state if not a national treasure in our historical records of Virginia.

The farm is still alive with orchards of apples, pears, blackberries and cherries. Stands of walnut trees date back to the early part of the last century. Families and droves of school children come to enjoy a day of

picking, picnicking, and learning about the orchards.

However, due to the blind vision of local officials, the Brown Farm is being split in two by ambitious, unnecessary road construction.

It saddens my heart that this once quiet, peaceful farm is being disturbed by the sound of heavy equipment and construction cutting through the tranquil orchards. I am left with the bittersweet thankfulness that Howell and Irma Brown, who I consider my second parents, are not here to see their farm devastated by so called progress and disregard of private property.

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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 recent actions of the county Finance/Government Services and Operations Committee.

**Board of Supervisors
Finance/Government Services and
Operations Committee
– Oct. 22, 2012**

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

● *Topic: Aldie Fire Station*

At the Oct. 22 Finance/Government Services & Operations Committee meeting, the supervisors resumed the discussion where to build a new Aldie Fire & Rescue Center. As one of its first actions in January, the new Board unanimously approved a motion by Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke (R) to reject the site purchased by the prior Board within the Little River Estates subdivision and initiate a more transparent public process by asking landowners to submit potential sites for consideration.

The county received four submissions of which two met the county's requirements. The first proposal is a 14.66 acre lot to be subdivided from the larger parcel owned by Gilberts Corner, LP at the southeast quadrant of Gilberts Corner. It comes with a steep price tag of \$3.5 million. At \$238,745 per acre, it is about 1.5 times the amount paid for the original site.

Based on its location, the county's Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management Services (DFREM) staff ques-

tioned whether they could meet their operational requirements to provide back-up assistance to the Middleburg and Philomont service areas. "Aldie station is probably one of the more strategic stations in the county," explained DFREM Chief Keith Brower. The site currently has no road access and it is unclear whether VDOT would approve an emergency vehicle entrance within the Gilbert's Corner roundabout system.

The second site, a 7.79 acre parcel at the intersection of Route 50 and Snickersville Turnpike, has a far lower asking price (\$560,000), but significant site development costs. Based on the topography, staff estimated that those costs might run as high as \$4,775,000. Although this site has direct access to Route 50, staff questioned whether equipment would be able to safely exit and enter the facility due to the lay-out of the intersection and the approaching roads.

Sounding discouraged, Brower promised the committee, "Given these two sites, I guess we'll make it work." However, he qualified his promise with the hope that "maybe there's another site that could possibly come in at the last minute."

While noting that neither site appeared optimal, Board members gave no indication that they would return to the site chosen by the 2008 Board, calling it a "false start." A few residents of the Little River Estates subdivision objected to a process they claimed lacked transparency and to a use they considered incompatible with a high-end residential community. They sued the county and contributed to Clarke's and Ken Reid's (R-Leesburg) election campaigns. That property is now for sale.

Although not a member of the committee, Clarke attended the Oct. 22 meeting. According to Clarke, "Where I stand on this is just conducting a truly public process and

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Misuse of Office?

In March of this year, a staff aide to Sterling Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio went to the county's Human Resources Department to file a complaint against her employer. The aide, Donna Mateer, was fired later that day.

In an eight-page statement, Mateer described a hostile work environment in which she and her fellow aides were subjected to verbal abuse and tirades in which Delgaudio mocked racial minorities and homosexuals. She also says that she was instructed to spend most of her time making appointments for Delgaudio with potential political donors, a violation of county policy. Mateer's allegations, supported by other former aides and donors on the so-called "Igor list," were made public in a *Washington Post* article at the end of Sept.

It was not until the publication of that article that Chairman Scott York acknowledged a March meeting with senior staff during which he and Vice-Chair Janet Clarke were informed of Mateer's allegations. In a press release dated Oct. 2, York stated: "When the Board's leadership team was made aware of these allegations against Supervisor Delgaudio, we asked that the complaint filed against Mr. Delgaudio be given to Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney Jim Plowman for review. Mr. Plowman then referred the matter to the Commonwealth Attorney's office in Arlington for an independent assessment. Based on the information provided at that time, the Arlington's Commonwealth Attorney [Theo Stamos] did not recommend pursuing any charges against Mr. Delgaudio."

However, emails obtained from both Plowman and Stamos show that neither of them received a large package of documentary evidence taken from Delgaudio's office by Mateer and provided to York at his request. An email exchange between the prosecutors indicates that neither had knowledge of any additional documents. When asked why he withheld the records, York maintained that Plowman and Stamos should have sought them from Mateer

"It doesn't ultimately matter whether staff aides were setting up meetings to raise funds for Public Advocate, or for Delgaudio's reelection campaign, or for some other interest of his that isn't county business," said Real Advocate's David Weintraub. "What we don't understand is why the rest of the board is trying so hard to protect him, why it is that York and Clarke, at least, sat on this information for seven months, and did absolutely nothing until they were forced to by the Washington Post story. Donna Mateer trusted them, and she never heard from them again."

directly, saying "I'm not a prosecutor, that's their job."

At its October 3 business meeting, the Board of Supervisors (including Delgaudio) voted unanimously to hire an outside firm to investigate the matter, setting a maximum budget of \$15,000.

The possession of the additional records by York and the limited information provided to the prosecutors came to light after a new Political Action Committee requested the documents under Virginia's Freedom of Information Act. The Real Advocate PAC – a poke at the name of Delgaudio's nonprofit group "Public Advocate" – was formed last month by four Loudoun residents, including former county supervisor Stevens Miller, his wife Liz, and Equality Loudoun co-founders Jonathan and David Weintraub. According to its website, the PAC's mission is to oppose "any elected official, regardless of their party, who relies on, promotes, or condones the hatred of any class of persons." Earlier this year, the Southern Poverty Law Center added Delgaudio's nonprofit to its listing of hate groups, claiming that it has "for years ... spread lies and vitriol about LGBT people to raise funds."

While the Real Advocate PAC doesn't assert that the alleged improper fundraising was for Public Advocate, Communications

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Letters to the Editor, continued from page 4

Officials may often be blinded by false progress and revenue. Perhaps they need to take a stroll through the rows of Quaker Heritage and find the real meaning of Aloha.

– John David Myers, Purcellville

Not Built for Earthquakes

Dear Editor:

Our house is shaking. You can feel the floors vibrate when you walk on them, or the chair shaking as you sit and write a letter. The glasses on the shelves rattle against one another with a delicate tinkling sound. It happens every day of the week, for hours on end.

Only once did I feel the same kind of vibration in the house. That was the August before last, when for several seconds, the 5.8 earthquake near Mineral Virginia shook the house for a few seconds, at most. My son came downstairs and we looked at each other and I said, "Is that what an earthquake feels like?" And he nodded, (*having lived for

years in L.A.), "That's exactly what it feels like."

Now it's constant. Heavy machinery much too close to our 1908 house to be safe for the foundation, building a road, pounding the earth, crushing whatever is below, including whatever archeological artifacts that might have been recovered (two arrowheads have been found on the farm). And, it will continue for many more weeks.

The house has stood for over one hundred years. It's a very well-built house. But then, it wasn't built for earthquakes.

– Uta Brown, Purcellville

WOW, WOW, WOW!

Dear Editor:

What else can we say about the 2nd annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party. The people of Purcellville and our neighbors from surrounding communities came out in droves to party in Old Town Saturday night and had

an awesome time! The costumes were a sight to see in the crowd of 5,000, and many went home with cash prizes and trophies for their effort.

We must thank the following companies and organizations for without their support we would never have pulled this off. First and foremost thank you to the Town of Purcellville, Mayor Bob Lazaro, Town Manager Rob Lohr, the Town Council and Mitch from Public Works; whatever we asked the Town for they provided it. The list goes on: the Purcellville Business Association and President Jim Bowman for handling the finances and getting the word out to potential sponsors; Improv Comedy group "Last Ham Standing" for a hilarious show, Dave Levinson of Wickedesign.com for the most creative art and poster design; Scott Kinney of Shamrock Music Shoppe for organizing the live music and Ben Weber, publisher of the Purcellville Gazette for MC-ing like a pro! Much grati-

tude to our costume contest judges: Mayor Bob Lazaro, Loudoun County Supervisor Janet Clarke (Blue Ridge District), Chief of Police Darryl Smith, and Miss America 2011 Teresa Scanlan. Some tough decisions you had to make. A "BIG THANKS" to all the sponsors for their monetary support; Giant for taking on the main sponsorship, Butterfly Gourmet, Middleburg Bank, Piper Dan's Keltic Shoppe, Market Burger & Fries, Atoka Properties, Boodacades BBQ, Casper Insurance Group, Bank of Clarke County, Purcellville Gazette, Zicht & Associates, PLC, Chapman Group, Mark Nelis, P.A., Tony Hudimac, CPA, Dr. Annette Hudler, Magnolias at the Mill, Ken Nichols & Nichols Hardware (for the use of your parking lot and electricity), Dental Smiles, TMG Construction, Loudoun Veterinary Service, Yoga Time Studio, Purcellville Community Marketplace, Sarah Huntington Photography and the Blue Ridge Eagle

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Letters to the Editor, continued from page 5

Ladies Auxiliary. Steve Vermecky, Loudoun Valley H.S. and Jerry Gordon, Woodgrove H.S. for providing us with student volunteers. The following individuals helped with the kids' games: Warren Grossman, Rose Mohammed, Sam & Ray Rees, Jane' La Fleur, Terry Nelis and the Girl Scouts, Mindy Piland, Darren and Shannon Casper and family. And last but not least to all the fantastic people who came dressed in costumes or came out to watch those in costumes; you were the party! Until next year and the 3rd Annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party which will be bigger and better, thanks again to everyone!

– Michael Oaks & Kim Patterson-Oaks
Chaircouple, Purcellville Halloween
Block Party, Re-Love It

First Friday – Shop Local

Dear Editor:

Since September the retail and service merchants have donated time and funding to making this sleepy town come alive. Horse-drawn carriage rides, face-painting, free munchies and beverages, live music, and wine tastings from wineries as far as Delaplane, Virginia, have all been a part of keeping it local. These businesses strive to keep the charm of the Town to what attracted residents to settle in Purcellville. This truly is a hometown feel where residents and visitors co-mingle one night of the month for a family-friendly free event.

Advertisement has been through press releases, tourism websites and social media outlets. With little success have I been able to have the Town of Purcellville acknowledge or

endorse the event. Several attempts have been made to have the mayor include it in his bimonthly newsletters, and also in the Citizens Update that is mailed to town residents, again with no success. Similar private business events such as the Townwide Tag Sale and the Halloween Block Party have been advertised using your tax dollar. So what singles out First Friday? Ask the mayor next time you see him why he doesn't include First Friday in any of his communications.

You see, you don't have to spend \$15,000 to create an event that brings revenue one day a year – funding of that magnitude could have been used for radio, television of newspaper advertisement for a year's worth of ads. Hard-working, passionate business owners and dedicated residents that appreciate the town's charm and know the meaning of shop local, make this event a success. Thanks to everyone that participated in the previous First Fridays. December 7th will be our last official event for the year and will resume in March. Follow us on Facebook – Purcellville First Friday for announcements.

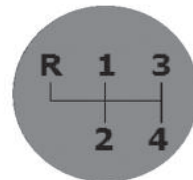
– Mary Beth Barbagallo
Resident & Owner, Above Ground Winery

Send a Letter to the Editor!

Submit to Editor@BRLeader.com, or via mail to PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325. 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.

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200 Unit Apartment Complex Update

Less than two weeks after attorney and developer Mark Nelis spoke to the board of Old Dominion Valley about the possibility of a 200 unit apartment complex going on the Stupar property, a comprehensive plan amendment application, and a zoning amendment application were filed at the Town of Purcellville for the property. Mark Nelis is representing Nusbaum Realty who envisions developing the 200 unit apartment complex on 13.72 acres of the 20.43 acre parcel. The property is located on Hirst Road in Purcellville across from the Purcellville Safety Center.

On the zoning map amendment and comprehensive plan amendment the 13.72 acre

parcel is listed for 176 multi-family residential units with a recreation facility. However, in town committee meetings staff has said that the plan calls for 200 apartments (six buildings) and 422 parking spaces. There are also requested changes to reduce the distances from a nearby private drive, from the side or rear of the property line, between buildings and from a major stream. They are also seeking modification of the required 50 foot type 2 buffer from the roadfront, and have requested a smaller 20 foot buffer.

The proposed zoning for the area is PDH-15. At the Nov. 1 Planning Commission Workshop meeting it was discussed that the

Continued on page 19

Water & Sewer, continued from page 4

Purcellville is stuck with the town's poor choices with respect to a overpriced \$33 million plant with too much capacity, operating costs out control and exploding debt service.

The typical usage in Purcellville is around 200 gallons per household per day – already pretty low compared to the rate of about 500 gallons per household per day in eastern Loudoun. And, commercial firms are already really hard hit by water rates. For comparison, Purcellville has 17 rates starting with the basic rate of \$6.35 per thousand for the first 5,000 gallons per billing period and up to a rate of \$54.55 for anything above 600,000 gallons in the two-month period. Loudoun

County's rates start at just \$2.04 for residential, for the first 25,000 gallons and end at just \$7.62 for anything above 50,000 gallons. (The commercial range is \$2.69 to \$5.69.)

Why the big differences?

Purcellville could have chosen to build a modest new water & sewer plant that would have kept water & sewer rates at a modest level ... instead of a \$33 million plant designed to service a hugely "overbuilt" Purcellville. At the time the new plant was built, the existing plant was still operating at just 40% capacity. Now, we have a plant that operates at just 30% capacity ... despite recent growth ... and the current residents of Purcellville at paying through the nose for it.



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REAL ESTATE UPDATE: SEPTEMBER REMAINED STEADY AT **61 DAYS** ON MARKET. Average sold price in September was up 6.81% over September 2011. . . Source:RBI LLC - an MRIS company.

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Wild Loudoun
The Life & Times of Wild Turkeys

– By Andrea Gaines

Early last spring I was heading north on route 340 towards Berryville – leaving Clarke County and heading into Loudoun County.

I'd heard lots of friends talk about how remarkable it was to come upon a flock of wild turkeys. But, this, this was amazing! A huge group of what looked to be 75 or 100 mini dinosaur-like birds, fanning out across an old cornfield, oblivious to the cars zipping by them, methodically combing the ground for food.

Turkey is such a common mass-produced food to us all, particularly around the holidays, that we forget this ground bird is also a fairly common wild animal.

In the early 1930s wild turkeys were on the verge of extinction. But, today, thanks to wildlife restoration and protection programs, wild turkey are fairly abundant. 200,000 wild turkeys are estimated to occur in the state of Virginia, alone.

In turkey speak, a "gobbler" is a male and a "hen" is a female.

The male is quite colorful, especially during the breeding season, sporting the beautiful fanned tail we all associate with this ground bird's famous profile ... for he needs to get noticed.

The female has a greyish blue head and grey to brown body. Pretty, too, but she is



Photos courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation



colored for concealment and protection from predators.

Turkey courtship begins in late March and early April. Females lay their eggs beginning in mid-April and the population's eggs are incubated during the first week of May. In most areas, eggs can be found in shallow dirt depressions surrounded by woody shrubs and vegetation that conceals the nest.

Continued on page 22

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First Step of a High School Student's Future

— By Hannah James

It's eight in the morning, a Saturday. Pencils tap on desktops, legs nervously shake up and down, and fingernails are chewed and bitten. But different from any other normal day in a



Loudoun County high school, these are the only sounds heard in the empty hallways as students begin the four-hour long test, the SAT.

The SAT is a standardized college entry test that nearly every high school student in America will take before they graduate. Split into three sections, math, critical reading, and writing, the test has a total of 2400 points possible. The limited topics tested in the SAT create opposing views among public school juniors. Most students argued that the test is too restrictive, and well-rounded students might deserve placement in a college that their low SAT scores would prevent. Some students disagree, of course. "It tests the main, and most substantial, elements of education and intelligence," said Jonathan Scoggins.

Students are ready to fiercely make their point when asked about the 'fairness' of the SAT. "I don't feel like it's really a measure of intelligence because your score depends on how well you can take a particular kind of test," said junior Hayley Tilghman, agreeing with a popular criticism of standardized tests. However, junior Katie Mallett believes that the test is fair because "we are given advance notice of what will be on the test so everyone has time to prepare".

Despite conflicting views on the SAT, most high school students plan not only to take the

test at least two times, but they also participate lengthy preparatory rituals before the big day arrives. These customs include taking classes provided by both the public school system and private tutors, ordering thick yet beneficial SAT study books, and some people go the extra mile to make sure they understand the format of the test. "I have SAT questions emailed to me every day," said junior Mary Rose Lunde, referring to a service provided by College Board, the publisher of the SAT. Interestingly, these opening acts usually only take place before the first SAT is taken. "I didn't prepare at all for the second one [I took]," said senior Michael Bruce with a laugh.

While the SAT is the main test that the nation affiliates with college entry, an increasing number of colleges are starting to accept the ACT as appropriate application material as well. The ACT tests on a broader range of topics, which would appeal to students who dislike the rigid question types of the SAT. Some students shy away from the ACT, though, because they believe it's based knowledge as opposed to the logic questions of the SAT. Then again, the ACT appeals more to some than the SAT. "It has more straight forward questions," said junior Alyssa Bruce.

Nevertheless, no matter what test is taken, whether the SAT or the ACT, a collective sigh of relief is breathed when the test proctor finally calls time and nubs of pencils slip from tired fingers. Sweaty hands wipe stressed brows as it is remembered that the test is only the first step into the long journey of college applications. There is still a long journey ahead.

Hannah James is a junior at Potomac Falls High School, and a member of the GSA Student Board.



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Halloween 'Round Town

Joe and Paulina Liquefatto of Purcellville attended the 2nd annual Purcellville Halloween block party Oct. 27. Joe is 90 years old and Paulina is 99. Both came in their wheel chairs and in costume, entering the category 13 to 100 years old. Paulina dressed up as a tooth fairy and Joe dressed up as a clown. They won first place and received a trophy along with \$75.

"My parents we so looking forward to the Purcellville Halloween Block Party, and they had the time of their life," said Gina Smith, daughter of Joe and Paulina. Bob Smith, Gina's husband, said, "They were so thrilled." Joe and Paulina live with their daughter and son in law. Paulina us under the care of hospice and hospice is doing such a wonderful job taking care of Paulina that she was able to attend the block party. Amelia from hospice has taken such special care of Paulina.

This was an event that Joe and Paulina will not soon forget! Kudos to Michael Oaks and Kim Paterson Oaks of Re-Love It, chairpersons for the Halloween event.

First prize in Purcellville's Halloween Block Party was bestowed on Christy Nelson, is a junior at Loudoun Valley High School. Christy loves art-work and animals so it was natural for her to create a very life-like bear costume. She spent countless days on the costume using many materials in her effort to depict a realistic bear ... down to the teeth and tongue sculpted from clay, and individual claws on the feet



Joe and Paulina Liquefatto



Lincoln Halloween event



Carl Fischer



Richard Hampton



Bobby Schonder

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Christy Nelson

and paws and head created out of coat hangers, rubber bands and leather scraps. "I enjoyed seeing the surprise and excitement in many people as I walked around town that night at the big town party," said Christy. "There were so many great costumes and I was obviously thrilled to win the grand prize! I had the most fun greeting the parents and young children who saw me as a big friendly bear." Christy is hoping to go on to college and study environmental science and art.

The Village of Lincoln continued its pumpkin decorating contest tradition this year. Prizes were awarded

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Under Fire! A Veteran's Day Story

– Purcellville Soldier Built the World's Largest Bailey Bridge, While Nazis Fired and General Patton Waited to Race Over It –

– By David L. Eno

The date was November 12, 1944, and General George Patton was in the midst of his famous race across Europe. He would eventually be credited with moving more troops over more difficult terrain, over more miles, under more difficult circumstances than any leader in the history of the world.

But for Nov. 12, the day was ... one big problem: No way to cross the Moselle River in France. The big bridge over the Moselle had been bombed out by Germans now on the run on the East side of the River.

The West side of the Moselle ran by the village of Thionville and just to the East of the River, the Germans had launched "a violent counter-attack" on the 90th U. S.

Army Division, according to Gen. Patton's diary entry I reviewed for this article.

One gets the feeling Georgie Patton couldn't wait for a good fight with the

Division-sized Nazi troops across the river at Metz. He ordered up a "double-triple Bailey bridge" to be built ASAP, so he could personally lead his first 60 tanks across the River.

The plan called for some brazen gung-ho combat engineers to construct the unique double lane, three-story-high edifice across the frozen, swirling body of water.

One slip and a soldier would fall to his death in the freezing Moselle. One false move and you could be hit with 150 millimeter artillery fire or an in-coming mortar shot.

Purcellville's Abram Groy Enters The Fight

Enter Purcellville resident Abram David Groy, then 21 years old and weighing 115 pounds. He was the operator of a truck-mounted Army crane that would lift and place heavy six-foot interlocking panels that would create the unique self-supporting

90-ton bridge. He worked 24 hours straight, including pitch-black operations at night.

"It spanned 190 feet and was put together like a kid's Erector Set," said Mr. Groy, now 89, and still working for a local construction company. The bridge was built on hydraulic lifts and rolled out across the river as sections were added by Groy crane.

Soliders on land and on the structure over the water attached panels to one another with heavy steel spikes about one inch thick.

Mr. Groy participated in Patton's famous sweep across Europe after he landed on Normandy Beach in the days after the beach head was established.

"I remember the water was so deep that the truck I was driving was so submerged that only the steering wheel was above water. The truck was towing a trailer carrying a heavy tank. Servicing the truck's fording equipment afterwards was a real chore," he told the Blue Ridge Leader in an interview.

Encountering Many Problems

"When General Patton called for the double-triple over the Moselle, we had a host of problems facing us before we would ever get to the Battles of Metz and Bastogne: a lot of mud on the roads to get there, as evidenced by the fact we had to have D-7 Caterpillar bulldozers tow vehicles out of the mud holes. Next, it was very cold and most vehicles had no heaters. Then, none of the soliders had been issued winter boots and thousands of troops were suffering from frostbite and trenchfoot. I

found some brand sacks and covered my boots with them.

"Then, they told us the bridge at Thionville would have to be built in Black Out conditions at night!"

"I told them that the moment I raised the boom on the crane, the Nazis on the opposite side of the river could see it above the terrain and start zeroing their guns on our position. And that's exactly what happened!"

Many of Mr Groy's friends were hit by in-coming mortar shells and debris. Three sides of the crane were pockmarked by shrapnel hits and bullet holes. It took two days to finish the bridge. Mr. Groy somehow survived uninjured.

Gen. Patton Arrives

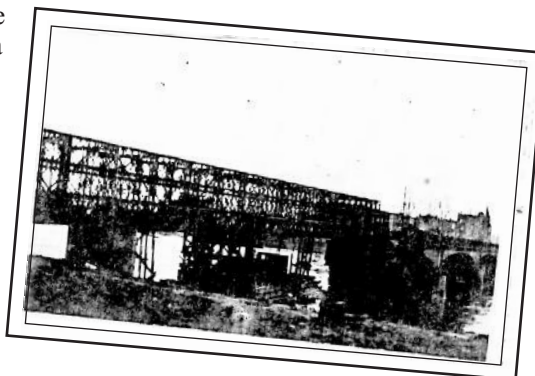
Mr. Groy could hear a distant rumble and he looked up to see the arrival of 60 U.S. tanks, led by the swash-buckling Patton in his Jeep at the head of the column.

The general carefully studied the bridge from his seat in the Jeep at the side of the road.

"I didn't think he would speak to me – a lowly Fifth Grade Technician – and he didn't. But I told one of my surviving buddies it

would be sort of different if I just leaned against Patton's Jeep while he was actually there. My buddy said: 'I wouldn't do that. He's nuts and might shoot you!' Being young and dumb, I did it anyway. Nothing happened."

And then the General looked back past Groy and viewed the line of idling tanks. In



Above: Built under enemy fire – the famous "double-triple" bridge over the Moselle River. Below left: A young Abram David Groy of Purcellville is pictured prior to his exploits in WWII.



another instant, Patton drew one of his famous ivory-handled revolvers from his holster and raised it above his head. He galantly circled the barrel in the air: the sign to move out NOW!

There was a mighty roar as all 60 tanks revved up their engines to move across the new bridge at full speed. Patton later

stated in his diary that the Crossing of the Moselle "was epic" in winning the Battle of Metz.

Groy followed hours later and recalls seeing the bodies of U.S. war dead along the road. "I started counting them, but stopped when I got to a hundred. And then I passed the German war dead. They were lying shoulder-to-shoulder for over a mile, he recalled. Patton said the same thing in his diary.

Onward to Bastogne

Abram David Groy holds the distinction of building three other critical bridges as he fought alongside Patton's troops to the historic Battle of Bastogne in Germany. At one of the bridge sites, in-coming mortars jeopardized his mission of unloading a fleet of

trucks with hundreds of the 300-pound panels. Instead of off-loading them one at a time, Groy hooked his boom to the front of the trucks, tipped the trucks backwards, thus quickly dumping the panels in hurried piles. "I figured the shorter the time I was in the kill zone, the better my chances of survival. I didn't waste anytime getting out of there!"

At Bastogne, Patton's troops rescued American troops, encircled by Germans, and who refused to surrender.

"When I got to Bastogne, I could still hear machine guns firing. Everything had been blown away: buildings, roads, houses ... everything. My crane was pushed into service clearing wreckage to make a few roads passable for the Americans.

"For the first time in weeks, I didn't have to sleep in a crane without any heat.

We took over a Catholic school and the heating system still worked," he recalled.

Bronze Star Awarded

For his service to his country, Mr. Groy was awarded The Bronze Star, the medal given for heroism and meritorious service in a combat zone. Accompanying the medal was a citation which reads in part: Technician Groy ... "by his personal example, courage and his personal skill, contributed greatly to the operation. His accomplishments merit high commendation."

Major General Walton Walker commented on Groy and his compatriots: "This bridge was completed at a very critical period in the attack on Metz and its construction under fire was a feat you may all be proud of ..."

And General Patton commented: "At Thionville we saw the longest Bailey Bridge in the world. It had just been completed by the Engineers and was built under fire. Some fire was then falling in the vicinity, but the bridge was not hit while we were on it. The crossing of the 90th Division over the Moselle was an epic crossing done under terrific difficulties."

Patton would be dead with 13 months. But the bridge lasted only long enough to get two Army battalions across before the Germans finally blew it up.

But Patton got an early comeuppance. He visited the battlefield and remarked in his diary: "... I have never seen so many dead Germans in one place in all my life!"

Staff Sergeant David L. Eno taught construction of Bailey Bridges to Army troops in the 1960's. He is chairman of the American Legion's Hometown Heroes Committee.

Veterans Club, continued from page 1

disarm an IED (improvised explosive device) in 2010. Crushed but not broken, Jones went on to win a gold medal in the 2012 London Paralympics with rowing partner Oksana Master, an orphan from Ukraine who was brought to the United States in 1997.

Over the years, the LVHS Veteran's Club has participated in Arlington National Cemetery's Wreaths Across America, visiting the graves of George Schultz, Stephan Mace, and Michael Quin – former students killed in battle. The club has also supported the Wounded Warrior Project, which helps

"Rob Jones is the most inspiring young man I have ever met. We are very excited about his being our guest speaker."

injured returning veterans and their families. Several years ago the club put together a volleyball tournament with teams from the Coast Guard, Army, Marines, Purcellville Police, Purcellville Fire and Rescue, as well as various student and staff teams to raise money for Wounded Warriors. They also place American flags in front of the school for Veterans Day, 9-11 and Memorial Day.

As part of the 2012 Veterans Day celebration, the LVHS Veteran's Club will be collecting "Sweats for Vets" – clothing distributed to veteran patients at Virginia's Martinsburg hospital. With respect to this year's celebration, club advisor Leslie Bower notes, "Rob Jones is the most inspiring young man I have ever met. We are very excited about his being our guest speaker." Sweat set donations (preferably sizes large and X-large) may be delivered to the Loudoun Valley High School main office through November 11th.

Special Exception, continued from page 1

banquet facility use would allow the applicant to host an unlimited number of events throughout the year," as stated in a county staff report prepared by county planner Pat Giglio.

According to the report the food would be prepared off site. A total of 300 guests and 100 cars would be permitted with this Minor Special Exception, and most events would take place on Saturday and Sunday, according to the report.

The applicant seeks to also change the setback required for parking and outdoor events from 500 ft. to 200 ft.

Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

– 2012 Year-End Tax Strategies for Business Owners –

– By Amy Smith



Tax reform is one of the most contentious topics in this year's election, with both personal and corporate income tax rates under scrutiny. While leaders in both parties agree that corporate rates should be reduced from the current high of 35%, they differ on how to do so without further widening the budget deficit.

So what should a business owner do-wait for Congress to act or plan now for the looming "fiscal cliff"? Perhaps a good move might be to plan ahead while remaining flexible enough to address last-minute changes. Following are some strategies you might want to consider. Be sure to consult your tax advisor to see how these suggestions apply to your particular situation.

Reverse the rules

Typically, the advice for business owners at the end of any year is to defer income to the following year to help reduce the organization's current income tax obligation. However, because individual income tax rates are scheduled to rise in 2013, this year may call for a reverse strategy. If your organization is taxed as a pass-through entity and your accounting method permits it, you may want to consider accelerating revenue into 2012 to take advantage of the current lower rates.

Similarly, owners of C corporations may want to consider cashing in on appreciated stock or paying themselves in dividends to take advantage of lower capital gains and dividend rates slated to expire at the end of the year.

Another rule reversal move would be to consider deferring deductions and capital losses until 2013 to maximize your company's tax profile in a higher-rate environment.

Buy needed equipment and put it to use

There is one case where you may not want to defer deductions: if you think you'll need new office furniture or equipment in 2013, you may want to make that purchase in 2012. That's because two special provisions enacted several years ago to help spur business investment will expire at year's end.

The Section 179 deduction and the bonus depreciation allowance can be used in conjunction with one another. It's worth analyzing these two provisions and comparing them

with the standard depreciation deductions to determine the best possible tax-panning moves for your business.

Vehicle purchases also receive favorable tax treatment until the end of 2012. This is particularly true for the heavy sport-utility vehicles and pickups with a gross vehicle weight rating in excess of 6,000 pounds, which may qualify for special depreciation and section 179 allowances.

Note that property must be placed into service, not merely purchased, by the end of 2012 in order to qualify.

Hire a veteran

In 2011, the Vow to Hire Heroes Act extended the Work Opportunity Tax credit to encourage employer to hire unemployed veterans. The credit, which also expires at the end of this year, ranges from \$2,400 to \$9,600 depending on several factors, including length of employment and whether the veteran has a service-related disability. Note that the veteran must begin work prior to January 1, 2013. For more information on hiring a veteran, visit the Department of Labor's Veteran Employment and Training Service web page at www.dol.gov/vets/.

Be watchful

Although there is some risk in not waiting to see if Congress acts by year's end, these are just some of the moves you may want to make now to take advantage of current and potentially short-lived tax benefits. In the meantime, keep a close eye on Washington to see what legislative changes may lie ahead.

*Source: "Baucus Examines Ways to Reduce Distortions in Business Caused by the Tax Code." Senate Finance Committee press release, August 1, 2012. **Certain conditions, limits and exceptions apply.

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

"You feel like you're on top of the world!" It may not be Mount Everest, but there's a certain winery on the western edge of Loudoun County where you can get some literally breathtaking views; I've heard that you can even spy the Washington Monument (on a clear day) from up there. I couldn't see it on my visit – but I'm pretty sure I saw all the way to the taller buildings at Tyson's Corner and beyond. And – pretty much everything in between: Round Hill, Purcellville, Leesburg, Dulles Airport – you name it.



I must admit I get a real kick out of these 'vantage point' experiences; this one's really worth it – even if you're like me – not much of a fine wine connoisseur. (My computer just reminded me that I couldn't even spell that word. Not surprised.) Some of the vintners in these parts can do some pretty fancy stuff with grape juice, though: I've had some really delicious pear dessert wine in the north-eastern part of the County, a number of great rose's out in the west, and even (what I'd call) some 'drinkable' reds from some of our better 'fruit engineers.'

But I certainly don't visit places like the subject of this story for their liquid concoctions: I can feel and taste the fresh air, and get my thrills just from being there. With a ski-chalet-style tasting room – about a thousand feet above sea level – it's a pretty rarefied experience.

Ironically, they're located just off a little dirt lane called Foggy Bottom Road. It was clear at the top of their driveway, at any rate.

And, I've also gotten word that one of their vintners plans to build a 'room with a view' like this – a little further up the Blue Ridge – just off of Harpers Ferry Road – to give their patrons a taste of open space up in that neck of the woods. As soon as it opens, it'll be on my list of places to visit.

Kinda nice to look the clouds (and the raptors) in the eye once in a while. Clear the head, let the thoughts dissipate, let the stress and strum, 'sturm and drang' and all that other stuff fall away into the ether. A spiritual cleansing, as it were.

Wonder what that says – on the other hand – about the cumulative effects from our daily activities – 'down in the bottomland.'

But this – the elevation, combined with the products of the vineyard – seems to be just about what the doctor ordered for the overworked and over-commuted Loudouner:

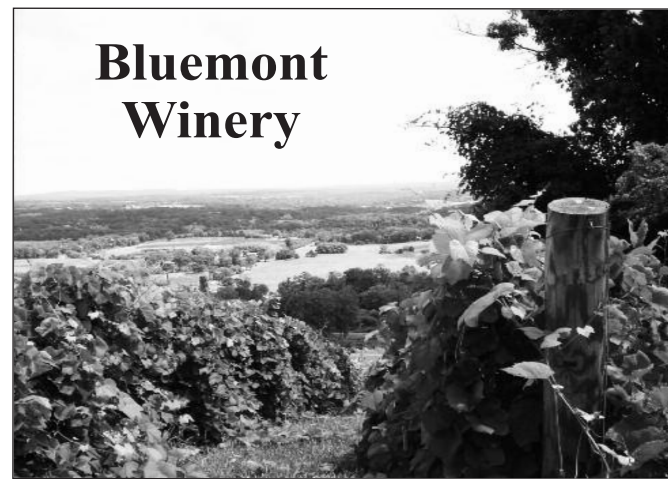
space, ambient sounds, a relaxed assembly of guests, soothing food and drink, friendly staff – and even a very benevolent canine snoozing over in the corner. What's not to like, huh?

My habit of foresight tells me, though, that one would probably want to leave that prized Porsche, Maserati or Ferrari at home if you come up here during any sort of inclement weather. My experience with icy hill driving has taught me: you might be

able to get up 'that there mountain,' but you'll have a heck of a time getting down in one piece. Fortunately, I've got all-wheel drive – combined with a healthy respect for the physics involving velocity, momentum and gravity. Not that I don't enjoy getting up and down; I just like to survive to do it another day.

And speaking of rain, snow, sleet and all that other stuff – this place – the chalet-like tasting room – would be a wonderful spot to watch a storm roll in off the Mountain – right over your head!

Bluemont Winery



Certainly better than negotiating slippery highways – or sitting at home, waiting for the lights to go out. Another notch on my bucket list, I guess: sitting (in a warm, dry, safe place) on an exposed hill during a thunderstorm – with camera and stimulating beverage. Good for the heart, they say.

And, in that category, perhaps the sports car drivers among us could opt to leave their wheels at the bottom of the hill and hike up the couple hundred feet of dirt driveway to the seat of the wine gods. It would certainly stimulate a thirst.

Woodgrove Wolverine Volleyball Regular Season Ends With a BANG

Woodgrove High School's (WHS) freshman girls beat Loudoun County High School (LVHS) to end the season in first place in the District. Junior Varsity ended the season in second place with a record of 18-2, and Varsity ends regular season with a District Record of 7-11.

The games were played on Oct. 25 at Woodgrove.

Woodgrove's Coach Fuller had been the coach at LVHS before WHS opened. His kids were zoned for WHS, so he moved as well.

Coach Fuller kidded the girls all season, saying that they were making him "lose his hair," which certainly applied all the way to the last match with Loudoun County.

The WHS Wolverines won the first game, then LVHS's Loudoun County Raiders won



the second game. The match went to a third game and came to a 14-14 tie, until the WHS freshman scored the winning two points for a 16 to 14 finish.

FCA Power 13u Wins USSSA Halloween Bash Tournament



Team members from left to right: Front row – Coach Brian Hasson, Parker Juergensen, Andrew Donofrio, Clark Hile, Aidan Nicholson, Zach Olsen. Second row – Coach Marty Hile, Jibreel Jaka, Nolan Badura, Kyle Dant, Chris Yermak, Jordan Winnett, Greg Payne, Sam Upton, Manager Jeff Payne. Missing from the photo is Coach Dennis Upton.

The FCA Power 13u captured the USSSA Halloween Bash tournament played in Fredericksburg on Oct. 27 & 28. Seeded 5th after pool play in the 13u Silver Division, the Power knock off the #4, #1, and #3 seeds in succession to win its second consecutive USSSA tournament.

The Power came back from a 5-0 deficit in the finals to defeat the South County Outlaws 7-6, scoring 3 runs in the final inning for the victory. The tournament featured teams from Maryland and Virginia.

FCA Power 13u Wins USSSA NOVA Fall States Tournament

The FCA Power 13u captured the USSSA NOVA Fall States tournament played in Fredericksburg on Oct. 13 and 14. Members of the team live in the Lovettsville, Waterford, Purcellville, Hamilton and Hillsboro VA areas.

Seeded 5th after pool play in the 13u AA Division, the Power outscored its three Sunday opponents 33 – 13 while knocking off the #4, #1, and #2 seeds in succession. The most impressive victory on Sunday was a 12 – 5 victory over the #1 seed Stafford River Bandits in the semi-finals.

The RiverBandits came into the game undefeated against USSSA 13u AA tournament opponents this season. The tournament featured teams from Maryland and Virginia.



Team members from left to right: front row – Clark Hile, Aidan Nicholson, Andrew Donofrio, Zach Olsen, Parker Juergesen; second row – Sam Upton, Chris Yermak, Kyle Dant, Jordan Winnett, Greg Payne, Nolan Badura, Jibreel Jaka; third row – Coach Dennis Upton, Manager Jeff Payne, Coach Brian Hasson, Coach Marty Hile.

Send us your sports photos and updates to editor@BRLeader.com

It's Yoga Time ... Seriously

– By Meredith B. McMath

It took ten seconds to decide I had to start taking yoga.

I'm 55 and manage a theatre company – a job that requires mental stamina and a lot of physical labor. So when our choreographer, Kelly Gray, asked everyone to stretch before rehearsal, I joined the circle. "Sit down. Cross legs. Swivel to your right." No problem. "Now swivel to your left." Big problem.

It was a simple move, but I simply couldn't move. Instead I fell over.

That's when I realized, I can either look forward to a ridiculously limited old age, or I can start moving.

I knew yoga could bring back flexibility, tone muscle, increase balance and focus. I needed a double dose of all those things, but, with my crazy schedule, I needed convenience, too!

I'd noticed nearby Yoga Time Studio on 21st Street in Purcellville and liked its welcoming look. When I went to the next available class and met the owner, Mindy Piland, I had to ask, Would it be a problem for an old girl like me to keep up with the regulars? Mindy assured me I could go at my own pace but added, "You'll be amazed how soon you'll be able to build up to where the others are." She was right: I've become stronger every time. I've also woken up the next day feeling much better and more flexible. This could be addictive.

So, why don't you just buy a yoga DVD and do this on your own? Because you'll buy it, try it, hurt yourself, and send the tape off in the next yard sale. At least, that's what I did.

When you take a class, 1) a knowledgeable teacher is going to keep you from hurting yourself and tell you it's okay to fold up into The Child Pose while wondering just when your left leg will EVER be able to do that thing Circus Lady on your left is doing; 2) when you see people your age or older doing amazing moves, it motivates you to try; 3) when you finally try a new move and succeed, your teacher and fellow students notice and reinforce your success.

"That's what sold me on it," says Steve Warner, a longtime Yoga Time student. "Not only was I getting physically stronger, I was surrounded by this positive energy – both from Mindy and the students – a group of like-minded, positive people." Steve is a gardener and his back was always stiff from bending over, but he says, "After a while, my lower back pain went away." I'm still learning all the moves and am not convinced I'll ever be as flexible as Circus Lady, but my future finally looks bright. Bring on the swivels!



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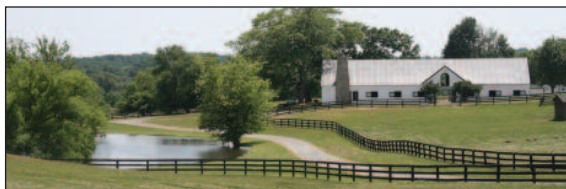


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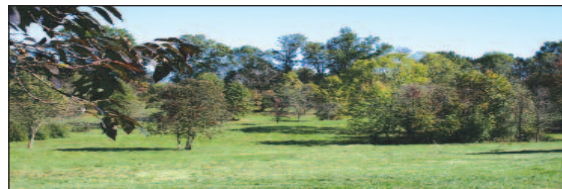
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Pruning, Mulching, and Dreaming Our Way Into Winter

– By Donna Williamson

November makes it clear that summer is over and we need to tuck ourselves in for winter. Of course, in Virginia, there are still occasional warm sunny days to enjoy, but there is no avoiding the arrival of cold and wind.

Still there are plants that enjoy the cooler months. I've planted kale in the bucket where I grew tomatoes this summer. It will be lovely all winter and provide some good greens.

The beautiful cut leaves of the yellow corydalis will grow all winter and bloom early – a boost for pollinators out on an early spring day looking for food.

I've packed all the fallen leaves under my shrubs. In the last few years I have learned that many critters over winter in the leaf litter, including some butterflies. The leaves act as nutritious mulch that moderates the soil temperatures with air pockets allowing water to trickle in gently. At least Mother Nature thought so.

If you cannot stand to have leaves packed in under your shrubs, at least mow them and leave them in the lawn. Remarkably, the fertilizers sold to improve your lawn grasses are about the same chemical composition as



Yellow Corydalis

“... the fertilizers sold to improve your lawn grasses are about the same chemical composition as our decomposing leaves. So save some money and let the earthworms drag leaf bits into the soil and improve things.”

our decomposing leaves. So save some money and let the earthworms drag leaf bits into the soil and improve things.

The garlic and shallots have already started to grow. They do so well here and seem to enjoy the up and down temperatures of

Continued on page 23

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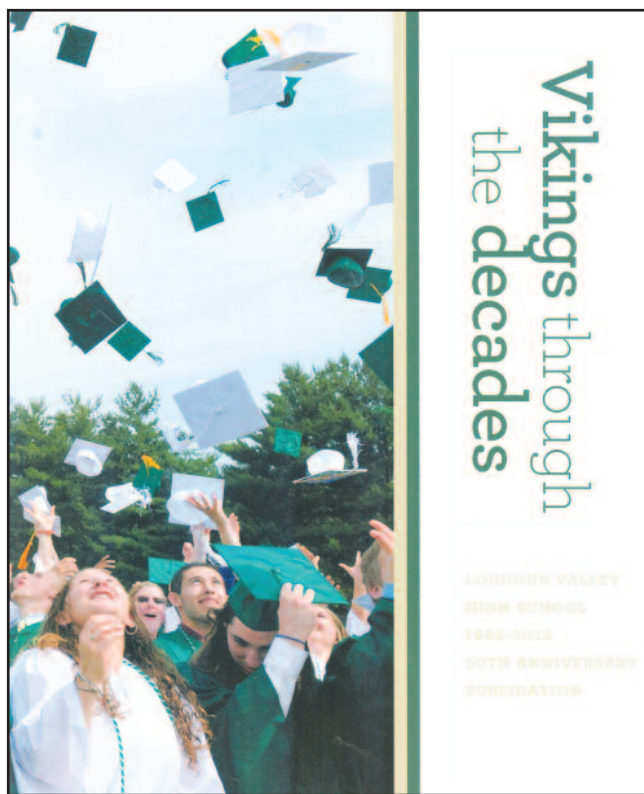
Loudoun Valley High School Celebrates 50 years

Loudoun Valley High School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with the publication of "Vikings Through the Decades" – a 28-page color booklet which includes coverage of major school events, remarks by coaches on the school's state championship teams, a listing of the school's principals and their tenures, details on one-half century of community/school ties, and more.

An outcome of The Senior Project, an initiative based in the 2011-2012 school year, the booklet was produced primarily by 2012 graduates Kristina Anderson and Chloe Spillane, also the school's 2012 yearbook editors.

Last winter Anderson and Spillane planned the publication and its design, while sorting through materials archived over the years. After the completion of Advanced Placement exams in May, they worked full-time in the two and half weeks prior to graduation – interviewing, writing and placing content. Anderson and Spillane continued their work on the project into the summer, before leaving for college. In Aug., Saga Editor Katie Pownall picked up the project, polishing it and working on the proofs this fall. Both Anderson and Spillane are studying communications at Virginia Tech.

Former and current faculty and staff helped with this project by submitting materials and participating in interviews at differ-



ent times throughout the year. The Robey Foundation made a contribution to help defray the printing costs. To purchase a book contact Martha Akers at Martha.Akers@lcps.org.

In other 50th anniversary news, Jostens, the school's yearbook publisher, is providing Loudoun Valley Alumni with the opportunity to order hardback digital reprints of the Saga yearbook from their days in high school. The digital reprints are of high quality and are priced based on the number of pages. Yearbooks with 95 or fewer pages are \$65; yearbooks with greater than 96 pages are \$100.

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Our Sheriff's Dept. ... Is On Top of It

Monitoring Speeders ...

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Department is monitoring traffic on Purcellville Road. Residents report this is a big help to their neighborhood. Purcellville Road north of the Route 7 Bypass has been experiencing high speed traffic.



Excerpts From The Loudoun County Sheriff's Department Neighborhood Watch Newsletter:

"Fall Home security Check-Up":

"We are entering the season where we will begin to store our summer wears and look toward the coming cool temperatures and changing leaves. To help you prepare for the coming season we would like to give you some helpful tips as you prepare for the changing weather.

- Exterior Lights are stressed by cooler temperatures. Check all of the exterior light fixtures for failed bulbs.
- Seasonal plantings may need to be trimmed back or removed in order to maintain that up kept appearance that deters burglars.
- As we move things to the shed ensure you are securing the shed with a dependable lock. (Don't forget the quick shot of WD40 into the lock to prevent freezing.)
- If storing items in the garage, ensure they are secure and will not fall. Loose items

can fall against garage door tracks and prevent them from closing correctly.

- With the cooler weather many homeowners will have windows open enjoying the cool night breezes. Be sure to close and lock those windows when you are not at home. Even a short trip within the neighborhood could be the opportunity a burglar is looking for.
- Do a quick check and make sure your address numbers are still visible. Summer growth may have covered them and now is a good time to trim plantings back so those numbers are visible to emergency responders.
- As the weather gets colder doors and windows frames will shrink. Be sure to check that locks are still working properly. If in doubt call one of the LCSO Crime Prevention Specialist for a Home Security Inspection.

Remember:

**When in doubt, have us check it out.
703 777-1021**

"Vehicle Theft:"

The theft of electronics, monies, and others items of value from vehicles is a problem in every corner of the county. With the holidays just behind us you can be sure thieves will be out looking for those new electronics left behind in vehicles. Here are a few reminders to keep your new items safe:

- Never leave any electronic items visible in your vehicle. Almost any electronic item has value.

- Taking items inside is the best bet. Even if someone searches through your car your item will still be safe.

- Remove cords when you remove your devices. Cords identify what devices you may have. Thieves use this information to come back later and see if you left it behind.

If you see anything suspicious CALL IT IN! You are the eyes and ears for your community. Non-Emergency: 703-777-1021.

Assessor's Office, continued from page 1

county employees protected by a formal termination process and grievance policy. Under the new structure those protections would vanish.

Commissioner of Revenue Bob Wertz explained the employment structure under a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the county which he renewed with slight changes in May 2012 and which was co-signed by Board Chair Scott York (R-At-Large) and County Administrator Tim Hemstreet in June. The document, which is retroactive to January 2012, provides Wertz' employees with all the rights and benefits of county employees except access to the grievance policy and mandatory proposals of termination.

Wertz did not recall whether the terms of state law or the MOU were raised during discussions with the GRC. Deputy County Administrator Linda Neri, who has been overseeing the assessment function since the departure of County Assessor Todd Kaufmann earlier this year, agreed in an email, "I do not believe that the change of status was discussed when the GRC took the item up."

Neri also noted, "The Board is aware of [the] memorandums of understanding that each of the constitutional officers have with the county. The at-will status was not specifically cited in the email but we can make sure that is clear prior to and at the public hearing reiterating the status of the MOU."

Efforts were made to contact the Chair and vice chair of the Government Reform Commission as to whether a personnel structure lacking either a grievance policy or a whistleblower policy would change their recommendation. Given the breaking nature of this story, just prior to the BRL's print deadline, those efforts were not successful.

Former Supervisor Jim Burton (I-Blue Ridge), who initiated the majority of the county's transparency and ethics policies, was dumbfounded. "Anytime you're dealing with determining what the tax base is, it seems to me that the people involved with that should be as far away from politics as possible," he commented. "Either this crowd doesn't know what they're doing or they really know what they're doing and are trying to pull a fast one."

DockDogs Compete For Fun and Glory

Last year the Blue Ridge Leader reported on the extraordinary lives – and spunk! – of two local dogs competing in what's known as a "dockdogs" competition.

"Cash" and "Rachel" were adopted from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter (Rachel in 2008, and Cash in 2011). Both are Labrador Retrievers and love the water. Cash is an extremely high energy dog and needed an outlet. Their owner, Tamra Spink, came across a local dock diving club called Chesapeake DockDogs on the internet and decided to give it a try. The dogs' first competition was in September 2011 and the pooches have been hooked ever since. It's no wonder dock diving is the fastest growing canine aquatic sport. Dogs compete in three disciplines: Big Air, Speed Retrieve, and Extreme Vertical. There is also a forth competition called IronDog which tabulates scores from the three disciplines and the highest combined score wins.

Both Cash and Rachel earned invitations to compete in the 2012 DockDogs World Championships. Rachel will be competing in Novice Big Air, having earned her invite by becoming the Eastern Regional Novice Big Air Champion this summer. Cash will be competing in Turbo Speed Retrieve and Warrior IronDog. He earned his Speed Retrieve invitation at the



DockDogs Eastern Regional Championships and his IronDog invite by being the top ranked Warrior competitor in the DockDogs Sanctioned Facilities rankings.



Top right, Cash catching some air near a ferris wheel; Above, Rachael strutting her stuff.

Annual Miss Purcellville Police Pageant Applications Being Accepted

The annual Miss Purcellville Police Pageant to be held at 12 p.m. on Dec 1 at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville.

The Pageant is open to young ladies in grades 9 through 12 or between the ages of 14 and 18. Contestants must reside in the Purcellville zip code (20132) and have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Police Chief Darryl Smith announced that the Purcellville Woman's Club will spearhead the effort this year.

The contestants will be competing to represent

the town as a goodwill ambassador to town and county events, starting with Purcellville's annual Christmas parade.

Scholarships will be granted in the amounts of \$1,000 to the winner, \$500 to the first runner up and \$250 to the second runner up. In addition to cash awards, contestants will receive gifts and services provided by area businesses and organizations.

For more information please visit www.MissPurcellvillePolice.com.

Apartment Complex, continued from page 7

PDH is used when the developer wants to go to high density. There are three developments in Purcellville that have the PDH zoning: Courts of Saint Francis, Village Case, and Courtland Square.

In numerous meetings the current zoning on the Stupar property has always been referred to as Transition X zoning. That means that it does not yet have a zoning and

will have to go through the public process. However, a few weeks ago the town said that the property should have been zoned CMI (commercial industrial). County records show the original county zoning on the property as PDGI up to 2009 and after that date Transition X. The land was annexed into the Town of Purcellville a few years ago.

Committees at a Glance, continued from page 5

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 recent actions of the county Finance/Government Services and Operations Committee.

finding a location for our first responders as soon as possible." She then suggested that staff look into the possibility of co-locating an additional public facility on the Gilbert's Corner site or asking the seller to offer a smaller lot.

Reid proposed looking at properties around the state's weigh station on Route 50 and questioned whether the weigh station itself might be a feasible alternative. County staff were not encouraging. Paul Brown, a division manager in the Department of Construction and Waste Management, stated, "the weigh station doesn't have enough acreage. In fact, the site that we bought before is directly behind the weigh station, so you would probably need that site to achieve it at the weigh station. The geographic boundaries that you've described there around the weigh station is actually the primary place we looked first and led to the purchase of the site we currently own."

"Aldie station is probably one of the more strategic stations in the county" ...

Board Chair Scott York (R-At-Large) made no secret of his dissatisfaction with the two properties elicited by Clarke's process. "I have no stomach to buy another piece of property that ain't gonna work," he declared. Instead, he suggested directing staff to take one last look for an optimal site, giving consideration to properties that might or might not be for sale, and, if successful, return to the Board in closed session with their findings. The committee adopted this recommendation and the full Board will vote on this recommendation in November.

Does York believe that a better site might exist? His motion and comments suggest that he might. However, given the sensitivity of the topic, York opted not to provide a comment for this story.

What remained undiscussed by the committee was the fiscal impact of the continued delay. According to the staff report, the existing station no longer meets building code or operational standards. The county intended that the new station would eliminate the need to pay for upgrades to the existing facility. However, with the expectation of a further two-year delay in opening, priority upgrades to ensure the safety of career staff and volunteers will now need to be made at a further cost to the taxpayer of at least \$265,000.

Woman Who Escaped Custody in California Located in Loudoun County 12 Years Later

A woman wanted for over 12 years after she escaped from detention in Los Angeles, California was located in Loudoun County last week.

Carolyn Macy, 67, was sent to state prison in Santa Clara County, CA in May of 1999 for a three-year sentence on fraud and identity theft charges. She escaped custody in Feb. 2000 after she was transferred to another facility.

Last week, members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office received information that Macy was living at Leisure World in Lans-

downe, VA. This information was obtained from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, as well as from detectives with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office assigned to the U.S. Marshal's Service Fugitive Task Force.

Members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office took Macy into custody at her home on Oct. 26 without incident. Macy is currently being held without bond at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center on a felony extradition warrant.

Loudoun Interfaith Relief to Provide Thanksgiving Dinners to Needy Residents in Loudoun County

The dramatic downturn in the economy has forced thousands of families in Loudoun County to cope with the challenge of feeding their families.

Loudoun Interfaith Relief provides emergency food assistance to many in the county, and this year is planning to distribute Thanksgiving Dinner baskets to 2,000 needy fami-

lies. Thanksgiving Dinner food distribution will take place on Friday, Nov. 16, Saturday, Nov. 17 and Sunday, Nov. 18 at Loudoun Interfaith Relief, located at 750 Miller Drive, Suite A-1 Leesburg, Virginia. For further information call 703-777-5911 or visit www.interfaithrelief.org.

Blue Ridge Hospice Wants Ordinance For "Outside" Agency Collection Bins

The bins that are popping up around the county to collect clothing are leaving one local group concerned.

Ernie Carnevale, president and CEO of Blue Ridge Hospice, addressed the Purcellville Town Council at their Oct. 9 meeting about the bins. He said the groups that own the bins do not have a local connection, and the bins actually are hurting local charities.

"The not-for-profit community in our area works very diligently to raise funds for the local, charitable organizations that support numerous residents, many of whom cannot afford to pay for their services," Carnevale said.

"We feel that the increasing numbers of donation bins springing up in our communities are siphoning much-needed funds away

from our local not-for-profits. Our organization has made the decision to stand against these outside agencies, which provide no local connection or support, and often become community eyesores due to bags of clothing and other items left on the ground outside the bins."

Carnevale asked the council to consider passing an ordinance prohibiting the bins.

Blue Ridge Hospice runs six thrift shops, including one in Purcellville. They also operate a clothes-baling operation in Winchester that recycles clothing, soft goods and other materials that are not sold in the thrift shops. They provide hospice care to eight area counties, including Loudoun. Last year they served 1,054 patients.

Loudoun Free Clinic Celebration

The Loudoun Free Clinic is teaming up with Cookology, a culinary school at the Dulles Town Center, and Great Country Farms to sponsor its Seasons of Care Winter Celebration, Friday, Nov. 30 at The Stable at Bluemont Vineyards from 6-10 p.m.

The "Boots, Beer & BBQ," celebration will feature barbecue, beer, a dessert buffet, artwork and crafts, and line dancing. Vendors are donating their services at no charge. "We are indebted to Maria Kopsi-

das of Cookology for supporting the clinic in organizing such a fun-filled evening for a worthy cause," said Debra Townsend, executive director of the Loudoun Free Clinic. "That nearly 100 percent of the proceeds from our event will benefit the clinic is an amazing outpouring of community support for those in need of medical care." For more information call the Free Clinic at 703-779-5420, or visit www.loudoun-freeclinic.org.



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New Auto Wash in Purcellville

Station Auto Wash has opened a new operation in Purcellville. This new facility is in addition to the facility the company has operated for a number of years in Leesburg.

The company has been recognized as one of the top 50 car washes in the country, and was named the "Best of Loudoun" every year since 2005.

According to Tom and Ryan Magazine, owners of this family business, "Our concept in building this new location was to establish a 'hub' and 'spoke' for Station Auto Wash customers. In Leesburg, we have over 2.5 acres and 14,000 square feet in two buildings to handle both interior and exterior cleaning plus detailing efficiently. Our Western Loudoun County customers wanted a convenient location for more frequent exterior washes in between full service cleanings. That's why, in Purcellville, our goal is to get customers in and out quickly and affordably."

Station Auto wash's new "Exterior Express" consists of a double wash tunnel, featuring the company's exclusive high purity



foam cleaning process.

This system accommodates vehicles that have been lowered, or those that have extra-wide tires.

Options for Purcellville customers will include Rain-X, Rust Inhibitor, hand-applied

tire dressing and a hand wipe-down at the finish.

Purcellville Station Auto Wash Exterior Express recycles 75 percent of the water it uses, and continues to feature clean and green products from Blue Coral/Ecolab.

The Magazine's went on to say, "Our goal is to be a great neighbor, not only environmentally but in everything we do. We are proud of the numerous awards we have received for stewardship, ambassadorship, architectural excellence, innovation and community appearance, and look forward to continuing this tradition in our new location."

The new Station Auto Wash Exterior Express is open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday; or 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, is located at 128 N. Maple Avenue.

Misuse of Office?, continued from page 5

Director Liz Miller points out the allegation that an employee of Public Advocate was at one point placed in a supervisory role over Delgaudio's staff aides, and that documents obtained through The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) show that individual as a recipient of county government emails. "The documents we have so far strongly suggest that he co-mingles his activities," said Miller. "There is no functional separation between Supervisor Delgaudio, candidate Delgaudio, and hate group director Delgaudio."

Documents shared with the Blue Ridge Leader show a pattern of emails sent to Delgaudio's government address being forwarded by him to other accounts, and often forwarded on to political contacts from those accounts. A disclaimer that appears on his campaign website reads in part, "In sending e-mails to Eugene Delgaudio, if you want your e-mail to be considered a 'public record,' which may be disclosable to anyone who asks, please indicate you are sending your e-mail to 'Eugene Delgaudio, as Supervisor.'" In fact, FOIA doesn't consider the manner of address or the email account used in its determination of what is a public record.

According to Real Advocate, they are still sifting through the many documents already obtained, and finding in them information that guides new FOIA demands. "We have some specific things we're looking for in these supposedly 'non-public' email accounts. Delgaudio's office has requested more time to respond to some of our FOIA demands, and we have reason to believe that some responses have been incomplete," Miller continued. "We will rely on the courts if necessary to enforce compliance." Miller declined to elaborate further.

The Blue Ridge Leader contacted Vice-Chair Clarke requesting comment about her knowledge of the allegations and what role

"The documents we have so far strongly suggest that he co-mingles his activities," said Miller. "There is no functional separation between Supervisor Delgaudio, candidate Delgaudio, and hate group director Delgaudio."

the board will play in the pending investigation. At press time she had not yet responded to that request.

Delgaudio has acknowledged instructing his aides to set up meetings with potential donors, but says that they were to raise money for a youth football league. "It's not illegal to raise money for charities," he told the Finance and Government Services Committee, on which he sits. "It's not unethical to do that."

"It doesn't ultimately matter whether staff aides were setting up meetings to raise funds for Public Advocate, or for Delgaudio's reelection campaign, or for some other interest of his that isn't county business," said Real Advocate's David Weintraub. "What we don't understand is why the rest of the board is trying so hard to protect him, why it is that York and Clarke, at least, sat on this information for seven months, and did absolutely nothing until they were forced to by the Washington Post story. Donna Mateer trusted them, and she never heard from them again."

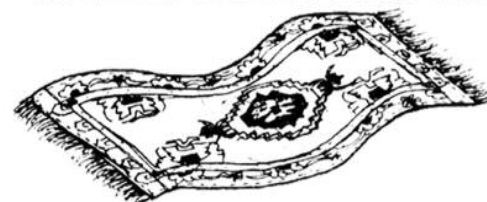
Supplemental material is available at our website, www.BRleader.com. This is a developing story. As we were going to press, Real Advocate made public a letter of engagement dated Oct. 26, on County Attorney letterhead, detailing the agreement between the county and an Ashburn based investigative service retained to review the complaint.

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Ramsey Interview, continued from page 3

the belief that certain uses such as copious vehicle storage, exercise facilities and a holding cell were not necessary out here. I appreciate the leadership of Supervisor Clarke in reining in the scale of this much-needed project. But the Board of Supervisors only voted to restrict the budget, not the design. While this has trimmed the square footage, it has also forced a decision to use well and septic and it restricts county planners from thinking ahead. An expensive 14-acre site was bought with Sheriff's bond money, and it has been designed to use up the entire parcel without considering co-use. When the next capital need in this area arises, the county taxpayers may have to pay for another large parcel and additional residents will be affected.

TJ: Round Hill- and its surrounding acreage- have seen substantial growth in recent years; do you see this trend continuing indefinitely, or is there a 'final build-out' point on the horizon?

SR: We still have room to grow in our current service area boundaries. Based on current zoning, our utility service area is only about 65 percent built out, with room for about 650 more connections. We have no plans to expand our service boundaries to accommodate additional growth. If someone had said back in 2007 that our user base would have no net growth for five years, I would not have believed it so we cannot forecast these things very well. We instead need to structure our finances such that we are not betting on our forecasting ability.

TJ: What are the things about your town that attracted you to live there? Are those

characteristics still safely in place?

SR: We came here in 2000 looking for a special neighborhood in which to raise our children, and found a gem here in Western Loudoun. I think Round Hill still is that welcoming, walkable town I fell in love with. But that question should really be answered by many of our 50-year residents, as I am still a new guy here.

TJ: How do you see Round Hill in, say – 25 or 50 years? Would you still want to live there?

SR: I hope so, as I plan to be a lifer (not in office!). That is a part of what motivates me to serve this town, to protect what makes it special for families.

TJ: On the subject of Greater Western Loudoun, do you think that it will always be 'as we know it,' or is it doomed to eventually be developed out?

SR: Residents move here for the unique quality of life in Western Loudoun, but once here they still demand reliable electric power, broadband and cellular services, lighted athletic fields and convenient shopping which all have an impact. Our job as politicians is to help balance those interests. When a project is next door, those most affected can end up losing all influence over its development because of an all-or-nothing stance. Working with those who have a vested interest, including developers and business owners, to ensure the character of our area is preserved while allowing change is the best way to manage growth.

TJ: Thanks for your time and attention, Tim Jon for the Blue Ridge Leader

Wild Loudoun, continued from page 8

Hens lay a clutch of 10 to 12 eggs during a two-week period, usually laying one egg per day. A female will incubate and tend to her eggs for about 28 days, turning and rearranging them for temperature control until they are ready to hatch.

A newly-hatched flock needs to leave the nest within 12 to 24 hours to eat. "Poults," or baby turkeys, feed on insects, berries and seeds. But, adults have a more varied diet, eating acorns, berries, insects and even small reptiles.

As a rule, turkeys feed in early morning and in the afternoon, and like open areas for feeding, mating. Forested areas provide them with cover from predators and a place to spend the night ... as they often roost in trees. Both open and covered areas are key to wild turkey survival.

Acorns are one of our wild turkeys' favorite foods. For this reason, the strength of the oak crop in any one year has a significant impact on the number of turkeys taken in the fall hunting harvest. The harvest goes down in years with good acorn availability, as flocks move less and stay undercover in forested areas making them more difficult to locate and hunt. When acorns are scarce, birds move further in search of food and are seen in fields and clearings, making them easier to find.

Wild turkeys have "beards" on the front of their throat. The beards grow throughout the life of the bird, gaining about 4 inches annu-



Photo courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation

ally. Young males or "Jakes" have a beard that is usually about 2-4 inches in length by their first spring as a gobbler. Adult males or "Toms" can show beards that are up to a foot in length.

The appearance of wild turkeys is the result of black, white, and brown feathers. Occasionally there are variations in feathers that result in color aberrations. "Smokey gray" birds lack any brown feather coloration and have been described as ghost-like in appearance. Red phase or "erythrite" birds have red in their feathers instead of brown.

But, whatever their color, America's wild turkeys are one of nature's most spectacular gifts to us – a beautiful sight for the eyes.

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

as a husband and new dad. As much as you want your husband to be sensitive to your needs, you also need to be sensitive to his. Based on what you wrote, I am assuming that you are not working and/or are on maternity leave. If your husband is a light sleeper and has told you that he needs to be rested for work, I think you should respect his need to sleep in another bedroom for the time being. Also, if your husband needs a little away time for himself over the weekend, that is actually healthy as long as the time he takes is reasonable. As far as your feelings and needs go, they are also valid, and he needs to appreciate them. I would let your husband know how you are feeling (non-defensively) and come up with some compromises. For example, your husband can certainly help out with things more in the evening when he returns home from work. He can also sleep with you on nights when he does not need to work the next day. And he can also step up his involvement as dad over the weekend with the baby and the other kids, which would give you a break and time for yourself. Are you "being hormonal?" Of course you are, you just had a baby! You have been through a lot both physically and emotionally in recently giving birth...not to mention the 9 months up until that moment. Thus, I would also recommend that you turn to family and friends as much as you can for support and help over the next few months. Being tired and stressed is part of being a new parent, but by communicating better and compromising with your husband, things should get a little easier so you can then both focus more on what really matters – the joy of your newborn.

Dr. Mike, For years now, my husband has treated our eldest son like a super star and our other children have felt the effects. Are eldest is the most athletic and outgoing, which are attributes my husband embodies and encourages. Even extended family and close friends have commented on the attention and preferential treatment he gives our eldest. Recently, I brought our youngest child to therapy for anxiety and behavior problems, and he told the therapist (in my presence and in tears) that his dad doesn't love him as much as his older brother. Whenever I approach my husband about the topic (even the recent therapy session), he tells me that I am being ridiculous. Help. – M in Loudoun County

M, The very real idea that as parents we may like one child more than another is rarely discussed, so I thank you for your letter. While as parents we love our children equally, that does not mean we will like them all the same. Surveys on the topic have shown that parents can and do love their children differently but most are ashamed to admit it. As a general rule, moms and dads are going to be more comfortable engaging in gender-g geared activities with their same sex children. I suppose there are some moms out there that enjoy playing aggressive first-person shooter games with their son's on-line and some dad's that enjoy getting manicures and pedicures with their daughter's. But for the most part, gender differences will contribute to comfort or discomfort for moms and dads with their children. Parent-child personality styles and interests will also motivate parents to spend more time with one child over another. Even age can be a factor. For exam-



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ple, many men are less comfortable with infants and will prefer more verbal and active engagement with an older child. For your situation, perhaps you can encourage your husband to schedule weekly special time with his other children. Whether that time involves kicking a soccer ball, going on a bike ride, grabbing a Slurpee at 7-Eleven, etc. – each child will get a little more one-to-one time with dad than usual every week. This will affirm your other children and hopefully reinforce your husband to want to spread his parental love in the family more evenly.

Dr. Mike, My sister has suffered from very bad anorexia for years. I haven't seen her in about a year, but she looks horrible on Facebook. Our mother told me privately that my sister presently weighs less than 90 pounds and is not in any kind of treatment for it. She will be spending Thanksgiving week with us this year, and I am concerned that her illness will make my children uncomfortable. It's not just her appearance but also her behavior that's a concern for me. She runs something like 10 miles a day and has a very odd liquid diet, which I am sure we will all witness and be part of at the Thanksgiving family dinner. I love my sister but am worried about her being around my children. I know this must sound awful to you, but it's how I feel. I also know I need to talk to her but don't know what to say and am afraid of hurting her feelings. – G in Loudoun County

G, Anorexia Nervosa can be a debilitating and even life threatening condition. Your sister's current weight, excessive exercise and restrictive diet as your report suggest that she is doing poorly. I agree with you that the

topic needs to be addressed but with great care and respect since Thanksgiving is not a good time to confront a family member about their mental illness. Rather than discussing your sister's eating disorder as a her problem, I recommend discussing the problem with your sister as your problem. I would just let her know that she has become very thin and that your children may not understand what that means at their ages. I would then ask your sister what she would like you to say on her behalf to prepare them for her arrival. I would also encourage your sister to, age appropriately, discuss the topic of her weight, exercise routine and diet, directly with your children should any of those topics come up for them during your sister's visit. There is no reason for you to speak for your sister. This approach will help to normalize things for your kids, and your sister may also benefit therapeutically from her speaking openly about her appearance with your children. I strongly encourage you and your entire family to speak more directly to your sister about her condition after Thanksgiving. Given the seriousness of what you reported, she needs to know that her family is there for her, and that she needs to address her problems with intensive treatment.

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

First LCDS Open House, Nov. 18

Loudoun Country Day School will hold its first admissions open house on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 2-4 p.m. Headmaster Dr. Randy Hollister will introduce a new Admissions Director, Susan Hower, a long-standing faculty member and prekindergarten teacher.

According to Dr. Hollister, "Susan Hower enjoyed a brilliant 22-year career as a prekindergarten teacher in our program. Over her phenomenal career, she developed our prekindergarten program, its curriculum and components, into the rich and

robust experience that it is for our youngest students today ..."

Loudoun Country Day School is a non-profit, independent school, educating boys and girls from prekindergarten through eighth grade, and was chosen "Best prekindergarten - 8th grade Private School" in I Am Modern's "Best of Suburbia" polls in 2011 and 2012, as well as the "Best of Poll" for Leesburg Today for 14 out of the past 15 years. For more information contact Director of Admissions, Susan Hower at Susan.Hower@lcds.org.

Dreaming Into Winter, continued from page 16

Virginia winters. Easy to grow and harvest, these onion-family bulbs can easily fit into perennial borders. And, they are never bothered by deer.

With all the leaves down, it's a good time to look at the trunks and branches of shrubs. Broken or crossing branches can be pruned. In some very twiggy shrubs, look for branches heading into the center of the plant that can be removed to eliminate congestion next summer.

Boxwood, holly, and evergreen magnolias can be lightly pruned for winter holiday decorations. Colorful dogwood and willow branches can add a nice touch to indoor floral arrangements.

Be careful with your roses. Long stems that will whip around in the wind can be cut back but save serious rose pruning for spring. Depending on the severity of the

winter, you may see substantial winterkill that needs to be cut back once the weather is warm again.

If you need to add to existing garden beds or create new ones, it's a great time to lay down 5-6 sheets of newspaper over the grass and cover with a good pile of leaves. In March, the grass will have died back with no damage to the soil structure, no herbicides, and no sore back for you. In spring, you can plant right away.

Now, it's time to read and dream.

Donna Williamson is a master gardener, garden designer, and garden coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands in Leesburg, and Shenandoah University. Author of The Virginia Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Low-Maintenance Gardening in Virginia, contact Donna at dwfinegardening.com, 540-877-2002.

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Get a \$4,651 Furnace for only \$2,515 with
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My business has grown through the hard work of my employees and the trust of customers like you. However, every year my business slows in the fall season. I employ great people and I want to keep them working every day throughout the year. That is why I've decided to do something about it before it's too late.

What A Really Simple Concept

By letting you win big now, I will win at the end of the year. I'm betting that if I make you an offer that is "irresistible" (at least it should be if your furnace or air conditioner is over 10 years old) I will accomplish three things:

1. I can pay my professional staff to work instead of not paying them to sit at home on slow days.
2. I will cover my rent, utilities, insurance and taxes.
3. I will reward customers like you that make this possible.

If I can accomplish these three objectives, and provide extra work during the next month, I will be a winner.

Keep Reading To Learn How To Get A Premier or Optimum Home Comfort System for Much Less

By putting this air conditioner and furnace package together, I was able to buy both the air conditioner and the furnace for less and pass it on exclusively to customers like you! So, if you buy one of these 33 new premium high efficiency air conditioning packages (but only if one of the four sizes I have will fit your house, of course), I am offering you the matching furnace and all I ask for is the \$2,515* in labor and material costs for installation.

Perfect Fit For Your Home

Just call me at 540-349-8030 anytime. I will come out and measure your home (and determine the availability of the proper size). Don't forget, I only have 33 matched systems in four sizes. When they are gone, this remarkable offer ends also. I will show you the retail price on the system that fits your home. Then, I will show you the substantial savings available now. And it will include all labor and installation materials. Nothing is left out!

You Can Buy With NO Cash

Consider this...if you decide to make monthly investments instead of paying cash, the entire amount of your payments might be offset by the savings on your utility bills over the life of the system. It's like "having your cake and eating it too".

Why This Offer Can't Last

You must act before November 15th. Here are two reasons why:

1. I only have four sizes available. When all of the matched air conditioners and furnaces are installed in a particular size, that's it. There are no more available at this price.
2. If I have any of the 33 systems left on November 15th (although I doubt I will), this offer still ends.

Here's why...

The only reason I am making this great offer is to boost our sales during this slow period. My business always starts to improve when the fall cold air hits, and I can sell them at regular price during peak season and still come out ahead. Give us a call now at 540-349-8030 and we will set an appointment for your no-obligation survey.

Thank you for reading this rather long letter. I hope you will take advantage of this incredible offer.

Jim Dean

Jim Dean

General Manager

License# VA2705062314A



540-349-8030



Always On Time...or You Don't Pay A Dime!® Applies to scheduled repair and maintenance service appointments only. *Receive a 95% high efficiency gas furnace for \$2,515 when you purchase a premier air conditioner. Limited quantity. Taxes extra. **Manufacturer or third party warranty coverage. Warranties require equipment to be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations. Some limitations may apply. See store for details. Cannot be combined with any other offers. ©2012 Clockwork IP, LLC.-



Expires 11/15/12

**\$75
OFF Any
Completed
Repair**



Expires 11/15/12

**\$75
OFF Any
Completed
Repair**



Expires 11/15/12

**\$75
OFF Any
Completed
Repair**

A Music School For All Ages

Now starting its 19th consecutive year, Community Music School of the Piedmont (CMSP) is headquartered in Upperville with satellite locations in Aldie, Middleburg, Purcellville, and The Plains. The school, an independent, non profit, 501 (c) (3) organization, is a member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education.

Students range from the very young through seniors and include everyone in between. The youngest is an energetic three year old; the oldest is a dapper septuagenarian.

The group program designed for the very young and their parents or caregivers is Music Together, serving newborns through four year olds. Classes have an artistically conceived flow of songs, movement, nurs-

ery rhymes, instrumental jam sessions, and finger plays. These activities help children develop rhythm and tonal skills.

For older children, teenagers and adults, CMSP offers an array of private lessons, group classes, special programs, ensembles

and performance opportunities. Over sixty percent of the faculty hold advanced degrees. They teach not only the perennially popular instruments such as piano, violin and guitar, but also the "endangered instruments" those wonderful music making tools that are at risk of disappearing, such as the harp, viola, bassoon, and oboe.

There are also, on the faculty, two dedicated and talented music therapists. These certified professionals provide individual sessions that use the power of music to help younger folk deal with the chal-



lenges of autism and older folk with various challenges.

For almost two decades, the Community Music School of the Piedmont has been a treasure in this rural community. Each semester, there are a group of recitals that provide students with the opportunity for public performance. There are outreach programs after school at local public schools, and programs during the day at a local child care center. There are public programs by professional musicians, and ensemble groups for musicians in the community wishing to play for a group.

CMSP has provided music instruction and performance opportunities for a cross section of the community. Over the past eight years, it has funded over \$55,000 in needs based tuition assistance and scholarships, making music education affordable for those who might not obtain it otherwise.

for more information call 540-592-3040 or go to: piedmontmusic@aol.com.

Old Time Dance Band Pulls Out All The Stops 75th Anniversary for Free State Ramblers

The Barns of Rose Hill will host a square dance party to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the old-time dance band, the Free State Ramblers.

The free, family-friendly event takes place on Sunday evening, Nov. 25 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be chili and cornbread plus an anniversary cake to celebrate this wonderful band.

The old-time dance band, the Free State Ramblers, was founded in 1937 by the great Virginian long-bow fiddler, John Chilton Ashby. His son, George Everett (Skip) Ashby carries on the tradition today.

Charlottesville-based Jim Morrison, traditional music historian and long-time caller for the Free State Ramblers will be leading a short square dance lesson before calling the main dance.

The event is free and open to the public with an RSVP. Space is limited. A covered dish as admission is welcome (optional). Donations to Barns of Rose Hill are equally welcome. To reserve your space, call (540) 955-2004 or email info@barnsofrosehill.org by Nov. 23. The Barns of Rose Hill is located at 95 Chalmers Court, Berryville Virginia, 22611.

Doors open at 5:30 PM for the light supper and cake. Square dance lesson starts at 6:15 p.m. with the "Big Dance" starting at 6:30 p.m. (Dress vintage ... organizers suggest.)



WELCOME TO CARVER CENTER

Unique to Loudoun County, we combine Senior Center programming weekdays from 9:00-2:00, with full Community Center offerings in the afternoons, evenings and on Saturdays.

• 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville, VA 20132 571-258-3400 •



Active, independent adults age 55 and better may join our Senior Center for just \$25/year and enjoy such activities as volleyball, line dance, Tai Chi, book groups, creative writing, afternoon tea, tours, mental muscle, bridge, trips to restaurants, fitness classes, guest speakers and special events.

Check us out at www.loudoun.gov/carver

Loudoun County Public Schools

Pupil Transportation Dept.

is seeking to hire

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

You will be thankful for the many things we offer you, including:

PAID TRAINING EXCELLENT BENEFITS \$17.17/HR TO START

Requirements:

- Good Driving Record
- Min. 20 yrs. old w/4 yrs. driving exp.
- Ability to lift 50 lbs.
- Pass a physical & drug screening
- Must enjoy working with children!



APPLY ONLINE at www/lcps.org/trans or

CALL BRIAN at 571.252.1720



Call For Entries: Barns and Farms of Loudoun County – Images of Loudoun

The annual Barns & Farms Show of Loudoun County will be on display in the gallery at Franklin Park Arts Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends during performances.

The Arts Center hosts art shows throughout the year, and features individual shows by local galleries and artists. For more information visit www.franklinparkartscenter.org.



Photograph entitled "Country Way" by Donna Clark.



November
at the
Arts Center

Nov. 16 & 17
8pm
Nov. 18
3pm



Joan Wolford is MAME
All Tickets: \$20
Call *Imagine That!*
Theater Co. for tickets:
540-554-8889

FREE STATE RAMBLERS

GREAT OLD-TIME MUSIC WITH JIM MORRISON CALLING

SQUARE DANCE PARTY

SUNDAY · NOVEMBER 25
5:30PM to 8:30PM

BARNs OF ROSE HILL
BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA

◆ ◆ ◆

FREE with RSVP – but space is limited. Bring a covered dish for admission if you'd like. Join the Free State Ramblers to celebrate their 75th anniversary with traditional old-time music and dance. Chili, cornbread and cake will be provided. To RSVP email info@barnsofrosehill.org or call:

540-955-2004
WWW.BARNsOFROSEHILL.ORG

Shenandoah Potters Guild Holiday Sale

Mark your calendar:
Saturday Nov. 24 - Sunday Nov. 25
10 am- 4pm

A large selection of handmade pottery by local artisans

Jim Barnett Park War Memorial Bldg.
1001 East Cork St. Winchester VA 22601

Shenandoahpottersguild.com • www.facebook.com/ShenandoahPottersGuild

NOV. 24-25

Once Upon A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Nov. 30
 Thru
Dec 16
 Fri., Sat. Shows
 7pm
 Sun. Shows
 3pm

**An original musical adaptation
of a holiday classic!**

Run Rabbit Run Theatre Company

**Adv. Tickets: \$16 Ad.,
 \$12 Sr., \$10 Ch. 12 and under**
 Purchase online at
www.RRRTheatre.org

**FRANKLIN PARK
ARTS CENTER**

36441 Blueridge View Lane
Purcellville, Virginia 20132
540-338-7973

www.franklinparkartscenter.org



November

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.

☉ **Thursday, Nov. 8, Master Gardener open house.** The program is accepting applications for the Class of 2013. More information about the program and copies of the application are available at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org. The open house is at the Loudoun Extension Office at 30 Catocin Circle, SE, in Leesburg.

☉ **Friday, Nov. 9, 11th annual Barns and Farms of Loudoun County Art Show and Sale.** Show runs through Jan. 2, weekdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and weekends during performances. Entries will be accepted Monday, Nov. 5 through Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. To submit art, complete an entry form by visiting www.franklinparkartscenter.org/exhibitions.

☉ **Friday, Nov. 9, Loudoun Valley High School's 13th annual Veterans Day program.** At 7 p.m. Guest speaker is Rob Jones, returning graduate of LVHS, Marine, and Bronze Medal Paralympian.

☉ **Saturday, Nov. 10, Exploring Fall at the Blue Ridge Center.** Join Phil Daley of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy at 10 a.m. for an informal, family walk around the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Studies. Registration required, sign up online at www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm.

☉ **Saturday, Nov. 10, Tales from the Haunted Turnpike,** 7:30 p.m. at the Aldie Mill, 39401 John S. Mosby Highway. Dress warmly. Admission to the tour will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Reservations are required. For more information and reservations, call (540) 687-6681 or visit www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

☉ **Saturday, Nov. 10, Greater Manassas Veterans Day** at 11 a.m. in Old Town Manassas. Guest of honor Lt. Colonel Howard L. (Larry) Gerlach USMC (Ret). Go to www.vetpar.org for more information.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.
Purcellville Turkey Trot 5K
Loudoun Valley
Community Center



☉ **Sunday, Nov. 11, Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Release program,** 2 p.m. at the Purcellville Library. Belinda Burwell, executive director and veterinarian at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, will describe how the center rescues injured, orphaned and sick native wildlife and takes care of them before they are released back into the wild.

☉ **Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012 Loudoun History Awards at the Thomas Balch Library,** 208 West Market St., Leesburg at 2 p.m. This year's honorees are Kenneth Fleming, Jim Hanna, Louis Jett and James P. Lucier, Sr.

☉ **Sunday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day 5K Race at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park,** 42405 Claudia Drive, Leesburg. Race starts at 8 a.m. Race fee is \$28 for adults before Nov. 10, and \$33 on the event day. The flat rate for ages 17 and under is \$15. Register online at www.prraces.com or at www.loudoun.gov/webtrac.



☉ **Sunday, Nov. 11, Lovettsville Historical Society Lecture by Scott Ackerman,** historic interpreter at President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home in Washington. The lecture is 3:30 p.m. at St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way, Lovettsville following the Veterans Day Ceremony on the Town Square.

☉ **Friday, Nov. 16, Saturday, Nov. 17 and Sunday, Nov. 18, Loudoun Interfaith Relief Thanksgiving food distribution** at 750 Miller Drive, Suite A-1 in Leesburg. Call 703-777-5911 for further information or visit www.interfaithrelief.org

☉ **Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17, annual holiday bazaar at the Carver Center,** 700 South 15th St. in Purcellville. Nov. 16 from 1-8 p.m. and Nov. 17 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Personal and professional vendors welcome.

☉ **Monday, Nov. 19, Christmas celebration starts at Oatlands,** 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane in Leesburg. Holiday tours on the half-hour beginning on Nov. 19 through Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Tours are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children 6 – 16. Visit www.oatlands.org.

☉ **Friday, Dec. 7, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. the Annual Winter Wonderland,** Everyone is invited to attend this popular fundraising and fun event. Incredibly unique Silent Auction, and a room full of very special Vendors for great gift buying opportunities. Emerick Elementary School on Nursery Ave.

NWILL Indoor Lacrosse League Open to Boys U15 & U12

NoVaWest in partnership with the Winchester SportsPlex are now accepting team and individual registrations for the two winter 2012/2013 indoor lacrosse league sessions.

Visit www.novawestlax.com/NWILL/index.asp for more information or register at www.novawestlax.com/register. All players registered will be entered into a drawing for a new pro7 helmet. Registration for session I will end 12/1/12 and for session II 1/1/13

Children's Nature Book Club Has Begun Its Fall Season

The Children's Nature Book Club or "C.N.B.C." has begun its fall 2012 session. The club welcomes 3-6 year olds, accompanied by their parent or other care-giver, to meet at the Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA to hear a story, take a short hike, and participate in music, and arts and crafts, all centered around a nature-based theme. Classes meet Fridays from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. through Dec. 14 (except for Thanksgiving week). Instructors are Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy volunteers, previous preschool teachers, and Master Naturalists. Pre-registration is required by contacting Ellie at (pedaley@verizon.net) or (540-338-6528). Cost is \$3.00/child each week. Enrollment is limited. Participants should dress for outside weather. Boots are recommended.



Spectacular Christmas in Horse Country

Christmas in Middleburg is a wonderful community event. Festivities begin at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, December 1 with breakfast with Santa and a silent auction at Middleburg Elementary School.

Starting at 11 a.m. the Middleburg Hunt Review takes to the streets creating a spectacular site as approximately 100 horses, riders in red coats and dozens of hounds come through the town. Throughout the day there are hayrides, choir performances, a crafts fair at the Middleburg Community Center, the Middleburg Garden Club's Christmas Flower & Greens Show at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, as well as shopping and dining in the town's shops and restaurants. Back by popular demand is the "Christmas in Middleburg Wine Crawl" – a progressive wine tasting featuring Virginia wines at

Middleburg Country Inn, Barrel Oak Tasting Room and Gallery, the Wine Cellar, Julien's, Red Fox Inn, Salamander Market, Home Farm, and Olio.

The parade begins at 2 p.m. as spectators line the sidewalks to watch as a unique assortment of floats, troops, and bands. In keeping with the animal friendliness of the town, the parade includes horses, llamas, alpacas and dogs. Not to be missed are the antique fire trucks, with Santa bringing up the rear riding on a beautiful horse drawn coach.

"Christmas in Middleburg is a wonderful family event," said Parade Organizer Jim Herbert. "This year's event will be especially exciting because the parade will feature many new additions; there will also be unique activities taking place throughout the day for visitors to enjoy."

It's

BAZAAR

on 21st Street

LOCAL
WOOL

ANTIQUE

BLACK FRIDAY 3 DAY SALE

40% off

up to

POTTERY

We have over 8,100 sq ft of Bazaar & Unique Antique, Vintage & Handmade Furniture, Pottery, Jewelry, Glass & Home Decor, Civil War Items, Vintage Coke-a-Cola Ware, Vinyl Records & Music Memorabilia, Stocking Stuffers, "Poopourri", Local Yarns, Tree Ornaments, Hand Knit Gifts.

143 N 21st Street, Purcellville, VA. 20132

540-751-9260, www.bazaaron21st.com

► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► RESIDENTIAL MARKET CONTINUES TO MOVE UP

– By Carl Fischer



Though lead traffic seemed to fall off a bit in August and September (a typical “summer doldrums” phenomena), there was sufficient sales activity to keep the buying spree moving forward. Month-over-month activity dropped 11.7 percent, but year-over-year, we are still up 22.6 percent.

One key indicator is the continued rise in average sold price as well as the ongoing drop in days-on-market. Inventory of homes available for sale is still shrinking.

A look at Loudoun numbers for September from MRIS appears above ...

Buyer's advantage is beginning to wane ...
As prices begin to creep up, and they are,

“Buyers appear to have reached the decision that there is no major threat to “buying now”, since it seems highly unlikely that notwithstanding concerns over a possible pending “fiscal cliff”, or a maybe a melt-down in the Euro zone, the same plodding economy does not seem to be going anywhere fast. Nor does it feel likely an economic collapse is eminent, either.”

the unique advantage buyers have enjoyed for some time is slowing beginning to slide away. Homes that sold in April and May of this year for \$350,000, are now going to contract at \$365,000-\$370,000. Same house; different market!

For a typical FHA buyer in this price range, with a 30-year, 3.75 percent interest loan, this could mean an additional \$115.36 per month to own the exact same home.

So if buying a home, or trading up is in your future, now is a good time to act.

New home construction is also gaining momentum ...

Local builders are once again running long-absent “buy it now at a discount” ads to draw traffic to their subdivisions. And some of these “giveaways” have true merit. If you

are in that market, now might be a good time to shop the competition aggressively.

Commercial activity is also on the rise

There has been a resurgence in commercial real estate activity, both on the part of

Continued on page 31

September 2012 Real Estate Market Statistics for Loudoun County, VA

Statistic	Values	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$183,385,983	+ 30.96%	- 11.02%
Closed Sales	423	+ 22.61%	- 11.69%
Median Sold Price	\$389,000	+ 8.77%	+ 3.18%
Avg Sold Price	\$433,537	+ 6.81%	+ 0.76%
Avg Days on Market	61 days	- 7.58%	+ 22%
Avg Sold to Orig List Ratio	96.46%	+ 0.96%	- 0.68%

KidScoop.com THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
© 2007 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 23 No. 36
www.kidscoop.com

The Kid Scoop Poll: **Do you turn off lights when you leave a room?**
Take the poll on the KIDS page at www.kidscoop.com

Catch The Wind

How to Make a Pinwheel

GATHER:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- A pencil with an eraser
- A straight pin

DO:

- Cut out the pinwheel pattern on this page.
- Glue it to a piece of construction paper.
- Cut around the edges of the pattern.
- Cut along the dotted lines.
- Take each corner with a dot and bring it to the center of the square. The corners should overlap.
- Push the pin through all four corners and the center of the square.
- Push the sharp tip of the pin into the pencil eraser.

Pinwheel Experiment
Open the refrigerator door and hold your pinwheel in front of the opening. Try holding the pinwheel up high. Then try holding it near the floor. What happens if you hold it in front of the freezer?

What's happening?
A breeze is caused by moving air. Cold air sinks and warm air rises. When you open the refrigerator, the cold air on the inside moves out and sinks, pushing the warm air out of its way. This causes a breeze that can spin your pinwheel.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read and understand multiple-step directions.

Extra! Extra! Energy Smart
Find newspaper photos of people using energy for work or play. For each photo, write what could be done differently to save energy. For example if you see a photo of cars driving, write down one or more ways that car owners can save gasoline. What other examples of energy saving can you come up with?

Standards Link: Environmental Science: Understand ways to conserve natural resources.

How a Wind Turbine Generates Electricity
The wind turns the rotor of the wind turbine.
The rotor turns a generator (a dynamo) which makes electricity.
Electricity travels through cables to where it is needed.

A school that runs on wind power? Find out more at www.kidscoop.com

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

When Sam opened the door, a gust of wind blew into the house.

Count by twos to connect the dots and see what the wind brought in.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Web Wonder What is worse than raining cats and dogs?
3145462 81947
Get the code by visiting the KIDS page at www.kidscoop.com

Double Double Word Search

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

PINWHEEL
BREEZE
FREEZER
ERASER
GASOLINE
ROTOR
TURBINE
WINDED
ENERGY
PAPER
PATTERN
CATCH
AIR
PIN
TIP

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

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

Kid Scoop Together: Windy Words

Ask a pal for words to complete this silly wind story. Then read it aloud.

_____ and I were sitting in my _____. It was a dark and windy _____.

The sky was full of _____ blowing around.

Suddenly, I saw a _____ blowing straight for _____.

“_____!” I yelled.

I saw _____ to safety.

Then, a _____ landed at my _____.

_____ started to _____ towards the _____ screaming.

“Help my _____!”

Then, as fast as it had started, the wind stopped. Suddenly the _____ were _____.

_____ said, “Next time I am going to read the _____ newspaper weather report before going to _____ with you!”

Standards Link: Writing: Use nouns, verbs, adjectives in writing. Reading Comprehension: Understand the meaning of words from context clues.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY
www.kidscoop.com

Get Rid of All That Wind!

Long-winded describes people who talk so much they make a short story long. Practice keeping things short by rewriting a newspaper article using SUBJECT-VERB sentences only.

Standards Link: Writing: Use strategies to draft and revise written words. Grammar: Understand subject-verb agreement in a sentence.

Write On! Write Words Wonderfully

Write an alliteration. An alliteration is a sentence or a phrase in which all of the words start with the same letter. Example: *Awesome ants almost always agree.*

CLASSIFIEDS

– FOR SALE –

Hay

From Hay Unlimited, right now: Orch and/or Tim Hay. \$270/ton delivered, or \$6.50-\$7.75/bale depending on weight. Call Matt at 540 338-9232.

– HELP WANTED –

Domestic help wanted: Domestic help wanted. 3 days/week, 5 hours /day. Laundry, cleaning, housekeeping, local errands. Fluent English only. Must have own transportation. 540-668-7653.

Paid Nursery Attendant – Assistant: Round Hill United Methodist Church, Round Hill, VA. Salary \$10.00/hr. Mature person needed each Sunday morning from 7:40 to 12:30p.m. Responsible for the care of children (birth to 48 months). References and background check required. Please submit a current resume to Office@round-hillumc.org.

PM Line Cook & PM Dishwasher: The French Hound, Middleburg. Experience preferred. Stop by 101 S. Madison Street, Middleburg VA & fill out an application between 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. Phone: 540.687.3018.

– SERVICES –

MUSIC LESSONS – SAXOPHONE, CLARINET & FLUTE! Private lessons for kids and adults are available in your home or at our studio in south Leesburg. Instructor has B.A. in music and 20 years experience as a performer and teacher.

Please call 703 777-4352 or email WoodwindStudio@verizon.net. Local references available.

Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard – An Image in the Sky for Thanksgiving

It's Oct. 28 and hurricane Sandy is headed our way. Memories of July's summer storms are still fresh in my mind. 100 degrees plus temperatures and six days without power or water. We lost animals. Mr. and Mrs. B's oldest daughter was in a very serious car crash and it seemed as though one thing after another kept pushing the farm and its staff's resolve. Mr. and Mrs. B flew to their daughter's side in Chicago while Bernie and Laino picked up the slack, working 24/7.

One day at a time, one customer at a time, just do your best; keep pushing through, one mistake at a time and one chore at a time.

That is what I, the Mighty Carrin Terrier, Sushi kept telling myself. Do whatever we need to do to keep our wonderful customers happy. Do the best we can, and when we think we have done our best, try harder. This is Mrs. B's philosophy. Oh, and yes, you must be able to laugh at yourself. Mrs. B says if she can't laugh at herself for sure one or all of her five daughters will do it for her!

When it rains it pours. When it rains it pours and hurricane Sandy certainly was ready to give us a good pour of harsh rains and winds. Umbrellas, glass table tops, pumpkins, planters, were carried into the house, anything that could fly through a window or cause damage. Freezers loaded, foods properly stored in preparation for power outages. With winds fiercely picking up, Mrs. B worried about the farm staff getting home.

Bernie and Laino carried on with Mr. and Mrs. B. Feed bins filled, animals moved to safe areas, baby ducklings attended too. Mrs. B drove Mr. B crazy, worrying about the baby ducklings. She checked on them in the middle of the night! Really, I even had to laugh at Mrs. B – seriously they are ducks! They live for this kind of weather!

Mrs. B slipped out into the night to make one more round checking on the horses,

turkeys, sheep, guineas and ducks, and a new baby kitten named Charlie Black. (Chef Wes's little boys wanted to call it Charlie Brown but decided on Charlie Black since it wasn't brown!)

Okay, back to the story. I of course followed Mrs. B down to the barn. It was eerie and cold, windy – real Halloween weather.

Quack, quack, quack could be heard all around Quackery Pound. The quack, quack, quack of happy ducks waddling through puddles of rain while the rest of Loudoun County was praying to survive hurricane Sandy.

The guinea babies had not fared so well, without the heat lamps it had not taken long before they succumbed to the cold and damp, even though they were in a barn stall bedded deep in warm shavings. Mrs. B had not gotten to them in time. I could see her disappointment – she was on an emotional roller coaster.

The rain sleeted down and Mrs. B stared into the blackened skies. Little Charlie Black the cat pawed at Mrs B's feet. Charlie Black didn't give up. Climbing straight up Mrs. B's pant leg he managed to crawl into her arms and purr. Mrs. B chuckled out loud into the dark of night. I lay quietly by her feet. We all were together under the isle way of the old barn, taking in the whipping noises of the winds.

Suddenly, Old Man Bronze Brother Turkey appeared out of nowhere with something strange sitting atop his back – a fairy type creature. Bronze Brother Turkey lifted his great wings and beckoned our eyes to follow him as he lifted with creature into the sky.

Bronze Brother Turkey flew high, as the fairy creature darted around his flight pattern creating images of our lives over the past 6 months. First the car accident, with Christina rushed to the hospital, but alive. With this image the sky burst into bright colors like

fireworks. Alive!

The fairy creature darted again, this time reenacting the 2012 summer storms, with people sweating through the hot weather, the girls dragging themselves through the heat to care for the animals, family and friends that came to help, loading truckloads of water. And, Mr. B's good friend – Mr. Tommy – coming to their aid. Uncle Billy, Aunti Di, Audra and Liam cutting their family vacation short to help out ...

The fairy creature again burst into fireworks showing a loving caring extended network of family and friends.

The fairy continued comparing the pain with the glory – the relentless trials with the triumph of conquering those trials that give hope to the future – reminding all that nothing is guaranteed easy in life, nothing at all, but that when life itself is embraced ... good God what a journey.

Mrs. B. smiled now as Bronze Brother Turkey and the fairy of life disappeared into the eye of the hurricane, leaving the treasure of what we all needed to be grateful for in our lives.

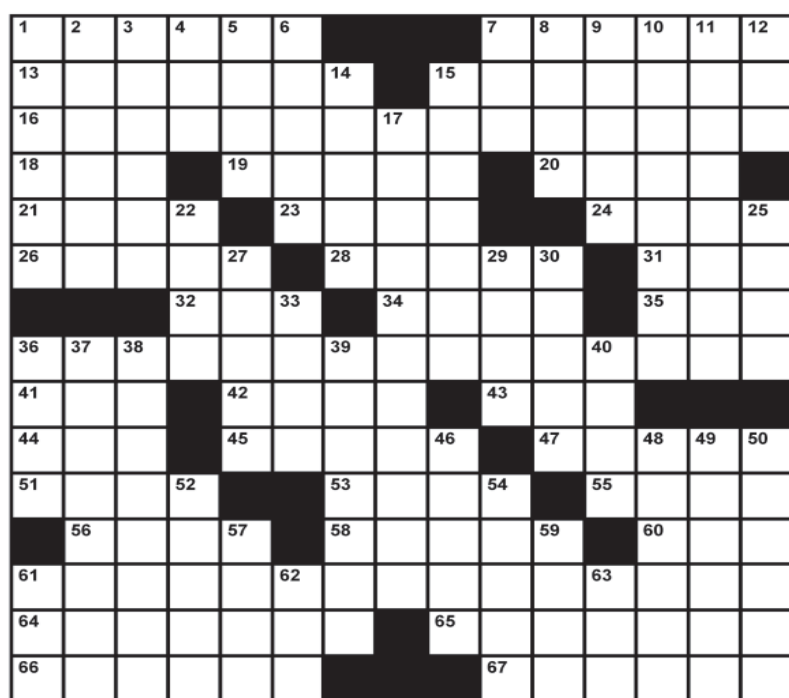
For these treasures we are truly blessed.

Have a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving.
Love, Sushi

Come visit my Master, Elaine Boland and the farm crew at Fields of Athenry Farm, directions at www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com.



Piquant Parade – By Myles Mellor and Sally York



Across

- Shoreline protector
- Flipper's constellation?
- Long Island ____
- Noble head topper
- Piquant parade
- Congratulations, of a sort
- Money substitute
- Bristle
- Direction (var.)
- Jackman or Grant
- Japanese icebreaker
- Military scouting
- Author, White Feather
- Back talk
- "__ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
- Italian monks
- Sitting pols
- Piquant parade
- "__ di Stasio," French film
- Thickness measures
- "Fantasy Island" prop
- Short order, for short
- __ Tower

Down

- Exec
- "Your majesty"
- Take orders
- "Oh, my aching head!," e.g.
- Drenched
- Wiehl of FOX News
- Piquant parade
- Changing of lean to elan, e.g.
- Cyber user
- Strain
- Go-getters
- __ Roo
- Cooling-off period
- Ulcer type
- Certain computer file
- Rash goddesses
- Roost
- DeLuise
- Assayers' stuff
- Derby prize
- Turkey part
- Putting off
- His "4" was retired
- Myst character
- Encodes
- Haute couture
- Heroin, slangily
- Cathedral recess
- Colon cleaner
- __ Europe
- Man and Casino
- Brightly colored seed cover
- Tittle-tattles
- Shed light on
- __ Review
- TV series, 1991-95
- Weapon storer
- About 1% of the atmosphere
- On fire
- Certain angler
- Green teas
- It takes two to do it....
- "Snowy" bird
- Novelist Jones
- Legendary Tibetan
- Video maker, for short
- He played a robot on TV
- Pronged spear

Answers on page 33

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Answers to crossword puzzle from page 29

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

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► REAL ESTATE TICKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

buyers and sellers alike.

Buyers appear to have reached the decision that there is no major threat to "buying now", since it seems highly unlikely that notwithstanding concerns over a possible pending "fiscal cliff", or a maybe a melt-down in the Euro zone, the same plodding economy does not seem to be going anywhere fast. Nor does it feel likely an economic collapse is eminent, either.

Sellers, on the other hand, seem to have reached the conclusion that any significant change of the status quo is also unlikely. So many of these owners have stepped up recently and listed their farms, shopping centers, apartments, and industrial buildings with me for sale. They are just tired of sitting feeling that their lives are "on hold", rather than moving forward with their own visions for the future.

For many of them, the old adage that "What you own, owns you!" seems to apply. These folks want change now.

Lenders are still a challenge for businessmen to deal with ...

In the past several months, I have had extended conversations with three different, all successful, businessmen each of which are currently running profitable businesses, or are seeking to expand operations, and all of which have lamented "terrible treatment" by the lending institutions they have had long, and good, relationships with.

Several had long-standing revolving lines of credit which are suddenly being terminated. One is struggling with a demand to pay in thirty days! Never late; no anticipated revenue problems; no reason, (in his mind), for such action.

For others, it was a five-year commercial real estate (CRE) note coming due, with the lender opting to withdraw any interest in rolling the note over. And no new lenders having any interest in originating a new loan.

All of these businessmen were angry, frustrated, and feeling betrayed by the lenders they had "partnered with" for so many years. Many felt that someone must have blown a "dog whistle" which they could not hear, sending notice to fellow lenders to get out of the CRE business as quickly as possible.

If you are a lender and would care to enlighten me with your side of this equation, I would both love to learn, and certainly to share with my readers, what's really going on.

Enjoy the holidays ahead!

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



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 <p>4 BR, 1.5 BA, 2524 sqft 6.46 acres - More avail! Lovettsville \$485,000 LO7912224</p>	 <p>PRICE REDUCED Working cattle farm (until '08) on 50+ acres! Predates the Civil War. Lovettsville \$999,000</p>	 <p>PRICE REDUCED 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 3588 sqft 3.58 acres w/ pool Leesburg \$569,900 LO7816890</p>
 <p>5BR, 4.5BA, 4,824 sq. ft., .24 acres. Ashburn \$649,900 LO7935860</p>	 <p>TO BE BUILT 3 BR, 2 BA, 1 acre Bluemont \$249,000 CL7809335</p>	 <p>PRICE REDUCED 4 BR, 2 BA, horse farm, 11.41 acres (2 lots) Lovettsville \$549,900 LO7844509</p>
<p>LAND</p> <p>Lovettsville \$135,000 2.88 acres</p> <p>Lovettsville \$132,500 2.81 acres</p>	 <p>COMING SOON 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2488 sq. ft., .49 acres Lovettsville \$349,900</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Lovettsville 3BR, 1.5BA \$1300/month</p>
 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 4 BR, 4.5 BA, 3924 sq. ft., .24 acres Lansdowne \$669,000 LO7889319</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 3BR, 3.5BA, 1951 sq. ft., .04 acres Purcellville \$239,900</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 3BR, 2BA, 1430 sq. ft. .09 acres Lovettsville \$195,000 LO7833745</p>



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