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# & Loudoun Today

APRIL 2013



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## Autumn Hill Battle Continues

— Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

The court battle between the developers of the Autumn Hill project outside Purcellville and Loudoun County will continue, albeit in a much reduced form.

In his March 5 decision Circuit Court Judge Thomas D. Horne granted the county's motion for demurrer on three of the four counts alleged by Autumn Hill. However, Judge Horne, who has a reputation for "splitting the baby" in his rulings, allowed one claim made by Autumn Hill to move forward for trial. The remaining issue asks the court to determine whether a law enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2009 takes precedent over a 1991 proffer agreement between the county and the developer.

Proffers are the mechanism by which the Virginia General Assembly allows localities to partially offset the capital costs (schools, playing fields, roads, etc.), and other impacts associated with residential development. Under this mechanism local governments can request proffers from a developer in return for approving additional density over the base density allowed by a county's zoning. Under state law proffer agreements

run with the land and remain binding on the county and future landowners unless modified through a public land use process. In Loudoun County, this process is known as a Zoning Concept Plan Amendment (ZCPA).

In the case of Autumn Hill, the original developer, John Andrews, voluntarily agreed to a proffer requiring that the development be served by Purcellville town water and sewer. In consideration for that and other proffers the Board of Supervisors approved the property's rezoning from one house per 3 acres to 9.5 units per acre. According to court documents filed by the county, this was a 2,750 percent increase in density. The proffer designated the Purcellville Town Council as the sole body in determining when and if to actually provide such service.

After several unsuccessful attempts to negotiate a water and sewer agreement with succeeding town councils, Andrews sold the property. Brookfield Homes purchased the property in 2002. Brookfield also made several unsuccessful attempts to gain town council approval to extend Purcellville utilities to the property.

In the decades since 1991, however, new

*Continued on page 20*

## Catoctin Creek Apartments Inching Closer To Vote

— By Karen Jimmerson

Purcellville's Hirst Road and Maple Avenue corridor is on the cusp of major changes. Developers have put in an application to build a large apartment complex (Catoctin Creek Apartments), and have future plans to build retail/office space. S.L. Nasbaum wants to develop the western 13.72 acres of a 20-acre parcel with 176 (and up to 205) apartment units. At the same time, Renauld Consulting is advertising for sale/lease thousands of square feet retail/office space within the same 20-acre parcel.

The application for the Catoctin Creek Apartments would require an amendment to Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan, and a rezoning amendment to PDH-15 (high density). The property was annexed into the town in December of 2008 by the Purcellville Town Council, and was designated as Transition X and CM-1. The Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP) ultimate land use map depicts the planned land use for the subject property as local service-light industrial, not residential. According to county staff comments,

"rezoning the subject property for residential use as proposed would not be in conformance with the PUGAMP land use map."

Any change to PUGAMP would mean an amendment, approved by both the town and the county. In addition, according to a March 2013 county staff report, "Such an amendment should explore the full impacts from commercial to residential."

Residents are concerned that the recent move to abolish PUGAMP by the county and town, set to take place July 1, 2013, will open the area up to more development rather than less, although the both the town council and Supervisor Janet Clarke have tried to downplay this point.

In the Developer Statement of Justification, the applicant indicates that the proposed plan amendment and subsequent rezoning "would help address the County's unmet housing needs including workforce housing." The applicant cites a George Mason University study, which suggests that there will be an increasing need for multi-family housing as a "key element in the promotion and growth of jobs in the (Metro) region."

*Continued on page 4*

## Loudoun One Stadium Appears Headed For Approval

— By Andrea Gaines

Farmwell Station Middle School in Ashburn was the site of the most recent showdown over the proposal to locate a new professional sports stadium in the Loudoun One commercial development, located at the southwest corner of Loudoun County Parkway and Route 7.

The stadium is the planned home for the Loudoun Hounds of Atlantic League baseball and Virginia Cavalry F.C. of the North American Soccer League. When first approved, One Loudoun included 3.12 million square feet of office space, 702,000 square

feet of retail, two hotels, and other uses. The new proposal, which includes the 5,500-seat One Loudoun sports stadium, calls for 2.8 million square feet of office space, along with changes to a planned town green and the elimination of a preserved wetland and a tree conservation area.

More than 100 people — including representatives of local business, community and non-profit organizations — spoke at the March 25 hearing, which lasted until well into the evening. While the sentiments of the speakers on this night was clearly in favor of the stadium (64 people spoke in fa-

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*Pie Contest For  
Purcellville's First Friday,  
April 5th, page 28*



*Vernal Pools:  
Nature's Most Safe Spring Place  
Wild Loudoun, page 14*

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**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**



## Ask Dr. Mike

*Dr. Mike,  
I work for the  
government and  
the sequestration  
something that is  
very real to me.*

*My husband is completely oblivious to our reality and is still spending like everything is OK. For him it is life as usual as he continues to purchase electronics and plan for a pricey family summer vacation. How do I knock some sense into him that the sequestration is real?*

*R in Loudoun County*

R-

Perhaps your husband is oblivious to your shared financial situation, or he may be in denial over it because it is consciously too much for him to handle. Moreover, our financial situation as a nation just does not seem to make sense, which may also be influencing his response to you. Think about it, while we are heading into sequestration, the stock market is at an all time high. And it was only a few months ago that we were all going to fall off a fiscal cliff that was then narrowly averted in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. I think you should make your next talk on the subject more formal with your husband by scheduling a meeting someplace outside of the home. I would bring your concerns and any

documentation you have on the matter to that meeting (e.g., you may have already received a letter from your employer). Let your husband know that the purpose of the meeting is not to control his spending or to overreact to your situation. Rather, the purpose of the meeting is to communicate better on a very real topic of concern for your family. Developing a spending plan together now in the event that things will worsen is the responsible thing to do. With making some spending adjustments over the next few months, perhaps you will be able to afford and enjoy that pricey family summer vacation after all.

*Dr. Mike,*

*What are your thoughts on redshirting? My husband and I are thinking of holding back our son an extra year in preschool to maximize his academic and athletic success with his peers. In driven and uber competitive Northern Virginia, it seems like anything we can do to give our son an advantage, even if only slight, is a good idea. My husband's parents think we are being ridiculous and that we shouldn't be thinking in such a calculating way for our toddler son. What do you think?*

*W in Loudoun County*

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## An Interview With Dave LaRock - Candidate For House Of Delegates

Dave LaRock recently announced that he will be challenging 20-year incumbent Del. Joe May in the June 11<sup>th</sup> Republican primary for the 33<sup>rd</sup> House of Delegates district, which covers most of rural Loudoun County. LaRock was kind enough to answer a few questions and introduce himself to our readers.

**BRL: Please tell us a little about yourself.**

I have lived here in Loudoun County for 26 years, and have been married to my wife Joanne for 31 years. We have seven children and three grandchildren. My wife and I built a successful small business as a general contractor, working hard to build about two to three homes a year. We attend Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg.

**BRL: How long have you been politically active?**

I started getting more involved in the political process a few years ago to protect private property rights when the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors tried to adopt restrictive and unnecessary environmental regulations. More recently, I was drawn into the fight against the funding scheme for the Dulles Rail project, which will cost Loudoun residents billions of dollars in higher taxes and tolls while not improving traffic, and primarily benefitting a few developers. My wife and I have been active in the pro-life movement for decades.



David LaRock

**BRL: Why are you running for office?**

My family and I love living in this beautiful rural area. This is our home and we would like our children to be able to make it their home. Raising a family, running a household and a business has taught me the importance of making careful decisions. I am sure that spending wisely and sticking to the conservative principles we share is the way to improve our quality of life.

The people of this district want good services without massive tax increases. We are paying more than enough taxes, but the

*Continued on page 27*

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## Catoctin Creek Apartments, continued from page 1

In contrast to this study, county forecasts indicate that the supply of multi-family housing, both existing and planned, will meet demand through 2037. Additionally, according to county staff, "allowing additional multi-family dwelling units in an area of the county where they are not anticipated could oversaturate the market and impact the viability of already approved developments." Purcellville has the highest saturation of affordable apartments in Loudoun County, and they are within .5 miles of each other.

In a report to the Purcellville Director of Public Works, the consulting firm Kimley-Horn and Associates also listed many concerns with regards to traffic impacts of the apartment complex. The traffic data did not include a 3-hour peak period and used peak hour traffic volumes for individual intersections instead of the entire study area, something VDOT typically requires. It was noted that the peak hour factor assumptions were not consistent with other documentation. The Traffic Impact Analysis concludes that

the subject application proposal "would not substantially worsen traffic conditions," but does not take into consideration future development within the Hirst Rd./Maple Ave, district. In the 2020 conditions, the traffic study assumes a 60,000 square foot of commercial to be built nearby. However, S.L. Nasbaum is advertising over 200,000 square feet of retail/business space next to the Catoctin Creek Apartments.

The application for rezoning includes no proffer statement in the application. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors encourages all towns to adopt proffer policies to help offset the capital impacts of development. Regional Transportation Planner, Randy Hodgson, suggests that the developer provide more monetary contributions for Hirst Road improvements. The applicant identifies Hirst Road improvements and a new left turn lane on Hirst Road to Route 287. However, they indicate it will be paid for mostly by "others," and that they will provide some monetary contribution toward the construction.

School districts are inextricably linked to their communities. The land use and planning policies of the town and county affect where and how schools will be constructed. Multi-family units typically yield fewer numbers of students. However, affordable

(tax-credit) multi-family units have significantly higher numbers of students. In scrutinizing the correspondence with the Loudoun County Planning and Legislative Services, the apartment's designation as a tax-credit property was not taken into consideration in projections for student enrollment from the 176-unit complex. Projections for students from affordable multi-housing units is between 1.070 to 1.30 students per unit, yet the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) finds only .24 students in multi-family housing, thus projecting only 43 school-aged children to reside in the Catoctin Creek apartments. The true potential of students could be upwards of 228, costing the school system \$2,643,660, as opposed to the projection by Planning and Legislative Services of \$498,585.

Based on county metrics, the Catoctin Creek Apartments could potentially add 52 students to Harmony Middle School and 64 to Woodgrove High School. Harmony currently has capacity for 99 more students and Woodgrove has room for 127 students. With a new 61-unit townhouse community under construction (Purcellville Green on 21st Street), continued building of single-family homes outside of Purcellville town limits, and an additional 492 quadruplex community under discussion in the courts,

overcrowding in western Loudoun schools is almost guaranteed. The LCPS system is in the midst of their own economic crisis, which has been compounded by budget shortfalls. The school system is in the process of finalizing a budget that may include millions in cuts, consolidation or elimination of positions, reducing programs, and potentially larger class sizes.

The Purcellville Planning Commission announced over a month ago that they would have a public hearing on the proposed Catoctin Creek Apartment Complex soon. After their vote/recommendation, the proposal will go to the town council for review, public hearing, and vote. Approval of this development not only affects the Hirst Maple Avenue corridor but the entire town, and residents fear the damage that will happen to Catoctin Creek and the possible lasting effect on developers targeting the area. "We moved to Purcellville just over a year ago. We chose this town because of the schools and beautiful location, as well as to escape the crowds, the traffic and congestion associated with Eastern Loudoun & Fairfax. I am concerned the potential significant population increase would change the quality of life in this town," said a resident of Old Dominion Valley who did not want to be identified.

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## Letters To The Editor

### Give Us More Time To Speak In Public Comment

Dear Editor:

For a very long time, Loudoun residents who wished to speak before the Board of Supervisors during public comment sessions of hearings or meetings, were limited to 3 and sometimes 5 minutes. It depended on the number of sign-ups or whether meetings were running late. Those representing organizations were often given 5 minutes or longer to speak, because they spoke on behalf of large numbers of residents. But no longer.

Board Chairman York, citing 'time constraints' and other excuses decided some time ago that comments be limited to 2 minutes, or even 1 minute (when certain agenda items drew in many speakers). The only individuals for whom this does not apply are usually public officials and those who have submitted applications to the county, such as developers. This time limit applies even when the Board is considering highly complex and detailed proposals such as the current debate over the stadium on Rt. 7, or major transportation initiatives, etc. Thus, although the current BOS considers itself responsive to the public, it is anything but.

This unyielding approach to public comment sessions is troubling, especially because Chairman York and other supervisors often say they judge whether there is community support for issues of importance by how many residents show up for public comment! If that is truly the case, surely the Board must accommodate those who wish to have their say. It is hypocritical to do otherwise. It is also a gross disservice to the community who they are in office to serve. One is left to wonder whether this Board is simply putting forth minimal effort because it does not wish to hear from residents on issues that are controversial or otherwise unpopular. A case in point: when a recent Board Meeting earlier this month was cancelled and then held anyway, the public comment session was arbitrarily cancelled. Residents were completely shut out from presenting their concerns at the last moment and without any warning. Such occurrences must not happen again. Two minutes and especially one minute is hardly enough time to adequately address issues before the Board. It is unfair, and especially egregious when speakers are expected to comment on complicated topics and/or are representing organizations or groups of any sort, where

the sentiments of large numbers of individuals are to be considered. This Board has decided that they will conduct the public's business with a minimum of bother, and whether that infringes upon or shortchanges the individual, so be it. It is no wonder that the public doesn't show up in larger numbers to address their concerns, when they can confidently expect that this Board will not bother to give them more than a minute or two to speak.

If the Board were truly interested in hearing from the public, they would return to the 3-5 minute rule, and giving those representing groups extra time. Needless to say it would actually save time in the long run to allow both a limited question and answer period. Supervisors might actually begin to understand how their constituents really feel on issues of importance. If this means taking extra time on occasion, well that is the price of representative democracy at the local level. Having just a brief moment and on to the next person only succeeds in putting some supervisors to sleep or seeing their eyes glaze over. It is hardly the best way to interact with those whom you presume to represent.

— Karen J Ficker, Ashburn

## 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.

**50,000 sq. ft. Catoctin Corner In The Works**



Catoctin Corner, a 6.53 acre property on Main Street and Rt.287 in Purcellville, is going through the approval process at the staff level. The majority of the property was annexed by the Purcellville Town Council in 2008. The property was zoned for low density dwelling units at 1-3 houses per acre. Against the recommendation of the Purcellville Planning Commission, the Purcellville Town Council voted to rezone the property for 50,000 sq. ft. of commercial, which will include a bank, pharmacy, gas station, and several restaurants.

**View From The Ridge - Spirit And Place Worth Protecting**

— By Andrea Gaines

Long time residents of our area – and even folks who moved here recently – describe the place known as western Loudoun with great fondness. There can be lots to be discouraged about – the loss of one’s favorite dirt road, the coming down of an old barn, fast food restaurants where that old mom and pop luncheonette used to be ...

But, while there are things to be discouraged about – things that we hope against hope (maybe unrealistically) will never change – every once in a while something happens that reminds you how very special western Loudoun really is. Something that motivates you not just to consider the positives, but to act in a way that cultivates and sustains them.

I had just such an experience a few weeks ago when my wandering border collie Stella disappeared into the back woods of a friend’s property. If you have a dog you’ll recognize that feeling in the pit of your stomach that tells you, yes, she’s taken off before, but she’s never been gone this long. Yes, she’s gone tearing around in those woods dozens of times, but she’s always come back. Yes, she’s pretty smart about finding her way “home,” but this is serious. It’s getting dark and who knows what kind of trouble she might be in. What am I going to do if she’s actually gone for good?

But, two hours into my dog’s disappearance my prayers for her safe return were

answered.

She had, indeed made her way a pretty significant distance from where I last saw her, somehow ending up in the road where a kind mom and son pair found her. She was nervous, cowering as cars went by and when they opened their car door to check on her she jumped in with a big “Thank you! That was scary!”

Mom and son took her home, checked her tags, snapped a picture of her and put it up on Facebook, where a mutual friend of mine and Stella’s rescuer saw her. Within minutes, no less than 10 people were on the case, and chain of phone calls later, a friend of mine who knew where my dog’s rescuer lived was driving me over to pick her up. Maybe it’s just another silly dog story. And, it’s not that the way we were reunited would only have happened in western Loudoun. But, it sure did seem to fit this very special place.

When my dog went missing, no one who knew me was going to rest until she was found. When my dog went missing, a perfect stranger turned to good old fashioned “social networking” while her son looked after Stella making sure she’d get safely back to me.

The whole episode seemed to fit this place known as western Loudoun ... perfectly.

Participate in it. Participate in this special place. By participating in it, and recognizing its uniqueness even in simple, ordinary ways, we act to preserve it.

**Purcellville Water And Sewer Rates Continue To Escalate**

The following is an excerpt from Purcellville’s proposed budget for FY14:

The most recent MFSG rate study was presented to Council in January 2013. Based on the consultant’s recommendations, council adopted a rate increase of 7 percent for water and 20 percent for wastewater effective with the June 2013 bill. The Town Manager’s FY24 budget includes another rate increase of 8 percent for water and 15 percent for wastewater.

Below is a history of the base rate for the last several years and the associated sewer rates (rates listed are per 1,000 gallons). The rates are taken from the proposed budget and extended according to the quote above, except that according to the town web site the first increase mentioned was effective in March.)

FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
<b>Basic Water</b>						
\$3.78	\$4.35	\$4.52	\$5.65	\$5.93	\$6.35	\$6.86
<b>Sewer</b>						
\$7.61	\$8.38	\$8.72	\$10.12	\$11.84	\$14.21	\$16.34

In review, over the seven years shown, the water rates have gone up 81 percent. The sewer rate has gone up 115 percent.

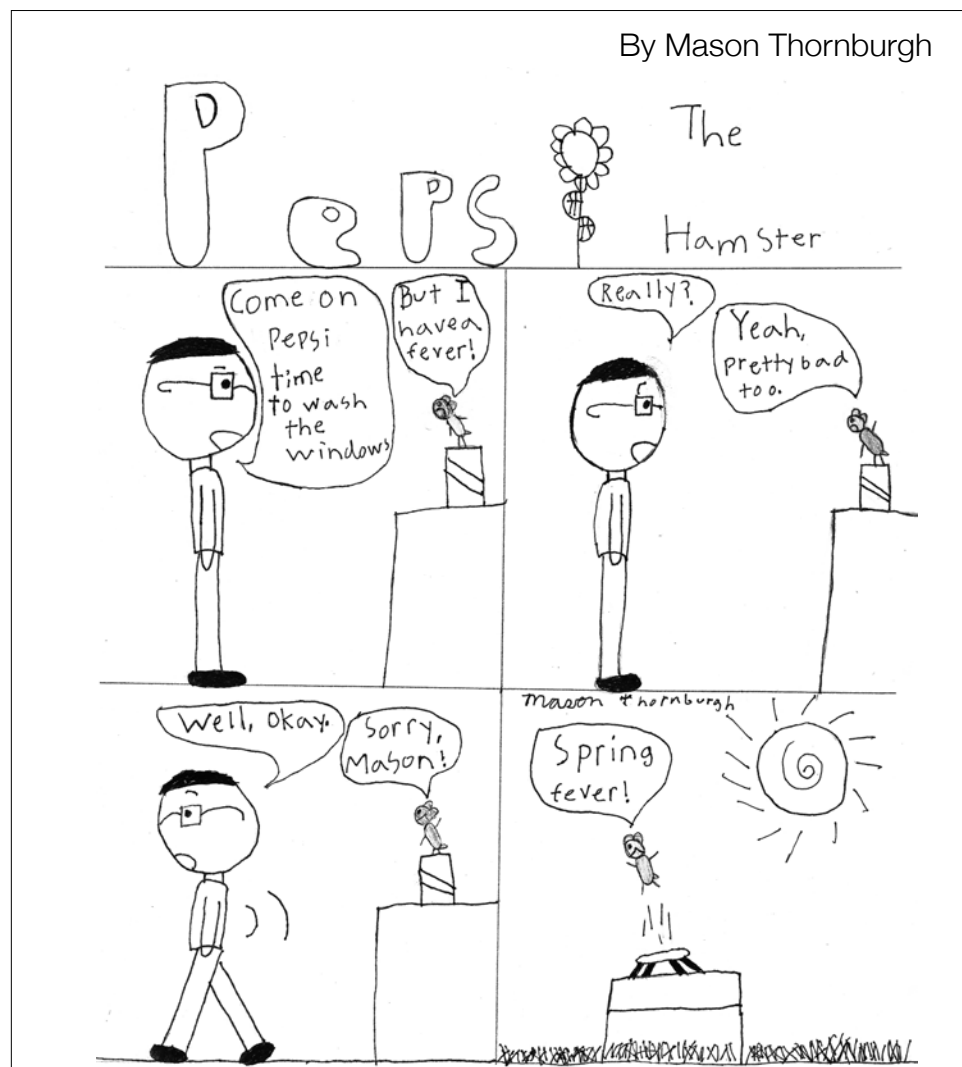
In addition, the proposed budget still shows that the water fund is operating at a deficit of \$407,482 and the wastewater fund is operating at a deficit of \$893,106. That means, to break even, the water rates need to go up by another 18 percent and the sewer fees by another 29 percent. Add

to that normal inflation, and it is logical that the fees may go up even further. And, if the connection fees projected are not met, the rates will need to go up again.

Purcellville residents have very few choices about how to handle the “water” crisis. The typical water bill will likely average in excess of \$200 per month. There is nothing that can be done at this time to reduce this. The only avenue of relief would be to drastically cut General Fund services such that the real estate tax can be drastically reduced to offset the huge increase in the water bills. Hard choices will have to be made.

The issue with the water/sewer rates is the town’s debt service. The debt service for the Water Fund is \$1.2 million or approximately 50 percent of the operating budget. The debt service for the Sewer Fund is \$2.4 million or approximately 120 percent of the operating budget.

When the decision was made to expand the sewer plant, the town’s own study indicated that a pipeline to the east could be built for approximately \$15 million. This would have connected the Purcellville plant to a larger facility. As an example, the operating cost of the Loudoun Water sewer plant is \$4 per thousand. If the town had gone that way and doubled the rate to pay off the debt of the old plant the rate would be only \$8 instead of the proposed \$16.34 shown here. Perhaps the electorate should consider these factors during the next town election.



### Stadium, continued from page 1

vor of the stadium, 23 were opposed), opposition to putting a stadium at this location has been long and sustained.

#### Two Points Of View

Proponents of the stadium describe the project as just the kind of family-oriented entertainment Loudoun needs, and also site the stadium's value as a generator of much needed jobs. The owners of the Loudoun Hounds have also been active in rallying their fans in favor of a stadium at the One Loudoun site.

Opponents of the stadium at this site identify the already overburdened roads at the Route 7/Loudoun County Parkway, the environmentally sensitive nature of the area, a lack of notice to neighboring communities during the application process, light pollution and noise.

#### Traffic And Quality Of Life Concerns

Residents of the nearby Potomac Green and Ashbrook – neighborhoods in close proximity to the stadium – have long expressed concerns about how the stadium will affect both traffic and quality of life in the area.

Many emphasized that they were not opposed to the stadium, but it's location. "I love sports," said one Ashbrook resident. "I have nothing against a soccer stadium ... But it is in the wrong location."

With respect to traffic, many speakers noted that traffic on nearby Waxpool Road and Rt. 7 was already at a stand still.

At an earlier hearing, Jean Beres, one of the leaders of No Stadium on 7 also spoke passionately against the stadium location. The Potomac Green community is already on the flight path for Dulles Airport, she noted. And, while residents had adjusted to the loud sound of passing jets, those disruptions are temporary. "Noise from the events will not be temporary," she said. "It will last for hours, not seconds ... It will alter lives permanently."

#### Environmental Concerns

One of the most significant environmental concerns that have been expressed is the stadium's proximity to Loudoun County's only active Great Blue Heron rookery. The State of Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries identifies this particular rookery as a "Critical Wildlife Resource."

The greatest concern for the rookery is the stadium's planned use of fireworks, some of which will rise 300 feet into the air. Noise disturbances can cause the birds to abandon their nests and/or cause premature fledging of young, resulting in their death. It was for this reason that the developer at the planned stadium's earlier site, Kincora, had agreed not to set off fireworks during the birds' nesting season.

No Stadium on 7 is an organization opposed to the siting of the stadium at One Loudoun. "Scott York recently held up a piece of paper at a BOS meeting from the US Fish & Wildlife Service stating that the soon to be relocated stadium and its intense use will have absolutely no effect on a very sensitive local wildlife resource," notes the organization's website. "So why then Chairman York were there severe limitations placed on the stadium when it was located at Kincora and why have those protections suddenly disappeared at One Loudoun?"

The Board of Supervisors plans to vote on the stadium proposal at its next business meeting. The project appears headed for approval.

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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Pinocchio</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Ages 10 to 13</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Performance will be held at the Lucketts Community Center.</p>	
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Young Frankenstein</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Ages 11 to 17</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Performance will be held at Franklin Park Arts Center.</p>	

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Once you've selected your cheese, and gotten the dough and sauce prepared, here in western Loudoun, you can easily source local ingredients for the toppings of your choice. Here's the basics for the cheese, dough and sauce, and some ideas for how to finish off your homemade pie ... try to go organic if you can.

### The Dough:

#### Ingredients

3-1/2 to 4 cups bread flour (for a crisper crust), or all-purpose flour (for a chewier crust), plus a pinch more flour of each for rolling.

1 teaspoon sugar

1 envelope instant dry yeast

2 teaspoons kosher salt

1-1/2 cups water, 110 degrees F

2 tablespoons olive oil, plus 2 teaspoons to add to mixing bowl

#### Directions

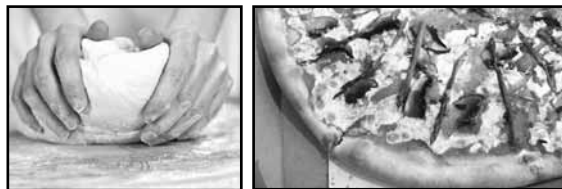
– Combine flour, sugar, yeast and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer and combine.

– While the mixer is running, add the water and 2 tablespoons of the oil and beat until the dough forms into a ball. If the dough is sticky, add more flour, 1 tablespoon at a time, until the dough comes together in a solid ball. If the dough is too dry, add additional water, 1 tablespoon at a time.

– Scrape the dough onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead into a smooth, firm ball.

– Grease a large bowl with the remaining 2 teaspoons olive oil, add the dough, cover the bowl with plastic wrap and put it in a warm area until it doubles in size, which will take about 1 hour.

– Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and divide it into 2 equal pieces. Cover each with a clean kitchen towel or plastic wrap and wait 10 minutes.



### The Sauce:

#### Ingredients

1 can whole peeled tomatoes, in juice

1 small sweet onion, finely diced and minced

1 clove garlic, peeled and minced

3 to 4 fresh basil leaves

1 teaspoon dried oregano

A pinch of sea salt

A pinch of fresh ground pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil

#### Directions

– Empty the contents of the tomato can in a bowl and coarsely crush the tomatoes with a fork or your hands.

– Add olive oil in a saucepan, over a medium high flame and heat.

– Add the onions and sauté until slightly translucent, then add the garlic and sauté until golden, about a minute.

– Add the crushed tomatoes to the mix. Stir and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper, and add the basil and oregano. If the tomatoes are tart, add a pinch of sugar. Simmer for about 15 minutes.

**The Cheese:** Use a combination of grated mozzarella cheese and fresh mozzarella slices on top of the pizza.

**Toppings:** Our vote for spring is to lightly sauté fresh local asparagus in olive oil with a little sea salt and pepper, adding your favorite fresh herb combination at the very last minute. (Optional: add cooked chicken, ground beef or nitrate-free pepperoni.)

**Prepare your pizza for baking/temperature/cooking time:** Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees, form your pizza dough onto your pan and cook for 10 minutes; remove from oven and add your tomato sauce, shaved and fresh mozzarella, and toppings; sprinkle fresh Reggiano Parmesan on top and cook for 15 minutes.

## Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

### 13 Financial Planning Strategies For 2013

– By Amy Smith

Congress passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) on New Year's Day. A number of changes came out of the act that will affect your overall tax bill and financial plan for 2013 and beyond. I will be offering financial planning strategies in future month's columns for you to consider in 2013 that by taking appropriate action may help you avoid an unexpected tax bill next April.



SMITH

#### 1. Consider the type of income you're generating

To counter or reduce the overall impact of rising taxes, evaluate your income sources. Varying types of income are taxed differently (see table).

#### Taxation of income types

Income type	Taxation
Earned Income	Marginal Income Tax Rate
Corporate Bonds	Marginal Income Tax Rate
Qualified Dividends	Long-Term Capital Gains Rate
Municipals	Exempt from federal and in many cases state income taxes in state of issue*

#### To reduce the tax burden created by your investments:

- Consider rebalancing your portfolio to include more tax-advantaged investments such as municipal bonds or dividend paying stocks, especially in higher tax brackets.

- When rebalancing, consider using new money coming into the account versus selling off certain investments to avoid incurring unnecessary capital gains taxes.

#### 2. Review your portfolio's tax efficiency

- Tax efficiency is essential to maximizing returns. Simply put, tax efficiency is measured by how much of an investment's return remains after taxes are paid. Certain investments generate more taxable distributions than others. Work with your advisor to evaluate your investments and after-tax returns.
- Review your portfolio's turnover ratio and historical distributions to get a sense of your annual tax liability, and take steps to add more tax efficient investments to minimize taxes.
- Consider tax loss harvesting as another effective way to offset realized gains.

*\*While interest in municipal bonds is generally exempt from federal income tax, keep in mind that it may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, state or local taxes. Profits and losses on federally tax-exempt bonds may be subject to capital gains tax treatment. In addition, certain municipal bonds (such as Build America Bonds) are issued without a federal tax exemption, which subject the related interest income to federal income tax. Dividends are not guaranteed and will fluctuate.*

*Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy V. Smith, CFP, CIMA 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](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com). Any opinions are those of Amy V. Smith and not necessarily those of RJFS or Raymond James. Expressions of opinion are as of this date and are subject to change without notice. 2006-2012. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets, or developments referred to in this material. The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. Any information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation. You should discuss any tax or legal issues with the appropriate professional.*

## Local Attorney New President Of Professional Group

Leesburg attorney Barbara S. Williams was installed as president of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association for 2013-2014 at the association's annual meeting recently.

"I am humbled and honored to serve as the president of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association," said Williams. "Trial lawyers help ordinary people obtain justice and are committed to preservation of the civil justice system in Virginia and indeed the country."

Williams practices law and has offices in both Winchester and Leesburg. She is



Barbara S. Williams

a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University and was licensed to practice law in Virginia after reading the law from 1985-1988. She is also currently the vice chair of the Litigation Section of the Virginia State Bar. She is a past president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. She served on the Brain Injury Services Board of Trustees for more than a decade, is a member of the Preservation of Historic Winchester and is a member of the Loudoun Valley Sheep Producers Association.

## Sadie's Race Is Back This Year

Sadie Smile Foundation is holding its second annual 5K run, walk and kids fun run at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 11, in Purcellville. This event is in memory of Sadie Grace Ablard who lost her life at the age of five to a head injury in August of 2011. Sadie had a contagious, joyful smile and loved to help others. Registration is open on [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) with an early registration discount available until April 10<sup>th</sup>.

This is a fun, family-oriented event that includes goodie bags, technical T-shirts, a water stop, and snacks for all participants. Bring your children to enjoy the Kid's Fun Run, a petting zoo, face painting, and a balloon twister!

Last year, over 500 people participated in Sadie's Race, and raised \$20,000.00 for Smile Train, a charity that repairs cleft lips and palates for children for as little as \$250



per surgery. Joe Boyle, a seasoned marathoner from Oak Hill, VA stated: "Fun race; family oriented; well organized; a very special cause; worth coming out for! For a first time event it was flawless!" For more information and to donate, visit [www.sadiesmilefoundation.org](http://www.sadiesmilefoundation.org). Contact Sadie's mom, Sara Ablard to learn more about the event, to volunteer or become a sponsor: [sablard@gmail.com](mailto:sablard@gmail.com)

Sign up today to support this wonderful cause and to enjoy a fun morning with your family and community!



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## Two Local Students Compete In High School Alpine Ski Racing Championships

The Eastern High School Ski Championships (EHSC) were held at Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire from March 8th to 10th. Loudoun Valley High School Sophomore Andrew McAlister and Tuscarora Sophomore Sarah Wyly are members of the Southern Alpine Racing Association (SARA) high school championship race team, which is made up of high school students from Virginia and West Virginia. The competition is an annual event that highlights the end of the ski season with competitive racing against the top high school skiers in the East, and is the only race of its kind in the United States.



Sarah Wyly



Andrew McAlister

Sarah Wyly trains and races for the Wintergreen Resort Race Team while Andrew McAlister trains and races for the Bryce Resort Race Team. This year's SARA race team was comprised of 7 girls and 6 boys. The SARA racers competed against 10 teams from the Mid-Atlantic, the Northeast as well as a Wisconsin team. Most racers were high school juniors and seniors. The SARA Team had three juniors and one senior. The team was coached by Wintergreen Race Team coaches Paul Given and Robert Sandy.

Overall, there were a total of 240 racers at the competition. The event started on Friday with a training day, allowing the racers to train on Cannon Mountain and practice Slalom and Giant Slalom courses. On Saturday, the racers competed in the Slalom race. Overall, McAlister finished 40th among the 120 boys and Wyly finished 69th among the 120 girls. On Sunday the Giant Slalom race was held. In this race, Wyly finished 69th again, and McAlister finished 39th. The racers faced treacherous terrain and rugged courses. On Sunday, 52 of the 240 racers crashed and were not allowed to finish the course.

During the regular season, both Wyly and McAlister made the SARA Regional Championship Team. Wyly finished third overall for the U-16 girls and McAlister was fifth for the U-16 boys.

SARA is a member of the United States Ski Association and has teams from mountains in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. During the winter months Wyly and McAlister are either training at their respective mountains or traveling to races at one of eight mountains where SARA races are held.

## FOCUS ON: PIPER DAN



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Photo by Sarah Huntington 540 338-7809

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Michael Oaks (not pictured) and Kim Patterson-Oaks met at an art show, fell in love, got married and moved to Purcellville four years ago because they loved the small town feel. Kim moved from Sterling and Michael from Miami. They moved two houses into one and decided to open a consignment store because there was a need for it, on 21st Street in Purcellville. Re-Love It (540 751-0707) has home furniture and clothing for the whole family...including men.

Photo by Sarah Huntington  
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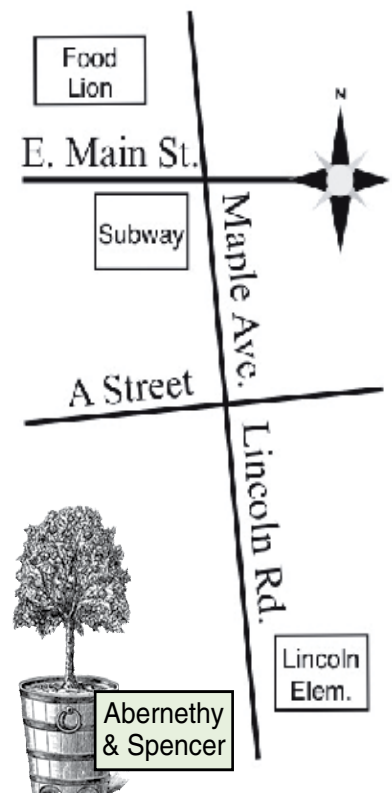
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# Wild Loudoun

## Vernal Pools: Nature's Most Safe Spring Place

– By Andrea Gaines

As spring surrenders its expectant coolness and warms to summer's first signs, vernal pools prepare to grace us with the wonderful frogs and other amphibians species that but for them would simply not exist.

"Vernal pools," otherwise known as ephemeral or temporary pools, are large or small watery areas that appear in late winter to early spring. There are many classifications of vernal pools, from small woodland depressions, to larger areas that look like a typical wetland, to collections of water that relate to more significant geological areas such as large underground limestone formations.

You may have one on your property; a shallow woodland or grassy area that in most years seems to hold water as winter snows melt and early spring rains come our way. Or, perhaps you walked by a place on a regular spring hike that despite the still chilly air has a haze of green life on it, even as winter has not yet departed. Or, a place where, in early spring, as you drive by after nightfall the sound of Spring Peepers – tiny but very vocal frogs – are sending out their calls to attract a mate.

You see these watery areas, but because their standing water does not extend into the warmer summer months they somehow seem insignificant. But, 90 percent of Vir-



ginia's vernal pools have been lost to development and other factors, including things as seemingly harmless as our ever-expanding lawns. However, they are not only legally protected waterways, but critical patches of habitat for many of the amphibians we love, including our most cherished frogs and salamanders.

Nature has a lot to teach us. And, one of those teachings is that certain water dependent species – including frogs and salamanders – do not need just any kind of water-based habitat, but water-based habitat that allows them to hibernate nearby over the winter undisturbed, and lay spring eggs in these watery areas free of their most common predators, including fish. Vernal pools provide that water-based habitat. For, despite being dry at times, once filled with water vernal pools teem with life.

According to Virginia vernal pools experts: "Vernal pool wetlands are distinguished by the presence of certain indicator species of wildlife know as 'obligates.' The vernal pool obligates in Virginia are the Spotted Salamander, Marbled Salamander, Wood Frog, Jefferson Salamander, Mole Salamander, Mabee's Salamander, Tiger Salamander, and several species of Fairy Shrimp (small ... crustaceans). The breeding presence of any of these obligates can be used to verify a true vernal pool habitat."

*continued on page 29*

## Loudoun Valley Ladies' Lax Off To A Hot Start

At 3-0, the Loudoun Valley Lady Vikings' lacrosse team is off to a blistering start this year. Leading off with a win of 22-2 over Fauquier County in their home opener on March 11, the Vikes followed with a 25-0 shellacking of Park View on March 21 and then blew out Fauquier County again 20-2 on the road a day later. The 2013 season looks promising for Valley, as they return 11 starters from last year including captains Megan Williamson, Ashlyn DiLoreto, and Corley Simons. Together they lead an experienced corps of attack and midfielders, including Cortney Inman, Sarah Ashworth, Katie Davis, Courtney Schollian, and Maya Ebrahimnejad. The defense, anchored by goalie Haley Shuford, features Tara Davis, Brittany Raffa, and Anna Munford.

After facing elimination in Virginia High School League Regional competition last year, coaches Tracey Albro and Kaitlin Quigley have their sights fixed on a run at State this year. Due to next year's VHSL realignment, 2013 will be the final year for Valley in the Dulles District and their last shot for a return to the dominance they have

enjoyed in girls' lacrosse since its creation in 2001. The redistricting will break all Virginia public schools up into size classifications from single A to 6A, comprised of 48 six team conferences. This will send 3A Valley in Conference 28 to compete with Central, Skyline, John Champe, William Monroe, and Warren County. Given their red hot start, the Lady Vikings appear poised to complete their final chapter in the Dulles District in style as they try to bring one more title home.

Loudoun Valley Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Home Schedule:

04/11 Thu.	7:30 p.m.	Woodgrove
04/15 Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Potomac Falls
04/18 Thu.	7:30 p.m.	Briar Woods
04/22 Mon.	6:00 p.m.	John Champe
04/25 Thu.	7:30 p.m.	Dominion
04/29 Mon.	6:00 p.m.	George Mason

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# A Teacher Affects Eternity

– By Hannah James

Henry Adams once said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

It’s an accepted fact that the younger a person is the more impressionable. This makes teachers, who spend huge amounts of time with their students every week, some of the greatest influencers of the younger generations. Teachers, whose job description is to cultivate a learning environment, often turn out to be much more than simply brains of knowledge. When a student finds a connection with their teacher, the strict teacher-student relationship is frequently abandoned. The pair takes time to get to know each other on a more personal level, and their previous relationship turns into a friendship.

Most students who build these friendships are close to teachers they have had in years past. Usually such a relationship builds off of the student’s admiration for the teacher’s ability to instruct. Students tend to find it easier to get along with teachers for whom they have high regard and respect. If they have positive feelings toward their teachers from the start, students are more likely to strike up conversations with their teachers that are not related to classes.

“From the first day of class I knew I could definitely respect [my history teacher], because I could tell he knew his stuff,” said a junior at Potomac Falls High School.

Besides being instructors, teachers turn



HANNAH JAMES

into mentors for their students. Students who trust their teacher to help them in class often begin to trust them with their personal problems. Even though teachers are known to be very busy – grading papers, writing tests and planning lessons – many will set aside whatever they’re doing to listen to their students. This is beneficial for both student and teacher because if a student knows that their teacher would drop their work just to pay attention, they’re more likely to respect that person and try harder in class.

“I feel really comfortable talking to her because I’ve built a respect for her and her enthusiasm for everything. She helped me a lot in a difficult time, and I will always appreciate it and I love her for it. She also just makes everything so much fun and so much more interesting,” said junior Kajal Soljitra about her psychology teacher.

Teachers who are warm, funny or quirky are often sought out by students who haven’t ever taken their classes. There are teachers in every school who are known to be easy to talk to and a great help.

“I love my teacher because she is an inspiration. She’s always there for you, even if you’re not her student. She’s very loving, she’s a

*continued on page 28*

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**Friday April 26th at 8PM Tickets: \$15Ad., \$12Sr./St.**

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Al & Amy's music was featured throughout the soundtrack of the 2009 Ken Burns EMMY-winning documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Beyond the sheer talent of both Al and Amy, you'll love the diversity of instruments they play, their warm stage presence and the multi-media show, "Land of the Sky" in which they combine live music with projections of their nature photography of the Southern Appalachians. Their repertoire includes original, traditional, contemporary Celtic- and Appalachian-influenced music with occasional nods to rock and jazz.

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Tickets: \$22 ad.; \$17 sr.; \$12 st. at door

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Dancing Unlimited presents  
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**Sat. Apr. 27 & Sun. Apr. 28 at 3PM**

Tickets: \$18 ad., \$15 sr./st

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In recognition of April as Autism Awareness month:

**Puzzle Piece** A new musical by: Tom Sweitzer

Filled with authentic storytelling, educational value and dramatic music, Puzzle Piece is for anyone who loves someone who has Autism, or anyone who loves theater and has a heart.

The show runs 50 minutes with no intermission.

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# Are you looking forward to the Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival this month?



**W**e definitely are! Our team is gearing up for the 23rd Annual Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, April 20th and 21st. This will be our seventh year! As last year's winner of the "Outstanding Creativity Award," and with a record of at least one award each year, we know we have a reputation to uphold; this means stretching our own creative gardening boundaries. This year's display will be rooted in the ideas of sustainability, edible landscaping and ecological balance. How it will flourish, like the Spring of 2013, remains to be seen.

In other news, having partnered with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in a campaign to promote the protection of Monarch butterflies, we will have plants and events to support their efforts. Stay tuned.



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## SOME GARDEN TIPS FOR APRIL

- Prune back bush-type roses and shrubs and apply fertilizer while they are still dormant.
- Late spring is perfect for planting new trees and shrubs in your landscape!
- The outdoor garden soil should be warm enough to plant beets, carrots, broccoli and more greens like kale and spinach.



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### Autumn Hill, continued from page 1

on-site water and wastewater treatment technologies have emerged. These systems would support the approved density without the need for town water and sewer.

Such small community systems have not been without controversy. For some five plus years residents of the Raspberry Falls subdivision north of Leesburg have demanded hook-up to a public system due to their small water system's high costs, problems with well contamination, and the resultant significant chemical treatment of the drinking water. Similarly, problems with alternative wastewater systems, known as Alternative On-Site Septic Systems (AOSS), led the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to adopt a moratorium on new installations along with stringent inspection and maintenance requirements in 2008. It was this effort that led directly to the passage of the 2009 state law upon which the Autumn Hill lawsuit now relies.

The 2009 state law (VA Code 15.2-2157(C)) prohibits a locality from banning the use of AOSS approved by the Virginia Department of Health if other sewer or sewerage disposal facilities are unavailable. Brookfield's attorneys reference case law determining that proffers are not contracts but local ordinances. They then argue that, as local ordinances cannot conflict with state law, amendments or additions to state law invalidate any prior proffers that conflict with the changes to state law. The county argues, however, that if the General Assembly meant the 2009 state law to apply retro-

actively, it would have specifically said so in the ordinance language.

Both Brookfield's response to the county's demurrer and the court decision reference the board's recent vote to eliminate the Annexation Agreement between the county and the Town of Purcellville along with the accompanying Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP). Brookfield claims that by this action, "the County will have taken away the town's authority to provide water and sewer to the Property," thereby eliminating any possibility of complying with the proffer requirement, and creating the necessary conditions to invoke the 2009 state law. This claim, however, appears to conflict with the town's ability to undertake a boundary line adjustment or annexation of the property, both of which were seemingly required under the Annexation Agreement as well. Without evaluating this claim by Brookfield, Judge Horne acknowledged that the decision to repeal PUGAMP and the Annexation Agreement "would leave oversight of development to the singular decision of the County." This outcome seemed to weigh on Judge Horne's decision to overrule the county's demurrer on that count.

Whether the court's decision might result in the resumption of settlement negotiations between the parties is unknown. Calls to Supervisor Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge), who represents the Purcellville area on the Board of Supervisors, and to Bob Hubble of Brookfield Homes were not returned.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Mingle ... Browse ... Watch The Artwork Evolve ... Ask Questions

– Interactive Painting Show Of Four  
Women Artists Coming To ArtSquare –

– By Andrea Gaines

“Diff4ent Strokes” as it is called ... is no ordinary art exhibition. Starting on Friday, April 12 ArtSquare in Leesburg will be exhibiting the work of four artists: Trisha Adams (oil/impressionist), Elaine Elinsky (acrylic/abstract), Christine Lashley (oil/realism), and Libby Stevens (pastel/colorist).

On Saturday, April 13 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., these four artists will participate in a live demonstration of their painting styles working off of a central still life. Instead of a traditional gallery opening, the event is a more interactive one, where the artists work on a new painting as a demonstration for the public. Patrons are welcome to mingle, browse the art, watch the artwork evolve and ask questions. There will be a reception immediately following the demonstration from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This style of interactive demonstration/opening makes people feel more comfortable with both the art and the artist and is a wonderful way to promote quality arts sales and exhibitions. For more information go to [www.artsquare.org](http://www.artsquare.org).

### Franklin Park Performing & Visual Arts Center, April 2013

Friday, April 5 and Saturday,  
April 6 – 8 p.m., Sunday, April 7,  
3 p.m., “They’re Playing Our Song”  
Tickets: \$20 all seats. To reserve seats  
call (540) 554-8889.

Friday, April 19 and Saturday,  
April 20 – 8 p.m., Sunday, April  
21, 3 p.m., “Loudoun Lyric Opera:  
The Old Maid and the Thief”

Tickets: \$22 Adult, \$17 Senior,  
\$12 Student. Purchase tickets  
online at [www.lyricopera.com](http://www.lyricopera.com).

Friday, April 26 – 8 p.m., Al  
Petteway and Amy White

Tickets: \$15 Adult, \$12 Student/  
Senior. Tickets available online at  
[www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).

Saturday, April 27 – 8 p.m.,  
Sunday April 28, 3 p.m., “Dancin’  
on Broadway and Beyond”

Tickets: \$18 Adult, \$15 Senior/  
Student. Tickets available online at  
[www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).

### Al Petteway And Amy White Coming To Franklin Park On April 26

– Provided by the Franklin Park Arts Center

Award-winning, critically acclaimed, passionate and playful, Al & Amy offer an intoxicating blend of musical styles. Their repertoire includes original, traditional, contemporary Celtic- and Appalachian-influenced music with occasional nods to rock and jazz. Their performances feature acoustic guitar, mandolin, Celtic harp, piano, banjo, lap dulcimer, world percussion, and a touch of vocals.



Beyond the sheer talent of both Al and Amy, audiences love the diversity of instruments they play, their warm stage presence and the multi-media show, “Land of the Sky” in which they combine live music with projections of their nature photography of the Southern Appalachians.

Before moving from the Washington, DC area to the mountains of Western North Carolina, Al & Amy won 50 WAMMIE Awards from the Washington Area Music Association. In addition, they were awarded five separate grants from the Maryland State Arts Council for both music composition and instrumental performance. They won an INDIE from The Association for Independent Music, and Al won a GRAMMY from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Al was voted one of the Top 50 Guitarists of all time by the readers of Acoustic Guitar Magazine and in 2008 he won Silver and Bronze medals in the magazine’s “Players’ Choice Awards.”

Al & Amy’s music was featured throughout the soundtrack of the 2009 Ken Burns EMMY-winning documentary, The National Parks: America’s Best Idea. And in 2010, their album, Caledon Wood, (which includes the main theme of the National Parks documentary) was counted among the essential albums of the past 20 years in the Acoustic Guitar Magazine 20th anniversary issue.

Al & Amy enjoy living in their mountain aerie at 4,300 feet elevation, with stunning long-range views and wildlife as constant inspiration. This mountain-top setting has greatly influenced their recent musical works, and has also spurred their return to photography. Both Al & Amy’s photographs are represented by The National Geographic Society’s Image Collection, where Al worked as an image editor for 18 years. Amy was quick to emphasize, “Our performance at the Franklin Park Arts Center will be performed against a backdrop of some of our most loved nature photographs”.

Al and Amy bring their shared love of music and rural life to the Franklin Park Arts Center stage April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Tickets available online at [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).

### Middleburg Academy Student Art Exhibit At Franklin Park

Eleventh grade student, Eudora Fu’s “Combined Landscape” is one of more than twenty-five student pieces on display from the Middleburg Academy Student Art Exhibition at the Franklin Park Arts Center, April 4 through April 28. The exhibition celebrates the creative spirit of Middleburg Academy through a wide range of media including ceramics, painting, drawing, photography and mixed media. The exhibit is free and open to the public Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A reception and awards presentation will be held on



Sunday, April 14, from 5 - 7:00 p.m.

### Jeff Hall – Sculpture As A Measure Of A Well Pursued Life

– By Andrea Gaines

“I just want to do exciting work.”

That’s a quote from Lovettsville sculptor Jeffrey Hall. A true artist who earnestly juggles the need to make a living with the joyful talent inside that knows it can produce magnificent work, and wants to share it with the world.

Walk into Jeff’s enormous 19th century barn turned studio and you are overwhelmed with both the size and the scope of what he has produced. A huge cast bronze sundial piece depicting a man, representing the sun, shielding a woman, representing the moon. A quiet, reflective clay bust of a beloved diplomat – preparation for a formal statue that this fall will grace an embassy in Washington DC.

A dramatic Lucite and brass piece that reveals multiple figures and reflections as it slowly rotates on a turntable.

Professional sculptors don’t support themselves in the way you’d think. There are those big commissions that come their way. But, with old style benefactors more scarce than ever, gallery income on the downturn and art collectors shepherding their dollars in a shaky economy, artists like Jeff need to be as creative with their business models as they are with their work. Pursuing major commissions is an enormous amount of work, with sometimes thousands of sculptors after one job. But, the creative fire that it takes to go after major commissions produces studies and finished pieces that not only grow and inspire the artist, but can be adapted and sold elsewhere, even if the artist is not selected to complete the piece.

Jeff’s dad was a pilot, and, growing up his family moved frequently – today in Dallas, tomorrow in Detroit. In Detroit, Jeff

did machine work in a factory, developing an early mastery for the technical skills he now exhibits working with all matter of materials – from clay, to metals, to plaster, to Lucite. While studying at the Maryland Institute College of Art Jeff was recognized

for his craftsmanship and awarded a scholarship to become a craft major. After college Jeff worked for a company that made ornamental castings. His studio is also peppered with another early craft – extremely sophisticated and conceptual airbrush paintings used on everything from automobiles to video games. And, for quite a while Jeff worked in wood, designing and building exquisite pieces of furniture.

As Jeff notes, artists like him do it all. They serve as the salesperson

for their business. They do the heavy lifting – the actual structural and finishing work for their pieces. They are the bill collector and they are the proposal writer.

Jeff received his BFA, Cum Lauda, in 1984 From the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore Maryland. His ceramic sculpture has been shown internationally and his architectural sculpture adorns government buildings, churches and estates in and around the Washington D.C. area, as well as the east coast, including two commissions for the US capitol building, the Marine Corp Administration Building, and the Washington Cathedral.

When you look at Jeff Hall’s work you think, WOW ... that is beautiful, inspirational, complex, free but polished. His work is like the man himself – friendly, open, searching; the measure of a well-pursued life.

To learn more about Jeff go to [www.jeffhallstudio.com](http://www.jeffhallstudio.com).



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## Football Player Gauging Interest In Adult Local League

Jack Kane is recruiting players for an adult football team, and at the same time he has his eye on a new league.

“Establishing a minor league level league allows players that either want to keep playing beyond a school forum or want to use a level such as ours to eventually work up to professional ball,” Kane said. “Secondly, it would pull a lot of great players out of hiding, whom presently do not play or play minimally, since there is no formal outlet here.”

Kane moved to western Loudoun in 2007 and continued to play on an adult minor league football team back in Pennsylvania for five seasons. In 2011, he said he decided it was time to play closer to home. He recruited a team that plays now in Maryland, north of Frederick.

He is now starting a third season with a core from that original team. They practice in western Loudoun. They are looking to fill some vacancies for a 7 on 7 flag format this season which begins in mid-April. Interested men should be at least 18 years old, have moderate football experience, be



in good physical condition, have Sundays available (and some Saturdays) for practice and games, be reliable and be team-minded.

Kane said his goal is to be able to eventually play in western Loudoun, and he would like to form a league in this area.

“A football league here would keep players in the area, rather than sending them out into other areas to play, as I am seeing now. Plus, it vents that stress which seems to follow suburban living here, after a long week of work and driving,” Kane said. “It can motivate post high school and university football recruits to keep in shape, knowing there would be a medium for them to showcase their skills, if they do not move up to pro football.”

*Kane can be reached at [allegbenymt@yahoo.com](mailto:allegbenymt@yahoo.com)*

## Carver Center April Events

**Friday, April 5, Spring Fling Dance,** 1-3 p.m. For ages 55 and up, \$3. Register through RecTrac # 330604-01. Celebrate the arrival of spring with an afternoon of dancing with friends. Enjoy light refreshments.

**Friday, April 19, Earth Day Celebration,** 10:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Free for members, \$2 for non-members, for ages 55 and up. Come to a morning presentation by naturalist and butterfly specialist Mona Miller, and an afternoon tour of the Loudoun County Landfill. Lunch from 12-12:30 p.m. is by donation, and requires advance registration by April 17. Call the lunch line at 571-258-3459.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Carver’s Congregate Lunch Program,** Monday-Friday at noon. Ages 55-59 cost \$4, ages 60 and up by donation. See a menu online at [www.loudoun.gov/carver](http://www.loudoun.gov/carver). Pre-register by noon the previous day. Sign up in the lunch book when you are



in the center, or call the automated lunch/transportation line at 571-258-3459.

### DANCING OPPORTUNITIES

**Very Beginner Line Dance,** Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. For ages 55 and up. Free to members, \$2 to drop-in members.

**Beginner Line Dance,** Mondays from 1-2 p.m. For ages 55 and up. Free to members, \$2 to drop-in members.

**Intermediate Line Dance,** Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. All ages, \$3/class.

**Ballroom Dance Socials,** most fourth Friday evenings, from 7-10 p.m. Includes one hour of professional instruction. Those who pre-register by calling 571-258-3400 by 4 p.m. the previous day receive the discounted \$10 price.

**Jerry’s Jukebox,** second Tuesday of each month. Pay a \$2 drop-in fee (or nothing at all if you are a Senior Center member), and get a little bit of help with your moves from volunteer instructor Jerry Smith.

## April

☉ **Fridays, April 5-May 24 (excluding April 19). Children’s Nature Book Club,** 10-11:30 a.m. at Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Children’s Center Rd., Leesburg. Children, ages 3-6, listen to a nature-themed book appropriate for the season, then enjoy activities, games, and a nature walk. \$3 per child. Registration Required. Contact [pdaley@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:pdaley@loudounwildlife.org) or call 540-338-6528.

☉ **Saturday and Sunday April 6-7, Gardening symposium,** Ida Lee Park in Leesburg. Loudoun County’s Master Gardeners kick off this year’s gardening season with 12 speakers on a range of topics at their fourth annual Gardening Symposium. Register for one day, \$45, or two, \$70, with lunch included. For more information and to register: [www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org).

☉ **Saturday, April 6, Town of Purcellville’s annual Town-Wide Beautification Day,** 8 a.m. to noon. Everyone is invited to participate. This event will include planting flowers and roadside clean up. For more information and/or to register, contact Cara Broshkevitch, at [klb.purcellville@verizon.net](mailto:klb.purcellville@verizon.net) or Diana Hays at 540-338-7440x221 or email at [dhays@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:dhays@purcellvilleva.gov).

☉ **Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Stop Hunger Now** third annual meal-packaging event at Round Hill Elementary School, 17115 Evening Star Drive, Round Hill, VA 20141. Hosted by Round Hill United Methodist Church. One thousand volunteers are needed to package 150,000 meals. Stop Hunger Now’s meal packaging events are a fun, hands-on way to make a difference and impact the lives of those suffering from hunger. Each meal costs approximately 25 cents. Monetary donations are also needed. To make a donation or register for the event, go to <https://stophungernow.secure.force.com>.

☉ **Sunday, April 21, movie preview of “Summer in February”** at the National Sporting Library and Museum, 102 The Plains Rd. in Middleburg. For information contact [Holly@webstergroupinc.com](mailto:Holly@webstergroupinc.com) or call 202.741.1294.

☉ **Wednesday, April 24, exhibit opening of “Munnings: Out in the Open”** at the National Sporting Library and Museum. Also “Munnings in Print” in the library Exhibits will explore a cross section of the works of Sir Alfred Munnings. Museum open Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. at 102 The Plains Rd. in Middleburg. Library open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1-4 p.m.

Upper Loudoun Little League (ULLL) opening day at Haske Field - April 20th. ULLL teams from Purcellville South, North, and Middleburg will be participating. Jeff Brown will give a history of Haske Field, and there will be guest speaker Don Rose Jr. who will speak on behalf of his late father, Don Rose. Games will follow.



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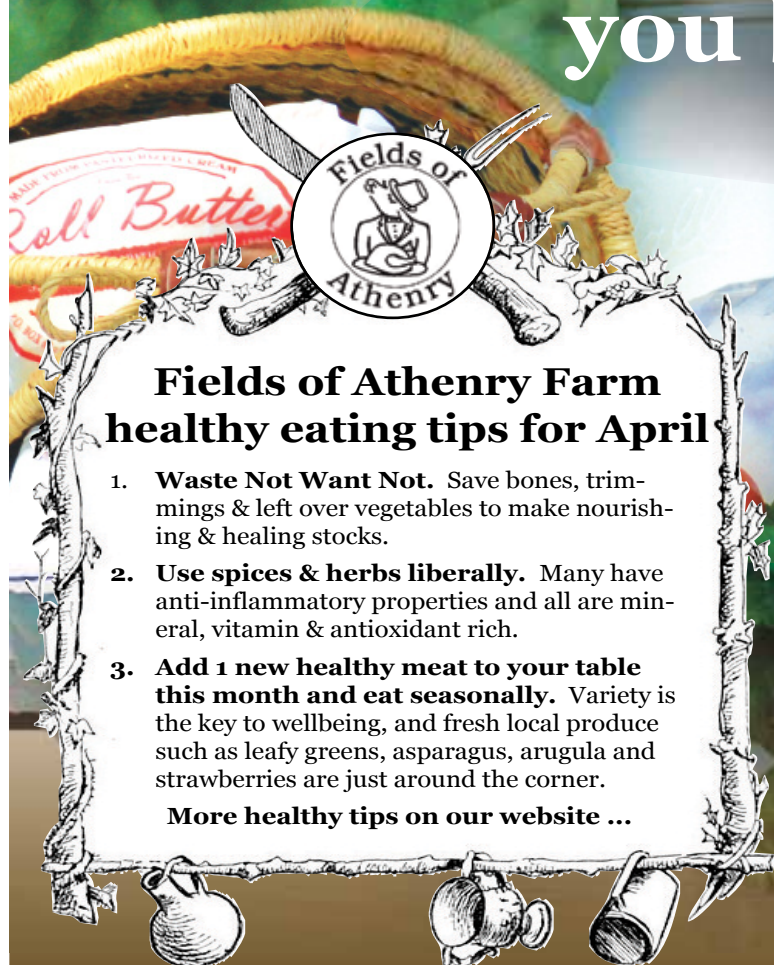
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## Remembering Howard K. Halverson



Howard K. Halverson, 79, died in February of complications from Parkinson's disease. He was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin. He served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War. Halverson graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Masters degree in political science in 1958 and moved to Los Angeles

where he was employed with Prudential Life Insurance before moving to Lincoln, Virginia in 1990.

His companion of 25 years, Michael Arakawa; his parents Beatrice and Harley Halverson; and a sister, Helen Tennis, predeceased Howard. Survivors include his sisters Janet White and Shirley Mickelson and brother-in-law Donald Mickelson, all of Madison, Wisconsin; nieces Karen Blodgett and Kathy McGlauffin, nephew Mike McGlauffin, all of Purcellville, and niece Debbie Nishimura of Kaneohe, Hawaii; as well as several grand nieces and nephews.

He shared his love of books, antiques, music, and Badgers and Packers football with his family and many friends. Halverson especially enjoyed Haagen-Dazs ice cream with Shirley's chocolate sauce.

Gifts in Halverson's memory may be made to the Halverson Need-Based Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Checks should be payable to: UW Foundation / Halverson Scholarship, and mailed to: UW Foundation; U.S. Bank Lockbox; P.O. Box 78807; Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807. Or memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, [www.support.pdf.org](http://www.support.pdf.org) or 800.457.6676.

## LaRock, continued from page 3

spending is out of control. I'd like to change that.

My opponent is advertising that he is pro-Life, but National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) gave him a 75 percent pro-abortion rating last year. The people in this district deserve honest trustworthy representation that reflects our values. When I say I will work to protect families, children, and the unborn, I mean what I say.

**BRL: Delegate May has been in office for 20 years and has a lot of influence as Chairman of the Transportation Committee. Won't our district lose some clout in the legislature if you defeat Del. May?**

What Joe May has been doing down in Richmond is not good for our district. He has voted time after time for massive tax increases, several times actually voting for unfair, unequal higher taxation on his own Northern Virginia constituents. May voted for the \$5 billion NoVA sales tax increase in '02, Gov. Warner's \$1.4 billion tax increase in '04, unfair and unconstitutional taxes and fees on NoVA in '07, and this year's \$6 billion increase.

All these tax increases were supposedly for transportation, but instead expanded government while our traffic has only gotten worse.

I will fight all tax increases, but especially extra taxes on Northern Virginia.

As Transportation Committee Chairman, Joe May has killed many good solutions, while ramming through bills which had no benefit to the people of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District. Northern Virginia sends way more transportation funding to Richmond than we get back, yet Del. May resisted fundamental reforms that are way overdue. We need to fix that diversion of our money to wasteful roads and transit projects that will have very little impact on congestion.

We can and will do better. I will vote against bad legislation and I will work to fix the broken system.

**BRL: Why should folks support you?**

In the 26 years I have lived and been actively involved in Loudoun, members of the community, neighbors, and friends have come to know me as a man of my word. I give voters my earnest pledge to provide honest, fair, and conservative leadership to protect our rights and fight for lower taxes.

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# The Benefits Of Woody Shrubs And Trees To The Landscape

– By Donna Williamson

Each of these types of woody shrubs and trees has benefits for the home landscape.

Deciduous (lose their leaves) shrubs usually have showy flowers at some time in the growing season. Some are emblematic of the season. Dogwood and cherry make folks think of spring, butterfly bush is a summer favorite and caryopteris and Rose of Sharon are late summer bloomers. Glossy, showy Magnolias can bridge several seasons.

Deciduous trees, like maple and oak are favorites with indistinct flowers but majestic outlines, provide good shade in summer, and some produce fruit – acorns (oaks) and nuts, fleshy fruits like apples and pears, or strange little cones like the exquisite and beautiful dawn redwood. Oaks are an excellent food source for wildlife.

Evergreen shrubs can provide year round privacy, strong structure to the garden – especially in winter – and barriers to unpleasant views. Boxwood is a wonderful specimen plant, alone or in a group or hedge. It is easily pruned to form parterres and hedges, useful in both winter and summer. Junipers, shrubby hollies, and yews are often used as foundation plantings around homes.

Evergreen trees provide a green permanence, looking substantial and classic. They can be beautiful in winter to provide relief and shelter from a drab landscape, shelter for birds from cold and snow, and a strong visual barrier to an



unpleasant view. Most are pyramidal. While they look like Christmas trees when purchased and planted, most evergreens need substantial space, quickly dwarfing their surroundings. Care needs to be taken as pretty, wispy white pines will quickly grow to 30 to 50 feet tall and their dense cousins, spruces, get to 50 to 60 feet tall and wide in relatively short spans of time. You might think about some of the smaller arborvitae and large boxwood possibilities.

## Consider a couple of issues in your decision:

- Hedging or pruning to keep things small is a maintenance chore that will take your time and attention (or your money) to maintain.
- Deciduous trees drop leaves in the fall.
- White pines drop needles (and sometimes resin) all

the time.

- Spruces and hollies are beautiful and glossy but prickly and cruel to the skin.
- Big trees, like maples, sycamores, and oaks need room to grow – I've seen where builders planted them ten feet apart at a new home.
- That cute pyramidal holly planted at the corner of the house will scratch you to pieces when you try to paint or do other house maintenance.
- Leyland cypresses are available and inexpensive – growing to 30 x 30 feet quickly – and insect/disease magnets.
- Too many evergreens can give a somber aspect to your home, so limit your evergreen tree plantings to less than 30 percent of the total landscape.
- Most homes are about 20 to 30 feet tall. Sixty-foot trees next to them can make them look like elves cottages. Choose with care.

P.S. ... welcome spring whatever you are planting!

*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 [dwwinegardening.com](mailto:dwwinegardening.com), 540-877-2002.*

## Just Like Nothing (Else) on Earth: Robin Circle

- By Tim Jon

Have you ever dreamt of a place without actually seeing it – and then found it in 'real' life? Well, my sleeping visions have been focusing – for some time – on what my heart and soul would describe as a 'home.' Not just any home, mind you; these are big, sprawling places with lots of surrounding greenery and enough land to offer the kind of seclusion and space that my subconscious evidently feels I need.

Now, the houses along Robin Circle - just south of Leesburg – don't fit exactly into my nightly structural conjurations (nothing in this world really does!) – but some of them would be a great place in which to start. Elaborate, unique, architectural designs for each structure – with most of the dwellings placed in shady yards full of mature trees – set back far enough from the roadway for my tastes – the whole package answered a lot of my soul's requirements for satisfaction the first time I happened upon this little, unobtrusive neighborhood. Hey, I could get to like it out here.

The places are big enough to move in with an extended family – and all our friends – and *their* friends. You get the idea. Heck, you could house an emperor's dynasty in some of these 'haciendas.' If you wanted to, that is... but the folks out there don't need to start worrying about having me moving in any time soon – not unless a whole pile of



JON



moolah falls from the sky into my lap. Just as well, though; I have a hard enough time these days keeping my current, cozy little place free of dust bunnies, and I'd probably get lost if I had that many rooms in which to wander.

So – Robin Circle residents – I won't be barbecuing my annual 30 pounds of pork shoulder right next door to make your dogs' mouths water – and I won't be installing my raised garden full of incendiary hot chilies that could make your eyebrows sweat at a hundred yards – and you won't be hearing me trying out my Shakespeare speeches in the backyard – sometimes loud enough to disturb my own nearest and dearest.

But some day – probably when I'm too incapacitated to be able to wheel out my smoker grill, and too immobile to do my own summer gardening, and I'm too feeble to give voice to more than a line or two of the Bard's best (audible to none but yours truly) – well, just maybe you'll look across that football field of grass and wonder, "Whose baby blue 2025 Subaru is that across the way?"

And, for my part, in the meantime, I'm quite confident that my slumberous search for an adequate – highly idiosyncratic – dwelling will continue as it has for quite some years. And I'm sure I'll keep adding to my personal requirements in a home: a fish pond stocked with my favorite species, a professional-grade aviary in which to breed rare exotic game birds, a hundred-acre wood with its own spring-fed stream for private nature rambling, a converted barn for summer theatre, an empty loft for my brother's art studio; you see, I'm adding more almost on a nightly basis: all that's not too much to ask, is it?

Wow. I guess my unbridled, inexorable dreams have already outgrown little old Robin Circle; I'd better stay in my humble town home, for the time being.

It's a tribute to that little neighborhood, though, that an assembly of estates could resonate so well with the movements of a particular human's heart and soul. I salute the poetry found in that group of impressive structures.

And I'm sure that Loudoun County will continue to match my nightly visions in home-hunting.

Now – if I can just find that darn broom and dustpan...

## Purcellville First Friday Inaugural Pie Contest – April 5

Do you have the skills it takes to be the best pie chef? Looking for those five minutes of fame? First Friday coordinator, Mary Beth Barbagallo is celebrating spring with a piebaking contest. "We were looking at creating a more interactive event, where the public is involved. Instead of just being a bystander, you can become a participant," said Barbagallo. Entrants are asked to bring their

pie to Butterfly Gourmet located at 148 N. 21st Street between 4 and 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 5. Entries will be judged in three categories; Crust, flavor and presentation. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place, and the Grand Prize winner. Entry fee is \$5 per pie and all the funds collected go to Loudoun Interfaith Relief. The pie-baking contest is open to amateur bakers.

## Teacher, continued from page 15

caring person and she's always willing to help people," said Sara Castaneda, a sophomore. "She takes her time to do extracurricular activities and get to know her students."

A student's time in high school is very limited. The friendships made there can make an everlasting impact. Teachers especially have the abil-

ity to influence their students beyond a school education. They are able to pass down both their wisdom and life experience. Students – sometimes despite outward appearances – trust their teachers greatly, and from that basic reliance, great friendships can be formed.

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

# Sushi – Tails from the Barnyard

## Fields of Athenry Farm Lost And Found

As a working farm dog some days are beautifully satisfying and then other days are just weepy heartaches. March is the perfect example of the unexpected time of year I am about to describe; you know – the in-like-a-lion-out-like-a lamb month of March?

For example; it was just early yesterday evening when I dutifully trotted down to the barnyard checking on our new baby lambs one more time before the sun set. The sky spitted ice, winds were billowing up from the Beaver dam Creek and the snow began to fall. Really, I asked? It is almost Easter! But, being the great protector of all things large and small on the farm, I shook off my wiry Cairn Terrier coat and deftly rounded up the lambs and stray ducklings, guiding them into the barn isle and under the brand new warming lamps. Here, in the protection of that barn, the babies would be kept sheltered from the unexpected weather. I was as satisfied as could be, knowing that all of my little vulnerable ones were safe and warm no matter what the night might bring. I trotted home to the big white farmhouse.

The next morning put me in a good mood. Finally the March sun was shining. My favorite farm girls Bernie and Laino were up early before setting off to school. They got to the barn slightly ahead of me to begin feeding the animals. All seemed so right, until what seemed like the perfect start to the perfect day to me suddenly changed as Laino had a very sad look on her face. “Sushi,” Laino said, “I could have sworn we had 11 little ducklings yesterday, but I just counted them as they came out of the barn and I see only 6. Bernie and I have looked everywhere ... but those ducklings are gone!” I tucked my tail under, lowered my head to let Laino know that I knew that this is what farm life is all about. Things die and are gone. But it just kills me to lose even one – even one little duckling. How did I miss them? I really thought I had rounded up every one of them into the safety of the barn isle from the crazy March weather last night!

I thought to myself; “You know, you are the one with the big white toothy Cairn Terrier grin that most of the time is sneaking up behind Bernie and Laino to see if you can half scare them/half delight them into think-



ing some unknown hairy creature is about to crawl up their pant leg. You need to take over and help them!” And, that I did. At that very moment my fathering instincts took over, and mustering up the best impersonation of Mr. B (in dog form) that I could, I walked carefully over to Laino, lifted my sturdy body up and put my two front paws on her knees. I didn’t say anything; I just looked into her slightly teary eyes and cocked my head from side to side as if to say: “Is there anything I can do?”

From Laino’s wistful glance out over the still icy field I could see she was having no part of my attempts at consolation or assistance. I persisted. Peeling back my lips to reveal my best pearly white toothy grin, my eyes said, “Ok. If consolation isn’t going to work, how ‘bout if we go play a trick on Clover ... that gullible Bull Mastiff that you think you love more than me?” I snarled to emphasize my point (farm girls know that’s how a Cairn Terrier laughs!) and that’s when the three of us heard it.

Quack quack ... quack quack ... quack – the softest most plaintiff sound you ever heard coming from the back of the barn – right where the electrician had been digging yesterday... a deep ditch to install wires to add more warming lamps for the barn ... “Out of my way girls!” I barked as my stout little body dove toward the quack, quack, quack ... sniffing, scratching and sniffing some more as I frantically cleared the way around the ditch. And, there they were, 5 little ducklings – quacking, waddling and popping one after another up into Bernie and Laino’s hands – finally free of the electrician’s ditch. “Sushi!” Laino squealed; “You saved the ducklings! You saved me from getting in trouble with Mom for not putting the ducklings away!” Laino scooped me into her arms and smothered me with kisses in a way intended to totally embarrass me in front of all the other farm animals. “From now on, I’m going to put you Sushi in charge of the farm’s lost and found. You are my hero. I love you Sushi. You’re the best Cairn Terrier a girl could ever have!

– All my farm love, Sushi



### Wild Loudoun, continued from page 14

The Tiger Salamander is an endangered species. Mabee’s Salamander is a threatened species. And, the Mole Salamander and Fairy Shrimp are categorized as special concern species. Vernal pools also support some of Virginia’s most rare wetland plants. Whether in a secluded forest area or on the side of a road, they are incredibly important habitat.

Driving down one of western Loudoun’s roads on a rainy late winter or early spring night you’re apt to see small and large frogs and toads hopping across your path. These creatures are very well making their way to a vernal pool area; traveling back to where

they were hatched having spent the winter in leaf litter or moist soil in a nearby woodland or grassy area.

If there is a seasonal watery area on your property, even if it is a small body of water, let it be (It supplies you with the frogs, salamanders and toads your children and grandchildren love and it’s the law) If less cultivated damp areas of your property feature leaf litter, piles of logs or downed trees, let those things be, too. The frogs, toads, salamanders and other obligate species that overwinter nearby and wait for water to collect in the spring will be in your debt, and your family’s life will be richer for it.

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## You Gotta Go - Loudoun Valley High School's Spring Musical

Although it carries an unusual and politically incorrect title, the musical URINETOWN is a smart and funny tale of love—a satirical and deeply thoughtful story that appeals to romantics, as well as those who crave corruption, greed, oppression, rebellion, and huge song and dance numbers!

In May, Loudoun Valley High School will bring the musical to life with a lively cast of characters, strong musicianship, and an intriguing story.

Set in a not-so-distant future when water is the most coveted and least available resource, URINETOWN follows the story of desperate people in desperate times. There is only one toilet in town, and people must pay to use it. The show is not afraid to be socially conscious and silly at the same time, and parodies everything from big government to environmentalism, to other Broadway musicals.

Loudoun Valley's cast will shine with comedy and great music from a talented ensemble of students, and lively accompaniment from the school's orchestra and band. Principal leads will be played by Drew Hare, Sarah Midolo, Alie Campbell, Patrick Dahman, Alex Poirier, and Jaxon Lessler, all of whom have experience in community productions at Franklin Park Arts Center, as well as on the school stage.

URINETOWN will open on Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m., May 4 at 7 p.m., and May 5 at 2 p.m. Email LVHSDramaMamas@gmail.com for tickets.

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

Dear W-

Redshirting, or the practice of postponing a child's entrance into kindergarten for extra time to develop intellectually, socially and physically, occurs at a national rate of about 9 percent. To your point that Northern Virginia is a competitive area, redshirting is typically more common in affluent communities, so I would not be surprised if the occurrence is higher here. The main concern for parents is when a child's birthday falls close to the kindergarten cutoff date and that child would then be the youngest in their class.

While there are proponents and opponents of redshirting, the research is unclear on its long-term effects. There is research that supports the practice and shows that it is helpful for children for the first few years of elementary school, and there are other studies that show those advantages fading out over time. In fact, there is some research that shows that younger students in a classroom can actually outperform their older peers.

As a child psychologist, school readiness and redshirting are frequent topics in my office for parents of toddlers. I tell parents that I understand they want what is best for their child and that they do not want their child to struggle unnecessarily, but I also tell them that redshirting should not be an automatic go-to. Each child is unique and development can be uneven for toddlers. Some children could benefit from the extra time to mature in preschool, while others, if held back, may be bored later in class if they are ready now.

Your husband's parents have already chimed in, but I think your son's preschool teacher is the person to talk to. He or she knows your child best as a student and can tell you all about his strengths and weaknesses in the classroom, as well as his overall readiness for kindergarten.

**Dr. Mike**

***My husband and I read your previous article on loss, but it dealt with the death of a family member. Can you address the death of a family pet with kids? We have a very old and ill dog that is likely not going to live much longer and a very sensitive 9-year-old boy. Our vet has recommended that we actually put our dog down given the pain she is experiencing. Our son doesn't do well with change or loss. For example, he cried for 3 days after we sold our Jeep. We are worried that losing his dog (and best friend) will be devastating for him. Your thoughts are appreciated. K in Loudoun County***

Dear K-

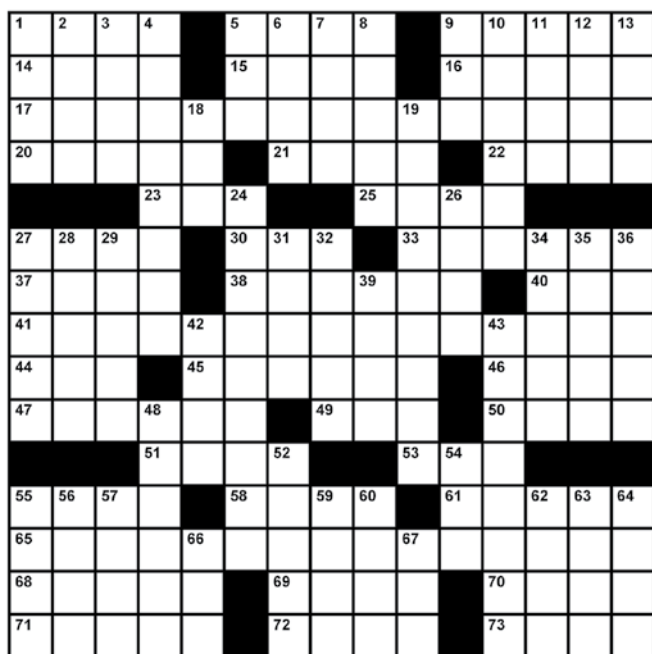
Your dog has been a member of your family for all of your son's 9 years. As your son's best friend, their relationship has very real significance, and I think you are right to be concerned about the impact your dog's death will have on him. As you further point out, your son's sensitive manner could perhaps complicate his loss and grief process. Given all of this, I think you need to speak to your son as soon as possible, especially if you are considering euthanasia.

At 9, your son intellectually understands the concept of death and its absoluteness, even if he has not yet lost anyone of significance at his young age. Should you decided to euthanize your dog, I think your son should know why you have decided to do so – i.e. how euthanasia is a loving and humane decision for a suffering pet. When your dog passes, as parents, you will want to make yourselves available to your son as much as possible. If your son, however, finds it difficult to speak to you about his feelings, I encourage you to share your thoughts and feelings. It is good for your son to hear that you miss your dog or for you to reminisce over positive moments with her. Remembering your deceased pet together is an important way to facilitate the grieving process for your son. Gaining closure is also important. Some parents will recognize the importance of their pet with a formal or informal ceremony and/or burial. Going for a walk together at your dog's favorite spot, as a family, may also be helpful for your son to process his grief and to gain closure. Some parents will quickly replace an old pet with a new pet to ease a child's loss. While there really is no right or wrong time to get a new pet, I recommend allowing your son enough time to say good bye emotionally to his deceased pet before introducing him to another one.

Your son, of course, will be understandably sad and upset after his pet passes, however, be on the watch for prolonged or severe signs of grief. More specifically, I think you should seek the assistance of a child psychologist if your son experiences any of the following changes several weeks after his pet passes: A preoccupation with thoughts of death, a noticeable loss of interest in his enjoyed activities or relationships, a notably increased or decreased appetite, increased and unremitting irritability, anxiety or sadness, nightmares and/or regression to behaviors that are typical of younger children (e.g., sleeping in your room). There are also a number of pet loss support services and groups in Northern Virginia, which some individuals find helpful in managing the death of a pet. Petloss.com may prove to be a good resource for you and your family.

To learn more about Dr. Mike and the APS team, please visit: [www.ashburnpsych.com](http://www.ashburnpsych.com) or call (703) 723-2999.

### D.C. Destinations — By Myles Mellor and Sally York



#### ACROSS

1. Craving  
5. Parsley bit  
10. Annul

14. "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.  
15. France's longest river  
16. Escape, in a way  
17. It was redone in '04  
20. Agnolotti, e.g.

21. Saint Petersburg, once  
22. Whimsical  
24. Exploit  
25. Tend to, as a bad lawn  
29. Quip  
31. Mozart's "L' \_\_\_ del Cairo"  
34. At any time  
35. "Agreed!"  
37. Snake or mathematician, at times  
39. William Thornton designed it  
42. Nice goodbye?  
43. Persuaded  
44. Mercury, for one  
45. \_\_\_ soup  
46. Rimbaud, for one  
48. Early word form  
50. Money in Moldova  
51. Costa Rican peninsula  
52. Shortcomings  
57. Mediterranean evergreen  
62. The Temple of Zeus was its model  
64. Healthy berry  
65. Upload \_\_\_  
66. Manhattan eatery

67. Boxing prize  
68. Case type  
69. Case type

#### DOWN

1. Arctic native  
2. Water-soluble compound  
3. Some are deadly  
4. Red arachnid  
5. Arch  
6. Tom's aunt  
7. Bank of Paris  
8. Persia, now  
9. Einstein, e.g.  
10. Grammar topic  
11. Warm, so to speak  
12. Hindu god  
13. Kind of column  
18. Thief's obstacle  
19. Set up (var.)  
23. Variety of taro  
25. Go over  
26. Get around  
27. Artist's hue  
28. Port city

29. Cascade of ruffles  
30. Jewish month  
31. Disgrace  
32. Literary work  
33. About 1% of the atmosphere  
36. Besides  
38. June 6, 1944  
40. City where Elvis was born  
41. Bad day for Caesar  
47. Nix  
49. \_\_\_ Bell  
50. Allowed  
51. Buddhist lecturer, Tendzin, and others  
52. Middle-age scourge  
53. Houston university  
54. Cancer kind  
55. Details  
56. Eastern prince  
58. Spirited horse  
59. Stir, with "up"  
60. They may be sown  
61. Smudge  
63. Fulfilled

answers on page 34...



## Luke Thornburgh Wins His Second Regional Spelling Bee

Luke Thornburgh, a seventh-grade homeschooler from Purcellville out spelled 106 other middle school students to snatch his second Loudoun County Regional Spelling Bee championship. The 31st annual regional spelling bee was held at Stone Bridge High School in mid March.

He was given the word debenture, and that word secured his win. He won over Belmont Ridge Middle School student Lilya Petrosyan, who misspelled Beethovenian.

By round four there were four students left competing: Kelsey Sheridan of Sterling Middle School, Omkar Bhalerao of Hutchinson Farm Elementary School, Luke and Lilya. And by round six, only Luke and Lilya were left. The two continued facing off for numerous rounds. Both misspelled their words for three rounds, including words like biangulate, geitonogamy and binturong.

Lilya misspelled the word Beethovenian, followed by Luke correctly spelling the word abbatial. He correctly spelled his final word, debenture, for his second win.

As Luke prepares for the Scripps National Bee, he said he plans to go through spelling lists, review Latin and Greek roots and study spelling rules for words with various lan-



Luke receives congratulations from his mom, Diana. Photo: Elizabeth DeBarros

guages of origin. He also plans to study the words in his notebook that he has been collecting while going through his unabridged dictionary.

"Bee Week" begins on Monday, May 27. The preliminaries begin on Tuesday May 28 with round one which is a rigorous written round (now a computer based test). Rounds two and three are oral rounds held on Wednesday. Spellers who achieve a particular score based on those three rounds move on to the semi-finals on Thursday morning. It is designed so that just under 20 percent of all the spellers go to the semi-finals. When the field has been pared down to about 10 spellers, there is a break and the remaining spellers are declared the finalists. The finals are held Thursday night. All rounds (except for the computer test) will be on ESPN.

"Getting a second opportunity to go to the National Bee exceeded my expectations. My goal is to get a better preliminary score than I did last year. I would love to make it to the semifinals this year. I am so glad that even if I don't get as far as I hope, I still get to watch it live. When I was younger, I loved watching it on TV and I always wanted to see it in person," Luke said.

### Collection For Women's Shelter

A high school student is organizing a collection for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter. Jackie Garcia, a member of the Loudoun Do Something Now club is collecting items through April 30. Boxes for the collection are at Re-Love It a Consignment Shoppe on 21st Street, It's Bazaar, Cardinal Bank and St. Francis De Sales Church in Purcellville. She is looking for the following items: Personal hygiene products, paper towels/toilet paper, new sweatpants/sweatshirts of all sizes, including childrens, new underwear and T-shirts of all sizes, new socks, trash bags (33 gallon and 13 gallon), mouthwash, liquid hand soap with pump dispenser and gift cards to Walmart, Target, Giant or Safeway.

## 'The Music Man' at Woodgrove

Woodgrove High School is presenting "The Music Man" April 18-21.

Come strike up the band and get ready for 76 trombones to play the hit parade. The musical tells the story of con man Harold Hill, who poses as a boys' band organizer, and his endeavors to sell band instruments and uniforms to naïve folk before escaping town, cash in hand.

In River City, Iowa, prudish librarian and piano teacher Marian Paroo sees through him, but when Harold Hill helps her younger brother, Winthrop, overcome his fear of social situations, Marian begins to fall in love with Harold. Harold, in turn falling for Marian, risks being caught to win her. In 1957, the show became a hit on Broadway, winning five Tony Awards, including best musical and

running for 1,375 performances.

The show stars sophomore Sam Van Vleet as Harold Hill, sophomore Lauren Albanese as the prudish librarian Marian Paroo, senior Melissa Allen as the wise mother Mrs. Paroo, senior Alexa Fetterly as the hilariously awkward Eulalie MacKecknie Shinn and sophomore Chris Consaul as her know-it-all husband Mayor Shinn. The total cast has more than 30 actors, singers, and dancers, an orchestra of 15, and a technical crew of more than 20.

Director David Noland said he is excited to share this show with the community and is happy to have the returning expertise of musical director Jessica Morgan and orchestra conductor Bill Strickler. Showtime is 7 p.m. on April 18, 19 and 20 with an April 21 matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

## Walk Through Grief To Begin Nature Walks

A new group in Purcellville is offering walking as a way to deal with grief.

Walk Through Grief will start meeting every Saturday beginning April 6 for hour-long nature walks using the trails in Franklin Park. The weekly schedule will alternate between a widows' group and a general participation group. In addition to the nature walks a series of seasonal events will be offered and volunteers are welcome.

The mission of this self-help group is to create an ongoing schedule of upbeat activities to help counter the effects of grief in healthy, natural ways while creating an outlet for grief-expression. Physical exercise, enjoying the outdoors, meeting friends and smiling is important for everyone, but especially for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Bodies absorb vitamin D from the sun helping to fight fatigue and regulate sleep. Endorphins produced during exercise are known to elevate mood and reduce anxiety and the weight bearing activity of walking helps strengthen bones,

muscles, heart and lungs.

Walk Through Grief is the brainchild of local resident Nancy Mumm who said she felt the community was underserved in the area of social and activity groups for those in grief recovery. She said the answer was obvious. Start one. After considering what healthful activity would have the broadest appeal the obvious answer was a year-round schedule of outdoor walk and talks.

This group is not intended to be used in place of physical therapy or grief counseling where individuals would be guided by professionals. Walk Through Grief is for those who are beyond the initial six month grieving period and feel ready for supportive socializing. Community residents willing to support and mentor newer members are always welcome, regardless of when they lost their spouse, significant other or family member.

More information at [www.WalkThroughGrief.com](http://www.WalkThroughGrief.com), or e-mail [mummwalek@aol.com](mailto:mummwalek@aol.com).

### ► Real Estate Ticker ►

— By Carl Fischer

I'm writing this article from the new Omni Hotel in downtown Fort Worth, Texas ...

while attending United Country's Annual Convention being held in Fort Worth Texas. It's an interesting contrast with the Northern Virginia market activity. Back home we are dealing with the too-early-to-predict consequences of the sequester, the Fort Worth area is experiencing an explosion in growth, price recovery. The median price here has increased from \$155,000 a year ago, to \$168,900 today. Their listing inventory declined from 3131 a year ago to 2223 today. Now that is a recovery!

Locally, residential resale prices are holding on, but not accelerating as I anticipated...

Month-over-month rate of sales fell in both sales volume as well as number of sales, but were still higher than the same month last year. According to the MRIS, the active number of listings is down from 1,287 to 1,040 compared to the same month last year. The number of new contracts was off 10.6 percent for the same period in 2012.

Here's a look at Loudoun numbers for February from the MRIS:

February 2013 Real Estate Market Statistics for Loudoun County, VA

Statistic	Values	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$128,876,259	+ 17.82%	- 6.4%
Closed Sales	297	+ 6.83%	- 7.76%
Median Sold Price	\$399,000	+ 14%	+ 6.26%
Avg Sold Price	\$433,927	+ 10.28%	+ 1.48%
Avg Days on Market	72 days	- 6.49%	+ 14.29%
Avg Sold to Orig List Ratio	96.01%	+ 0.82%	- 0.86%

Time will tell how this Spring market proceeds...

### A note about "Agency" and IDX

Some months ago, I wrote an article about Virginia's mandate that on the "occasion of the first substantive discussion about real estate", the agent or broker must secure, in writing, the prospective buyer's selection regarding how that real estate professional is to proceed going forward. Is he to: represent the Seller, represent the Buyer, or elect to not be represented.

For an agent to foist a document into a new prospect's hands and demand a written response before they hardly know each other is a bit of a challenge on both sides of the equation. But it is what is demanded of licensees... and they must comply or be in violation of the regulatory guidelines imposed on them by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

So don't be put off if a new agent asks you to "declare your intentions" as to how, or if, you want to be represented; it's the law.

### The IDX

Wikipedia defines IDX as follows: "(IDX) is a real estate property search site which allows the public to conduct searches of an approved Multiple Listing Service properties in a certain area."

Most local brokerages now include IDX data to be available to customers on their individual websites, but there's one small problem: You must read all of the content closely to discover that often, the agent whose name appears most conspicuously at the top of the screen is not the listing agent. Often that agent's name appears in small print at the bottom, usually accompanied by language such as: "Courtesy of John Doe", (who is the real listing agent).

Continued on page 34

**LOVETTSVILLE Offers Rain Barrel Workshop**

The Town of Lovettsville, in partnership with the Loudoun Water and Soil Conservation District, will be hosting a rain barrel workshop on April 9th at the Lovettsville Community Center. The event begins at 6:00pm and you must be pre-registered to participate. Participants will be able to learn about the benefits of rain barrels and then make one to take home or purchase one already assembled. The price is \$57.75 to build your own and \$73.50 if you would like to purchase a pre-assembled barrel. The town will provide a \$20 utility bill credit for all town water customers that purchase a barrel. For more information, call Town Hall at 540-822-5788.

Mayfest Vendor and Sponsor forms now available Lovettsville will hold its second annual Mayfest on Saturday, May 25 on the Town Green. If you would like to participate as a food or craft vendor, sponsor, or would just like to volunteer, please visit the Mayfest page.

*Real Estate Ticker, continued from page 33*

**From the Broker's perspective, this is a double-edged sword**

The broker wants his prospects to have access to the most information, so he feels compelled to include access to all listed properties on his website.

Big aggregators such as Trulia, Zillow, and Homes.com want to showcase the maximum number of properties. These businesses then sell the rights to that conspicuous "top-of-page" visibility to other agents who are willing to pay.

Who's right and who's wrong? All I can tell you is that if you want to speak with the Listing Agent for details on a property, read the website info carefully to find out who that person is.

*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) 703-727-5025.*

*Answers to crossword puzzle from page 32 ...*

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

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