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## 21st Street Project Undergoes Historic Scrutiny

– BAR Chairman Pat Giglio: “The scale is huge ...”

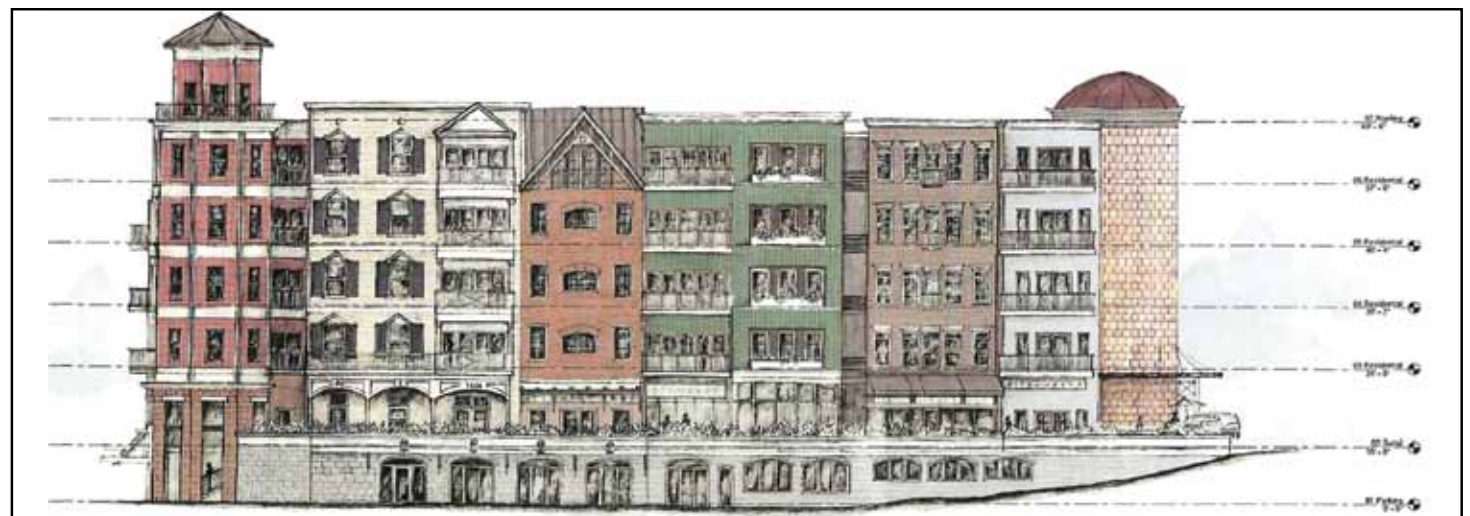
– By Valerie Cury

In October, the Purcellville Board of Architectural Review (BAR) took a careful look at concept plans for the 21st Street downtown project known as Vineyard Square.

Vineyard Square is a proposed 5-6 story mixed use complex that will be located in the heart of Purcellville’s historic district, across the street from the 1914 Nichols Hardware store building, the 1906 Pancoast building and other historic structures.

Features of the concept plan put forth by developer/owners John Chapman and Mark Nelis provide for extensive underground parking, a new outdoor parking lot, retail and commercial space and condominiums, necessitating a new pass through off 21st Street on O Street to Hatcher. Details of the proposal include:

- Approximately 30,000 sq. ft. of retail/commercial (first level) rising to five to six stories to accommodate residential housing.
- Approximately 45 condominiums, ranging from 950 sq. ft. to 2,300 sq. ft.
- Underground garage parking for the condominiums.
- 80 additional outside parking spaces.



Artist's Rendering of 21st Street Proposed Plan.

### By Right Development

The Chapman/Nelis project is a by right development, meaning that it meets the current commercial zoning for the property and is not subject to scrutiny on that basis. The property is within Purcellville’s official Historic Corridor Overlay Zoning District and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2007, bringing it under one of the most rigorous preservation standards in the country.

However, the local zoning which public officials and the mayor’s office have chosen to keep in place overrides historical preservation. And, while members of the town council, in concert with the mayor have downzoned and/or placed development restrictions on other properties, including Loudoun Valley High School, Emerick Elementary, the Purcellville Library, Purcellville Community Center and various town parking lots, critics note

that these properties were never under threat of being developed. Meanwhile, Purcellville’s historic downtown has remained unprotected from a zoning point of view, making it a prime area for intensive development. In the nearly 10 years that Mayor Lazaro has been in office, no zoning protections have been put in place, leaving the valuable properties in historic downtown especially vulnerable.

*Continued on page 4*

## LCPS Retains Attorney To Investigate Bullying By Principal

In late October, the Loudoun Education Association, representing 3,400 school employees, requested that the Loudoun County Public School system investigate allegations that Loudoun Valley High School’s principal had bullied teachers and pressured them to inflate grades. A group of more than 300 LVHS parents have joined a Facebook page discussing the issue.

The principal in question, Sue Ross, indirectly addressed the issue during an announcement at LVHS. Ross was hired as principal at the school eight years ago.

LVHS Parent Teacher Organization President Karen Dillon is organizing a meeting anticipated to occur during the week of Nov. 4, indicating on the group’s Facebook page that the “invitation will be extended to LVHS administration, all

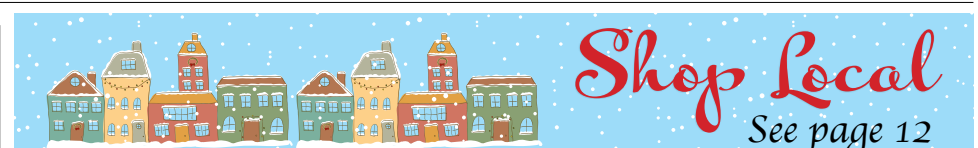
teachers, all parents and any children who would like to come. This meeting is not to answer all kinds of questions, it is to get information regarding the investigation.”

The allegations, yet to be publically detailed or substantiated, claim Ross had engaged in bullying and verbal harassment of teachers when poor student grades were presented.

Ross has denied changing grades or requesting a teacher change grades, acknowledging only that her goal is to promote academic excellence.

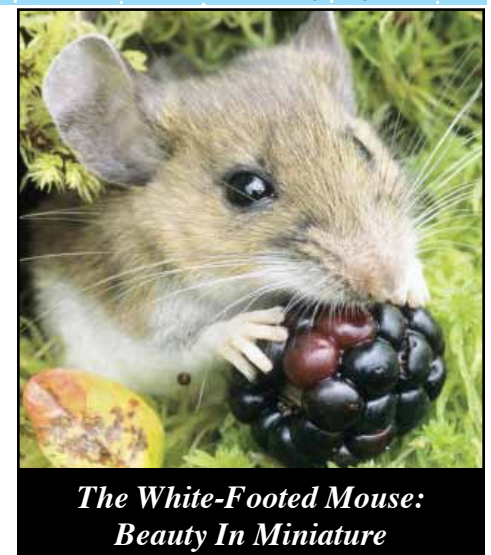
Teachers have intimated that they often feared being singled out for recording bad grades, even for students who had not earned a higher one.

LCPS superintendent Edgar Hatrick has not commented on the allegations, pending an outcome of the allegations.



**Purcellville Halloween Block Party A Huge Success**

*See page 32*



**The White-Footed Mouse: Beauty In Miniature**

*Wild Loudoun, page 23*



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# Back To Work: How Does That Make You Feel?

– By Michael  
 Oberschneider,  
 Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Once again, we as a nation narrowly escaped a catastrophe. It's been one week since the government shut down ended and everyone is back to work and happy, right? Perhaps for some, but perhaps not for many. "I feel like a pawn on a chest board," and "I just worked for two weeks while others got a two week paid vacation" and "the problem isn't over, it's just been punted forward six weeks" and "what crisis, it's all about political posturing and ego" and "nothing is certain anymore, so why bother getting upset" and "I don't matter, I'm non-essential." These are just a handful of the many comments I've heard from clients over our most recent political emergency.

As a psychologist in the DC area, I have directly witnessed the psychological impact of politics on those within and outside the beltway for years now. Throughout that time, the reactions and comments of my clients have changed,

and for the most part, so too it seems has their hope. In 2008, the majority of my clients were understandably very upset and anxious in response to the economic crash. And when gas climbed over \$4 a gallon for the first time, again, comments of upset and anxiety entered the therapy space. But with the sequestration and the fiscal cliff and now this more recent government shutdown and debt ceiling, rather than anger, comments of apathy, helplessness and resignation have been voiced most prominently.

While I acknowledge that being so close to DC may skew or exaggerate the sentiment that's been expressed in my office, I also believe that the opinions I've heard largely represent how so many of us feel across the country. I would go so far as to say that as a nation, with each passing crisis, we are experiencing a process of attrition to the collective psyche where learned helplessness is becoming the new normal.

In the 1960's psychologist, Martine Seligman discovered that if you expose an animal to an adverse stimulus repeatedly with no opportunity for escape,

*Continued on page 22*

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# Fieldstone Farm Opens Its Doors With A Benefit For The Old Stone School



Hillsboro's Old Stone School, circa 1874

Fieldstone Farm, a new bed and breakfast in Hillsboro, celebrated their opening Oct. 11 with a reception to benefit Hillsboro's Old Stone School. During the reception, the non-profit Hillsboro Community Association & Friends of the Old Stone School, which manages the Old Stone School, and the town of Hillsboro, which owns the historic building, held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new B&B and to kick off the Old Stone School Century Club.

The Old Stone School is nearing 140 years and is showing its age. The Hillsboro Community Association & Friends of the

Old Stone School and the town of Hillsboro are working closely together to raise funds for critical restoration and repair work. Their new fundraiser is called the Old Stone School Century Club, comprised of those who donate at least \$100 to the Old Stone School building restoration fund. The Old Stone School Century Club kicked off at the Fieldstone Farm benefit reception with donations of more than \$1,500.

The Old Stone School Century Club is part of the larger 140 x 140 campaign

*Continued on page 9*

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## 21st Street Project, continued from page 1...

### Vineyard Square Concept Plan

The Vineyard Square concept plan calls for the demolition of five buildings in the historic area, including four on 21st Street and one on O Street. Several date back to the 1920s and 1930s, and all of the buildings plus one accessory structure are listed as “contributing structures of the Purcellville Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.” Currently occupied by mostly small businesses, the one story and one and half story structures will be replaced with a complex up to four times that height.

While the basic zoning provisions under which the developers are operating (C4 mixed use commercial/residential) do not require public hearings, features of the project’s design including the size, height and style of the buildings – and the materials used – must be approved by the BAR.

### Historic Guidelines

Historic structures “cannot be razed, demolished, or moved, in whole or in part” without BAR approval. Board of Architectural Review guidelines state that “there must be a compelling reason to demolish or relocate a significant structure ...” with an eye towards defending the public’s interest in preserving rare

architectural features, and buildings and areas that have played an important role in town and county history. Guidelines also seek to “maintain the scale and character of the neighborhood,” and make sure any proposed changes are compatible with the town’s comprehensive plan. It might be noted that the town’s comprehensive plan was recently updated.

If built, Vineyard Square would be the tallest and one of the largest buildings in town. For this and other reasons, the board’s initial review raised several concerns, including the number of vehicle trips that would be generated due to the project’s density, how to manage traffic flow given the compact nature of the historic area and the presence of one-way streets, the height of the new buildings and a lack of transition between current buildings on 21st Street and the 5 - 6 stories proposed.

In addressing the new complex’s height, one commissioner asked: “Why five stories? It might be a revenue thing” to which Vineyard Square architect James O’Brien replied, “Yes, of course.” Another commissioner commented: “... It’s way too busy for the street. This is a lot of ideas arguing with each other. This would not be appropriate for Purcellville.” The

commissioner went on to say: “It doesn’t seem to marry with the street.”

In its preliminary report, on the issue of architectural design the BAR noted that “the compatibility of [building styles] with existing buildings varies” and that “it is unclear what is proposed for the southern façade that would face the alley.” The board also noted the lack of detail provided with respect to how Vineyard Square would incorporate other features that help strike a more historic cord – such as recessed and/or sheltered storefronts and entries, complimentary building colors, and complimentary rooflines.

When asked where he got his cues for the design of Vineyard Square, O’Brien stated “From Monticello and the purple color of one of the buildings and the trellis is a reflection of a vineyard ...” He also stated that he feels the silo is “a nice gesture and gives authenticity to the project.” On referring to the concept plan presented he said: “right now it is faceless, but we will put some makeup on it.”

Board commissioner Pat Giglio addressed the size of the complex, saying: “... The scale is huge. If someone were to stand back and look, it would be huge. It would dwarf the other buildings ... I am struggling with the scale

...“ He also noted: “It’s important to maintain the integrity of our nationally registered historic district and at a certain point that national register could be delisted if a large percentage of those contributing elements are removed. Currently we have 50 percent of the buildings within the national register in the historic district are listed as contributing ... [that is] a concern [of] the Department of Historic Resources.” Another commissioner echoed this sentiment stating: “This would be good for D.C. or Rosslyn, but it would not work here.”

### Competing Visions For Historic Downtown

In recent months the Town of Purcellville commissioned an approximately \$90,000 study addressing the issue of whether O Street – in the area of the Vineyard Square project – should be extended to connect to Hatcher. This route would take O Street through two properties that have been purchased by one of the Vineyard Square developers and require that these properties be torn down, making way for their new development. There are also 12 properties identified for right-of-way acquisition. Many of the owners have yet to be notified.

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 **@BRLeaderNEWS**

## Letters To The Editor

### Thank You For The Purcellville Halloween Block Party

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Re-Love It and all the sponsors and organizers for allowing me to MC the recent Purcellville Halloween Block Party. To put it simply, it is this kind of community programming that helps makes small town USA such a vital part of our changing society. With the support of the Town of Purcellville and its police department and the PFVD, it was truly a fun experience, not only for all the residents, but for all the visitors as well. There was no talk of politics...unless it was Snickers vs. Milkyway and there was no talk of metro/taxes...unless it was about aliens in hovercrafts, in short, it was a wonderful time to get to know each other, even though we may have had a mask on.

While I was on stage keeping the ghosts and goblins at bay, I was reminded how much Purcellville means to me. Seeing this event in Old Town Purcellville was special. For years when I was on the Economic Development Committee for the town, we discussed “Where is the real Purcellville, where is the heart of Purcellville.” Well we have an answer, it is located on 21<sup>st</sup> Street and in the hearts of its residents.

R. Ben Weber

### Should VDOT Remain A Four Letter Word?

Dear Editor:

As my wife and I visit our new home under construction in the Lucketts/Taylorstown area, it remains highly disturbing to see VDOT ignore obvious safety hazards on roads they are responsible for maintaining. New Valley Church Road has a curve just west of the Route 15 intersection that is so bad residents have to plea for help by putting signage on trees. This assumes VDOT managers can read. Even the minimum standards required for road acceptance by VDOT are not practiced on such roads. Some coldsacs in Ashburn have wider and safer roads than Route 15 and New Valley Church Road, and a great many “secondary” roads where residents pay just as much taxes for safety maintenance.

What does it take for elected leaders to require VDOT to meet its own minimum safety standards on roads it is responsible for? Do we really have to wait for a new driver to die on some of these one lane tree/hedge layered hairpin turns like New Valley Church Road? Is the re-milling of Route 15 the same as making it safer? On my current block in Ashburn, VDOT required line of sight bush and tree removal (for a dead end street at the end of the dead

end street), yet on New Valley Church Road hairpin turns have little to no line of sight view. When state agencies don’t do their jobs, will greater tax dollars really make things better? Should taxpayers have to beg VDOT to do its job by putting signs on trees? Apparently we do.

Bob Ohneiser  
Ashburn



## We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor!

Submissions may be sent to [Editor@BRLeader.com](mailto: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.*



**From “Affordable Housing” To “Food, Fun And Games”**



– By Karen Jimmerson  
As promised in late summer, lawyer Mark Nelis has repackaged his proposal for the controversial 178-unit Catoctin Creek Apartment complex. Inappropriate development can come to growing towns like Purcellville with lightening speed, greased by a wink and a nod by those who are (supposedly) charged with the public trust and the developer’s “sales force” – insiders who know the soft spot citizens have for terms such as “family friendly,” “low-cost housing,” and “open [air] space.”

But, an increasingly well-educated and wary public, I hope, will see through the language being used to try and get this project over the finish line.  
In October, the Town of Purcellville received a revised concept plan application for the construction of an approximately 178-unit apartment complex on Hirst Road along with a large outdoor and indoor “entertainment complex” to also include retail. The project includes different properties under different owners now lumped into one application.

The project also requires a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for its entire 32.4 acres; to include rezoning 13.7 acres to high density Planned Development Housing (PDH-15) with the remaining 18.7 acres to mixed commercial. The current zoning is CM-1, local service industrial, which according to town zoning “prohibits those service industries which have characteristics likely to produce serious adverse effects within or beyond the limits of the district.”

*Continued on page 27*

**View From The Ridge - The Last Hardware Store?**



– By Andrea Gaines  
In their 2011 documentary *The Last Hardware Store*, noted portrait photographer and executive producer Sarah Huntington, director and veteran videographer Peter Buck and well-known advertising agency owner and writer/editor Drew Babb tell the nearly 100-year-old story of Nichols Hardware.

Representing, in many ways, the commercial lynchpin of Purcellville’s Historic District, Nichols Hardware is remarkable not only for the fact that it will celebrate it’s 100th anniversary next year, but also for the fact that you and I, old timers and newcomers alike can walk into Nichols today and experience the same thing a customer in the early part of the 20th Century would have experienced. Personal service. Quality products. Problem solving for that pesky household job.

Just as Nichols advertised back in the day, “We have the largest and most complete stock of hardware and furniture in the county ...” so goes the Nichols story today – not withstanding the product selection, size and reach of big box stores such as Home Depot.

Nichols’ storefront and signature pale blue barn – the later structure identified by Virginia historians as our state’s “outstanding building of that type and style” – have looked the same for years. And, Nichols is the oldest retail store in the Virginia Piedmont still owned by the family that founded it.

Each time I’m in Nichols Hardware I long for my Long Island childhood. Then I realize that when you are in Nichols you need not long for anything – because everything you want and value is right there, alive and in the flesh. I even like to think that the section of plumbing pipe a Nichols Hardware guy sold me as a perfect fix for a broken pair of crutches was the same item that a Nichols clerk from the 1950s might have suggested for the same purpose.

American history has walked hand in hand with Nichols Hardware for each of its 99+ years.

There was a time when Purcellville’s electricity came on at 5 a.m. and went off at midnight, and that basically determined Nichols’ working hours. Dairy farmers brought their milk to this part of Purcellville in the early morning hours, where the milk was put on the Washington & Old Dominion train bound for Rosslyn for thirsty Washington, DC.

*Continued on page 6*

**21st Street Project, continued from page 4...**

Plans to extend O Street are part of a larger set of changes to historic downtown paid for through nearly \$3 million in taxpayer funds, some of which is in the form of federal and state grants associated with the town’s vision for a tourism district in this area. This vision aims to “modernize” the streets, sidewalks and other features of historic downtown. Large-scale changes to the area’s sewage system will also be required, paid for with substantial additional public funds.

The changes pave the way for the high-density Vineyard Square development. Without these changes and the expenditure of more public funds, neither Vineyard Square nor other similar high-density projects that might be proposed could go forward.

Developers Chapman and Nelis have

been very vocal in their support of these expenditures, as the spending greatly favors their project. The Purcellville Business Association has also lobbied strongly for both these expenditures and the modernization of 21<sup>st</sup> Street (Chapman and Nelis are board members of this organization). Historic downtown, however, including Nichols Hardware, are adamantly opposed for business reasons of their own, including the fact that their success is tied to and supported by the area’s historic character.

The changes will involve the removal of 21st Street’s current surface in order to lower it by approximately 12 inches. Sidewalks will be made wider and have a modern “town center streetscape” look. The water and sewer systems will be upgraded to address the capacity requirements of

Vineyard Square’s proposed 70,000-plus sq. ft. of condominiums, retail and commercial space, its private underground parking and other parking areas; although the town says it is to replace an aging system

However, small businesses that rely on a steady stream of local customers – coming to historic downtown to window shop, to pick up plumbing supplies for their own business, to enjoy a meal or get a haircut – will lose significant loading and unloading space and parking, which will be replaced with wider sidewalks and a more narrow and lower roadbed.

If the area’s National Register certification is compromised, businesses that have or plan to renovate their historic structures will lose their ability to take advantage of valuable tax credits, one of the issues addressed by the BAR.

**Purcellville Historic District: Details And Considerations**

The Purcellville Historic District encompasses 490 contributing buildings and 8 contributing structures in the central business district and surrounding residential areas in the town of Purcellville. The district is bounded by the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, South 32nd Street, West F and G Streets and Maple Avenue.

The buildings represent a range of architectural styles popular during the 19th and 20th centuries in rural Virginia.

Rich in history, 80 structures and areas in Loudoun County have qualified for the register. Virginia ranks in the top ten of U.S. states, with nearly 3,000 structures/areas on the National Register of Historic Places. Among counties and cities in Virginia, Loudoun County has one of the highest numbers of designations (80) behind only Richmond and Albemarle County.

In a 2003 public forum held by the Town of Purcellville, it was emphasized that any new development and/or redevelopment of the 21st Street area should strive to preserve it as a place where people would feel that they were “coming home when coming to the downtown.”

Despite the threat that by right development can present to towns that have established historic districts and now struggle to protect them, no additional protective action has been taken by Purcellville since the historic district was first designated.





## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Meadow Hill

– By Tim Jon

I'm not sure if I heard about these guys first, or if I saw them first and then talked about 'em, but it's one of the early recollections of my discovery of what I thought was really cool about Leesburg. And, mind you, there were, and still are, a lot of really intriguing things about this Town – but this made quite a deep and lasting impression on me.



JON

Now - you may recall how fond I am of animals: wild critters, pampered pets or good old fashioned farm animals. And that's (the latter, that is) what these characters are – and they're right smack dab (pretty much) in the center of the Historic County Seat of Loudoun. Anyone who's driven into Town from West Market or taken Dry Mill Road toward the western edge of downtown has passed by the cow pasture across from the familiar 7-11.

And, yes, I know very well that the spot's officially – or maybe unofficially – called Meadow Hill; it's part of Rock Spring Farm, about eight acres that remain from an original 100-acre working enterprise dating well back into the 1800's. The property went into the National Register of Historic Places about 10 years back – as well as the Land Trust of Virginia- and I'm hoping that that means that the real subject of this story- the smallish, horned black cows that roam the grassy hill - will continue their bovine activities well into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century. Because – I don't know about you – but I say that it's a very cool thing indeed to have this sort of wild, rambling, rocky hillside fenced off



in a corner of your Town – upon which grazes a small herd of very distinctive cattle.

And, yes, I also know about the familiar landmark on the eastern side of the pasture; it's a white sign with black lettering instructing the curious that the slope can be used by the public – when it's covered in snow, that is - for sledding – as long as you're accompanied by a child (that's my wording; actually the language states that small children must be 'attended,' that you can't bother the livestock, that you can build a fire – as long as it's wood {no tires} and that you carry out these activities at your own risk). I've witnessed some pretty spectacular winter sledding on the hill, too; on most snow days in Loudoun County, I've either been monitoring the conditions for radio news (from 1997-2007) or risking my skin delivering mail for the USPS

(2008-Present) – so I guess you could say that I know a little about the 'pleasure' of getting out in the elements when Mother Nature cooks up a storm.

And I'm not sure what the cows on Meadow Hill think of us humans jumping on a flat board and riding the frozen crust down to the bottom – amid screams of delight. Maybe they reason, "It's about time these crazy people stop all their hustling about and have themselves some Fun." Or: "Yep – leave it to the human beings – they're the only critters crazy enough to keep running up a hill just so they can rush down to the bottom and do it all over again – what a waste of time." Or, maybe they're thinking, "What goes better with sledding than hot chocolate – and what do you make hot chocolate with? Milk." In any case, I'm sure their cow-ish conclusions contain some bits of simple, natural wisdom. One thing's pretty certain: there's no bull.

So, I'll probably never go sledding on Meadow Hill with the rest of the winter wonder landers – despite the fact that I grew up in Minnesota and enjoyed winter sports from October until April some years. And I'll probably never even go there on a cold, snowy afternoon and build a fire on the rocky hillside to keep my hands warm as I watch the families discover the joys of simple, old-fashioned fun.

But, if you get up early some Sunday morning and take a drive to the corner of Loudoun Street and Dry Mill Road, you just might see me stopped at the side of the road, standing next to the fence at the bottom of the sledding hill, spending some time with that herd of small black cows. And I'll be hoping that their calves' calves get to enjoy us crazy humans as we go about our local business here in the Town of Leesburg.

*View, continued from page 5*

Lester Cummings's livery stable – now the Nichols storage barn – was purchased by the store in 1923. History walked hand in hand with the store as the livery business, previously sustained by rural life's use of horses and buggies, was being replaced by the automobile business.

Before electricity found its way to surrounding farms, Nichols was the source of the batteries local folk used in their radios so they could tune in to the world. And, when the Tri-County Electric Cooperative's lines finally came to the western Loudoun countryside, and radio batteries were no longer needed, Nichols branched out into the sale of increasingly popular refrigerators while the cooperative made the customer's \$5 a month Nichols payment easy by adding it to their electric bill ...

People often wonder how a place like Nichols Hardware still exists. I believe it exists because certain people buck the sometimes trite saying that "you can't stop progress," understanding that progress does not simply include replacing something old with something new. This is why the old grain mill and train station a couple of doors down from Nichols was not replaced by a small strip mall, but tastefully restored to an open public space for people using the old WO&D rail bed (now a bike trail) and a successful and beautiful restaurant. This is why, for the moment, when you are shopping, dining or just strolling through this part of Purcellville you somehow feel like you are

"coming home."

But, while Purcellville's historic downtown has in many respects managed to maintain the best of the past while providing for the needs of the new generation – with high-speed internet access, fun gourmet cafes and thriving small businesses – plans for at least one major new development named Vineyard Square threatens to turn Purcellville's historic downtown into a dense, squeeze every penny out of it that you can residential and commercial center.

As with the Harris Teeter shopping center – punctuated by a lighted water fountain where a stream use to be, and the expansive Southern Collector Road – which now bisects Purcellville's last working farm, what is proposed for our historic downtown area is development that replaces something economically viable and truly unique ... with inappropriate and oversized town center style development – development you'd see anywhere.

Nichols Hardware changed over the years in order to survive; yet somehow emerged to be just as relevant to Purcellville today as it was in 1914.

I hope that Purcellville's old timers and new residents work together and buck the trend to turn Purcellville's historic downtown into another residential and commercial strip center, versus a place that honors where the town has been, has some historic style, and, by the way, meets our needs just fine.

Towns like Purcellville lose their soul when they allow new development to eclipse and replace what is truly important to us.

## It's Possible To Make A Difference

–By Samuel Moore-Sobel



MOORE-SOBEL

Can we make a difference in government is a question that has been asked in the wake of the 17-day government shutdown. Some are concerned about the future of our nation. Others are disgusted by the government's seeming inability to govern. Americans seem to view Congress more negatively with each passing day. Will this lead to a big change in Washington?

Recent polling after the government shutdown shows that young people's interest in government service is at an all-time low. The trends show that young people believe that they can make a difference in the world outside of government rather than from within. While there is a kernel of truth in this assertion, we also desperately need competent people to run for office and get involved in government. We need the next generation to take a stand against the partisan politics that has gripped Washington for far too long.

While the government shutdown was not a desirable event, there were people who helped remind us what makes this country great. What about Laura and John Arnold who decided to donate 10 million dollars to keep the Head Start program open across six different states? What about the countless people who decided to clean up Washington, D.C., while the government was closed? These people exemplified the giving spirit of Americans, and helped

provide for others when the government couldn't function.

Maybe one of the lessons of the shutdown is that we need to get others involved rather than relying exclusively on the government. But more importantly, the shutdown sounded a warning bell that unless we decide to stand up and lead, our country

will continue down an undesirable path. We need strong, bipartisan leadership in Washington. We need the next generation to be emboldened to run for office and change Washington for the better.

I visited Washington during the government shutdown. Walking along the streets with a cousin who had come all the way from Colorado, I was embarrassed and ashamed that he could not visit any of the monuments during this time. I had never seen Washington in such a state, nor had to walk so far to visit a bathroom. Most upsetting was seeing the Lincoln Memorial empty, with the impervious Lincoln all alone on his perch overlooking the reflecting pool. I have been to the Lincoln Memorial many times, and have never seen it so desolate. I never want to see Washington like that again.

After the shutdown Americans are demanding change. A major way to force politicians to change is to vote. We need to show up at the polls and make our voices heard. If you are not happy with the way our country is being run, then it is time to

*Continued on page 7*



# Caring For Our Seniors: Preventing Falls



*Introduction: As families gather together over the holidays and begin to plan the year ahead, a topic that often comes up is how to ensure parents and other seniors get the right care and live as independently as possible as they age. This is part one of a three-part series that will discuss various topics that might come up as a family gathers around the holiday table and looks at the issue of how to care for their loved ones.*

Falls are the number one cause of injuries, hospital visits, and deaths among Americans 65 years and older.

Unlike other issues that seniors might face, according to a local senior care company, falls are in large part preventable. Still, one out of every three seniors falls each year. And, the outcome goes beyond the pain, discomfort and fear that the senior suffers, or how a fall might impact their ability to stay in their home, drive, even walk, but it also includes direct medical costs of \$30 billion.

Here are six steps families and seniors can take to prevent falls. They relate to both the interior and the exterior of the home:

## Create A Safe Home

- Paint or place bright tape on the edge of steps so seniors can see where one step ends and another begins
- Provide handrails on both sides of stairs and grab bars in bathrooms
- Provide light at the top and bottom of stairs and throughout halls
- Paint the bottom step white to make it more visible
- Secure rugs to the floor to prevent tripping

- Attach non-slip strips to the bottom of slippers
- On the outside, check steps and walkways for loose bricks, cement or stone

## Pay Attention To Shoe Safety

Fall prevention research has demonstrated that wearing the right type of footwear can reduce the risk of a fall. Slippers may be comfortable and convenient, but they do not provide proper support to the foot; are often loose fitting and can easily slip off, causing the senior to fall.

## Check Your Vision

Seniors should know their visual limitations and have their vision checked at least once a year. A good tip is to consider getting a pair with single vision distance lenses for activities such as walking outside.

## Know Your Medications

Medications can contribute to falling since many of them cause drowsiness and dizziness as a side effect. Let healthcare providers know if you notice a senior experiencing either of these after taking their medications

## Exercise

Exercise is necessary to increase strength and balance; simple chair exercises are good and safe way to achieve this for those with limitations. Seniors can do ankle circles while watching TV, toe raises and heel raises while waiting for dinner.

## Pay Attention To Nutrition

Appetite often decreases as we age, but the body still needs the nutrients that food and fluids provide. Water is recommended for hydration over caffeinated drinks (coffee and tea).

*Tips and information courtesy of SYNERGY HomeCare, a national franchise of non-medical home care dedicated to providing exceptional and affordable service to anyone of any age. For additional information, please visit [www.synergyhomecare.com](http://www.synergyhomecare.com).*

*It's Possible To Make A Difference, continued from page 6*

cast a vote in favor of better leadership. On Nov. 5, 2013, citizens around Loudoun County and the rest of the state will have the opportunity to vote. It is every eligible voter's duty to cast a vote. Many men have fought and died to preserve this right and the least we can do is to exercise this right.

In off year elections voter turnout is especially low. In 2011, less than 30 percent of eligible voters in Loudoun County showed up to the polls. This was the first election that I was eligible to vote

in and I am proud to have been a part of that percentage that turned out to the polls. But I hope that many more show up to vote this year. If anyone complains about our current politicians, they don't have the right to do so unless they cast a vote. Wake up America, it's our country and our future. Let's take control!

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is a sophomore at George Mason University.*

# Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

## Where Do Interest Rates Go From Here And What Does It Mean For Investors?

– By Amy Smith



SMITH

With a meaningful rise in the 10-year Treasury rate in 2013 and investors experiencing recent declines in market values in interest rate sensitive assets, this might be the time to review your fixed income holdings.

The Federal Reserve has taken unprecedented actions since 2008-2009 and continues to hold the key to the path of interest rates. Following the September 18 Federal Open Market Committee meeting, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke indicated that the Fed would continue its large-scale asset purchases until further confirmation of the economic recovery was evident in the date and that target interest rates will remain near zero "at least as long as unemployment exceeds 6.5 percent, so long as the outlook for inflation is no higher than 2.5 percent."

So where do interest rates go from here? While it is always challenging to predict rate moves in the short term, there is strong consensus among industry experts that rates will rise in the 12-to-24 month period.

Given the concern over the direction of interest rates, how should investors position their portfolios? Recent comments from experts include:

Investors must always know what they own and why they own it, whether their goal is principal preservation, current income or long-term diversification from equities. Do not allow short-term rate moves to dictate whether or not you stick to your strategy.

When trying to generate income, make sure to take a long-term approach, not reaching for yield at inopportune times.

Recent mutual fund flows have tended to go to funds with broader, more unconstrained mandates as a way to allow professional managers to navigate the interest rate environment on investor's behalf.

Don't underestimate the impact of rising interest rates on yield-oriented equities like REITs and utilities. If you need for income will not allow you to reduce exposure to these areas, at least supplement them with

stocks in those sectors, such as life and health insurance and major banks that should perform well in a rising rate environment.

"The Fed views forward guidance as more effective in stimulating the economy than the asset purchasing program. The asset purchasing program was never meant to be

permanent ... That being said, the question is whether to taper or not? Now we've seen the sort of perverse market reaction to just the talk of tapering. The Fed's decision to delay tapering was based on three things, with the key ingredient being time." *Scott Brown, Chief Economist, Raymond James Equity Research*

**Key Takeaway:** Review the role of interest rate sensitive securities with your financial advisor to determine if the potential for returns aligns with your goals and the potential for price declines aligns with your risk tolerance.

*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, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel: 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. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description for 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.*

## Become A Master Gardener

Applications are now being accepted for daytime classes to become a master gardener volunteer. The classes begin in January. To fill out an application, visit [loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://loudouncountymastergardeners.org) or call 703-771-5150. For more information, go to the open house on Nov. 12 at 7p.m. at the Loudoun County Extension Office, 30 Catocin Circle, S.E., Suite B, Leesburg.

The master gardener's mission is to educate Loudoun County residents about safe, effective and sustainable landscape management practices.

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# High Score For Twin Oaks

Twin Oaks Tavern Winery in Bluemont recently got good news about their chardonnay.

Donna Evers, proprietor and winemaker, announced that their 2012 Chardonnay scored a 92 at the World Wine Championships Oct. 10 tasting in Chicago, sponsored by the Beverage Testing Institute. The 2012 Twin Oaks Chardonnay was judged "exceptional."

"We are very excited by this score of 92, finishing quite well among some very serious competition from California," said Evers, who also runs Evers & Company, a real estate company in Chevy Chase, Md. "The 2012 chardonnay also won silver in the International Women's Wine Competition, held in Sonoma County, Ca. We are very proud of our little winery doing so well at

such big competitions."

The flavor notes from the World Wine Championship tasting in Chicago read:

"Golden color. Rich aromas of buttery cashew brittle, pickling spices, and apple tart with a silky, fruity-yet-dry medium body and a tangy Meyer lemon, green apple, relish, and vanilla cream accented finish. A delicious, zesty chardonnay for all occasions. (Tasted on Oct-10-2013)"

Evers' grandchildren are active participants in the winemaking process, making it a family affair. They make their wine in small-batches using an artisanal process that Donna learned from her European grandmother, whose family has been making wine for over a hundred years.

## Old Stone School, continued from page 3

designed to raise \$140,000 by the building's 140th birthday in 2014. The funds are needed for exterior work such as gutter installation, foundation stabilization, and brick and stone repointing. Inside, necessary work includes walls and ceiling repair, electrical system upgrades, and heating and air conditioning installation.

"We would like to thank Fieldstone Farm for hosting this wonderful reception, and all who came out in the rain to support our new local business and our treasured Old Stone School," said Roger Vance, mayor of Hillsboro.



Installing gutters and replacing rotten fascia is needed.

For more information about the Old Stone School, the non-profit Hillsboro Community Association & Friends of the Old Stone School, and how to make a donation to the Old Stone School Century Club, visit [www.HillsboroVa.org](http://www.HillsboroVa.org).

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## Remembering Our Bright And Shining Star - Gabriella Miller

Ten year old Gabriella Miller died at home on October 26, 2013 after a courageous yearlong battle with pediatric brain cancer. In his tribute to Gabriella, Randy Hollister, Headmaster of Loudoun Country Day School where Gabriella attended, spoke of her as "A model student and citizen whose presence lit up the classroom. Every day with Gabriella was pure exhilaration and adventure."

Gabriella remained true to this description of effervescence during the course of her illness as she became a distinguished and selfless advocate for children with pediatric cancer. As a result of Gabriella's tireless efforts, she helped to raise more than \$275,000 for the Make A Wish Foundation through a letter writing campaign, but she didn't stop there. Gabriella began a letter writing campaign with Make A Wish - that totaled more than 250,000 letters which were delivered to Macys department store before Christmas last year resulting in a \$1 million dollar donation from Macys to Make A Wish Foundation.

Gabriella earned the title of "Loudoun County Volunteer of the Year" last May, as well as an honorary bachelors degree from Shenandoah University. Gabriella and her family recently launched smashingwalnuts.org to promote cracking the cure for childhood brain cancer. Her heroic and inspirational spirit is perhaps best described in Gabriella's own words, "You may have a bad day today but there is always a bright and shining star to look forward to tomorrow." Gabriella is survived by her parents Mark and Ellyn and her younger brother Jake.



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# Remembering Ann Jacobson

Ann Natalie Jacobson (nee Gandrud), 83, of Hamilton died at her home on Oct. 15, 2013, due to cancer. Jacobson was born April 16, 1930, in Fergus Falls, Minn., to the late Elvin Gandrud and Ada Aarrestad Gandrud. After completing the Glenwood Minnesota schools, she attended Concordia College in Moorhead for two years and graduated from the University of Minnesota



Loudoun Cares. Jacobson successfully managed issue-focused political campaigns and served as a legislative aide to a former delegate and current justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. She had a lifelong interest in education and taught in the Fairfax County School System. In all her moves, a priority was finding a Lutheran church for her family. She had an active involvement in church

in December 1951 with a BS degree in business education. At the university, she served on the governor's youth commission.

music and her love of needlepoint included kneelers in three different churches. An avid golfer, she won ladies' championships at numerous clubs.

She worked as an executive assistant to the president of Neiman Marcus in Dallas prior to her marriage to Gerhard (Jake) Jacobson on Aug. 8, 1953, at the Glenwood Lutheran Church in Glenwood. As the wife of a career army officer, she traveled widely with her husband. In 1965 they spent a year studying Russian prior to his serving with our embassy in Moscow. In 1980 they moved from Mount Vernon to a farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge which they restored and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. She served on the board of the Land Trust of Virginia and

In addition to her husband of 60 years, she is survived by her three children: Marie (Robert) Johnston of Winter Park, Fla.; Dr. Paul (Gail) Jacobson of Glenelg, Md.; and Gretchen (John) Zeltner of Middleburg. She is survived by eight grandchildren and her brother Richard (Lorraine) Gandrud of Glenwood, Mn. She was preceded in death by her sister Gail (Hugh) Stinson.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Loudoun Cares, PO Box 83, Leesburg, VA, 20178, or Resurrection Lutheran Church Music Fund.

# On the Market ... with Sam Rees



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### Pumpkin Bowl Pumpkin Soup

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 6 sm. pumpkins (6 to 7 inches in diameter)       | 2-1/2 tsp. salt                                  |
| 1 med. pumpkin (10 to 11 inches in diameter)     | 3/4 tsp. black pepper                            |
| 1 crisp apple peeled/ diced                      | 3 tbsp. olive oil (or three pads chilled butter) |
| 1 tsp. ground cinnamon                           | 2 large onions, chopped                          |
| 1/2 tsp. each of ground cumin, nutmeg & allspice | 4 cloves garlic, minced                          |
| 1/4 tsp. cloves                                  | 1/2 sweet potato peeled/diced                    |
|  | 5 cups vegetable stock                           |
|  | 1 cup apple cider                                |
|  | Pinch of fresh herbs for color                   |



#### Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

**Prepare pumpkins:** Cut out top of small pumpkins w/stem & scoop out seeds. Repeat process on medium pumpkin - then cut this pumpkin into wedges, peel, cut flesh into 2-inch chunks & set aside.

**Spices:** Combine ground spices with 1/2 tsp. salt & 1/4 tsp. pepper; sprinkle/drop mixture evenly into each small pumpkin. Take 1 pad of butter or 1 tbsp. of olive oil and drop part into bottom of each of six pumpkins.

**Roast small pumpkins:** Replace top & place each in a shallow roasting pan. Roast 30 to 40 minutes (until tender), remove from oven, let each cool on individual plates.

**Prepare soup while small pumpkins roast:** Carefully heat olive oil/remaining butter in large pot. Add onions & a pinch of salt/pepper & cook 'til soft. Add garlic & cook 1 minute. Add diced sweet potato, 1/2 of the diced apple, chunked pumpkin flesh & stock - bring to a simmer. Reduce heat, simmer 'til soft (30 minutes); blend thoroughly & wisk in apple cider. Check seasoning and set aside.

**Serve!:** Remove tops from small pumpkins; scoop out bits of pumpkin flesh, leaving in place. Add soup to each pumpkin, garnish with rest of the diced apple, add fresh herb for color & serve!



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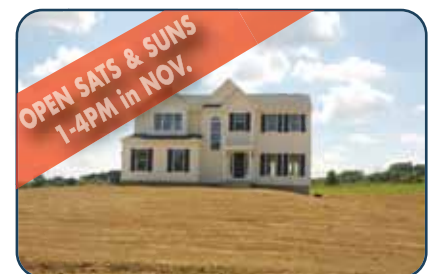
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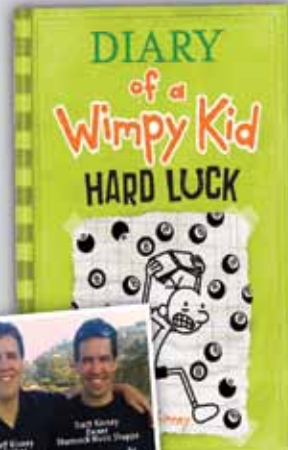
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**Q. What are your plans for Catoctin Creek Towne Center?**

**A.** Catoctin Creek Towne Center will be a mixed use project composed of a multi-purpose entertainment complex and an apartment community. It is located on 28-acres at the southwest corner of Maple Avenue and Hirst Road.

**Q. I thought you wanted to just build apartments. Now, it's an entire Towne Center. Why is that?**

**A.** The residential and commercial components cannot be developed independently of each other. By developing the entire property into an apartment community, shops, entertainment venues and restaurants, the Town of Purcellville will achieve its goal of 30% to 70% ratio of commercial to residential.

**Q. What kind of entertainment complex are you proposing?**

**A.** It will be a family oriented, community-centered entertainment complex, offering nearly eight acres of open-air space for local events, concerts, car shows, festivals, craft shows, family reunions and company outings. Plus, party and meeting rooms. There will also be food, fun and games: bumper boats, miniature golf, ice cream shop, batting cages, go-cart track, full-service restaurant, sports bar, bowling, laser tag course and arcade. It will fill the need for wholesome entertainment at reasonable prices.

**Q. Who is developing the entertainment portion of Catoctin Creek?**

**A.** The entertainment portion is being developed by Bill and Dave Tilley of Tilley's Entertainment from Leesburg. The Tilley organization has been developing the plans for the entertainment complex for more than four years. A top national consulting firm in the restaurant/entertainment industry is advising Tilley's Entertainment on the project.

cost of fuel and transportation, people want to live and work in the same community whenever possible. The entertainment portion of Catoctin Creek alone will employ more than 100 people.

**Q. Where are the people who work around here living now?**

**A.** The majority of people employed in Purcellville and the surrounding area have to commute long distances from their homes to work because there is no affordable housing in the area. More than 30% live in Maryland and West Virginia. If more affordable rental housing is not made available, Purcellville could soon have a worker shortage, hurting local businesses and in turn the local economy and the town's tax base.

**Q. What is it going to cost the Town of Purcellville to accommodate Catoctin Creek with utilities and services? Can our town afford that?**

**A.** The Catoctin Creek entertainment complex will produce substantial new meal, retail sales and real estate taxes. Catoctin Creek Apartments will provide a positive financial impact to the Town of Purcellville as well. The developers will spend as much as \$1,400,000 for water and sewer taps and meters. We have also offered to contribute up to \$1,000,000 toward the rebuilding of the intersection of Hirst Road and Berlin Turnpike so that intersection can handle the traffic for years to come. We anticipate our investment in Catoctin Creek to be assessed at about \$22,000,000, generating thousands of dollars in real estate taxes to the Town of Purcellville.

**Q. I like my small town life here. I'm afraid a project the size of Catoctin Creek will have a negative impact on our quality of life.**

**A.** Less than 350 people will live in Catoctin Creek Apartments, a fraction of the local population. About 25% of the residents will be children and retirees. Many of the prospective residents are already working in the community. With Catoctin Creek they will be able to live here too. Catoctin

## The People of Purcellville Deserve Some Answers To Their Questions About Catoctin Creek Towne Center.

During the next few weeks, the Town of Purcellville will be reviewing our plans for Catoctin Creek Towne Center. We look forward to their review process and to working with the various departments to finalize our plans to best serve the entire community. In the meantime, here are answers to the most frequently asked questions we hear about Catoctin Creek Towne Center. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact us directly.

Catoctin Creek Towne Center • [www.tfjgroup.com](http://www.tfjgroup.com) • 757-965-6200 

**Q. Tell me a little more about Catoctin Creek Apartments.**

**A.** Catoctin Creek Apartments is the residential component of Catoctin Creek Towne Center. It is a joint venture between S.L. Nusbaum Realty Company in Norfolk and The Franklin Johnston Group in Virginia Beach. Both companies are highly respected developers, owners and managers of apartment communities including some right here in Northern Virginia. The principals of these companies have been in the residential rental business for many decades. Thomas Johnston, the lead development executive, was born in Leesburg and his parents and sister live in Loudoun County.

**Q. What level of apartments do you propose for Catoctin Creek?**

**A.** This will be the highest quality rental community ever developed in western Loudoun County. We will spend more than \$194,000 per unit to achieve the right quality level. Rents will be among the highest in western Loudoun County, ranging from about \$1,050 to \$1,550 per month.

**Q. What makes these apartments so much better than others in the area?**

**A.** These apartments will offer 9-foot ceilings, stainless steel GE Profile Series appliances, granite countertops, ceramic floors and high efficiency HVAC systems. The amenity package is outstanding: luxurious clubhouse, resort-style pool, deck and grilling station. The seven residential buildings will be carefully placed to complement the rolling landscape.

**Q. Why are you using the Federal Housing Tax Credit to help fund Catoctin Creek? Why didn't you just get conventional financing?**

**A.** The achievable rent levels in this part of the county are not high enough to generate an acceptable financial return to investors if conventional financing is used. In eastern Loudoun, salaries are quite a bit higher, making conventional financing feasible. Purcellville needs this type of affordable housing and this type of financing is the only way to make it work.

**Q. Why do we even need another apartment community here in Purcellville?**

**A.** Western Loudoun has a limited supply of rental housing to accommodate workers coming into the area. As Purcellville pursues its policies that encourage commercial development and its accompanying jobs, the need for high quality, affordable rental housing will expand. With the high

Creek Apartments will be a gated community with its own amenities. Located on the northern edge of town, most current residents will barely notice it's there.

**Q. Purcellville already has tax credit-financed apartment communities. Why do we need any more of this kind of real estate?**

**A.** There are only 120 tax credit-financed units without subsidies in all of Purcellville. The town badly needs a new, high quality affordable rental community to support the creation of jobs and growing business. Only 21% of Purcellville housing is renter occupied, and most towns are much higher by design. For example, 41% of Frederick, MD housing is renter occupied; Warrenton is at 40%. Purcellville cannot prosper without a better mix of housing. If the town doesn't provide more of this type of housing, many of the less expensive townhomes and small single family houses will convert to rentals and possibly deteriorate because they won't be professionally managed and maintained.

**Q. Some people say Catoctin Creek Apartments is not smart growth. Why do you think it is?**

**A.** There is a big difference between smart growth and anti-growth. The anti-growth movement has proven to be misguided and harmful to many of the communities that once espoused open space preservation without the increased housing density needed to make it work. By housing more people on less land, communities like Catoctin Creek make it more possible to preserve open space and natural features than do single family developments. It's the trend throughout America.

**Q. I've always heard that apartment residents are not invested in the community like homeowners. And they don't pay for public services or real estate taxes.**

**A.** The owners of apartment communities like Catoctin Creek pay large amounts of real estate taxes every year. We factor those taxes into the rents. So renters pay real estate taxes too. And apartment residents pay more meal taxes, place fewer children in public schools, pay for their own private trash disposal, have their own recreational facilities and place less demand on roads. Renters are good citizens who pay their way and a lot more.



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*Christopher Ohrstrom and his recreated 1935 Bugatti 57SC Aerolithe.*

## Historic Car Recreated By Middleburg Man

— By Andrea Gaines

As a prominent national paper reported at a recent display of the pictured Bugatti 57SC Aerolithe: "When it comes to recreating history, it's hard to beat the detective job that it took to remake one of the most famous Bugatti show cars from the 1930s."

My dad grew up loving historic cars. As a young man he bought the chassis (only thing left) of an old Silver Ghost Rolls Royce just to prevent it from going into the scrap heap. So, when I found out that a local man named Chris Ohrstrom (of Middleburg) had overseen the perfect recreation of a Bugatti Aerolithe, I jumped at the chance to tell our western Loudoun audience about it.

Ohrstrom's car is among just five other cars, including a Porsche, an Aston Martin, a Bluebird V, a Leyland and a Mercedes-

Benz competing as a finalist for Car Of The Year at the 2013 International Historic Motoring Awards, which will be held on Nov. 14 in London.

As awards officials described, the original Bugatti is long lost, but Ohrstrom's recently completed recreation is built in magnesium alloy, just as the original is thought to have been.

To recreate this beautiful machine, a team of restorers hunted down old photos for clues on the original's details and proportions, and, they were also able to find a Bugatti chassis and motor from the correct time.

The car was considered to be one of the most graceful ever made. It disappeared into car heaven after its 1935 debut. But, as Ohrstrom noted, "Anyone who knows anything about cars knows about the Electron Coupe ... It is a hugely significant car."



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## Bradley J. Boland Installed As Virginia Association Of Realtors® 2014 President

Bradley J. Boland, past chairman of the Dulles Area Association of Realtors®, managing broker of Keller Williams Realty Dulles and Purcellville business owner, was installed as the 2014 president of the Virginia Association of Realtors® last week. Brad's wife, Elaine, and four of his five daughters joined hundreds of Virginia Realtors® in celebrating this exciting achievement during VAR's convention in Virginia Beach.



**BOLAND**

At the state level, he has been serving consecutive roles as the VAR vice-president, president-elect, and now president. Boland has also served as chairman of the Virginia RPAC Board of Trustees, chairman of the Professionalism Work Group, and in 2009 chaired the Public Policy Committee, in addition to serving on numerous other committees

and work groups. Boland is also a graduate of the 2007 Virginia Realtors® Leadership Academy and is a long-standing member of the VAR Honor Society.

At the local level, in 2009 he served as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Dulles Area Association of Realtors® and in 2011 was elected as president of the Blue Ridge Association of Realtors®. He has received many achievement and production awards and prides himself on his work toward the enhancement of professionalism in the real estate profession.

Boland and his wife Elaine live in Purcellville and are the proud parents of five daughters. They operate Fields of Athenry Farm where they specialize in the raising of nutrient dense lamb, cattle, and poultry for wholesale and retail purposes. Fields of Athenry is a *Rural Business of the Year* finalist in the prestigious Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Awards to be announced next month.

Boland has been a licensed real estate agent since 1975 and a licensed broker since 1978. He has worked in all areas of real estate including residential home sales, land development, construction of commercial and industrial buildings, and property management of large investment grade assets including retail shopping centers and apartment complexes. Over the years, Boland has owned and managed various real estate companies and has been responsible for overseeing hundreds of millions of dollars of real estate sales. In 2011 he was voted Realtor® of the Year by the Dulles Area Association of Realtors®.

At the national level, Boland is serving on the National Associations of Realtors®' Conventional Financing and Lending Committee as well a National Realtors® Political Action Committee Fundraising trustee.



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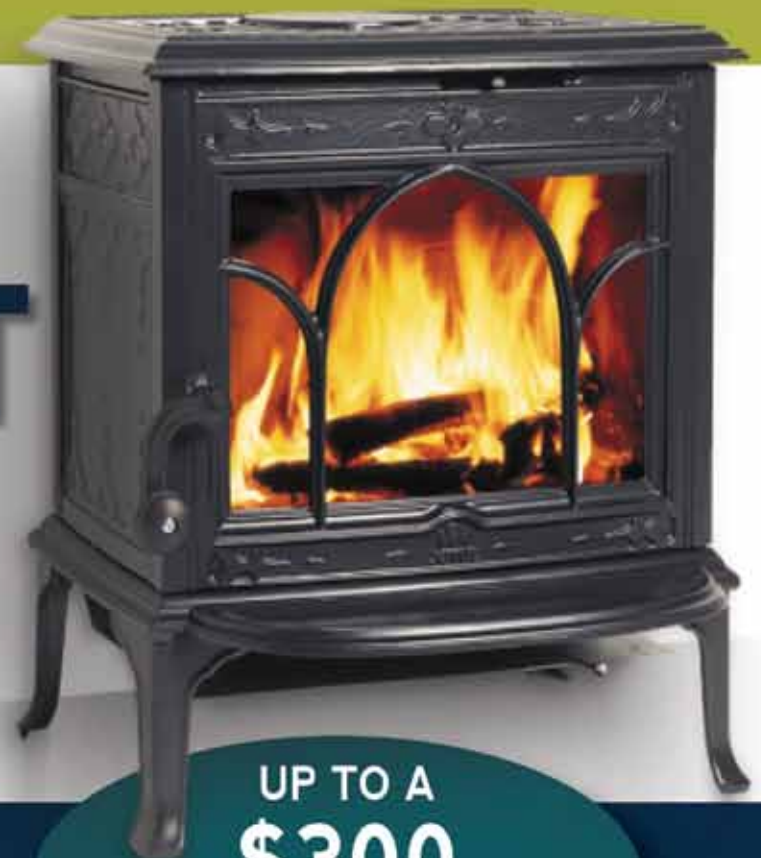
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# Thanksgiving 2013: The Perfect Mix Of Old And New

– By Shirley Lyle Volberg

I love to entertain. In my world no entertaining is better than the Thanksgiving and December holidays, including Christmas.

I love the anticipation of it. The warmth of welcoming friends and family into my home. The menu planning and the list making.

I love getting lost in it. Scouring the grocery store (and the internet) for the best ingredients. Opening up my old attic boxes and trunks to revisit my favorite holiday table linens, decorations and centerpieces – and sprucing them up with fresh flowers and greens. For me it's always fun to unearth the pumpkin shaped candles, big Italian platters and the pewter gravy boat. I hope my daughter catches the bug because she will inherit all of my finery.

## Passing The Torch ... First With Reluctance And Then With Gladness

Imagine my mixed emotions earlier this fall when my daughter announced that she would be hosting her first Thanksgiving for the family.

To be supportive (if not delighted), and to pass the torch, I resisted her request that I bring all of my best china. Instead I jumped on my computer in search of something to help her make the day special, something she could make her own. There I found some beautiful pumpkin soup bowls (on sale) and sent them on to her as a surprise.



Pumpkin Soup Bowl

She was delighted and gave me the best thank you of all by diving right in and asking my advice on menu planning, recipes and mom's other best "holiday strategies." She also responded by purchasing the perfect tablecloth for the bowls. Can't wait to see what she does with both.

## Start Planning Before You Think You Have To

One thing I advised my daughter was to start planning before you think you have to. For me, a month ahead is not too soon. Some things need to be ordered in advance, and it also takes some effort to coordinate the menu. A light seafood appetizer to

balance the richness of the turkey to come. A nice balance of colorful vegetables. A few sweet (and savory?) desserts. And lots of refreshing and comforting beverages – from sparkling water to flavorful red, white and rose wines.

Planning and arranging the table and the centerpiece takes less time than the meal, but it's one of my favorite things to do. I like to mix fruit, nuts and flowers in a "cornucopia of plenty" on the table – with deep ruby pomegranates, bright orange clementines, grapes in harvest colors and scattered leaves. Bright yellow ginkgo leaves, found all over western Loudoun, are one of my favorites.

## The Extras That Can Make The Meal

**The Turkey:** For the first time last year I had great success by ordering an organic turkey. I also had my turkey "spatchcocked." I'm not sure of the origin of the term, but it means removing the breastbone and butterflying the turkey so that it lies flat in your roasting pan. I will suggest to my daughter that she also brine a bird with a store bought or homemade brining mixture. The butterflying allows the turkey to cook easily and in half the time; the brining ensures that it is golden brown and succulent. Since most turkeys are brought to the table beautifully carved, no one will be the wiser that it was cooked this way.

**Sides:** Most people want the sides to resemble their traditional favorites, but I

like to tweak them either by making them more sophisticated or by improving them with locavore ingredients. One thing I love to do is use local, artisanal sausage for my corn bread stuffing. I also love brussel sprouts cooked with pancetta and syrupy balsamic vinegar with pecans thrown in at end. My answer to the traditional green bean casserole.

**Planning Ahead:** Planning ahead allows me to shop for any unusual ingredients and make sure the combination of dishes is appealing. This requires making careful lists of each of ingredients – really good bourbon for the pecan pie, aged balsamic vinegar and pancetta from a real Italian deli. I can then outline my trips to different markets, while on the lookout for a certain kind of flower to add to last year's centerpiece.

**Wines:** We always shop ahead for good wines to accompany the dinner. My husband – whose first loves (after me?) are his dogs, cycling, golfing and wine – usually researches the current wine choices at a specialty wine store in Washington, D.C. Lots of great wines available locally, too.

## And Then There Is The (Early) Christmas Tree Decorating Party...

Since I won't be hosting Thanksgiving this year I've already moved on mentally to

*Continued on page 22*

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# Gardening Is Fun

- By Donna Williamson

Over the last 25 years, I have worked with lots of folks that are interested in making their landscapes more attractive and functional. In the last few years, several people have suggested to me that they didn't want me to see their gardens because they were:

- Too weedy,
- Not perfect,
- Not well balanced,
- Too old,
- Too young,
- Unfinished,
- Or, whatever

All of these reasons imply that they will be judged and found somehow lacking in skill, art, or effort. I don't see gardening as a competition.

Gardening is a process of learning about plants and nature, how weather affects the growing season, how cucumbers can wilt, when dahlias will shine.

We all learn as we go. Over these years, I have learned a lot because it fascinates me. Some years I learned more about trees and, in others, it was native plants or herbs. As time goes on, you learn more, like how you can be amazed at what a freshly dug carrot tastes like.

And since I don't work for House &



*Shining Dahlia*

Garden or Martha Stewart, I enjoy a garden that someone made without those sharp blades of judgment we are all stung by. Offering ideas, or suggestions of other great plants to add, or how you might move this one over there for a good effect, is not the same as criticism. It's just data.

Gardening has brought me such joy, interesting plants, great people, and contentment that I can only wish to pass along to others. It's not about your garden today. It's about the joy, wonder, and fascination you can still have in the garden when you are 85.

*Donna Williamson is a garden designer and coach. She has taught classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands, and Shenandoah University. She holds classes in Waterford each winter. Currently she is revising her book The Virginia Gardener's Companion. Contact her at 540 877-2002.*

## *Dr. Mike, continued from page 2*

eventually that animal will stop trying to avoid the stimulus and will behave as if he is helpless over his situation. That same animal will also then not try to escape even when opportunities for escape are presented. For the animals in those studies, the belief that their own behavior could not influence what would happen to them was defined by Seligman and his colleagues as learned helplessness.

While human beings are certainly more complex than rats and dogs, one could argue that the same phenomenon has been occurring for many of us and that we are now feeling, with each passing crisis, less and less essential and in control of our lives. For example, when someone believes that he has control over his efforts and outcome that person might think, "If I work hard at my job, I will be recognized and maybe even promoted," or "I will have greater security and more options if I save and invest wisely

over time." To the contrary, I think many now feel less confident in the belief that hard work and devotion alone will pay off; instead, many have been left to feel that they have little control over their jobs or their savings or their future.

So, as I've listened to all of the media coverage, my clients and the conversational commentary of my friends and family over the past several weeks, I'm surprised that so much focus and attention has been given to the financial impact for those involved with little to no consideration on how helpless so many feel. A financially depressed America is indeed a bad thing. However, an America that has been, and continues to be, emotionally depressed is equally bad.

Michael Oberschneider "Dr. Mike" is founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological Services, a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinicians. To learn more go to [www.ashburnpsych.com](http://www.ashburnpsych.com) or call 703 723-2999.

## *Thanksgiving, continued from page 20*

my annual tree trimming party.

For this, a short week after Thanksgiving my great room table will be groaning with a heavy spread of hors d'oeuvres, and I will have squeezed in as many members of my family, as well as friends and neighbors as my house can handle. This year's spread will include several dips, antipasti, mussels in saffron mayonnaise, warm breads and sweets.

The wine will flow as people take turns decorating the giant tree. Sometimes I think that I'm the only one who actually wants to decorate the tree ... but several faithful souls always take on some of the harder duties, such as stringing the lights and topping the tree. There's always a blazing fire and a lot of stories and laughter as we critique each other's hanging skills.

I did start out with an angels and musical instruments theme for my tree. But, that quickly expanded to include all manner of little woodland creatures and later, corny gift ornaments and dog-related trappings as well. Yes, whippets hang from my tree.

The event always devolves into revelry, and all I really had to do was cook and voila, the tree is done.

### **Do What You Love**

I find that combining all of your various loves into a holiday events with family and friends really does make the day special.

For example, as soon as my husband

gets home from work he exclaims to all that will hear "Let's Throw!" Hot dog in hand he is instantly surrounded by our insane dogs; the two Whippets, Django and Bella, and Elmo, my priceless, long-haired Jack Russell. Practically breaking down the door, the whole mass of arms, legs, heads, tails, jaws and paws moves as one, tumbling out the door to the back yard where the Frisbee is thrown and retrieved. Django catches the thing in mid air, circles back like the agile prince that he is, and is handsomely rewarded. The other two dogs – and whoever's dog is visiting at the time – mooch their way to a few bits of hot dog themselves. Maybe for this Thanksgiving we'll purchase turkey dogs for the occasion. Maybe for Christmas and New Year's they'll get some special bones.

Working what you love into your holidays makes each one special.

*Shirley Lyle Volberg is a creative and artistic genius in all things culinary and domestic, including gardening and landscaping. She enjoyed a long career as a professional decorator in New York, California, the Washington area and more – wherever the project or client took her. Shirley now works her magic in her own beautiful home and when entertaining friends and family. She lives in western Loudoun County with her husband, Frank and a wild menagerie that includes three dogs, a cat, and a bird.*

## TURKEY BRINE RECIPE

If you purchase a kosher turkey, it will likely be brined already. But, here's common but excellent recipe I found online (15 lb. turkey, neck and giblet discarded):

- 3/4 cup kosher salt or sea salt
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 diced onions
- 2 diced carrots
- 3 diced celery ribs
- 1 whole garlic bulb cut in half
- 1/2 small bunch rosemary
- 1/2 small bunch sage
- 2 tablespoons coriander seeds
- 2 tablespoons fennel seeds
- 6 bay leaves

Combine ingredients in a large pot/bucket, add two gallons of water, submerge the turkey and refrigerate for 3 days. Make sure it stays really cold during this process.

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# Wild Loudoun

## The White-Footed Mouse: Beauty In Miniature

– By Andrea Gaines

I can't imagine that the soft drumming sound I might have heard coming from a woodpile, or the faint buzz I've heard in grassy areas could have been coming from the common, white-footed mouse ... but I like to think it might have.

All wild animals have what we'd consider to be mysterious behaviors, and many of those behaviors help them survive. The white-footed mouse – common to nearly every county in Virginia, including Loudoun – drums its feet rapidly when alarmed, and replicates this behavior on hollow reeds, creating a sort of buzz. The normal drumming biologists know indicates that the mouse is afraid of something. The reed drumming is something else – no one really knows why mice do it.

I decided to write about the white-footed mouse this month because of an experience some friends of mine and I had as we took our normal morning walk with our dogs. Ahead of us on the road – right in the middle – we saw a plump mouse eating through the skin of a large green walnut. We tried to move the mouse to the side of the road with a (long!) stick. But, when we did, it started running around in circles and squeaking, and then flipping back and forth over onto its back.

One person surmised that the walnut might be making the mouse sick, or delirious.

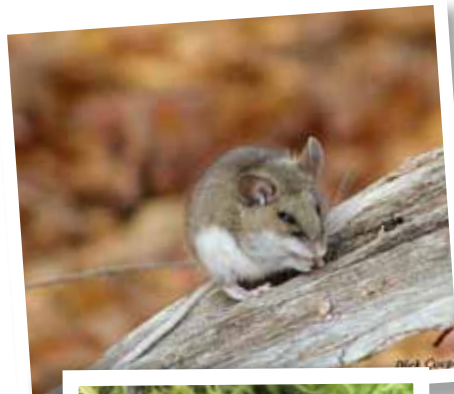
I thought that the mouse had perhaps been injured. And then, as I started writing this article I thought, humm ... maybe that was some kind of fake out behavior, similar to when opossums play dead. Maybe predators look at a mouse running around in circles and think it must have some sort of disease – and is not a good option for dinner. But, who knows?

I was struck, however, looking at the mouse up close, at how beautiful it was; with a sweet white belly and feet, perky ears and dark glassy eyes. It also had a pretty greyish tan color running down its back.

Most of us don't look at a mouse as something we want to have around.

But mice are highly evolved and extremely adaptable animals, and they deserve our respect. Looking at the mouse on the road I thought to myself, well, the least we can do is not shriek in horror when we see one, dancing around like a crazy person in an effort to step on them!

Biologists have documented 38 species of mice on the planet. Seven more mouse species were discovered in the Philippines in 2011, and by somehow figuring out how long these seven species had existed scientists could tell that they had evolved



very quickly, reinforcing the fact that mice are intelligent, highly-adaptable creatures.

Mice are primarily nocturnal and make up for their poor eyesight with a keen sense of hearing.

They rely on their sense of smell to locate food – including nuts, seeds, fruits, insects, snails, and occasionally, small mammals or birds. They also eat the roots of many plants, as well as fungi. And, it's not uncommon to find that they have helped themselves to a bar of your soap or other household item. A friend of mine found a neatly arranged pile of small "Be Mine" Valentine's candy hearts stored under her stove ... definitely the work of mice.

Keen hearing helps mice avoid predators, and they have many formidable ones, including snakes, owls, hawks, skunks, foxes, coyotes, weasels, and, of course, domestic cats.

Like birds and other animals, mice cache or store food – in their case under a log, in a bird's nest or in the abandoned burrow of other small animals.

White-footed Mice live for one to two years, and, during that time they are busy spreading their genes. They have several litters between March and October of anywhere from 4 to 5 young.

No ... I don't want white-footed mice in my cabinets or, snuggling up between my sheets – they can carry disease. But, I'd prefer to find ways to share my (distant) surroundings with them. And, I know their many predators also enjoy having them around.

# Sushi – "Tails" From The Barnyard The Great Turkeys Of Thanksgiving

– By Sushi

Friends,

I can't wait to tell you about this one, seriously crazy, crazy, crazy. Did any of you happen to be out in the forbidden woods around 2 a.m. Halloween night? Did you see and experience what I did? I had no choice but to be the brave and mighty Cairn terrier and protector of all things great and small at Fields of Athenry Farm. It would have been a lot better had this new Murphy fellow (the farm's new 7-month-old Saint Bernard) been a little older and wiser. Really, how much can one be put to the test I ask?

I know, I know; I should put my full faith and trust in old brother moon. But sometimes it is just plain hard to relinquish control and trust with that kind of blind faith I tell you.

It all started so bucolic on a gorgeous sun kissed cold day. The bald eagles were soaring high in the sky - flying and diving, meeting and mating to the call of the wild. Whirling birding, down, down, down out of the cold clear blue sky, clapping their great talons together, only to break apart to bring new life into the world – did anyone else see?

I did and so I followed their dance which led me blindly into the forbidden woods where the sly one's live. Murphy followed right behind. With the fall season's shorter days, longer nights and daylight disappearing, before we knew it, we headed into the night - it was black, cold dark black and crisp bitter air. Halloween night was here. Life can be scary, really scary at times. Scary makes me think of Halloween and these horror fantasy worlds you hear about that others experience. Only this time it was me, me and Murphy and Halloween.

I was wet and cold. Murphy being longer legged than I kept dry when we crossed the Beaver Dam creek bed. Once across the creek I shook my wiry Cairn terrier coat. I snuggled into Murphy's warm dry fur, and then we tried to get our bearings.

Yip – yip – yip... not too loud, no howl, unlike a true coyote and then the sound of padded paws against the ground, then the high pitch cackly scream from above Hee hee hee - I knew that hee hee hee – it was Hattie the witch.

Seriously? Really – did I really need to deal with this now? We had spent the day in a National Geographic moment watching and following the great bald eagles. Did our triumph have to fall on Halloween night?

My nose started twitching; Murphy was watching and learning my every move (smart dog). I picked up the scent of the Red Wolf? Coyote? Hybrid dog?

Was this now our new farm world we would have to learn to live within? Coyotes, red wolf hybrid dog crosses? This past spring I had seen the devastation on our farm caused by these cruel monstrosities



created by man – I instantly knew Murphy and I were in deep trouble. Hattie the witch had ganged up with these derelicts. She had out done herself this year.

I needed to get my bearings, I needed my farm team, I needed to think fast, and I needed to be the brave and mighty Cairn Terrier. As my thoughts were ringing in my head, I shivered, cringing as I heard the hee hee hee of Hattie's famous cackle that would chill anyone to the bone. I faintly heard another cackle – the faintest cackle as if trying not to be heard but as if wanting me to hear and no one else....hope upon hope but how would they be able to help me here and now?

Murphy and I pressed close against the shadow and mammoth trunk of the ancient pine tree of old – the primitive dog-like creatures closing in upon us and Hattie cackling high above on her broomstick. We were in deep trouble – as bad as the witches brew pot for Tommy Toad and Freddy Frog.

"Murph, Murph," I whispered, "Follow my lead and do immediately as I tell you – when I tell you." I didn't really have any clue what I was going to do.

Then I look up at great brother moon with reckless abandon. I asked with all of my heart to show me his way - not mine. I asked with faith to do the right thing for all at Fields of Athenry and for Murphy, my wing man, my very young wing man.

Somewhere deep within me, I was stirred to howl, I howled into the depths of the forbidden woods, "Here comes the power. Here comes the power."

Murphy instantaneously knowing his job crashed with all of his force and size straight toward the derelict dogs and Hattie the witch. I covered in fear knowing there was no way he could take them on, yet at the same time I kept howling "Here comes the power." I couldn't stop. Something, someone had taken over inside me.

Before heads could spin my farm team didn't let me down. Fields of Athenry turkeys flew through the air dive bombing Hattie and her derelict dogs, beating them back with their mighty wings, forcing the

*Continued on page 31*



# Smooch! Opens in Leesburg

Smooch! Studio has opened a second location in Leesburg on the second level of Market Station at 203 Harrison Street SE.

Co-owners of the Frederick, Md., based Smooch! Studio, Nicole and Kendra Knight bring years of experience in the cosmetic industry as they help women customize and individualize their make-up products and routines.

"Make-up can be a very elusive and intimidating topic. We help women find the right routine, products and technique to fit their personal style and their lifestyle. Our custom foundation is mixed to fit each individual face, and custom lip color is not only fun, it's always the right fit! We take the guesswork out and put the fun back in," says Knight.

More information about them can be found at [smoochstudio.com](http://smoochstudio.com).



## NOVEMBER

☉ **Thursday, Nov. 7**, free gardening lecture on holiday flower arranging at 7 p.m. at Rust Library in Leesburg. The presenter is local floral designer Kim Wright. Go to [www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org) for more info.

☉ **Sunday, Dec. 8, Trinity Church Christmas Auction**, 11:30 a.m. at Cox Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church on Route 50 in Upperville. A cocktail party and preview of the auction items is on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the church's ministries to local, regional and international communities. Go to [www.trinityuppsville.org](http://www.trinityuppsville.org).

☉ **Saturday, Nov. 9, Ebenezer United Methodist Church Country Breakfast** from 8-10 a.m. or until they run out of food. Biscuits and sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, home fried potatoes, pancakes, fruit and more. At the Firehouse located at 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671) Purcellville. Free will offering.

☉ **Sunday, Nov. 10, the 9th annual Turkey Trot 5K and Fun Run** at 8 a.m. This fundraising event for the Loudoun Valley Community Center will start at the Loudoun Valley Community Center. For more information, please go to <http://pvilleturkeytrot.shutterfly.com>.

☉ **Saturday, Nov. 9 and Sunday, Nov. 10, Round Hill potter David Norton**, invites the public to attend his annual autumn show of functional pottery and ceramic sculpture, held at his Potterosa Gallery. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. both days. For more information go to [www.davidnortonpottery.com](http://www.davidnortonpottery.com).

☉ **Sunday, Nov. 10, second annual Loudoun 10K Trail Race** benefiting Boulder Crest Retreat. Run or walk this 6.2 mile course on the trails at Camp Highroad, 21164 Steptoe Hill Road, Middleburg. All ages welcome, race starts at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds go to support our wounded warriors and their families. \$35 race fee (\$45 with 60/40 technical race t-shirt). Go to [www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org](http://www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org)

☉ **Saturday, Nov. 16, Lucketts Bluegrass Concert Series**, 7 p.m. Lucketts Community Center. Nothin' Fancy will perform. Tickets are \$15 at the door, show time is 7 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. Hot dogs, barbeque sandwiches plus other snacks and drinks available.

☉ **Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Together** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A free meal for everyone. Families are welcome. If you are homebound or on the job, meals will be delivered to those who cannot attend but live in Western Loudoun County. Bethany United Methodist Church, 100 W. Main St. in Purcellville. To request a delivered meal, call 540-338-7648 or email [thanksgivingtogether@gmail.com](mailto:thanksgivingtogether@gmail.com). Go to [www.thanksgivingtogether.org](http://www.thanksgivingtogether.org).

☉ **Saturday, Dec. 7, Christmas in Middleburg**. Festivities begin at 8:30 a.m. at Breakfast with Santa and a silent auction at Middleburg Elementary School. Christmas Parade at 2 p.m. Middleburg Wine Crawl from 3-6 p.m. Visit [www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org](http://www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org) for more information.

# Carver Center November Events

All events at the Carver Center, 700 St. 15<sup>th</sup> St. in Purcellville.

☉ **Thursday, Nov. 12, History of American Sign Language** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ages 55 and older, free to members, non-members pay \$2. Join Joan Cassidy, from the Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for this informative presentation on the history of American Sign Language.

☉ **Wednesday, Nov. 13, File of Life Presentation** from 12:30-1:45 p.m. For ages 55 and older. Non-members pay \$2. Lisa Baum, public education manager with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, will visit Carver to share important information regarding the File of Life program and fire safety tips. You can save EMS critical time by having all your pertinent medical information in a prearranged location.

☉ **Thursday, Nov. 21, Thanksgiving dinner** from noon to 1:30 p.m. Join Carver members and staff for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Musical entertainment will be provided by The Songbirds, a charming teen vocal group that performs in the style of the Andrews Sisters. Please bring a canned good for food bank collection. All collected canned goods will be donated to the Tree of Life food pantry in Purcellville.



☉ **Friday, Nov. 15 and Saturday, Nov. 16, Holiday Bazaar**, free for all ages. If you are looking for unique holiday gift ideas, be sure to check out the Carver Center Advisory Board's Holiday Bazaar. This annual fundraiser draws thirty vendors from around the area. Open 2-8 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

☉ **Tuesdays, Nov. 12 and 26, Jerry's Jukebox** from 7:15-8:30 p.m. For all ages, non-members pay \$2. This bi-monthly evening of partner and line dancing is an opportunity to practice your moves in a relaxed atmosphere.

☉ **Mondays from 1-2 p.m. Beginner Line Dance Class**, for ages 55 and older. Non-members pay \$2.



## Carver Center

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## Christmas Parade Applications Available

Purcellville's 10th annual Christmas Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 14 at noon. Companies, organizations, clubs, individuals and families are all invited to be a part of the parade. To participate in the Purcellville Christmas Parade, download the application from [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov) or contact Melanie Scoggins, events specialist for the Town of Purcellville at (540) 751-2350 or [mscoggins@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:mscoggins@purcellvilleva.gov).





**November & December will fill your holidays with comedy, theater and song!**

**Last Ham Standing**

Fri, Nov 8 8PM  
Fri, Dec 27 8PM

Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. A group of talented performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway?, you'll love Last Ham Standing, the other comedy meat!

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Student, \$8 Child. [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)



**The Capitol Steps** ★

Sat, Nov 9 3PM & 8PM

Since 1981 The Capitol Steps have been digging into the headlines of the day and creating skits and parodies to poke fun at Presidents, Congress, the political establishment and life in America. They've recorded over 33 albums--including their latest: "Fiscal Shades of Gray". The Capitol Steps have been featured on national TV including ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS...and now-- for the first time-- they're bringing their wacky and wonderful humor to Franklin Park Arts Center in two exclusive performances.

Tickets: \$45 [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)

**VSAarts of Loudoun ~ Fall Showcase**

Sat, Nov 16 7:00 PM  
Sun, Nov 17 3:00 PM

VSAarts of Loudoun is proud to be celebrating our silver anniversary at our home stage at Franklin Park and continues it's mission of "Arts for All" by bringing creative arts opportunities to individuals with disabilities in an inclusive environment. Saturday will be a song showcase with an encore performance of the show "Msitua" by students from Freedom High School. On Sunday we host a talent show, with special guests Loudoun Valley High School Improv Group. Donations at the door.



**A Musical Little Women: A Run Rabbit Run Theater Production**

Fri & Sat, Nov 22-30 7:30PM  
Sun Nov 24 & Dec 1 2:30PM

The wit and humor, joys and struggles of the marvelous March sisters "Jo", Amy, Beth and Meg are brought to rollicking life in a fast-paced musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's beloved Civil War-era story. Brought to you by the same team that created Once Upon A Christmas Carol, this brand new musical features a book adaptation by Meredith Bean McMath, original music by Diane El-Shafey, and instrumental music by Carma Oliverez.

Pre-Sale: Adults \$16, Seniors \$14, Students \$12 [Purchase Tickets Online at www.rrrtheatre.org](http://www.rrrtheatre.org)

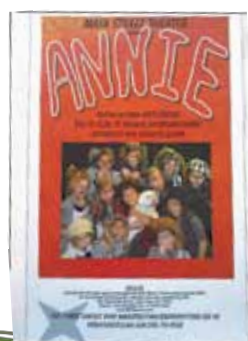


**Hansel & Gretel: A Loudoun Lyric Opera Production**

Fri & Sat, Dec 6 & 7 7PM  
Sun, Dec 8 3PM

The familiar fairy tale — set to music by composer Englebert Humperdink and filled with humor, magic and mayhem — is a perfect way to introduce children and families to the art of opera!

Tickets: \$22 Adult, \$17 Senior, \$12 Children 18 and under  
Purchase tickets online and save \$2. [www.LoudounLyricOpera.com](http://www.LoudounLyricOpera.com)



**Annie: A Main Street Theater Production**

Fri, Dec 13 & 20 8PM  
Sat, Dec 14 & 21 2PM and 8PM  
Sun, Dec 15 & 22 2PM

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts, despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City.

Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$15 Student/Senior.  
[karlahlouis@aol.com](mailto:karlahlouis@aol.com) or visit [www.mainstreettheaterproductions.org](http://www.mainstreettheaterproductions.org)



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**Loudoun County Commuter Services**



*"Affordable Housing," continued from page 5*

Tilley Entertainment is proposing 8 acres for an outdoor amphitheater – described as "open-air space" for local events, concerts, festivals, craft shows, and flea markets. Seven acres will be dedicated to "fun, food, and games" such as bumper boats, miniature golf, ice cream, food court, batting cages, a go cart track, a laser tag course and an arcade. The outdoor facility would be open until 10 p.m. and the indoor one until 1 a.m.

Projected sales figures of \$9.7 million for the entertainment venue are based on sales at Kimball Farm in Massachusetts; a project Tilley lists as similar to what is being proposed for Purcellville. Unlike this development, Kimball Farm is located in a more rural area of Westford, MA, a town that has more than double the population and 10 times the land of Purcellville. The only comparable thing to Kimball Farm in Loudoun is the much smaller Dulles Golf & Sport Center, located in a heavily commercial and industrial location off Route 28 – with the nearest residences 1.4 miles away.

"I moved from Sterling because it got too developed and moved out here because it was more rural," said one resident from the nearby Meadows of Purcellville neighborhood. "I think the quality of life that we expect to have — we're losing it with this project. The noise, the light, the size (of the project) and traffic are all issues. I think the growth here is too much ..."

The Catoctin Creek Apartments will be a 100 percent tax-credit complex with one, two and three bedroom apartments, with the three bedroom units accommodating up to approximately six people each. All units will be eligible for government housing assistance (Section 8 vouchers) with priority given to families with children. Schools in Purcellville are almost at capacity. The Emerick Elementary 2013-2014 first grade classes filled before the end of the previous school year, creating the need for additional transportation being provided by the school district since overflow children were assigned to other schools.

The developer claims western Loudoun has a limited supply of rental housing, however that estimate is based on all types of rentals and Purcellville currently has the highest ratio of tax-credit apartments

in Loudoun; the existing three apartment complexes in town are 100 percent tax-credit compared to Leesburg whose inventory is only 15 percent tax-credit.

When complete, it is estimated that the entire development would generate approximately 8,896 new daily trips over a 24-hour period. The nearby intersections are currently deemed "inefficient" and would continue to be graded as D or F according to the traffic study even after needed improvements. The apartment developer is offering \$1 million towards traffic improvements, but thus far no additional proffers from the entertainment developers have been submitted.

The traffic study conducted was based on 2 percent annual growth, totally omitting that the proposed Catoctin Creek Apartment complex would increase the population by 5 percent. The Toll Brothers townhouse development on 21<sup>st</sup> Street is under construction and will add another 1 percent, and, if Brookfield Homes builds its proposed 492-unit Autumn Hill housing development on the north side of the bypass off Purcellville Road, Purcellville's growth will exceed the 2030 estimate of 11,093 residents in the next few years.

In both scale and proposed use (a major "entertainment complex") this project is categorically different than any development the town has ever entertained. Bigger than the Harris Teeter Shopping Center, the yet to be built Catoctin Corner Shopping Center (across from Harris Teeter) and the Southern Collector Road with its attendant commercial development to come.

In terms of impact on the environment, the livability of nearby neighborhoods and local roads, nothing comes close. In years past, developers would have extensive community meetings prior to even discussing such an idea. Today, however, due to wholesale changes in the way Purcellville approaches development projects – where the work is completed at the staff level and in closed door meetings – public comment is entertained only at the last minute; with major projects approved the moment the public's "three minutes" are up.

Purcellville needs to see through this "Food, Fun And Games" development debacle.

## Veteran's Day Fundraisers For Boulder Crest

Veteran's Day is bringing a variety of fundraisers for Boulder Crest Retreat.

The retreat is a free, first-class rural retreat in Bluemont for seriously wounded soldiers and their families. Go to [www.bouldercrestretreat.org](http://www.bouldercrestretreat.org) for more information. The fundraisers provide a way for everyone in the community to be involved in big and small ways.

During the week of Nov. 4, Middleburg Bank in Purcellville will be collecting change in its lobby.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, a group of kids is having a lemonade stand at the Purcellville Community Market.

On Veteran's Day, Monday, Nov. 11, Boulder Crest is encouraging everyone to take their favorite veterans out to eat at one of the following restaurants that have generously offered to donate a portion of proceeds to the retreat during the following times:

- Haute Dogs & Fries will donating all day
- Smokin Willy BBQ will be donating a portion of lunch sales between 11 a.m. -3 p.m.
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe will be donating a portion of dinner sales between 5-8 p.m.

Everyone is invited to donate to the community donation page <http://bouldercrestretreat.donorpages.com>.

## Heating Your Home Safely

Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management reminds everyone to be safe when heating your home this winter. Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February. Winter storms can also interrupt electrical service, causing people to turn to alternative heating sources, further increasing the risk of fire.

The National Fire Protection Association's latest data shows that in 2010 heating equipment was involved in an estimated 57,100 reported U.S. home structure fires, resulting in 490 civilian deaths, 1,540 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in property damage. By following these fire prevention measures, you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home and enjoy a safe winter season.

**Fireplaces, furnaces and portable heaters:**

Keep children and combustibles at least 3 feet away from all heating equipment, stoves and fireplaces.

If you use an electric heater, do not overload the circuit. If you must use an extension cord, choose one that has a built in surge protector and that the cord is rated for the amps the appliance will require.

Always remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.

Before going to sleep, ensure the fire in your fireplace is completely extinguished.

Never close the fireplace damper if hot ashes remain in the fireplace. The fire may reheat and force toxic carbon monoxide into your house.

Always let ashes cool before putting them in a closed metal container. Keep the container outside, a safe distance away from your home.

If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart or use more than one log at a time.

Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

If you do not have one already, install a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, colorless, odorless gas that is created when fossil fuels like gasoline, natural gas, propane and wood burn incompletely. In the home, cooking and heating appliances can be potential sources of CO. Vehicles and generators can also be sources of this "silent killer".

Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office reminds all residents to ensure your smoke alarms are correctly installed and functioning properly. To schedule a visit for a free home safety inspection to include free smoke alarm(s) installation or to obtain information regarding our "Put A Finger On It!" free smoke alarm program, visit [www.loudoun.gov/smokealarms](http://www.loudoun.gov/smokealarms) or call 703-737-8093.

WS  
BS

Barbara S. Williams

*Shielding the Injured*

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DRINK  
& DRIVE.

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[BarbaraSWilliams.com](http://BarbaraSWilliams.com)



## ARTIST'S PROFILE – VALENTIN MELIK

– By Andrea Gaines

*“What set him apart from other kids was his innate gift of drawing the world around him. On cold and snowy days he would run and play outside under his mother’s watchful eye. When he would see a bread truck pass by the playground, he would pick up a twig, plop on the snow and draw the bread truck.”*

An artist’s life is often as complex and inquisitive as their work. In talking to them, I’ve often found that when they approach a project, they are asking and answering a series of questions. “Where is the light coming from? What makes that object stand out from the one behind it? What color is the marble? And, what temperature? What is the person in my portrait thinking?”

Valentin Melik has one of those lives, complicated and looking for answers, some questions of which relate to the everyday things we all face, such as how to make a living, doing, hopefully, what we believe we were meant to do.

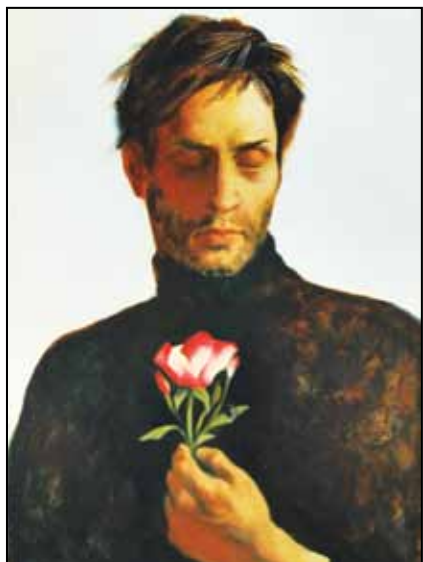
For what he has experienced and for the volume of work he has produced, Melik is a rather young artist. He was born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1984. He and his family moved to the United States in 1994, where he settled down and began to learn English. His parents recognized his talent and drive and wanted him to pursue a formal education in the arts, but struggled with how to find the right place for him. In 1998 Melik’s father got a job in the Ukraine, and from there Valentin found his way to the St. Petersburg Academic Art Lyceum and the prestigious Russian Academy of Arts, one of the most prominent European schools in the area of classical art. Both were perfect given his talent and his enormous capacity for learning.

While at the Lyceum, Melik had his first professional solo exhibition at the Arts Council in Buffalo, New York – at the age of just 18. Graduating from the Academic Art Lyceum in 2003, he entered the Russian Academy of Arts second in his class. And, in terms of the caliber of his work and his dedication to art as a classical craft, he has never looked back.

The mission of the Russian Academy



Artist Valentin Melik



Melik Self Portrait

of Art is to teach “fundamental principals, methods and techniques of classical art, diligently transmitted over the centuries since the Italian Renaissance.” The academy seeks to give birth to “new masters,” artists schooled in the techniques embedded in the works of artists such as Rembrandt and the approach they would have taken to-

wards anatomy, composition, chromatics, perspective, painting, constructive drawing and sculpture.

In year two at the academy, Melik was recognized with a Certificate of Outstanding Academic Achievement in the Arts and invited to work on a mosaics project for a subway station in St. Petersburg. The Archives of the Academic Museum took his finished works, as well as every sketch, drawing, plan and outline made in preparation for his works – the first time in the academy had done so in its 200-year history.

Melik’s projects have included mosaics and stained glass for St. Petersburg subway stations, mural concepts for private residences and chapels, ornamental stained glass and more.

Exhibits of his work have appeared in dozens of places in the United States and the world. Northern Virginia exhibits have included ArtSquare in Leesburg, the Old Stone School in Hillsboro and the Korean Multicultural Center in Annandale. He has exhibited in Pennsylvania and New York, and frequently appears in exhibits in St. Petersburg and other places in Russia.

Melik’s work, including his work as a student, is so reflective of classical works, and so studied, that you’d imagine the pieces were done by many different masters over many centuries. This speaks as much to his extraordinary skills as an artist as to his dedication to the perpetuation of the classical arts. Melik is both a creator of beautiful works and the most rare of young, modern day art academicians.

### Franklin Park Visual & Performing Arts Center, Nov 2013 Events

For reservations/tickets call 540-338-7973 or visit [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).

**Sat., Nov. 9, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. – The Capitol Steps.** Since 1981 The Capitol Steps have been digging into the headlines of the day and creating skits and parodies to poke fun at Presidents, Congress, the political establishment and life in America. They’ve recorded over 33 albums – including their latest: “Fiscal Shades of Gray.” The Capitol Steps have been featured on national TV including ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS ... and now – for the first time – they’re bringing their wacky and wonderful humor to Franklin Park Arts Center in two exclusive performances. Tickets: \$25-\$45. Presented by The Friends (Special Gold Star Performance).

**Sun., Nov. 10, 3 p.m. – Loudoun Symphony Chamber Players.** The Loudoun Symphony Chamber Players return to the Arts Center for another season of classical performances. The musical groupings are varied for these concerts including duos, trios and quartets, often featuring guest artists. Visit the Loudoun Symphony website for more information. [www.loudounsymphony.org](http://www.loudounsymphony.org) Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Students/Seniors. Call 540-338-7973 to Reserve.

**Sat., Nov. 16, 7 p.m. & Sun., Nov. 17, 3 p.m. – VSA Arts of Loudoun Showcase.** Join us as we kick off the first of our 25th anniversary main stage performances. Audiences of all ages will be delighted and leave with a song in their heart and a smile on their face. VSA Arts of Loudoun is proud to be celebrating their silver anniversary at their home stage at Franklin Park and continues its mission of “Arts for All” by bringing creative arts opportunities to individuals with disabilities in an inclusive environment. Tickets: donations at the door.

**Fri., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m., Sun., Nov. 24, 2:30 p.m., Fri., Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m., Sat., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., Sun., Dec. 1, 2:30 p.m. – Run Rabbit Run Theatre: A Musical Little Women.** The wit and humor, joys and struggles of the marvelous March sisters “Jo,” Amy, Beth and Meg are brought to rollicking life in a fast-paced musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s beloved Civil War-era story. Brought to you by the same team that created Once Upon A Christmas Carol, this brand new musical features a book adaptation by Meredith Bean McMath, original music by Diane El-Shafey, and instrumental music by Carma Oliverez. Pre-Sale: Adults \$16, Seniors \$14, Students \$12. Purchase tickets online at [www.rrrtheatre.org](http://www.rrrtheatre.org)

## Ease into the Holidays With the Catoctin Holiday Art Tour

Eighteen Loudoun County artists and artisans will again combine teamwork, moxie and a lot of sweat equity to host the third annual Catoctin Holiday Art Tour on Nov. 9 and 10. The tour will be in artists’ studios in and around Lovettsville. Artists will open their home studios from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day.

What began with a casual conversation over drinks one summer has quickly grown.

“We start planning the tour in the summer, and we look forward to it all year,” said fiber artist and jeweler Kara Laughlin (stop six on the tour). “It’s a great chance to welcome the

public into the studios, some of which aren’t usually open to the public.”

This year’s tour has grown to include 18 artists in seven studios and even has its own mascot. Art the Snowman is a 6-foot-plus wooden snowman that the artists are transporting to the tour’s 12 sponsors. New to the tour this year, fiber artist and jeweler Mary Kenesson (tour stop one) thinks CHAT is a unique art event.

“What’s different -- and wonderful -- about this tour is the gathering of so many local artists at seven nearby studio stops,” she says.

Though the tour has grown in ambition

and diversity, it remains confined to a 5-mile radius around Lovettsville.

“We know people are busy and we wanted to keep the geography of the tour manageable. We want the Catoctin Holiday Art Tour to become a tradition for people who want a relaxing and fun way to ease into the holiday season,” said Kristen Swanson of White House Ceramic Studios (stop four on the tour).

Those interested in visiting the studios can download a map from the Catoctin Holiday Art Tour at the webpage, [www.catoctinart.com](http://www.catoctinart.com).



Artist: Alice Power



# First Year For Middleburg Film Festival

– By Andrea Gaines



Left to right: Middleburg Film Festival Founder and “The Butler” co-producer, Sheila C. Johnson; “The Butler” director and co-producer Lee Daniels; Washington Post writer and “The Butler” storyteller, Wil Haygood.

Festival founder Sheila Johnson welcomed thousands of guests to the first Middleburg Film Festival Oct. 24-27.

Festival Executive Director Susan Koch noted that “from the very beginning, our primary objective has been to create a small, but carefully curated, slate of outstanding films – as well as foster an intimate and accessible festival experience.”

The festival included films such as “August: Osage County,” “The Best Offer,” “The Butterfly’s Dream,” “Capital,” “Child’s Pose,” “Gloria,” “Like Father, Like Son,” “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom,” “Nebraska” “One Chance,” “Philomena” and “Le Week-End.”

Documentaries included “The Armstrong Lie,” “Comedy Warriors: Healing Through Humor,” “Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me,” “Lost For Life,” “Muscle Shoals,” “Slow Food Story,” “The Square” and “Tim’s Vermeer.”

Special screenings included “Journey To Italy (1954),” “Lee Daniels’ The Butler,” “Harvest of Empire,” “The Gettysburg Story” and “The Gambler Who Wouldn’t Die.”

The Distinguished Film Composer Award was presented to film composer Mark Isham, described as “one of the most accomplished and prolific film composers working today.”

In a Conversations and Events series, the keynote speech for the festival, entitled “The Future of The Movie Industry,” was delivered by filmmaker and industry news professional Ted Leonsis. Other film festival presenters and events included film composer George Clinton, Vanity Fair special correspondent Maureen Orth (with Michael Shamberg), leading film writers and critics commenting on “What Makes A Good Film?” a “Tribute and Conversation” with actor Brue Dern and discussions on “The Making of “Lee Daniels’ The Butler.”



**FIBER ART**  
**EARTH WIND AND FLEECE**  
 One-of-a-kind alpaca felted silk scarves, from the farm and fiber art studio in Lovettsville. See them at the Ida Lee Holiday Fine Arts and Craft Show, Dec. 7th and 8th or visit website for other info. 703-946-7759

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**GALLERIES**  
**ARTS IN THE VILLAGE GALLERY** Voted “Best Art Gallery” in Loudoun Local survey. Non-profit artists’ cooperative operated by the Loudoun Arts Council. 2,000+ sq ft gallery selling handmade fine and functional artwork from area artists. Meet the artists reception Sat. Nov. 16, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. www.artsinthevillage.com

**HOLIDAY ART TOURS**  
**OVER THE MOUNTAIN STUDIO TOUR** in historic Jefferson County, WV. 9 fascinating stops, 21 talented artists, Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 9 & 10. Tour is FREE. www.studiotourwv.org

**POTTERY**  
**MONKEYTOWN POTTERY**  
 Monkeytown events: Nov. 30th 9-5 Holiday Sale at Bluemont Community Center. Dec. 1st 10-4 Holiday Open Studio Sale at Monkeytown Pottery. Dec. 3rd Ornament class for kids at the Barns of Rose Hill. And at Monkeytown Adult wheel classes, ongoing! Call 540-454-7599 or Email for details, monkeytownpottery@yahoo.com.

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

© 2011 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 27, No. 49

## Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

**DON'T DO THIS PAGE ALONE:** This special Kid Scoop Thanksgiving page is designed for you to do with a friend or family member. So find someone to share the fun!

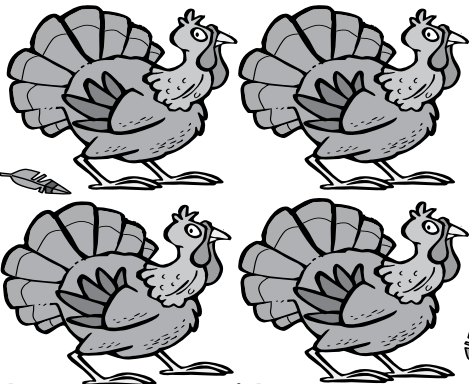
### Thanksgiving Together!

#### Turkey Tracks

Have your partner use a RED crayon and you use a BLUE one. Which turkey will reach the finish line first? On your mark, get set...GOBBLE!

Who can find the most turkey feathers on this page in 60 seconds?

Find the two turkeys that are the same.



#### A Slice of PI

All of these words start with the letters P-I. Read the clues and work together to fill in the missing letters.

1.      O
2.    K
3.   C
4.    T
5.

1. A heavy musical instrument with keys
2. A small cucumber preserved in brine
3. A meal packed to eat outdoors
4. A person who robs ships at sea
5. A platform over water that starts at the shore

#### Your Riddle, My Riddle

You circle every other third letter to reveal the punch line to your riddle. Your partner circles every third letter to reveal his or her punch line.

What's the best thing to put in a pumpkin pie?

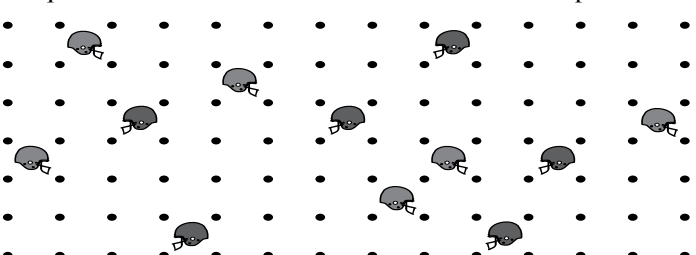
**ACYTBONMUSQRP  
BTJSENBKWTGZH**

What smells the best at Thanksgiving?

**ACYTBONMUSQR  
VWNJSOCWSUTE**

Standards Links: Life Skills: Share a task with others.

**Football Fun** You use a BLUE crayon and your opponent uses a RED crayon. Take turns connecting two dots each time. The person who completes a square gets one point. A square with a football helmet in it is worth three points!



#### Extra! Extra!

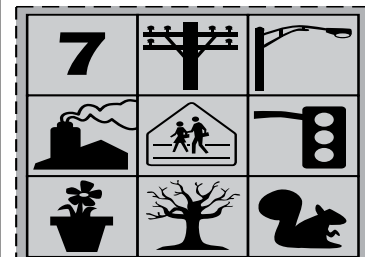
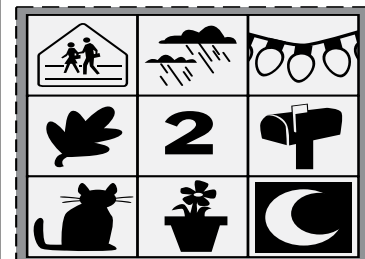
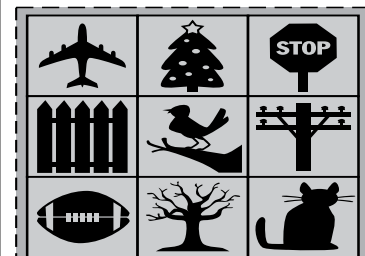
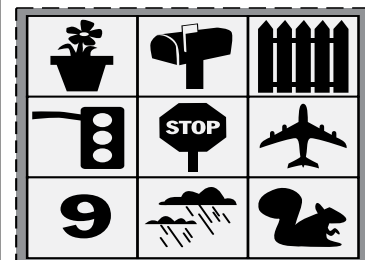
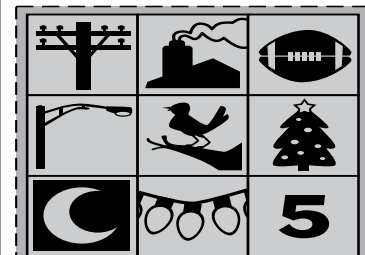
#### Rhyme Time

Browse the newspaper for 10 words that would make good halves of a rhyming pair. Then have your partner scour the newspaper for words that rhyme with each of the ones you chose. Switch roles and try it again.

Standards Links: Vocabulary: Identify rhyming patterns and words.

#### After Dinner Bingo

After dinner, take a stroll around your neighborhood with friends or family members. On this walk, each of you take one of the cards below and cross out items as you see them. First one to black out the card wins!



Standards Links: Investigation: Record information about the living world.

#### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Practice saying **Thank you** in seven different languages! Match the **Thank you** to the country from which it comes.

- Tak** (takg)
- Gracias** (gra-see-us)
- Merci** (mehr-see)
- Kiitos** (kee-toas)
- Danke** (dahn-kah)
- Arigato** (ahree-gah-tow)
- Dziekuje** (dsyne-koo-yeh)

- FRANCE
- DENMARK
- JAPAN
- POLAND
- FINLAND
- MEXICO
- GERMANY

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



Learn how to draw a football fan, a cheerleader or a football player in eight easy steps. Go to: [www.kidscoop.com/kids](http://www.kidscoop.com/kids)

#### Double Double Word Search

- TOGETHER
- CUCUMBER
- PUMPKIN
- PARTNER
- MUSICAL
- FAMILY
- TURKEY
- BRINE
- SHORE
- WATER
- SHARE
- HOUSE
- CLUES
- PIE

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

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

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

#### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

##### Black Friday

The day after Thanksgiving is usually the busiest U.S. shopping day of the year. Imagine you have \$100 to spend. Look through today's newspaper and list what you'd buy. Did your partner choose any of the same items?

Standards Links: Mathematics: Calculate sums to 100.

### What do snowmen eat for Thanksgiving dinner?

ANSWER: Cold-Slaw

#### Write On!

##### I am thankful for ...

Create a list of at least 20 things in your life you appreciate. Can you think of 30?



# Kitchen Science Kids: Density

– By Leah Enright

When the weather turns cold, I love to visit indoor swimming pools. Taking off my jacket and gloves, and putting on a swimsuit makes me feel like I'm somewhere warm and tropical - even if I'm at the Ida Lee Rec Center in Leesburg. Of course, I always see lots of kids running, (and being reminded not to run) throwing foamy footballs, and playing with paddle boards. There are even a few babies with puffy, orange inflatable arm bands helping them float with smiling grown-ups. Though everyone is having a good time, and probably very few are thinking about science, there are quite a few principles at play here - one of them is well illustrated with a simple science activity. To see it in action try this:

## Floaties for Raisins

1. Pour a glass of clear soda, noticing the bubbles.

2. Drop a few raisins into the glass. Watch for a few minutes. Do the raisins sink or float? Stick with it - you'll see something interesting.

If all went according to plan, you saw raisins sink to the bottom of the glass. Then, in time, gas bubbles inside the soda stuck to the sides of the raisin, and pulled the raisins up with them. Then, when the gas reached the surface, and escaped into the air, the raisins were alone again and sunk to the bottom - until enough bubbles stuck to the surface, and brought the raisins up with them again.

This is why floaties help babies float, and holding pool noodles keep us from touching the bottom of the pool - the floaties and pool



noodles have **more** air inside of them than the water does, so they float at the top. Our bodies have **less** air inside of them than the water, so we don't float and can stand up in the shallow end. We can sit in an inflated inner tube and float - a deflated inner tube with no air would sink to the bottom. So - more air equals floating and less air equals sinking. Ice cubes floating in glasses of water, airplanes gliding across the sky, and submarines sinking to the ocean floor behave as they do because of this scientific concept called density.

So remember, density is simple - the more air something has, the looser it's molecules are packed, the **less** dense it is - the less air it has, the tighter it's molecules are packed, the **more** dense it is. Objects with less density will float; objects with more density will sink.

You can read more about density, and the history of this concept, at the local library.

*Leah Enright keeps herself busy between trying new science things in the kitchen and working as a hair stylist at Hair Cuttery in Purcellville. She hopes to gather comments and feedback from her readers at mizbeytac@yahoo.com*

## Thomas Balch Library Hosts Loudoun History Awards

Three individuals will receive 2013 Loudoun History Awards at the 21st annual awards ceremony sponsored by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission. The event is at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Thomas Balch Library (208 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia.)

This year's honorees are:

- Elizabeth R. Frain for her contributions to research, preservation and documentation of Loudoun County history.

- Kevin Dulany Grigsby for his contributions to research, preservation and

documentation of African Americans in Loudoun County's history.

- Georgia Ravits and Peter Besser for their contributions to land conservation and historic preservation in Loudoun County.

In addition to the annual awards, the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission will present a certificate of special recognition to Joe T. May, for his many contributions as a legislator to preserving and enhancing historical resources in the commonwealth of Virginia.

The public is invited to attend this free event.

## Sushi "Tails" From The Barnyard, continued from page 23

evil ones back into the deep and forbidden woods, into the dark hallows beyond Halloween, until next year. A phrase and sound I will never forget was the cackle of our farm team that won this Halloween night. Hattie get your gobble on, gobble gobble gobble - get your gobble on and get out of our town. The great turkeys of Thanksgiving dispersed the evil spells of Halloween and saved the day.



Enjoy your family this Thanksgiving and the blessings of being together.

With Warm Regards,  
Sushi

*My master, Elaine Boland lives with her husband and five daughters in Purcellville at Fields of Athenry Farm. She cherishes farm life and the joy of providing her customers with fine fresh meats and products.*

*She can be reached at [www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com](http://www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com) or 703.926.8444.*

# Pulling Rank

– By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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	51	52	53					54	55				56	57	58
59											60				
61						62					63				
64						65					66				

## ACROSS

1. Indian martial art
6. Calculate astrologically
10. Exploitative type
14. Old war story
15. Unattractive tangelo?
16. Bad idea
17. Sugar \_\_\_\_
18. Happiness
20. Eton and Epstein, e.g.
22. Blonde shade
23. Vietnamese musical instrument
24. Relax
27. "My bad!"
30. For fear that
34. Rosary recital
37. Sharp
39. Post office department
41. For her and him
42. Interpretations
43. Fix firmly
44. Start of an idea
45. Congeal
46. Canal locale
48. Pie in the sky?
51. He leads a band
59. Large, flightless bird
60. Short musical piece
61. Greek earth goddess: var.
62. Ancient Andean
63. Fat
64. Tolkien creatures
65. Observer
66. Beats it

## DOWN

6. Die
7. Seasons
8. Is remiss
9. Church offering
10. Biblical connector
11. Music category
12. Expires
13. Beluga yield
19. H+, e.g.
21. Where the heart is
24. Hard to pin down
25. Media attraction
26. Photo finish?
28. Engine need
29. Man with a mission
30. Son of Jacob and Leah
31. Balances
32. Conductor Koussevitzky
33. Assniation
35. Entanglement
36. It may follow you
37. Go quiet
38. Maximum
40. Suffix with auction
44. Apple variety
46. Mania starter
47. Cliffside dwelling
49. "\_\_\_\_ So Good," Mangione song
50. Sight-related
51. Brand, in a way
52. Grand
53. Handwoven rugs
54. Riviera city
55. Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Tale of \_\_\_\_ Saltan"
56. Insect stage
57. Trim to fit, maybe
58. Catsup and strawberry
59. Opposite of hence

answers on page 35



# Purcellville Halloween Block Party - A Huge Success



Jelly Berrieth "Garden Dog 1st place"



"Nightmare Before Christmas"  
Matt and Emma Curtis Best of Show  
\$500 cash prize winner



First place - "Lobster In A Pot"



Halloween Block Party organizers  
Kim Patterson-Oaks and Michael Oaks



Photo by Sarah Huntington



Photo by Sarah Huntington

## » Real Estate Ticker » A Buying Opportunity?

- By Carl Fischer

As a direct result of the uncertainty that has arisen from national and regional politics, with its unsettling effect on the Northern Virginia area, for the past two months there has been a market slowdown which has created a decrease in the level of new buyer interest in the residential markets. It has also increased the number of homes on the market, and the average "days on market" for already listed properties.

As a result, the cycle of rapidly escalating costs, and the meteoric rise in interest rates has created a lull in the market that affords potential buyers a unique opportunity.

Even though sellers tend to be slow to recognize this impact, most buyer's agents will quickly point out that new offers have declined and the specter of multiple offers has diminished, if not vanished, from the market. Price levels for houses sold recently have also declined.

### Approaching Holidays Are Traditionally Periods Of Slow Sales

Historically, late summer is regarded as one of the slowest times of the year for existing home sales. And certainly, this summer has been no different. But the next slowest time of year for residential sales has typically been that interval from the second week of November through the Dec. 26. If that precedent holds, now is a great time to pursue the purchase of your next home.



FISCHER

### Mortgage Interest rates Are Sliding, Too

The decrease in demand for homes rising from the late summer doldrums has led to a slight decrease in mortgage interest rates. That means measurable savings, if you act now. Additionally, I was recently surveyed by a major national bank who is considering a 5 percent down loan with no Mortgage Insurance Premium. That could eliminate the lifetime PMI payment now being extracted from FHA 3 percent down loans. That premium continues throughout the life of the loan.

### Here's A Look At September's Statistics

September 2013 Real Estate Market Statistics for Loudoun County, VA			
September 2013 Summary			
Statistic	Values	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$213,271,633	+ 16.3%	- 21.63%
Closed Sales	471	+ 11.35%	- 19.76%
Median Sold Price	\$407,000	+ 4.63%	- 8.44%
Avg Sold Price	\$452,806	+ 4.44%	- 2.33%
Avg Days on Market	40 days	- 34.43%	- 6.98%
Avg Sold to Orig List Ratio	97.99%	+ 1.59%	- 0.23%

If you would like the complete set of charts and graphs provided by the Metropolitan Regional Information System, please send me an email requesting same and I'll get it out to you straight away.

### What Lies Ahead?

We would all like to have a clearer understanding of where interest rates

and house prices are headed, but most professionals see home ownership becoming more expensive going forward. So to mitigate the unknowns, I suggest you do what successful investors do when considering whether to buy or sell: Buy when there's great fear and uncertainty; sell when there's euphoria in the market. Can the housing market be much different?

### Turn To A Professional

At times like these, seek out the assistance of a seasoned and capable real estate professional. Things are not always as they appear, and what you don't know, (and may not know you don't know), can, and often do, lead to "learning experiences", which you'd rather not pay for.

By trusting in the lifetime learning of a committed and capable agent, you will have the benefit of his or her years of experience, and the related "sixth sense" developed over those years, from many costly lessons others have already paid dearly for. That leaves you the opportunity to serve your own interests well during this brief window of opportunity. Seize the moment.

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

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