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Planning Commission Hearing For Catoctin Creek Town Center Draws Overflowing Crowd

— By Valerie Cury

“I hate to be the one to break the bad news to some people, but Purcellville is not a small town. It’s not a quaint town anymore,” said Mark Fontaine, who spoke at the Purcellville Planning Commission public hearing in late February for the Catoctin Creek Town Center development. Fontaine, who represents the buyers and the sellers for the town center development, was one of nearly a dozen supporters who came forward to support the project.

The developers of the Catoctin Creek Town Center, in separate applications, seek to rezone approximately 33 acres along Hirst Road and Maple Avenue. The proposal includes a 176-unit apartment complex (Catoctin Creek Apartments) on 13.72 acres and an entertainment complex on 18.71 acres with outdoor space for concerts and events. The proposal includes bumper boats, miniature golf, go-karts and bumper cars. The approximately 30,000 square foot two story main building will include a sports bar, a restaurant, laser tag,

and a game arcade, to name a few.

Former Purcellville Mayor Eric Zimmerman who represents the seller of the property said that Catoctin Creek Apartments is not “low income housing.” However, the proposed apartment complex is for a 176 “Qualified Low-Income Housing Project,” according to the Extended Use Agreement filled out by the developer. The application fits under a “Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.”

A tax credit project is a privately owned apartment complex that is financed through

federal guaranteed mortgage funds. In exchange for these low interest loans, the property owner must furnish apartments for those who are considered low income, either through some programs of the USDA, the section 8 voucher program, or any other program administered by the property owner. The rental units are meant to serve households with incomes at or below 60 percent of median incomes in the local community. More than 40 percent of low-income housing tax credit occupants earn 30

Continued on page 4

Business Interests Seek To Weaken Purcellville’s Board of Architectural Review

— By Andrea Gaines

The Town of Purcellville functions through several legislative committees, including the Board of Architectural Review, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Committee on the Environment, the Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Planning Commission and the Tree and Beautification Commission.

The Board of Architectural Review, known as the BAR, is a five-member volunteer board appointed by the Purcellville Town Council. BAR members have special expertise in the areas of architecture, architectural history, town history and town planning and/or landscape architecture, and are charged with helping to implement Purcellville’s historic preservation and community design goals. The BAR’s responsibilities include

reviewing and approving new construction and alterations of existing structures on non-residential properties, including new buildings and building additions. The BAR must also approve the demolition or relocation of any historic structures within the Historic Corridor Overlay District, which includes all properties adjacent to Main Street, and 21st, 23rd and 32nd Streets, in addition to Route 287 (Berlin Turnpike).

Over the past several months Purcellville’s Board of Architectural Review’s agenda included the review of major changes proposed to historic downtown, including the demolition of almost two blocks of structures identified as “contributing” to the area’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This review was in connection with a

Continued on page 4

Leesburg to Hold 2nd Annual Youth Career Expo - March 29

On Saturday, March 29, the Town of Leesburg will hold the 2nd annual Youth Career Expo at ProJet Aviation, located at the Leesburg Executive Airport - 957 Sycolin Road SE, Leesburg. The hours will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“The Expo focuses on career opportunities for college and high school students who are just entering the work force,” explained Leesburg Town Council Member Kelly Burk. “At the Expo, there will be tremendous full-time entry-level positions, as well as part-time and summer job opportunities right here in Leesburg and Loudoun County. Often young people don’t know where to start when looking for a job. The Expo will bring the employers

with jobs to one location to make the job search easier,” continued council member Burke.

About 60 to 80 local businesses are expected to participate this year, and many will be hiring on the spot for both permanent and summer positions. In addition to the chance to meet face-to-face with prospective employers, the Expo will offer attendees interview skills training and resume writing resources.

Entry to the Youth Career Expo is free. Attendees should wear business attire and bring copies of their resumes. Businesses interested in participating should contact Doug Parsons, at dparsons@leesburgva.gov or 703-771-6530.



Saint Patrick's Day Fun, see page 21



Red Shouldered Hawk Wild Loudoun, see page 30

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Ask Dr. Mike

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

his body, and at 13, he needs to be in charge of it. Life and peer relations will teach him what works and what does not, and he will adjust accordingly.

Being Miserable But Cool At 13

Dr. Mike,

Q. My 13 year old son is driving me crazy with his wearing shorts in the middle of winter – even on the coldest day a couple of weeks ago. He also doesn't wear coats or jackets, but he finally agreed to wear a hoodie to please me. He tells me that he's not cold and to leave him alone, but I am fuming every time he heads to the bus stop in his shorts. We have had some pretty horrible fights over the topic, and yet he continues to defy us as parents. It's stupid and not safe. Help!

A. I understand your frustration, but being miserable but cool is part of being a teenager. Actually, the behavior you are concerned about, and the need to be cool, starts in middle school when self-awareness in identity formation begins to kicks in. Try to think of it this way. Your son is not defying you as much as he is separating. Consciously, he tells you that he is not cold, and he thinks he looks cool, but the behavior itself is really being fueled by his developmental need to separate from what you want of him and for him to begin to make decisions for himself alongside his peers. So, what should you do? Nothing. Let your son make the decision on shorts or coats. It is

Are All Men Are Dogs?

Dr. Mike,

Q. I am a divorced woman who is finally ready to date again. My friends convinced me to join a dating site, and I have gone on several dates now from the site. My dates all seemed to be gentleman at first but then turn out to be dogs! I've been wine and dined at the area's best restaurants but at the end of every date I've had these guys have all come on too strong for my comfort level. I've decided to take a break from on-line dating and maybe even from men again! I admit that I've been out of the dating scene for many years, so maybe I'm just old fashioned and this is just how things are now. Your thoughts are appreciated.

A. As human beings we are sexual beings, however, all men are not dogs! While you may have gone out with a couple of jerks, it is also possible for you to correct your dynamic and outcome with a few simple

Continued on page 29

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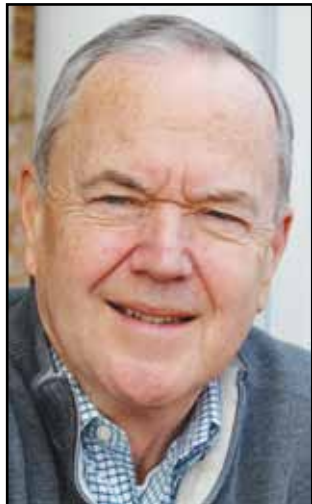
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Candidates Announce Bids For Purcellville Town Council



Karen Jimmerson



Doug McCollum



Benjamin Packard

All announced Town of Purcellville candidates who filed as of our deadline have been contacted to send us their press releases. The statements from three of the four candidates for town council are featured below. Kwasi Fraser, who is running for mayor, sent us his press release last month. We contacted mayoral candidate Keith Melton; however as of press time we have not received anything.

Karen Jimmerson

Karen Jimmerson is pleased to announce her candidacy for Purcellville Town Council in the upcoming May 6 town election.

“Among other reasons, I wish to become a member of the Town Council to protect the small town values that are being undermined by out-of-town developers,” says Jimmerson. Recent votes and annexations make it clear that developers have great representation in Purcellville, and Jimmerson believes that residents deserve to be better represented.

Although this will be her first bid for public elected office, Jimmerson is no stranger to community service. She is secretary for her neighborhood homeowners association, an active PTA volunteer, and a community fundraiser. Moreover, having managed multi-million dollar retail stores for a decade and served as a Girl Scout Troop Leader for five years, she understands the challenges and the importance of management.

Through her community activism, Jimmerson has learned to listen carefully, to work hard to become informed, and to make careful, thoughtful decisions that benefit the entire community. If elected, Jimmerson states, “I will use my experience, vision, and common sense to advance the goals of residents, push for more efficient efforts to solve our traffic problems, and look for new appropriate economic development opportunities that will maintain Purcellville’s historical and cultural heritage.”

Jimmerson graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in history. She resides in Old Dominion Valley with her husband, their three daughters, and two dogs.

Doug McCollum

Doug McCollum, chair of the Purcellville Planning Commission, announced he will be a candidate for the Purcellville Town Council in the upcoming May 6 town election.

McCollum, an 8-year resident of the town and a life-long resident of the greater Washington area, first discovered Purcellville in the 70’s while visiting his in-laws who were Loudoun-county residents. He admired the small-town feel of Purcellville, the rolling farmland of the surrounding area and the blue-green hues of the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains. He knew that when the time was right, he would move west to Purcellville. As a member of the town council, McCollum says he would work hard to preserve the quality of life that attracted him to Purcellville.

McCollum recognizes that members of the town council are accountable to the taxpayers for maintaining vital services, while keeping taxes as low as financially feasible. He would like to help guide the town’s growth into the future to encourage robust and diverse markets for business investment and prosperity, while still protecting the community’s environment and natural resources.

Having raised two sons, along with his wife Sue of 45 years, McCollum knows the importance of providing open space, athletic fields and recreational activities for youth. He would like to see the town focus on bicycle, pedestrian and trail connections to enhance community connectivity and continue the town’s efforts to support and promote arts and culture. He enthusiastically endorses Purcellville as a destination point for western Loudoun County and numerous vineyards.

McCollum has been active in the Purcellville community since his move here in 2006. In addition to serving as chair of the Purcellville Planning Commission, he currently serves as president of HOA of the Courts of St. Francis. He has also been a member of the Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee and has volunteered with Loudoun Area Agency

Continued on page 20

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Planning, continued from page 1

percent or less of the area median income.

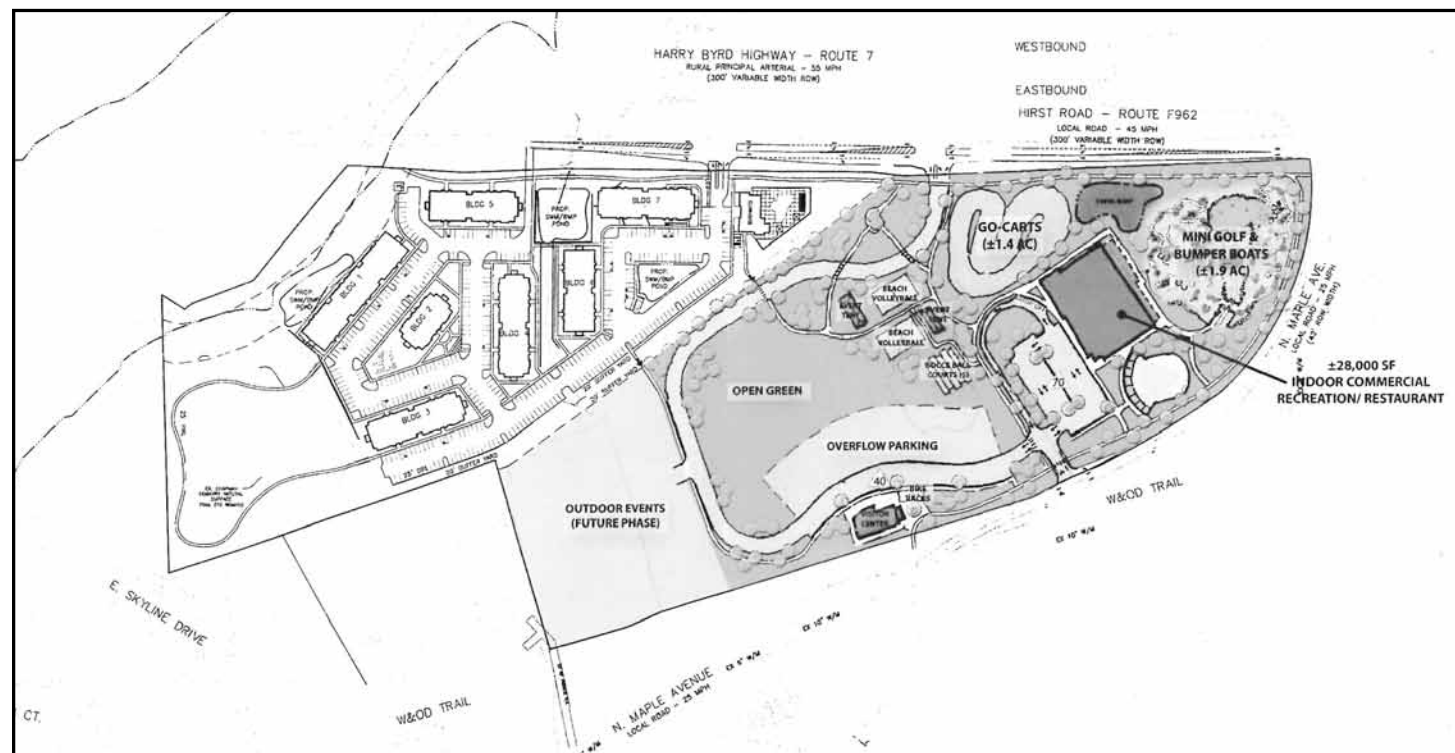
Other supporters of the Catoctin Creek Town Center were either land owners and their extended families or friends of various representatives of the project.

Purcellville town resident and candidate for mayor, Kwasi Fraser said, "Well, I have had the opportunity to review the proposal and presentation of this development in great detail, and it seems to be missing a key element and that is the voice of the citizens of Purcellville. In addition, I have several questions about the size and scope of this project and how it conflicts with the character of the Town of Purcellville and the surrounding area."

Fraser continued, "First to the voice of the citizens of Purcellville, over the past six weeks I have knocked on over 150 doors and the vast majority of our citizens oppose this development." He said he has heard comments that this is like "Coney Island Astroland Park comes to Purcellville without Brighton Beach." Another resident asked Fraser "why not place a mini data center or technology job incubator at the location to bring some high paying jobs to Purcellville." "Here we go again being sold a dream to live a nightmare," said another resident to Fraser. His comments received the loudest ovation of the evening.

Citizen Jennifer Alvarez said, "I love Purcellville and I want to keep it a small town and keep the values we have now and the environment we have now. How many more visitors do we need?" Another speaker said that the [current] business park is a good neighbor and urged the commission to keep the current zoning. Judith Theiman said there would be traffic in town late into the night with the proposed entertainment complex. "A lot of residents moved here for the quiet and beauty of western Loudoun. I moved here for Purcellville. This is not right for Purcellville."

Purcellville resident Karen Jimmerson, who is running for the Purcellville Town Council, said she chose to live in Purcellville



Catoctin Creek Town Center proposed development includes seven four-story apartment buildings and requires a comprehensive plan amendment and zoning amendment. Tilley's Entertainment is an amusement center with miniature golf, water park, bumper cars, bumper boats, an outdoor facility that would house various venues and a 30,000 sq. ft. building with laser tag, sports bar etc. Various parts of this project require special use permits. Parts of the center would be open up to 1a.m.

not Leesburg or Ashburn. "You have 168 tax credit apartments in South Riding [117 children] and there are 24,000 people living in South Riding. Do the math. "We have 194 tax credit apartments in Purcellville and we have 8,000 residents." Jimmerson also pointed out that Bowman did the traffic study, and that the company is also hired by the developers. "We need an independent traffic study done," said Jimmerson.

Maura Walsh Copeland said that she has read 15 planning documents on the town website - all 625 pages. "I did not find any citizen requests for any entertainment venues. I did find a request for Purcellville to maintain a small town feel." Kelli Grim said that she is opposed to poor planning. "I don't hear the voice of the people being heard. Residents inside the town matter, we matter."

HOA Catoctin Meadows president Daniel Shaughnessy pointed out that

the project is not consistent with the town's comprehensive plan. He said the entertainment center was not an appropriate commercial activity and he doubted the project would be sustainable. He also said that he had not seen studies to verify the need for the facility.

Attorney and developer Mark Nelis said that the by right zoning (current zoning) would not be the highest and best use of the property - light industrial is not the best use of the property. "The town asked us to bring them something unique and I think we have met that goal." He also pointed out that the property is zoned for light industrial and offices, and the millennium generation doesn't seem to want offices. "We can't grow commercially without providing work force housing."

Bill Tilley of Tilley's Entertainment said he is planning one two-story 30,000 square foot. building. He said, "You are

looking to bring business here right now. You are fairly limited [now], it's mostly food and drink. We have an opportunity here to pull in demographics to the area, families something we all want to see working with this. We had a chance to meet with several of the wineries in the last few weeks. One of the things we want to do is offer packages with the wineries where basically they can bring the kids here - drop them off. Let's say they have a birthday party - we will supervise the kids, they could bring the kids here and the kids could stay here while their parents go visit the wineries. It will be easier for them [parents] to enjoy what they are doing."

The Purcellville Planning Commission will vote on the proposed Catoctin Creek Town Center at their March 6 meeting, 7 p.m. at the town hall.

BAR, continued from page 1

large project known as Vineyard Square, a proposed 5-6 story, 100,000 sq. ft. residential/commercial development.

The BAR voted to allow Vineyard Square to move forward, but only with significant changes, including a steep reduction in the size and height of the complex. But, in a controversial near unanimous vote in January, the council overruled the BAR and gave Vineyard Square the go-ahead to proceed with virtually no changes. According to long-time followers of BAR decisions, it is very unusual for a town council to overrule the board in such a manner.

Vineyard Square has emerged as a sort of watershed moment on the BAR's value and viability as a body capable of influencing the future of historic preservation in

fast-growing and changing Purcellville. Preservationists and community leaders applauded the BAR's attempt to reign in the scope, scale and design of the project, while developers and select business interests saw the BAR as an impediment to their ability to maximize profits via the by-right zoning put in place for the project in 2008 by Mayor Lazaro's town council.

In a communication to Vineyard Square developer John Chapman, who is a board member of the Purcellville Business Association, and other PBA board members including Purcellville Town Council member Joan Lehr (who serves on the PBA board), PBA president Jim Bowman suggests proposing that the Purcellville Town Council "eliminate the BAR" and "put its review duties under the Planning Commission" with the goal of re-establishing the BAR as

"an advisory committee under and advising the Planning Commission on design issues." PBA President Jim Bowman wrote, "I'd like to propose that the Town Council eliminate the BAR, put its review duties under the Planning Commission, and re-establish the BAR as an advisory committee under and advising the Planning Commission on design issues."

Per Bowman, "it seems that the BAR has gotten away from their duties to advise applicants on design issues. Instead they either ignore or are completely unaware of the town's zoning or other ordinances."

In fact, as currently structured, the BAR is specifically called upon to, in the context of specific zoning ordinances, also evaluate the "scale, placement and character of proposed buildings or building additions [so that these proposed buildings and additions] blend

well with ... neighboring structures." BAR guidelines go on to say that "... compatible designs do not seek to imitate the historic architecture found in Purcellville, but do reflect their surroundings in terms of design concepts - mass, scale, rhythm, color, materials, and building arrangement." The BAR decisions are based on the town's design guidelines, and the guidelines call for compatible design.

At the February Purcellville Town Council meeting council member Joan Lehr, who is a PBA board member, requested a review of town committees for the purpose of eliminating duplicative efforts. Residents in support of greater protections for historic downtown have expressed concern this represents an early move to weaken the Board of Architectural Review.



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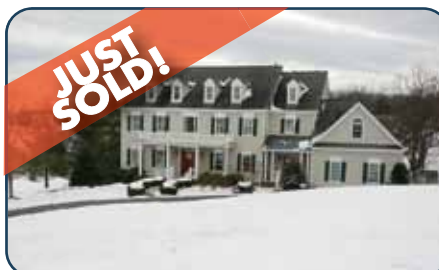
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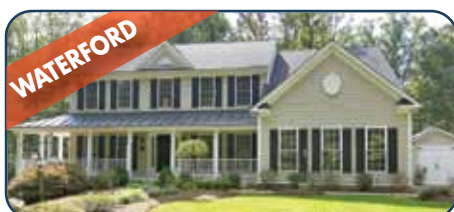
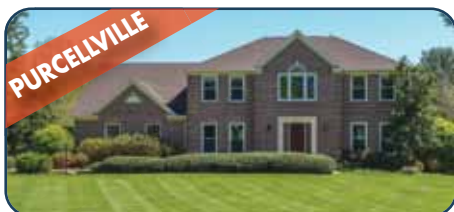


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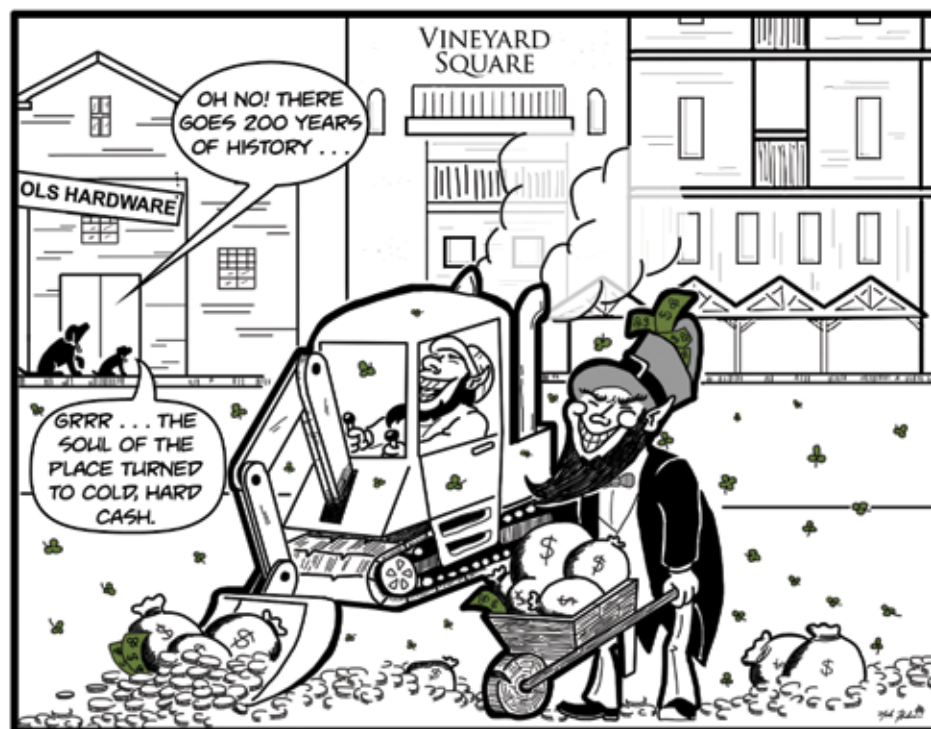
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Park And Ride Lots For Western Loudoun

– By Jim Burton

In 2003, the county purchased 22 commuter buses to serve a growing demand for bus service to Washington D.C. The demand has grown exponentially ever since. The county now owns or leases 65 large commuter buses (with plush seats and on board restrooms) and more are being added every year. The buses are often filled to standing room only as more than 3,500 riders prefer the comfortable bus ride over the daily hassle of fighting the traffic on the major east/west arteries leading to points east.

There are now 20 park and ride lots in Loudoun, but unfortunately, only two lots are in Western Loudoun: a permanent county-owned lot just east of Hamilton on Business Rt. 7, and a temporary leased lot at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Purcellville.

Last spring when it renewed the county's lease, St. Andrews Church reduced the number of parking spots available to commuter bus riders from 95 to 78, with a further reduction to 68 to occur next year.

Long-term uncertainty is a typical problem associated with temporary leased lots, and permanent sites are very difficult to find. A lot needs to be near a major roadway and large enough to accommodate roughly 100 parking spaces so that the

commuter buses can stop at one location, pick up a full load and head east.

In the fall of 2009, VDOT offered to donate sufficient land for a 125-space permanent lot at the intersection of Rt. 287 and the Rt. 7 Bypass exit, directly across from Patrick Henry College, with the entrance/exit to the lot on Hirst Road. VDOT also offered to construct the lot at no expense to the county. Since this site was just off the Bypass, only a short distance down Hirst Rd. from the overnight parking area for the buses, the location appeared to be ideal. In December of that year, county officials and I met in the Town Hall with two Purcellville Town Council members, the Town Manager, VDOT officials and a few regular commuter bus riders to discuss VDOT's proposal. Since a portion of VDOT's land was within the town's boundary, the town would have had to agree to VDOT's proposal. Unfortunately the town officials voiced strong objection and not only indicated that they would not agree to the proposal, but did not want any more park and ride lots *anywhere* within their jurisdiction.

Since the VDOT proposal was unacceptable to the town and there were no other viable options available, the county made plans to construct a permanent lot on county property at the entrance

to Franklin Park. A construction project was included in the Capital Improvements Program. At the urging of Supervisor Clarke, the current board cancelled that project soon after it took office.

Fast-forward to 2013.

On December 4, 2013, the Board of Supervisors instructed the county staff to apply for a Commission Permit with the Town of Purcellville and, following approval by the town, enter into a license agreement with the Purcellville Baptist Church for a temporary Park and Ride lot of 100 spaces for a fee of \$30,000 per year. According to the staff report, the site was originally suggested by the Town officials. The Board would not have given such formal direction unless informal discussions between county, town and church officials indicated agreement. After hearing from the neighbors, however, the Church elders decided not to go forward with the agreement, leaving the county, once again, without a park-and-ride lot for bus commuters.

Obviously, the town leaders have had a change of heart and now welcome a lot within their borders. That being the case, this would be a good time for the county and town leaders to pursue a permanent solution for the problem at the VDOT property, thus utilizing an unused, already publicly-owned asset.

We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor!

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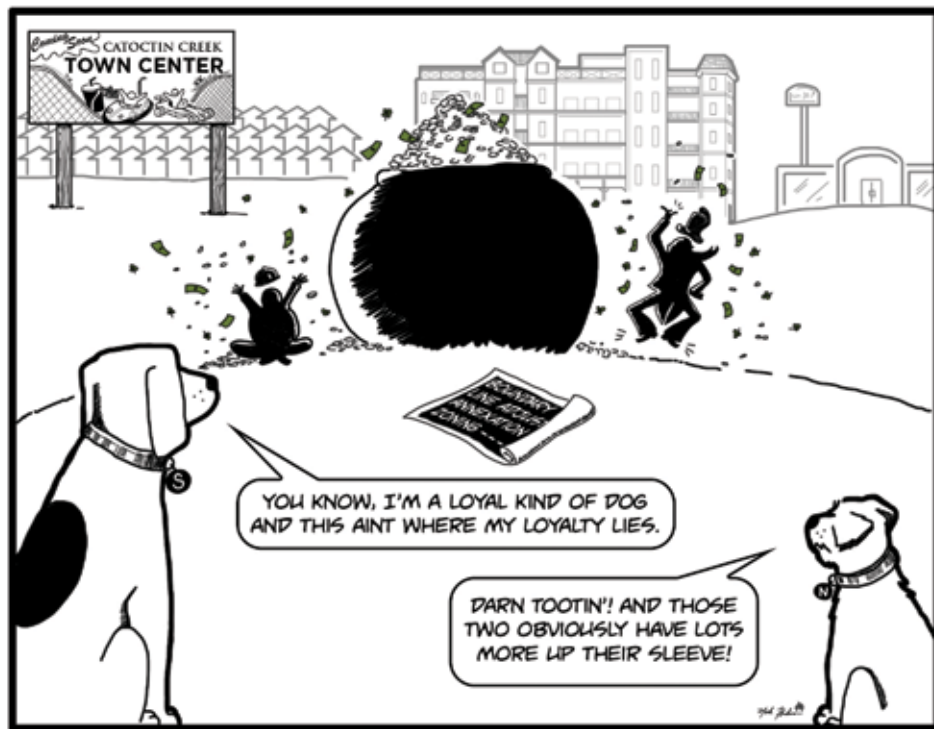
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We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.



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View From The Ridge

Rural Loudoun Is Different, And We Say Dark Skies Do Matter

– By Andrea Gaines

In February of this year a sell out crowd gathered at the county public seat in Leesburg to provide feedback to the Loudoun County Planning Commission on the idea of adding additional sports lights to the upper athletic fields at Franklin Park.

Franklin Park includes a really wonderful performing arts center. A community pool complex. Beautiful natural areas. Walking paths. A frisbee golf course. Tennis courts. Campfire and grill pavilions. Baseball and soccer fields. It, in short, is a really wonderful place, purchased, crafted and planned by a board of supervisors with active community involvement. A community that knew what it wanted and worked, through its government, to get it done.

Per the citizens, lighted ball fields were great. But, let's keep the lighted ball fields on the park's lower levels and make sure they are turned off by 9 p.m. during the week and 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. And, let's keep the lights off completely on Sundays. Why? Because, while providing the area's growing youth populations with expanded recreational activities, western Loudoun citizens also wanted to preserve the right of Franklin Park's neighbors, including adjacent homeowners, to enjoy their properties free of late-into-the-evening floodlights and noise. A win-win for all.

The reason so many citizens showed up at the February public hearing is because they know the history of the issue. And, they didn't like the fact that contrary to previous agreements, Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke was pushing a \$2 million project to install more lights to allow nighttime play on those upper fields at Franklin Park.

Anyone who follows these kinds of issues



knows the deal. As Lincoln resident Jean Brown said that night, "western Loudoun is different." Here, rural values matter. And, as newly-relocated small business owner Barbara Anderson said to me recently, "I moved here for a different way of life."

They are all related – the Franklin Park lights issue, the monstrous, newly-approved Autumn Hill/Mayfair development, the Reston Town Center-style development know as "Vineyard Square," the proposed bumper-style Purcellville project known as Catoctin Creek Town Center. Each of these seems to say that what is good and appropriate and preferred for other densely developed regional counties and communities is good and appropriate and preferred for western Loudoun.

Well, not really.

The planning commission seems to be on the side of western Loudoun. As its February public hearing worked its way to conclusion, the commission voted to oppose the Clarke proposal to install more lights at Franklin Park.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors needs to accept their recommendation. Western Loudoun is different. Sometimes horses and cows cross the roads here. And, dark skies matter.

Guest Opinion - Utility Enterprise Debt Service Analysis – A Temporary Fix

– By Kwasi Fraser

Purcellville is indeed a great place to live, to work, and to raise a family. Based on a strong wealth and employment profile of its overall citizen base, coupled with the town's ability to levy taxes without limitation, Purcellville was able to obtain stellar bond ratings last year. These bond ratings enabled us to refinance our debt, and as shown in Figure 1 below, resulted in approximately \$9.4 million in cost avoidance over the next 6 years.

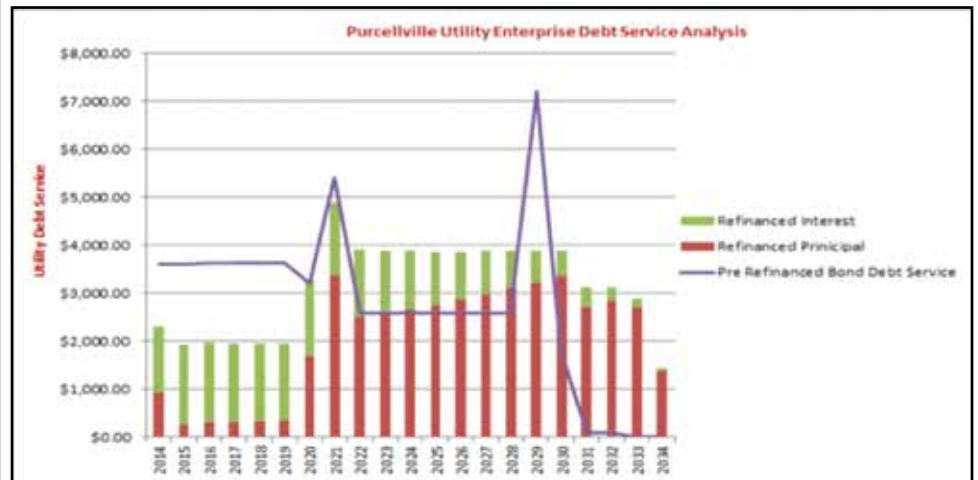


Figure 1

The current administration plans to use this \$9.4 million in cost avoidance to lower our utility fees, but by how much has yet to be determined. In the short term, any relief in our utility fees is welcome, since over the past 4 years the citizens of Purcellville have double digit increases in their water and wastewater bills. However, as shown in Figure 1, over the subsequent 12 years, with the exception of 2021 and 2029, our debt service will significantly increase. So, the key is not focus on temporary fixes like refinancing to reduce our debt burden, but to implement operational efficiencies to ensure sustainable solutions both to create and to preserve value for Purcellville and its citizens.

Letters To The Editor

Sunday Hunting May Be Here Soon

Dear Editor:

One of the more interesting issues to come before the House of Delegates this year was a measure to allow Virginians to hunt on private land, not within 200 yards of a place of worship, on Sundays. This is an important issue, and I received input from many constituents both supporting and opposing this measure. Since the House of Delegates' decision to support this bill will affect the entire Commonwealth, I think it's important to discuss why I supported it.

First, let me state that I am a man of faith who believes in the God of the Bible. Sunday is a special day for us to reflect on God's goodness and take time to rest. For many Virginians, to reflect on God's goodness means to enjoy the land and animals He has provided for us through outdoor activities. Though this is not the way I spend my Sundays, I do not feel it is my place to restrict one sport over another.

The Virginia legislature has approved Sunday hunting, so it is now up to the Governor. The new law amends Virginia's outright ban on Sunday hunting to permit hunting of deer and open water fowl on private property only, with the written permission of the landowner. It includes compromises, excluding hunting within 200 yards of a place of worship, and prohibits hunting deer with dogs or bear with

firearms on Sunday. By restricting this bill to private property, we have respected the rights of landowners to use their land how they see fit, while acknowledging the desire of hikers, bikers, birdwatchers, equestrian enthusiasts, and others to keep our local, state, and federal parks free from hunters on Sundays.

By allowing hunting on a second weekend day, I think it is likely hunting will lessen the problems connected to an overabundance of deer. Deer related automobile accidents are on the rise, deer are believed to be carriers of the ticks which carry Lyme disease, and they damage crops and landscaping.

This new law is about saving a Virginia institution that is declining so rapidly that its long-term existence is in serious jeopardy. Hunting is simply not being passed along from one generation to the next; hunting license sales have steadily declined over the last 30 years. By extending the hunting week an extra day, we are increasing hunting opportunities for Virginia's families and opportunities for our youth to learn a tradition that has been part of our culture for centuries.

Finally, there is also a strong economic component to this bill. Hunting is an economic activity, with hunters travelling to and from Virginia to hunt, buying equipment,

Continued on page 12

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Loudoun YouthFest Kicks Off With Battle of the Bands, New Venue



The annual summer celebration for teens in Loudoun County, Loudoun YouthFest, will be held at a new venue this year. The popular festival will take place at One Loudoun's neighborhood amphitheater in Ashburn on Saturday, June 21.

Each year, local youth bands compete for the chance to perform at YouthFest. The winning band/performer will open for the festival headliner. The Loudoun Youth Advisory Council, comprised of representatives from the county's high schools, organizes the Battle of the

Bands. The first of the 2014 competitions took place on Jan. 31. The winners, Just Another Scene, Party Squad USA and Wild Love, will advance to the finals. Bands will have one more opportunity to compete on April 25 – and solo artists will compete on March 21. Battle of the Bands events are held at The Studio in Sterling. The final competition will be held at the Tally Ho in Leesburg, on May 17.

For more information on Loudoun YouthFest, visit www.loudounteens.org or call 703-737-8335.

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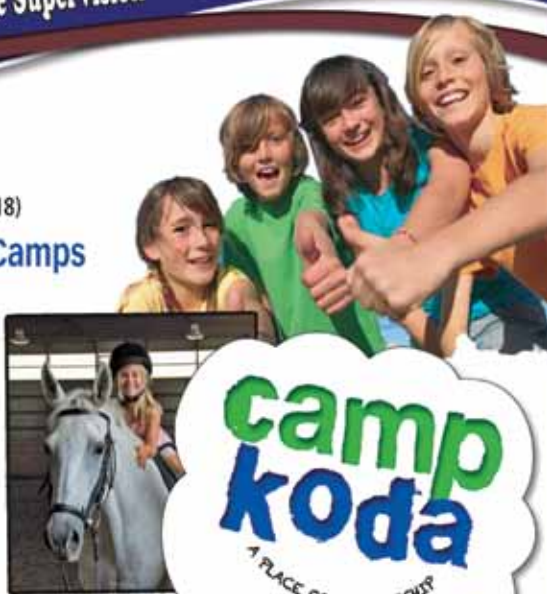
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Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Recommends Fresh Approach To Lyme Disease Prevention

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy released a position paper, posted at www.loudounwildlife.org, making the case for a fresh approach to Lyme disease prevention in Loudoun County. The paper, "Rebalancing Loudoun County's Approach to Lyme Disease Mitigation," addresses the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and Loudoun Lyme Disease Commission with recommendations for a focus on measures that provide high levels of Lyme disease protection and are also safe from the risk of toxic chemicals.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy paper recommends the following:

- Cease using public funds to spray for

ticks on public lands - a practice which has not been shown in scientific studies to reduce Lyme disease incidence (vs. reducing numbers of ticks).

- Promote the highest-efficacy, lowest-toxicity, lowest-cost Lyme prevention methods. These methods center on people taking personal protective measures such as tick checks and wearing long sleeves and pants and light colors. DEET-based repellents and permethrin-treated clothing can also be among the promoted methods if their moderate toxicity risks are clearly communicated.

- Emphasize the data collection, education, and communication points from the

Loudoun Lyme Disease Commission 2012 ten-point action plan. Update county informational materials to reflect current research regarding tick ecology, the fact that chemical products most commonly used to control ticks have not been shown to reduce Lyme disease incidence and that chemical products most commonly used to control ticks carry toxicity risks.

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy developed the paper in response to Loudoun County's spraying of public parks with the chemical bifenthrin (Talstar), a pyrethroid classified by the EPA as a possible human carcinogen, and highly toxic to bees, fish, and aquatic invertebrates. The spraying

program was conducted in 2012 and 2013, and the Loudoun Lyme Commission has recommended continuation in 2014. Schools and homeowner associations have also sprayed their properties with this chemical, following the county's lead.

According to Loudoun County statistics, reported Lyme disease cases were 0.07-0.08 percent of population from 2008 through 2012, after peaking at 0.10 percent in 2007.

Co-signatories to the paper are the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Loudoun Beekeepers Association, Piedmont Environmental Council Loudoun Board, Virginia Native Plant Society Piedmont Chapter, and Wild Ones Blue Ridge Chapter.



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"Ivory", by Caroline Greer, will be exhibited at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond March 1 through April 15.

Middleburg Academy Senior A Winner In Regional Scholastic Art Competition

A painting by Middleburg Academy's Caroline Greer received the highest possible Gold Key recognition in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers recent Regional Scholastic Art Competition.

Greer's work, "Ivory," will be exhibited

at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond from March 1 through April 15. She also received honorable mentions for "Decomposition" and "Lifted," two submissions in the Mixed Media Category. Caroline Greer is the daughter of Cynthia and Robert Greer of Aldie.

Letters, continued from page 7

licenses, services, food and fuel. Estimates show a solid economic boost can be gained by allowing hunting on Sundays, and I see that as a strong positive.

Some of my close friends expressed opposition to allowing hunting on Sunday, and I appreciated the discussion and weighed all opinions very carefully. I hope time will prove the decision to allow Sunday hunting to be the right decision.

If you would like to discuss this or any other issue with me, don't hesitate to give me a call at my office in Hamilton at 540 751-8364, Richmond at 804 698-1033 or you can email me at deldlarock@house.virginia.gov.

Delegate Dave LaRock
Member, House of Delegates
Thirty Third District

to thank the Purcellville community for a tremendously successful "Hygiene Drive." In the month of January we conducted the drive and collected hygiene products for the needy in the community. We then gave the products to a liaison that works at the school for distribution. Thank you again, Purcellville.

Rob Fairfax
Purcellville

Another Vote To Overrule Purcellville's Board Of Architectural Review

Dear Editor:

The Purcellville Town Council, foolishly, in the view of many and perhaps most, has overruled its Board of Architectural Review and approved Mark Nelis's and John Chapman's plans for the destruction of old town Purcellville.

Now that Mr. Nelis and Mr. Chapman have been given the whip hand to go ahead with their plans without compromising with their fellow citizens, it would behoove them to think twice before they do. They should remember how often and how recently, in government and law, we have seen those who have power force their views, without compromise, down the throats of large numbers of people, sometimes even majorities, opposed to them. They should consider that, by refusing to compromise on a matter solely concerning their financial interest rather than any moral or even legal principle, they contribute further to the ugly winner-take-all attitude too prevalent in our politics and society.

Continued on page 18



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Volunteers sorting the donated items.

Thanks To The Purcellville Community

Dear Editor:

As president of the Loudoun Valley Service Initiative (LVSI, formerly known as the Key Club), a service-oriented club at Loudoun Valley High School, I would like

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Mayoral Candidates Debate/Forum: 7:15 – 8:15

Break: 8:15 – 8:30

Town Council Candidates Debate/Forum: 8:30 – 9:30



True Meaning Of The Winter Olympics

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

The Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, were not without controversy and provided much needed entertainment. From security concerns to Vladimir Putin's surprise visit to the United States hockey team before a match against the home team, these Olympics were not short on drama. But before we focus on world politics and human rights, it's important to revisit the true meaning of the games.

The Olympics is a time when athletes from countries all over the world come together and compete. It is the ideal version of the world, one where intense competition ends peacefully, and everyone stands by to honor the medal winners. While the focus remains on the athletes, the Olympics is more than just about sports.

The Olympics in Sochi were especially notable because it offered an opportunity for countries of the former Soviet Union



MOORE-SOBEL

to compete in the country that it used to belong to. It is hard to imagine what it felt like for those who lived in the Soviet Union to see their respective countries compete in Sochi. Who could have predicted in the 1980's when President Reagan was decrying the "evil empire," that the world would change so quickly?

Some argue that the Olympics are a giant waste of time and money. The Winter Olympics in Sochi reportedly cost fifty million dollars making it the most expensive in Olympic history. It is undeniable that Russian President Vladimir Putin was using the Olympics as an opportunity to burnish both the reputation of his country and himself. But ultimately the Olympics

transcend politics and international tensions. The focus on post-Cold War Russia's place in the world quickly gave way to the stories of the athletes.

It's amazing to think how hard the athletes train to get to the Olympic stage. You train so hard for just a few moments in the spotlight, truly just a few minutes of fame. Most Olympic champions are so young. They will likely never be able to top the experience or performance they gave in the Olympics. Does that ever get old? Will they ever wish to be known for something else?

As the flame was extinguished and the athletes waved good-bye, attention diverted to the 2016 Olympics in Rio. While the commentators and columnists opined about the implications of these Olympics, in the end, you can't expect much cooling of tensions. The Olympics are simply a moment in time when the world comes together, when nicer words are spoken and the pitchforks are laid to rest, albeit for a moment.

Of course the most important question remains: Is Jerry Seinfeld right? In an appearance on the Tonight Show he performed a bit in which he said it was better for athletes if they came in last rather than winning the silver. If you win silver, you will forever be asked at parties how much you lost by. After witnessing countless upset reactions by many silver medalists, I think he may be right.

Although it is sad to see our old Cold War rival beat us in the medal count, hats off to the nine gold, seven silver and twelve bronze American medalists. To those who did not win a medal, in four more years you can give it another shot. And to all of the silver medalists out there, just remember that if you get sick of retelling the tale of how you finished second, Jerry Seinfeld feels your pain.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a sophomore at George Mason University and a donor relations intern at Wolf Trap.

Purcellville Town Council Loosens Employees As Candidate Rules

Many localities require that town employees desiring to run for elected office take an unpaid leave of absence while campaigning. They also require that, if elected, the employee resign their original position. Laws such as these prevent potential conflicts of interests. For example, a newly elected member of a town council might serve as a member of law enforcement while at the same time, now voting on budgetary matters related to his/her job as a police officer. Or, an individual who, as a town employee and member of the town council might feel pressured to vote on town matters in a certain way.

At the Purcellville Town Council Worksession on February 25, council

members voted unanimously, with Mayor Bob Lazaro absent for the vote, to repeal Purcellville's Town Code Section 42-41 (Political Activity). This would allow a town employee to serve on town council, for example, without resigning their original job with the town. Earlier in the month the town manual was also changed so that a town employee would not be required to take an unpaid leave of absence while running for political office. Lt. James Rust of the Purcellville police force is running for town council. Under the new rules, Rust is not required to take an unpaid leave of absence while campaigning, and if elected, he can still hold positions on both the police force and the town council.

Open Burning Restrictions: 4 p.m. Law

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office is reminding citizens that open burning is restricted in Loudoun County between Feb. 15 and April 30. The regulations, which prohibit open air fires between the hours of midnight and 4 p.m., are enforced by the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Loudoun County Fire Marshal. Known as the "4 p.m. law," these restrictions are in place due to the potential for rapid fire spread across woodland and grassland areas that is the result of dry outdoor fuels, high winds and temperature increases that are normally present in the late winter and early spring season.

During this period, residents may conduct open burning between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight, subject to other restrictions. Open burning is prohibited at all times in the Towns of Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill and in areas of Loudoun County that are part of a subdivision (urban or built up areas).

Where open burning is allowed, it is

limited to leaves, tree, yard and garden trimmings located on premises and must not be done within 50 feet of any structure.

Persons conducting open burning must contact the Loudoun County Emergency Communications Center at 703-777-0333 prior to igniting a fire and at the end of the burning. Fires may not be added to after midnight. Persons are responsible, at all times, to ensure the fire is maintained under control and that it is attended to by a competent adult, 18 years of age or older, with provisions immediately available to extinguish the fire if necessary.

Any person who violates this law could be convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of a fine up to \$2,500 and up to a year in jail. Further, if convicted, a person may be required to compensate the locality for the full costs of fighting a fire.

Any questions on the 4 p.m. law should be directed to the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office website www.loudoun.gov/firemarshal or by calling 703-737-8600.

The Stress Of Success

– By Mary Rose Lunde

Stress is something everyone has to deal with. I've never once met someone who has never had a bad day, been so stressed out that they've snapped at someone or broke down after a long day. Suffice to say, walking down the halls of my high school I see countless people freaking out about all the "stuff" they have to get done or worry about. This "stuff" can include: homework, studying (for any sort of assessment), sports, grades of any sort, drama (whether related to family, friends or teams) and anything else that can add to a person's worry. In all cases, stress is central in most high school student's daily lives. It's the thing that can bring the strongest person to tears.

Yet, each person has a different amount of stress in their daily lives. Just as every student is different, the way a person deals with stress is too.

"I usually freak out first, listen to music and somehow have an epiphany about how to deal with the stress I'm under" Kajal Sojitra, a senior at Potomac Falls High school said.

Freak outs, or mental breakdowns, are frequent and unfortunately only add to the students' stress. Luckily, there are methods to calm down from it. Some people have their own methods to dealing with stress.

"I do breathing exercises and calm myself down enough to realize that stress doesn't help anything," senior Mona Rad said. This steady breathing pattern helps take a step back and save a person from the torment of worry and fear.

Sometimes, when breathing exercises don't work, it's best to just get the job done. Like Nike's motto "just do it" sometimes it's just easier.

"I usually complain while I'm doing the work, but get it done," junior Alana Stuit said.

What Alana says is true, complaining may be fairly annoying, but if it gets the job



LUNDE

done and reduces stress then it is worth it. Sometimes you just have to suck it up and do what needs to be done, and the thrill of relaxing afterward and truly being done is reward enough.

Personally, stress is something I either thrive in or fail under. Like most seniors at Potomac Falls, I have the pressure to live up to expectations. Taking

countless AP (advanced placement college courses), a dual enrollment course, band, extracurricular activities, clubs and sports puts a lot of stress on a student. Add that to the pressure of SAT's, ACT's, AP exams, college applications and scholarships, most students rarely have time to worry. And yet, we still worry. But can you blame us? All of us deal with stress, and sometimes the pressure just builds up and more and more things pile up making everything even harder to work for.

But stress is both positive and negative. Though stress can drive a person to tears, it can also bring success to a person. A little stress never hurt anyone and instead can push a person to finish work that needs to be done. A healthy amount of stress can help balance and emphasize what should be prioritized in life. Sometimes, a bit of stress helps allow for a true passion to shine through the window of opportunities.

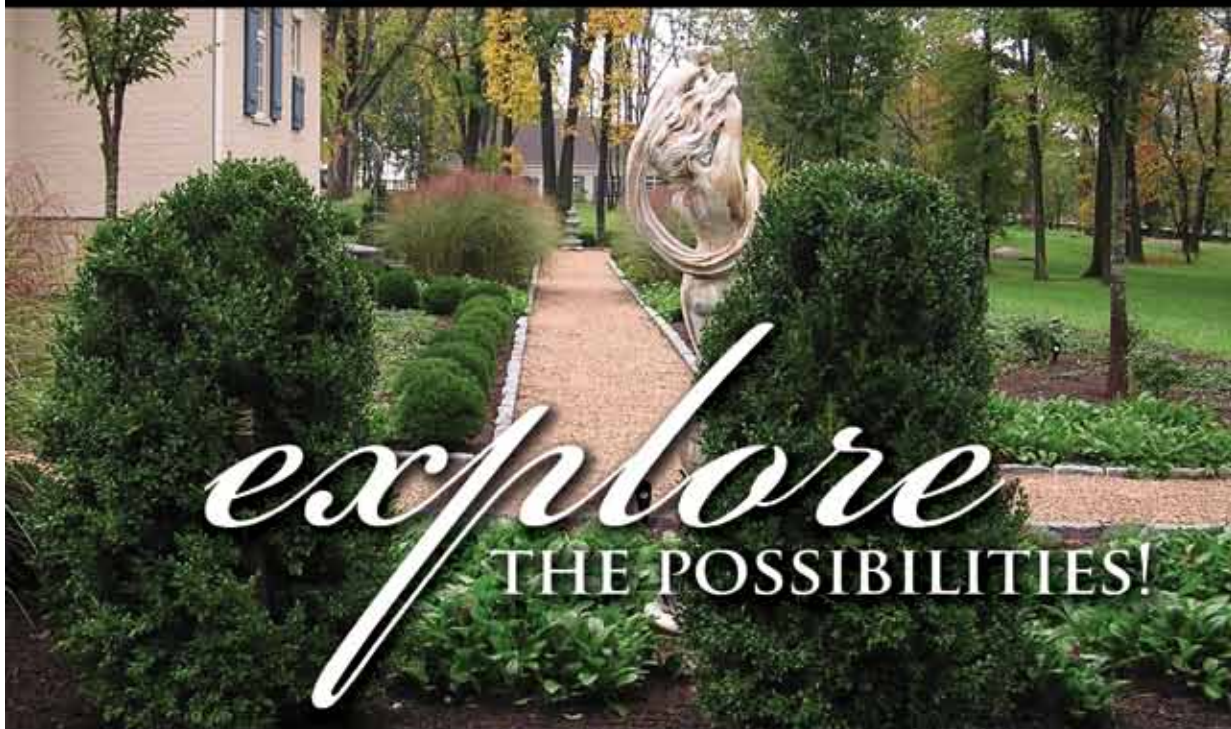
High school students (especially juniors and seniors) have a lot of pressure and high standards to live up to. These standards cause most students to become stressed out and have little free time for fun, friends and more importantly, sleep. Stress is hard to deal with, yes, but sometimes, stress can be beneficial. I know I'm not the only senior who believes that a little stress can be beneficial to success because it, like failure, is driven by stress.

Mary Rose Lunde is a senior at Potomac Falls High School and will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall. She enjoys writing and looks forward to her future as a Hokie.



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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Tuscarora Creek Park

– By Tim Jon

Nothing like a brisk walk. Always good for what ails ya. Some nice hills (not too steep, mind you) to get the heart pumping and the blood running and the breath working – makes you feel alive. Combine that with some inspiring surroundings and you're on your way to actually feeling pretty good – no matter how sluggish or grumpy (or maybe worse) you felt before you left the house. I wish I were there right now.



JON



You see, Tuscarora Creek Park – just off Battlefield Parkway in the Southeast Quadrant of Leesburg – lies adjacent to a very scenic portion of the W and OD Trail. Or – I should say – a nice little paved walking path heads down to the Trail at the bottom of the gorge – close to the pylons for the Battlefield Bridge. So, it's a nice 'jumping off place' from which to park your car, head down the hill and spend some time and energy in one direction or the other.

I generally set my compass reading for out-of-town; nothing against our dear old County Seat – I just naturally sort of yearn for as much wide open space and solitude as I can get. The immediate area has

hardwood forest, the creek running through the lowlands, along with some marshy areas – and the aforementioned overhead bridge, with its vehicular traffic buzzing by across the valley. So, you're in the midst of what Mother Nature has to offer, but constantly reminded that you're really not all that far from the effects of civilization. And that's not always such a bad combination: there's a different sort of energy here than you'd get at – say – the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship out on Harpers Ferry Road (soon to be turned into Loudoun's first State Park) or some of the more remote sections of the Appalachian Trail – I think you get my drift.

A tree, a rock, and a bird, then a garbage truck. Sort of a microcosm of Greater Loudoun County. You can run (or walk) but you can't really hide from the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of us living here – commuting, shopping, sightseeing, delivering, 'cruising,' and, yes – sometimes even playing, recreating and recharging our batteries. So, with a third of a million or more fellow inmates in this hotel, you can't really have the nature trail without the garbage truck.

It comes with the deal and we signed up for it. If it's true that You Can't Always Get What You Want, then just maybe it's possible (instead of just hoping to get what

you need) to learn how to want what you get. And I think there's more profundity to this concept than mere play on words. As I've said at other times, I believe this because I have found it to be true.

So, on days when I haven't the time to drive to the Western Loudoun hinterlands and hike out to some remote spot where I can wrestle demons or enjoy my inner peace, I'll gladly take the semi-noisy bustle of the Battlefield traffic as part of my experience at Tuscarora Creek Park and the nearby section of the W and OD Trail. It comes with the territory in which I live and it's a part of my previously-approved contract. I paid for it, so (at least to my way of thinking) I may as well learn to like it that way.

I also like the fact that part of my tax dollars went into the playground equipment at the Park (as well as other locations in the Town and County), so local kids can come over with their parents and let off some steam in a safe location – instead of playing in the streets with the cars and trucks that make for less than healthy conditions. So, some youthful laughs and screams won't bother me as I chug up or down the hill to and from the parking lot: In fact, you and your friends get together and do your darn'dest – maybe you'll just about drown out the roar of that garbage truck going by overhead.

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Letters, continued from page 12

Mr. Nelis and Mr. Chapman would do well to consider Robert E. Lee's dictum that "the forbearing use of power" is the real test of a gentleman. This might just be an occasion that calls for some forbearance, that is, real compromise, on their part. They should consider that their present plans will unilaterally, drastically, and permanently change the town's character as well as the quality of life of thousands who live in or near Purcellville. Presumably Mr. Nelis and Mr. Chapman themselves believe these changes are for the better as well as in their own financial interests. But a decent respect for the opinions of their fellow citizens, many of whom have lived here for decades, as well as knowledge of their own limited human wisdom, should urge them to set aside their "rights" as owners of the property and to make substantial and not merely cosmetic, compromises. Surely on the very streets where they themselves live, they would at least hesitate to build any kind of structure that they knew would deeply offend their next-door neighbor, even if they had the legal right to do so.

But to compromise, after you have been give the power to do what you want, requires forbearance as well as humility, virtues not much in vogue these days. Even so, is it at least possible that Mr. Nelis and Mr. Chapman possess these qualities? Do they care whether they are thought of as gentlemen by their neighbors? Their actions from now on will show just who and what they are.

D.L. Bell
 Purcellville

Endorsing For Profit Businesses?

Dear Editor:

I recently received an automated email message from the Town of Purcellville soliciting nominations for volunteer award recipients in cooperation with the Purcellville Business Association (PBA). Looking for additional information, I visited the town's website and found that the Purcellville Business Association has a reference section. This menu item took me to the PBA website, but there was no additional information about the awards.

To assist me in completing the application, I contacted the town manager for the criteria of the awards. I questioned the PBA's listing on the town's website, since it seems they are a "for profit" business. There are many organizations similar to that of the PBA that could benefit from publicity offered by the town via the website.

The Heartlink Network is a small business organization for women to mentor with other women to grow and learn in a positive environment in roundtable discussions. The Chamber of Commerce and Business Network International (BNI) local chapter are similar organizations, which bring business leaders together to promote businesses and increase networking opportunities for expanding client base.

Continued on page 27

Woodgrove Student A Presidential Scholar Candidate

Sean-Patrick Magoffin, a graduating senior at Woodgrove High School and the Academy of Science, has been named one of more than 3,000 candidates in the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 3.4 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2014.

Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, now in its 50th year, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

More than 3,000 candidates were selected for their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment. Further consideration is based on students' essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations and school transcripts. A distinguished panel of educators will review these submissions and select 560 semifinalists in early April.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of up to 32 citizens appointed by the president, will make final selection of the scholars. They will select one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. students living abroad; 15 students at-large; and up to 20 students from



Sean-Patrick Magoffin

the creative and performing arts. The U.S. Department of Education will announce the Scholars in May.

Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., for several days in June to receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a recognition ceremony and to participate in events and activities with their elected representatives, educators and other leading individuals in public life.

Woodgrove's Amanda Dukinfield Earns Girl Scout Gold

Amanda Dukinfield, a junior at Woodgrove High School, has earned the highest award possible for Girl Scouts. Amanda has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and has earned her bronze, silver, and gold awards. Amanda's gold award service project involved 80 hours of service in which she worked with Ken Falke, Founder of Boulder Crest Retreat for Wounded Warriors, in helping beautify the interior of the guest cabins with her local photography. Keeping with the retreat's rural setting, Amanda took pictures of old stone buildings and barns within western Loudoun that have a patriotic theme such as American flags. Working for all the wounded warriors was such an honor. "They are a fantastic group of people, and having them right in my home town of Bluemont was a great way to make a difference locally, nationally, and globally. The staff at Boulder Crest Retreat was such a nice group of people and they were always there to help me with my project," said Amanda.

Ken selected five pictures to adorn the walls of each cabin. Amanda then worked with local frame shops to complete her project. She gives special thanks to



Amanda Dukinfield has earned the highest award possible for girl scouts.

Photoworks in Leesburg for developing all 20 pictures, to Turner Framing in Sterling for providing all 20 frames, to My Frame Shop in Leesburg, Ashburn Art and Framing in Ashburn, and Nelligan Gallery in Ashburn for matting and finishing the pictures. Amanda will receive her Gold Award medal at the Girl Scout Council Nation's Capital, Loudoun County teen awards banquet this May.

French Horn Professor Runs 100 Miles For Scholarships

For many, running 100 miles is impossible. For Joe Lovinsky, it's just another way to prove he doesn't quit. Or perhaps he's just plain stubborn.

"That's the difference between an ultrarunner and any other runner," Lovinsky said. "You're not superhuman, you're not running any faster than anyone else, you're just the kind of person who won't give up. Some people call it stubborn -- I say it's not giving up."

On Friday, March 28, Lovinsky will embark on his first 100-mile run. Not for a medal, but to raise scholarship money for current and future Shenandoah Conservatory French horn students.

"I thought that if I'm going to put in all this work, all this effort and beat up my body this much, then I really should do it for a cause," Lovinsky said. "I love the horn, I love horn students, and I have a real feeling for those who are struggling financially."

Lovinsky can relate to that kind of hardship. The son of Haitian immigrants, he grew up in one of the poorer neighborhoods in Miami, Fla.

Had he followed the path taken by his contemporaries, instead of looking back on a 20-year career with the U.S. Army Band, Lovinsky could be looking out from between the bars of a prison cell.

"My best friends from high school ended up being some of the biggest drug dealers in the United States," Lovinsky said. "That's the kind of area I grew up in, but I didn't limit myself to that kind of a future. I had my goals set on going to Juilliard."

Lovinsky, an adjunct associate professor of French horn at Shenandoah University in Winchester, was first exposed to music in the Miami-Dade County public school system. He signed up for a band class in eighth grade and immediately fell in love with the French horn and classical music.

"I spent so many hours practicing



Joe Lovinsky

classical music as a kid that it really had to be a huge part of my life. A lot of times, I think the practicing actually kept me out of a lot of trouble," Lovinsky said.

The practice paid off as he made his way to the Juilliard School in New York, but every day was a financial struggle.

Fast-forward to July 2013, when Lovinsky did something you just don't do. He retired from the U.S. Army Brass Quintet, which is unheard of for someone still in their musical prime. Lovinsky enjoyed a fulfilling career as first horn in the U.S. Army Band, and he played luncheons at the White House, funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, Purple Heart ceremonies and everything in between.

Now, he's living out yet another dream by passing on his craft to young French horn players at Shenandoah University. And he's decided to show his support in a different kind of way.

"I know Shenandoah does all it can to assist students with scholarships and financial aid, but I just thought if I could do something to help even more, then why not do it while I'm accomplishing my 100-miler," said Lovinsky. "This could be the difference between someone actually graduating and getting a degree or never getting their degree."

Joe Lovinsky has continually set the bar high for himself. The goal is 100 miles and \$5,000. To donate go to www.crowdrise.com/100milejoe.

Nominations Sought for Loudoun's Outstanding Volunteers

Volunteer Loudoun is seeking nominations for the 2014 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Awards. The annual program honors individuals and organized groups in the county whose volunteer service has directly benefited the Loudoun community. Volunteer projects resulting in exceptional community change are also recognized.

Categories include outstanding adult volunteer, adult public safety, youth public safety, adult team, youth team, club or organization, corporate team, older adult, older adult team, volunteer project, project leader and family. Additional categories may be considered by the awards selection committee.

New for 2014, the Volunteer Loudoun Board of Directors has renamed the youth volunteer award category as the "Gabriella Miller Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award" in honor of Leesburg resident Gabriella Miller. Gabriella, who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor at age 9, passed away on Oct. 26, 2013. While confronting her diagnosis, she was determined to help other children suffering from cancer by enhancing her own letter-writing campaign to the Make a Wish Foundation. She raised more than \$250,000 for the foundation, which inspired Macy's to donate an additional \$25,000. Her fundraising efforts resulted in 36 additional wishes being granted for children facing serious health issues.

All nominations must be received by Friday, March 14. Nominations can be submitted online at www.loudoun.gov/volunteer or by email to volunteerloudoun@loudoun.gov.

For more information, visit www.volunteerloudoun.com, or call 703-777-0505.

Local Non-Profit Fills Critical Gap For Combat Wounded

The drawdown of America's military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan is welcome news to the millions of weary men and women that have been deployed, often multiple times, to those hostile and unforgiving places. But for far too many returning veterans, the harsh reality of war has been replaced by the indifference of a nation that professes its gratitude yet doesn't meet its solemn obligations to them.

More than 50,000 U.S. troops have been physically wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. Many who otherwise would have been killed were saved by modern medical and battlefield technology. Thousands have sacrificed limbs and as many as 300,000 suffer from the debilitating effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

On an average day, one active duty soldier commits suicide every hour. Unemployment, divorce and homelessness among wounded veterans are much higher than the national average, and female veterans are four times as likely to be homeless as their male counterparts.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, based in Leesburg, has provided an invaluable lifeline to thousands of combat-wounded veterans of the War on Terror. The non-profit, non-partisan organization is distinguished from other veteran-focused groups by its direct financial assistance to America's wounded heroes.

Its emergency financial aid program has stopped foreclosure proceedings on veterans' homes and kept their vehicles from being repossessed. The charity regularly



Coalition CEO (right to left) David Walker in Colorado with Lovettsville native Rob Jones.

provides gift checks to cover meals, medical and utility bills, clothing, car repairs and even baby diapers.

David Walker took the helm of the Coalition in October 2012. Shortly thereafter, he consolidated its lean headquarters staff from the New York City area to Leesburg to be close to key federal agencies, like the Veterans' Administration, and to benefit from favorable office lease rates.

"We've been spending a lot of time on Capitol Hill not lobbying, but raising awareness of the injustices we see daily among our returning soldiers," said Walker, president

and CEO of the Coalition. "We think there's something inherently wrong about the wealthiest nation in human history sending its sons and daughters off to war, then telling them to rely on the kindness of strangers to avert a homecoming scarred by unemployment, poverty and homelessness. Frankly, I wish there was no need for an organization like ours. But our work is more important now than perhaps ever."

In addition to its Emergency Financial Aid program, the Coalition recently held its signature annual event, the Road to Recovery Conference & Tribute, in Orlando. More than 100 wounded veterans, and their families, attended the all-expense-paid, week-long event in December, created to help them get back on their feet and assimilate into the civilian workforce.

This year, the Coalition is hosting three regional conferences, including a couples retreat to be held in the Northern Virginia area.

The Coalition also awards grants to like-minded organizations that share its mission, such as Boulder Crest Retreat in Bluemont. Boulder Crest is a rural sanctuary where wounded warriors and their families can enjoy non-clinical, recreational therapeutic activities aimed at assisting with their physical, mental and spiritual recovery. The Coalition provided a grant to fund the construction of a therapeutic fishing pier for the retreat.

For more information on the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes go to www.saluteheroes.org.

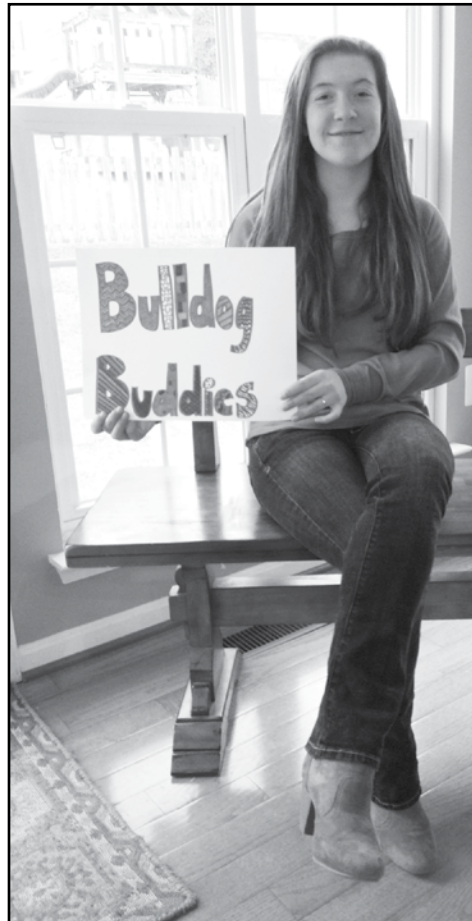
Girl Scout Project Brings Future Blue Ridge Students Together



Rachel Snyder, a junior at Loudoun Valley High School, completed her Girl Scout Gold Award Project by creating a new program called "Bulldog Buddies" in May 2013.

Fifth graders of four elementary schools that feed into Blue Ridge Middle School were able to participate in this program, in which each student was matched with a buddy, to whom they exchanged letters with through the school. Each participant met at least one new person, and those who attended the two summer social events met even more students from different schools.

Becoming acquainted with their future peers allowed students to begin their first year of middle school knowing others besides those who went to the same elementary school as them. This is especially important to those who went to the smaller schools with one fifth grade class, since there is a smaller amount of students they knew from their elementary school. Rachel is planning to continue the program and possibly pass



it down to another group of Girl Scouts for their Silver Award to give students the best possible experience at Blue Ridge Middle School.

Candidates, continued from page 2

on Aging and as an election officer with Loudoun County.

Recently retired from active practice, McCollum has been an attorney since 1970, including an appointment to the U.S. Attorney's Office in D.C., and the privacy and security counsel for a major telecommunications service provider. In 2002 he started a business that focused on the security needs of telecommunications, Internet, and data providers here in the U.S. and abroad. Now that he is retired, McCollum says he wants to use his legal and business experience in serving the Purcellville community and preserving the small-town feel for future generations.

Benjamin Packard

Having resided in Virginia for 9 years and in Purcellville for the last 6 years, Benjamin Packard loves the family oriented small town feel of Purcellville. Owing to his full time telework position, he has spent considerable time volunteering at local schools, with local sports leagues, with Cub Scouts, and with teaching morning Bible study classes to high school seniors. He also serves on the Hirst Farm HOA Board of Directors and is a member of the town

planning commission.

"Everywhere I go, parents and youth tell me why they moved to Purcellville, how much they enjoy the town, and which current local events concern them. After learning that a number of council members are not running for reelection, I believe it is time for me to use the content of those conversations to help Purcellville's residents by representing them as a member of the town council," says Packard.

Similar to others, Packard's goals include fiscal conservativeness - reduction of Purcellville's debt to minimize future fees and taxes imposed on residents; community mobility - encouragement of more sidewalks such as the ongoing project for safer running and biking area between Blue Ridge Middle School and Locust Grove/Hirst Farm; and wise development - synchronization of growth and new development with the comprehensive plan which projects the vision of the community that has attracted residents to Purcellville in the first place.

Packard concludes, "Thanks again to all who have served, and I look forward to representing Purcellville residents in the future."

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Corned Beef & Cabbage

Ingredients

- 1 (4-pound) cured corned beef brisket
- 14 cups water
- 1-1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery & 1 cup chopped carrot
- 1-1/2 teaspoons pickling spice
- 3 garlic cloves, peeled
- 1 tablespoon caraway seeds
- 1 head green cabbage, cored and cut into 1-inch strips
- 4 pounds small potatoes, cut in half
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons butter and 2 teaspoons grated lemon rind
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (5-ounce) jar horseradish
- 3 tablespoons mustard

Preparation

Place brisket in a large stockpot; add water, onions, celery, carrots, pickling spice, cloves and garlic. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 3 hours. Remove brisket from pot.

Place brisket on the rack of a broiler pan or roasting pan, place rack in pan. Strain cooking liquid through a colander into 2 large bowls; discard solids. Return liquid to pot. Add caraway seeds and cabbage; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 20 minutes. Drain.

While cabbage is cooking, place potatoes in a large Dutch oven. Cover with water. Bring to a boil; cook 20 minutes or until tender. Drain. Return potatoes to pan. Stir in parsley, butter, rind, juice, and pepper; toss to coat.

Preheat broiler.

Spread mustard over one side of brisket and press in horseradish. Broil 3 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve brisket with cabbage and potatoes.



Have Some Fun ... Right Now ... With The Blue Ridge Leader's Second Annual Kilt Reveal



Who are these ladies?

Do you recognize the beautiful and elegant "legs" shown here? Each belongs to a different local business leader, listed below. Match the photo with the name and then check your answers on page 28 where the lovely ladies' names and faces are revealed

The ladies pictured (... not in this order, obviously!) include:

• **Elaine Boland, owner, Fields of Athenry Farm.** Fields of Athenry sells pasture raised beef, pork, lamb and poultry. The farm's patio service starts up for the season on Saturday, March 15 when they will also celebrate the birthday of Murphy, the farm's very Irish Saint Bernard. www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com.

• **Debbie Barzee, Mr. Print.** Debbie and her husband Nolan run Purcellville's favorite print shop. Debbie's nod to Saint Patrick's Day is that the shop, famously, "prints everything but (green) money." They also celebrate the day with a big dinner of corned beef and cabbage. www.mrprint.net.

• **Mary Shea Knight, Piper Dan's Celtic Shoppe** – Irish and Scottish Imports, in Purcellville. Mary's shop has every manner of traditional, elegant, and giftable Scottish and Irish products. If you weren't Irish when you walked in ... you will be when you walk out. 540.751.0777.



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Planning Those All-Important “Hardscapes”

– By Andrea Gaines

Last month we focused on the basics of hardscape planning – looking at the stone walls, woodwork, patios, arbors, decks, water features, etc. of your businesses or home’s yard and landscape.



The key priorities we discussed included: 1) deciding on what outcome and functions you wanted – how would the area or areas be used? ... just for show or are you wanting a vegetable or flower cutting garden?; 2) Do you have your drainage issue sorted out?; 3) How do you want the main areas and features in your hardscapes to relate to each other? Are you creating a path to move through or a simple place to sit and enjoy the scenery?; And, finally, 4) what’s your style? Sleek and modern, homey country or something in between the two?

As you think about these priorities, also start thinking about these categories of product:

Outdoor furniture and pottery – how will you welcome and delight those who sit and enjoy – or drive by – your hardscape?;

Water feature items – do you want a small or large pool, a fountain or a simple container that can accommodate aquatic plants?;

Pathways. Will you have paved walkways, gravel walkways or earthen paths to define your hardscapes and take guests to the featured destination in your landscape? And, what materials will you use?; and

That special something. Did you (or will you) go to a garage sale or flea market and see something you just had to have for your landscape? Make it your own by keeping that idea top of mind as you leave the winter behind and move into spring.

Hopefully (!) we are over the last of winter 2013/2014’s worst weather. But, you never know. For now, keep that pad of paper and pencil out and continue sketching and jotting down ideas for your “hardscapes” to come.


Painting Dedication At St. Paul’s

150 years ago, John S. Mosby’s Rangers stopped near midnight at St. Paul’s Church, in the tiny community of Neersville, before riding the last 3 miles to attack Cole’s Calvary in the Civil War Battle of Loudoun Heights. This bit of history is depicted in a Keith Rocco painting of St. Paul’s Church with Mosby’s Rangers and their horses in the foreground, snow covering the ground, and stars shining in the night sky.

On Sunday, March 9, Jim Kehoe of Antietam Gallery, Sharpsburg, will make a presentation of the Rocco print to the church where this event occurred in January 1864. Jim’s cousin, Roland England, is the pastor of the church, now known as Christian Community Church at St. Paul’s.

This presentation is planned for the 10 a.m. service. The church is located at 12623 Harpers Ferry Road (VA Route 671).

A pot luck dinner will be served after the service at 11:30. The public is invited.



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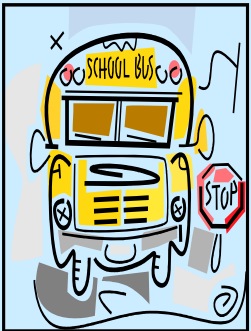


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Spring Is Coming

– By Donna Williamson

March is an in-between month – some cold and the return of glorious warmth now and then.

One way to bring some delight inside is forcing spring-blooming branches.

You can cut branches of forsythia, cherry, crabapple, kerria, or gelsemium. Pound the cut end of the branch with a hammer, opening several cracks in the bottom of the stem. Then plunge the ends into warm-very warm water.

After several days, the buds will swell and open, flowering to assure you that spring is really coming.

This photo is my favorite forsythia, a dwarf that gets two feet tall. It is *Forsythia viridissima* var. *bronxensis* if you like it too.

Of course, the grocery stores already have hyacinths, daffodils, and primroses potted up and ready to go. All of these can later be planted in your garden so keep them going until the soil is workable and you can enjoy them next year too. Just shake as much of



Dwarf Forsythia

the potting soil as you can and plant them at the same level in your native soil.

It won't be long now. Start those tomato seeds.

Donna Williamson is a garden designer and coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands, and Shenandoah University; she continues to hold classes in Waterford each winter. She is working on a revision of her book The Virginia Gardener's Companion. Email donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or call 540-877-2002.

Kitchen Science Kids: The Benefits of Blubber

– By Leah Enright

If we dropped you and a friendly whale deep into the Atlantic Ocean, and asked you to swim to shore, could you do it? Probably not, because even if you were the world's best swimmer, you'd have something else to worry about - *hypothermia*. (The prefix *hypo-* means below, and *-therm* indicates temperature. So hypothermia is "below temperature"- that means the water is too cold and you would freeze before making it to land.) But wait, what about that friendly whale? The whale lives its whole life in water and manages just fine. What's the difference? Well, there are many differences, but one of the most important is . . . blubber!

Blubber is a layer of fat that keeps marine, (water), animals warm in very cold temperatures. Can we construct a scientific activity to experience this? Of course.

1. Gather these items:

- A tub of vegetable shortening, (sold in the baking aisle of any supermarket).
- 4 sandwich sized zip-style plastic bags
- A bowl of ice water
- An adult to approve and supervise this whole thing

2. Prepare a "Blubber Glove"

- Turn one of the zip style bags inside out and place it inside of the other bag.
- Line the zippers up so that you can zip the two bags together.
- Fill the space in between the two bags with a thick layer of shortening, and zip the edges together.
- Now, wear your blubber glove on one



hand, and nothing on the other. Place both hands into the bowl freezing cold water. How does your bare hand feel? How about the hand in the blubber glove? (Don't leave your bare hand in for too long-too much cold water can hurt your fingers.)

If this activity went as expected, then you discovered that a layer of fat, blubber really does offer protection from freezing temperatures. Just ask a small ringed seal -almost half of his or her body weight is fat. Sea Lions, walruses and penguins also have this special protection, and thank goodness, because they spend their lives in cold water. In this case, blubber truly has its benefits.

Leah Enright writes about children and science from her home in Round Hill. She welcomes questions and comments at mizbeytac@yahoo.com.

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– ARTIST'S PROFILE –

Tile Artist Joan Gardiner:**Storyteller, Naturalist, Teacher And Fine Craftswoman**

– By Andrea Gaines

I could have spent hours wandering around Joan Gardiner's tile studio in the quaint old village of Unison (population 30). As a little girl I collected any bit of natural material I could pick up outside – snakeskins, bird feathers, driftwood, rocks, beach glass. Joan Gardiner has many of these kinds of things casually displayed and posted in her workplace, a combination gallery, kiln-room and work area. Tacked and displayed all over the walls and tables, shelves, bookcases and desks are the inspirations and miniature studies for the tile works that have made her both famous and beloved. The graceful wing of a red-bellied woodpecker. A fallen bird's nest. Sketches of a majestic and muscular jaguar. Fantastic bits, piles and corners of stuff that fill this spectacular artist's head and provide her with both information and inspiration as she works her magic.

Gardiner's main magic is the simple item known as a tile. But not the normal tile you see gracing a bathroom wall or serving as a coaster for your glass of wine. Colorful and detailed works of art that, as Joan makes clear, are both beautiful and functional.

Gardiner started her career as a painting major. But, she says, "I was not happy with images on a wall. I like things to be functional as well as artistic. And, I found tile work to be a happy combination."

Clay is Gardiner's three and four-dimensional canvas, glaze is her paint and her hands are her brush. Her creations defy description in terms of their beauty and functionality. Many of the works she is best known for are tile murals – walls of art, really, and sturdy ones at that – that grace several of our area libraries,



Joan at donor wall.



The Franklin Park donor wall.

including the Purcellville Library, the Rust Library in Leesburg, the Ashburn Library and the Gum Springs Library. She also has a project underway for the Middleburg Library and her functional art is featured at the Purcellville Community Center, The Hill School in Middleburg, Blue Ridge Middle School in Purcellville and local businesses. The Blue Ridge Middle School wall tells the history of art and was created by students themselves under the guidance of Gardiner and teacher Linda Siebeck.

Another recently completed project is the donor wall at the Franklin Park Visual and Performing Arts Center. Donor walls



Aimee Curl and Ismael Bonilla helping with the installation of the Gum Springs Library tile wall.

are often rendered with a combination of commercial, catalogue-style nameplates recognizing the contributions made to various nonprofits. But this donor wall is a one-of-a-kind artistic masterpiece Gardiner collaborated on with Shirley Volberg and other Friends of Franklin Park board members. It depicts a tree that literally seems to grow out of the wall, featuring hand-crafted leaves and tablets with donor names and a clay chair rail of sorts that depicts the center's early life, when the old barn on the property was converted into a modern performing and visual arts center.

I'm thinking back to my interview with Joan. As she described it, tile work has at least 100 years of tradition in America. We talked about the practical tools of her trade – earthenware, porcelain and stoneware clays, and exotic (to me) Majolica and Celadon glazes. She instructed me on how clay has something called "plastic memory." Imagine, she said, how the wet clay you are

squeezing through your fingers or rolling with a pin is made up of a tiny collection of plate-like forms. If you are rolling clay, for example, the plates lay on top of each other, while at the same time following the curve of the rolling pin. As the clay dries, water is released and the curve shows itself in the form of a warp. For this reason, Joan uses molds for her clay. As the clay is pressed into the form it assumes that shape – instead of a modified curve or roll – so that when it dries and is fired it retains the desired shape. Now, that's a fine craft and a lesson in clay and art physics. Just spectacular!

Joan Gardiner studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She apprenticed to potter Jill Hinckley in Washington D.C., before opening her own studio in Unison in 1973. Gardiner lives in Unison with her husband, writer John Rolfe Gardiner. Joan's studio is called Unison Pottery and Tile Works.

Franklin Park Visual & Performing Arts Center, March 2014 Events

For reservations/tickets call 540-338-7973 or visit www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

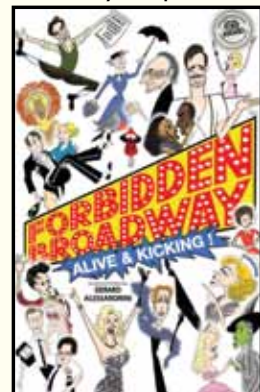
See website for displays and exhibits in the Franklin Park Gallery and for performance schedule details.

Friday, March 7, 8 p.m. – Last Ham Standing. A group of performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games. Reserved seating. Tickets: \$12 adult, \$10 student, \$8 child.

Saturday, March 8, 8 p.m. – The Train Wreck Endings & The Bitter Liberals. A double-headliner bill featuring two popular local bands. The Train Wreck Endings, with local players Andy Hawk, Chuck Bordelon, Paul Bordelon,

Pascal Nasta, Chris Stoudt, and Nancy Griffith-Cochran will perform a collection of their original songs. The Bitter Liberals is a band of focused concentration and joyful collaboration, encompassing many years of musical experience – with Allen Kitselman, Mike Jewell, Clark Hansbarger, and Gary McGraw. All tickets, \$15.

★ **Sunday, March 9, 3 p.m., – Forbidden Broadway.** As long as Broadway exists there will be Forbidden Broadway to poke fun at it – but always



with humor and love. Forbidden Broadway started as a brainchild of Gerard Alessandrini, an unemployed actor seeking to showcase his talents. Now Forbidden Broadway has become New

York's longest running musical comedy revue. Forbidden Broadway has won Drama Desk, Tony, Obie and Outer Circle Critics Awards. Tickets: \$50 regular seating, \$40 rear seating.

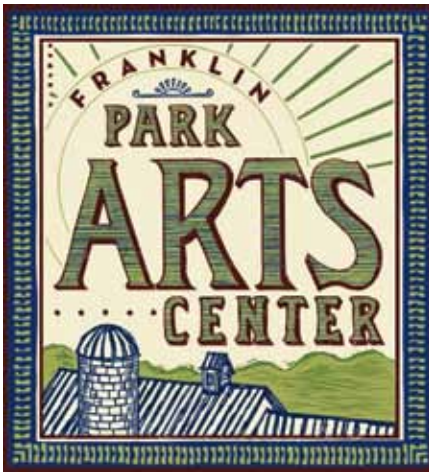
Friday, Feb. 14 through Monday, March 10, 15th Annual Youth Art Show. The show will be held in the lobby gallery of the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center, open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on evenings and weekends during performances. For more information contact Barbara Sample: 540-338-7973 or barbara.sample@loudoun.gov.

Friday, March 14, 7 p.m., Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m., Sunday, March 16, 3 p.m., Friday, March 21, 7 p.m., Saturday, March 22, 7 p.m., Sunday, March 23, 3 p.m. – VSA Arts Loudoun Presents Winnie The Pooh & A Special 25th Anniversary Show. A delightful new show based on the beloved characters of A.A. Milne and the 2011 Disney animated feature film. VSA Arts of Loudoun

is celebrating 25 years in Loudoun County. Included in this performance is a special walk down memory lane of past VSA shows. Join us for this very special tribute to VSA Arts of Loudoun. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 student/senior. Purchase tickets online at www.vsaloudoun.org.

Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 29, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 30, 3 p.m. – Loudoun School of Ballet's JAZZ&CO Dance. The Loudoun School of Ballet's JAZZ&CO Dance is a pre-professional contemporary dance company directed by Sharon Mercke entertaining audiences of all ages. The shows will benefit the Teri & Shari Malone Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing and developing the talents of eighth grade students from Loudoun County. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 student/senior; purchase tickets at the door.

★ Gold Star Performance



Franklin Park Arts Center invites you to

Last Ham Standing

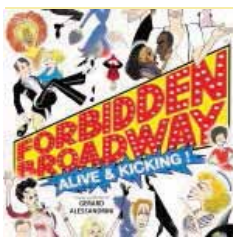
Fri, Mar 7 8PM

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! Reserved Seating
Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Student, \$8 Child. Visit www.lastham.com or www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Andy Hawk & Train Wreck Endings with the Bitter Liberals

Sat, Mar 8 8PM

A double-headliner bill featuring two popular local acts. The Train Wreck Endings play a variety of styles, but lean toward Americana and Blues, with a rock-n-roll edge, and will be supporting their new digital live album – *Shhhh!!!* The Bitter Liberals play all original music of texture and maturity, featuring rich storytelling, fine vocals, and the seasoned musicianship of Allen Kitselman, Mike Jewell, Clark Hansbarger & Gary McGraw. **Tickets: \$15 All Ages** www.franklinparkartscenter.org



★ Forbidden Broadway

Sun, Mar 9 3PM

As long as Broadway exists Forbidden Broadway will be there to poke fun at it—but always with humor and love. Forbidden Broadway started as a brain child of Gerard Alessandrini, an unemployed actor seeking to showcase his talents. Over the years Forbidden Broadway has become New York's longest running Off Broadway musical comedy revue. Now it's coming to Franklin Park Arts Center! Join us for this amusing history of American Musical theater. Forbidden Broadway is one of funniest shows on or Off Broadway! *Gold Star Performance presented by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.* **Tickets are non-refundable.**

Tickets: \$50 All Ages www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Winnie The Pooh & Silver Scene

Fri, Mar 14 & Sat, Mar 15 7PM Sun, Mar 16 3PM
 Fri, Mar 21 & Sat, Mar 22 7PM Sun, Mar 23 3PM

VSA Arts of Loudoun is celebrating 25 years in Loudoun County! Included in this performance of Disney's WINNIE THE POOH is a special walk down memory lane of past VSA shows. VSA Arts is a fully inclusive visual and performing arts program that provides discovery opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities.

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door All Ages OR online www.vsaloudoun.org

Jazz & Company Dance

Fri, Mar 28 7:30PM, Sat, Mar 29 3PM & 7:30PM
 Sun, Mar 30 3PM

The Loudoun School of Ballet's JAZZ&CO Dance, a pre-professional contemporary dance company directed by Sharon Mercke, entertains audiences of all ages. Shows benefit the Teri & Shari Malone Foundation—a non profit organization dedicated to recognizing and developing the talents of eighth grade students from Loudoun County through scholarship grants of art, math, science, music and dance. **Tickets: At Door \$10 Adult, \$7 Student/Senior**

Norton—A Civil War Opera

Fri, Apr 4 & Sat, Apr 5 8PM
 Sun, Apr 6 3PM
 Fri, Apr 11 & Sat, Apr 12 8PM
 Sun, Apr 13 3PM

Loudoun Lyric Opera is proud to premiere an original opera based on the unusual true story of Oliver Wilcox Norton — a Union soldier who took part in some of the most pivotal moments of America's Civil War. Composed by David E. Chavez with Libretto by Meredith Bean McMath.

Tickets: \$22 Adult, \$17 Senior, \$12 Student
 Purchase Tickets Online and save \$2 www.loudounlyricopera.com



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Letters, continued from page 18

Leaving the PBA as the only business organization gives an unfair advantage to one organization over others, and is viewed as an endorsement by the town/taxpayers. But, the town manager confirmed that the PBA is operating as a traditional non-profit.

When I asked the town manager why the PBA was the only non-profit organization on the town website, the response I received was that there are documents from the Town Council identifying the PBA as a critical part of the community. But the town could not refer me to the documents.

Being a taxpayer of the town, I believe that the website would be reserved for official business of the town. Understanding that there are many organizations that contribute to the welfare of the general public, it would be easy to list these non-profits. After all, it doesn't take a lot of digital space to add links. I contacted the PBA directly to confirm their status of non-profit, but have not received a response. Likewise, if the PBA is not a non-profit, other business organizations should be included. In the meantime, I urge non-profit organizations to contact

the town to be added to the list of community interests.
Mary Beth Barbagallo
Purcellville

Medicaid Expansion Battle Heating Up

Dear Editor:

Did you know that there's a very real possibility that a DC-style budget battle and government shutdown could come to Virginia?

The Medicaid expansion battle lines began to be laid down last year by then-candidate for Governor Terry McAuliffe, who pledged he would not sign a budget bill that did not provide for an acceptance of the Obama administration's proposed expansion of Medicaid.

Such an expansion, though, has met with wide and well-reasoned opposition throughout the state, from legislators skeptical of the Obama administration's willingness or ability to make good on their promised share of contributions, from ordinary citizens who would rather not see the biggest, fastest-growing and most bloated state program flippantly expanded, and from existing Medicaid recipients who know that when push comes to shove and

the Medicaid budget gets strained even tighter, it will be their benefits that will likely fall under the axe.

McAuliffe hasn't retracted his promise since, though. In fact, he's doubling down – according to Delegate Riley Ingram, McAuliffe essentially threatened to have completely unrelated legislation Ingram is trying to pass for the good of his district killed in the Senate if McAuliffe didn't get his way on Medicaid. That might be par for the course in DC, but it's not how things are done in Virginia, and McAuliffe's press office is now in full damage-control mode. For any Governor, especially one that campaigned on a job-creation platform, it's disgraceful.

The sane, sensible approach to this issue is:

1) to reform Medicaid before any further expansion is considered.

2) Also, to not hold the Commonwealth hostage until the Medicaid expansion advocates get their way at the expense of everyone else.

Let's hope McAuliffe backs away from the ledge soon.

Matt Leeds
Berryville

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Carver Center March Events

All events at the Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville.

Tuesday, March 11, oral health presentation, 10:45-11:45 a.m. For ages 55 and older. Non-members pay a \$2 facility drop-in fee. Join Aisha Evans from the Virginia Department of Health for an interactive presentation about oral health.

Monday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day event, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For ages 55 and older. Activity # 330603-01, cost is \$3. Carver will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a performance of Irish dancing by the students of the Celtic Rhythm School of Dance, followed by a traditional Irish lunch. Purchase your tickets early as this popular event always sells out. Ticket price covers entertainment only; lunch cost is \$4 for ages 55-59, and by donation for those 60 and above.



St. Patrick's Day Event at Carver Center

Monday, March 24, Book Tasting, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. For ages 18 and older. Non-members pay a \$2 facility drop-in fee. Are you looking for reading suggestions or information about new authors and titles? Jessica Moore, Librarian at the Purcellville Library will be introducing us to a selection of particularly choice books.

Friday, April 4, talent show from 1-3 p.m. For ages 55 and older. Non-members pay a \$2 facility drop-in fee. Calling all thespians, singers, dancers and comedians. The Carver Center's annual talent show is just around the corner. Not sure what to perform? The Carver Center staff is here to help. Rehearsals have already begun, so don't delay. Sign up today by calling Beth Mills at 571-258-3407.

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Left to right, Mary Shea Knight, Piper Dan's, Debbie Barzee, Mr. Print and Elaine Boland, Fields of Athery Farm
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MARCH

☉ **Thursday, March 6, free gardening lecture** at Rust Library in Leesburg at 7 p.m. on "Transforming Small Spaces into Organic Gardens." Hosted by the Loudoun County Master Gardeners and Washington D.C. urban farmer/gardener/small business owner Meredith Sheperd. Call 703-777-0373 for information.

☉ **Friday, March 7, Dinner and a Show to benefit Woodgrove's Grad Night 2014.** Dinner catered by Savoir Fare and entertainment from the Woodgrove theater department from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 for adults and \$15 for teachers and students. Free childcare will be provided for ages 4-12. Order online at www.lcps.org/Page/124975 by March 5.

☉ **Saturday, March 8, Ebenezer United Methodist Church Country Breakfast** from 8 to 10:30 a.m. or until they run out of food. Biscuits and sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, home fried potatoes, pancakes, fruit, coffee cake and more. At the firehouse at 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671) Purcellville. Free will offering.

☉ **Saturday, March 15, exhibition, "The Art of Women and the Sporting Life"** by the National Sporting Library & Museum and Foxcroft School through Aug. 24. The show focuses on

women as sporting enthusiasts, sporting artists and sporting art collectors. Museum hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Go to www.nsl.org for more information.

☉ **Saturday, March 15, The National Sporting Library & Museum Side Saddle Symposium** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum in Middleburg. Leading practitioners will talk about history, attire, riding and judging. British scholar and 2011 John F. Daniels Fellow, Professor Alison L. Goodrum, will present her research in the NSLM archives. Registration information is available at 504-687-6542 or www.nsl.org.

☉ **Saturday, March 29, Loudoun County Poultry Swap** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **hosted by the Loudoun 4-H Poultry Club.** At the Loudoun 4-H fairgrounds in Leesburg. Events include Wildlife Ambassadors, "What are GMO's", Manna Pro "Feeding Poultry", and "Raising Healthy Chicks". Animals, supplies, yard sales, independent dealers welcome. Email swap@loudounpoultry.org for more information.

☉ **Hamilton Day Planning** Hamilton Day 2014, scheduled for Saturday April 26, is currently in the planning stages. If you are interested in participating in the parade, contact Cheryl Campbell at cbikowski@burkinc.com. If you are interested in Hamilton Day details in general, contact Carri Michon at clmichon@aol.com.

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

changes. First, I recommend that you do not go out to dinner or drink alcohol on a first date. The evening and a fancy dinner make for an intimate setting, and a first date is too early to foster intimacy. On top of that, alcohol lowers one's inhibitions, so whatever you or he may be thinking or feeling may come out more freely in conversation. Instead, I recommend meeting for coffee or lunch – you want to keep the first date simple, casual and time limited. If there is mutual chemistry and an interest to meet again, you can always step things up slowly. Second, I also recommend taking another look at your on-line profile, and you might even consider having a friend or two help with this. First impressions can mean a lot, and perhaps there is something that you are revealing through your photos or biography or interests in a partner that is misleading. Thus, I urge you to stay away from photos that could be perceived as being too suggestive or sexy. You also might just want to emphasize your values and morals and your intentions in dating in your write-up. Third, if you are truly fed up with on-line dating, I recommend looking into affinity groups where you can meet like-minded men with like-minded values and morals and similar interests. Meetup.com is an excellent resource for singles.

It's The Thought That Counts, But Not When It Comes To Ugly Earrings

Dr. Mike,

Q. My husband bought me a very expensive but very ugly pair of earrings for Christmas that just aren't me. I decided to take them back to the jeweler to buy something that I really love, and now my husband is angry. I guess I can see the point that it was his gift to me and now I've turned it into my gift for me, but the earrings weren't my taste at all. I thought he'd want me to like what I wear,

but I guess this is more about him than the gift? Got any advice on how to make my angry husband love me again?

A. First of all, keep in mind that your husband's gift was thoughtful and loving. He could have insensitively bought you power tools or a new vacuum! We, as husbands, are fully capable of doing dumb things like that for our wives. You write that "this is more about him than the gift" but *your* actions, in response to his gift, caused the turmoil. Certainly you have a right to your feelings, but it seems that your communication (or lack there of) is the real problem. And while your husband is angry, I think you should consider that his anger is probably secondary to his feeling hurt. For now, I recommend doing some damage control by apologizing for not speaking to him first about your wanting to exchange his gift for another. I would also acknowledge his thoughtfulness and generosity with emphasis on the issue being solely about personal taste. With care and time, he should likely come around to the idea that you did not want to have something so expensive and nice that you would not want to wear. Moving forward, however, I recommend communicating better with your gift purchases since there will be many more gifts to give and receive in your marriage. You might also consider creating short wish lists for each other prior to special occasions. Yes, with this approach the gift you or he opens will be less of a surprise, but you will also both avoid more unpleasant earring moments.

Michael Oberschneider "Dr. Mike" is the 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 or call 703 723-2999.

Copping An Attitude – By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
17					18							19		
20				21							22			
	23					24								
			25		26	27					28	29	30	31
32	33	34		35			36	37		38				
39			40						41					
42						43						44		
45								46			47			
			48	49	50	51	52			53		54	55	
56	57	58							59	60				61
62				63							64			
65				66							67			
68				69							70			

ACROSS

- 1. Graphical user interface feature
- 5. Latke ingredient
- 11. Attain
- 14. Game name
- 15. Trash container
- 16. Old Tokyo
- 17. Restrain
- 18. Calkins
- 19. Inflamed
- 20. Not extreme
- 23. Like old records
- 24. Choppers
- 25. Yellowfin, e.g.
- 28. 1995 hurricane
- 32. Its symbol is an omega
- 35. Present
- 38. Cartoon art
- 39. Taking drastic measures
- 42. Hitchcockian
- 43. Like some colonies
- 44. Harvester ____
- 45. First place?
- 46. Cargo boat type
- 48. Cherokee and Wrangler
- 53. Foreign currency
- 56. Tolerance
- 62. One with a supporting role
- 63. More viscous
- 64. Way to go
- 65. Tide alternative
- 66. Short musical pieces
- 67. Mythology anthology
- 68. Departure announcement
- 69. Abandon
- 70. Textile worker

DOWN

- 1. SALT concern
- 2. Demand
- 3. Best
- 4. "You ____ bother!"
- 5. Clip
- 6. Capital on a fjord
- 7. Grand ____
- 8. Decrease
- 9. Church donation
- 10. Attack
- 11. "My ____!"
- 12. It comes to mind
- 13. Sarah's husband
- 21. Potter
- 22. River of Lyon
- 26. Excluding
- 27. Asian buffalo
- 29. Cotton fabric
- 30. Grace period?
- 31. In case
- 32. Double curve
- 33. Worked the soil
- 34. Slough
- 36. Mushroom you can eat
- 37. Departure
- 38. Historian Toynbee
- 40. Soldier of fortune
- 41. Black gunk
- 47. Alate
- 49. Just beat
- 50. Gush
- 51. Reverent
- 52. Like a snicker
- 54. "____ or not..."
- 55. In reserve
- 56. Give away
- 57. Bank
- 58. Lothario's look
- 59. Bucks
- 60. Start with while
- 61. Telephone button

answers on page 30

Sushi – “Tails” From The Barnyard

Murphy’s Birthday Bash

- By Sushi



Left Slayton Saints in Ohio and arrived to Dulles International Airport - plain tucked out to join the Fields of Athenry Farm Family.

Dear Friends – We are getting ready to celebrate my wingman, Murphy’s 1st Birthday here at the farm – on Saturday, March 15 – I hope you will come join us. Here is Murphy’s first year as a working farm dog in review.

Happy Birthday big guy – Love Sushi – your brave and mighty Cairn Terrier.

Love,
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 (703) 926-8444 or visit www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com.



Mrs. B calls me her FOA Schwartz sleeping bag!



Nothing like a day at the spa - a mud spa!



Growing into becoming a dependable farm dog.

Wild Loudoun

The Constant And Private Red Shouldered Hawk

- By Andrea Gaines



Photo by Nicole Hamilton

A female red-shouldered hawk is one of my most constant wild companions here on the farm. Three or four times a week I see her perched in a willow above the pond, on the fence line or in one of the larger trees on the property. With open fields, water sources and mature trees, it’s good habitat for her; more often than not she is flying off with something in her talons. She is exceptionally cautious as I drive down the driveway – private and wary somehow. She doesn’t really like me to pause and take a picture, most times flying off to a spot several hundred feet away – especially if she is in the middle of a meal. So, I’ve named her “Wary.”

Red-tailed hawks are common in my area, too. But, the bird I see has distinct reddish-brown shoulders, peachy under parts streaked with white and the dramatically banded tail characteristic of the red-shouldered hawk. Red-shouldered hawks are smaller than the bulkier red-tail, as well, and I notice that size difference, too.

This is a very successful and enduring bird, the red-shouldered hawk, and it is beautiful. It remains common all the way up and down the east coast, and, it is bi-coastal, with breeding populations in California, Texas and Mexico as well.

Red-shouldered hawks are not just here in western Loudoun where hawk sightings are quite common. A gentleman in Ashburn followed and photographed a red-shouldered hawk from his apartment balcony in Ashburn recently – she was nesting in a high tree nearby and he had a bird’s eye view, as it were. Another red-shouldered was spotted and photographed near Leisure World, boasting three healthy nestlings earning the stripes they would need to fledge and go off on their own.

Birds of prey such as the red-shouldered hawk are both magnificently strong animals and also extremely vulnerable hunters.

Veterinarians, wildlife enthusiasts and wildlife biologists in Loudoun County

and elsewhere go to a lot of trouble and expense to nurse them and return them to the wild when they run into modern, human-made troubles such as automobiles and exposure to hazardous substances. Broken legs are set. Chelation processes are used to remove lead and heavy metals from their bodies. And weakened features such as wings are painstakingly restored to full flight power. In a process known as “imping” for example, wildlife workers clip out the damaged feathers of the injured bird, inserting into the old shaft a bamboo-supported “donor feather.” The bamboo-mounted feather is held in place by epoxy, and, as the bird regains its health and wild way of life, the donor feathers are pushed out and shed as new feathers grow in to take their place.

A bit of trouble, these human interventions. But as I see it, the trouble is well worth the reward – reward that includes not just the return of a healthy member of wild Loudoun to its proper place in nature, but a bit of personal healing for us as well. I think about that each day as I turn into the driveway and look for Wary.

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 29

1	I	C	O	N	5	P	O	T	A	T	11	H	I	T					
14	C	L	U	E	15	A	S	H	B	I	N	16	E	D	O				
17	B	A	T	E	18	C	L	E	A	T	S	19	R	E	D				
20	M	I	D	D	21	L	E	O	F	T	H	E	R	O	A	D			
23	M	O	N	O	24	T	E	E	T	H									
25	T	U	N	A	26						28	O	P	A	L				
32	O	H	M	33		34		35	N	O	N	C	E	36	A	N	I	M	E
39	G	O	I	N	G	T	O	E	X	T	R	E	M	E	S				
42	E	E	R	I	E	43	A	P	I	A	N	44	A	N	T				
45	E	D	E	N	46	T	R	O	47	W									
48	J	E	E	P	S	49					53	L	I	R	A	54			
56	B	R	O	A	D	M	I	N	59	E	D	N	E	S	61				
62	L	E	G	63	G	O	O	I	E	R	64	G	A	I	T				
65	A	L	L	66	E	T	U	D	E	S	67	E	D	D	A				
68	B	Y	E	69	D	E	S	E	R	T	70	D	Y	E	R				

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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

(never known to fail). O Most Beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother, O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (3 times). Sweet Mother I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Thank you for your mercy to me and mine. Amen.

This prayer must be said for 3 days and after 3 days your request will be granted, and the prayer must be published. J.J.

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