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## An Interview With Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser

Now over 100 days in office, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, along with his fellow town council members, is working hard to ensure his campaign promises become realities to the town's citizens. Recently, we sat down with the mayor to discuss his progress thus far.

**BRL:** What are the two most important things that have been accomplished during your first 100 days as mayor?

**Mayor Fraser:** The first is the Brown settlement, which eliminated the risk of our town possibly losing a jury trial in their eminent domain lawsuit, which might have resulted in a substantial financial burden from an unfavorable verdict or ensuing appeals. With this settlement, we have resolved a contentious situation that has for too long inhibited a beneficial partnership between the town and what remains of its rich agricultural heritage. Our town council made a decision based on readily available data, analysis and probability which eliminated potential adverse financial impact to our taxpayers. Now, collectively we can move forward for the betterment of our community.

The second is that we developed and finalized four strategic initiatives to better align with and to serve



Mayor Kwasi Fraser

Purcellville's citizens. The four initiatives are as follows:

•**Foster Community and Economic Well-Being** – Capitalize on Purcellville's healthy mix of assets, location and heritage in order to grow, diversify and strengthen the community and economic well-being of citizens and businesses alike.

•**Practice Good Governance** – Focus on the town's mission and purpose by performing defined roles and government functions effectively and efficiently, while being accountable to the citizens of Purcellville.

•**Strengthen Community Partnerships** – To be successful, the Purcellville Town Council must have a positive and interactive relationship with town citizens, and must be committed to helping citizens gain a greater understanding of and connection with their town government.

•**Fund the Future** - Commit to identifying and discussing revenue options and opportunities. Further, these initiatives will be our guides in formulating policy and making both tactical and strategic decisions.

**BRL:** You campaigned on transparency between the

*Continued on page 5*



photo: Sarah Huntington

## Volunteers Needed For Nichols 100-Year Celebration Anniversary Float

Volunteers, artists, carpenters, and monetary donations are needed for Nichols 100-year anniversary float for the Christmas parade on Dec. 13. Nichols is one of the few businesses in Virginia that has been in business in the same location and in the same family for 100 years. The hardware store opened on Dec. 14, 1914.

After the parade come join the community for cake and a toast in the Nichols parking lot on 21st Street. Come by and sign the big birthday card.

"Life in Purcellville without Nichols would not be the same," said Michael Oaks of Re-Love It. Sarah Huntington of Lincoln Studios said, "Nichols is the cornerstone of downtown Purcellville and has been for 100 years." The documentary film by Lincoln Studios, The Last Hardware Store, will be on sale Dec. 13. Donations are accepted at Re-Love It or email [reloveit@aol.com](mailto:reloveit@aol.com).

## New Purcellville Business Association President Resigns – Tenure Lasted Just A Matter Of Months –

In October Purcellville Business Association (PBA) President Daniel Abramson handed in his resignation after serving barely seven months in office. The PBA defines itself as "an organization of businesses and individuals who come together to advance and promote the economic, industrial, professional, cultural, and civic welfare of Purcellville and Western Loudoun County." Website records show the organization has over 100 members and eleven board members. With Abramson's resignation, the PBA's new (and former) president is Jim Bowman.

Although Abramson did not want to comment on his resignation, Blue Ridge Leader (BRL) sources seem to

indicate that changes he was spearheading did not sit well with the organization's long-time leadership. Some of these issues include improving the PBA's transparency with respect to member and board interests and board member term limits. Abramson had also begun to take the PBA in a new direction with respect to membership growth, promotion, and the organization's relationship with other key media outlets, specifically, the BRL. At his suggestion, for example, the PBA began advertising in the BRL and started including the newspaper on the organization's routine press release list, something that certain PBA board members had not wanted to do because of town articles written in the past by the BRL.

Hidden Treasures  
in  
Western  
Loudoun  
see pages 17-19

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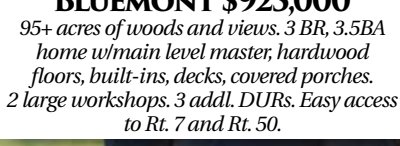
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## Co-Parenting Successfully Through The Holiday Season: 4 Tips To Consider

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Fall has arrived and so too has the holiday season. This is generally a time for families to come together; to be joyful and thankful and to celebrate with kindness and love. But for many divorced families, the holidays can be a stressful and challenging time. "I love Halloween, but I can't stand sharing it with my ex-husband" and "I don't like that my kids hate going to their father's for Thanksgiving, but what can I do, this is his year" and "Great, so now I am supposed to put a smile on my face for the kids with my ex-wife's new boyfriend at Christmas" are just a few of the comments stated by some my divorced patients already this year.



And while I fully appreciate the difficult struggles many divorced couples deal with, I encourage my divorced patients who remain in high conflict co-parenting relationships to remember that

their children's adjustment and emotional wellbeing should be what is most important - and not just during holidays, but across the entire year.

I offer the following co-parenting tips for divorced couples this holiday season:

**Know Your Bandwidth:** If you are currently in a high conflict relationship with your ex-husband or ex-wife, your capacity to get along over the holidays will be more limited than if you are in a respectful and loving relationship with your ex. While some divorced couples are able to trick-or-treat together with their children or trade off mid night on Halloween, other divorced couples do not have enough respect and agreement to do so. Holidays for this latter group are typically best managed separately to decrease or avoid problems for the involved children. Knowing what you can and cannot give of yourself in relation to your ex should dictate how actively you co-parent your children during holiday events and activities.

**Plan Ahead And Communicate Things Clearly:** Planning ahead and

Continued on page 31



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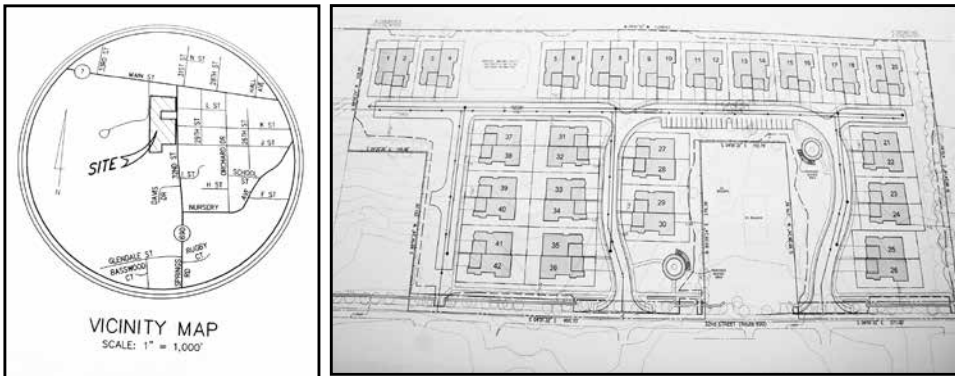


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### High Density Rezoning Again Proposed For S 32nd Street

MI Homes is proposing to rezone the 10-acre Ball property on 32nd Street (S 690) to PDH-5. The property is zoned R-2 which means two houses per acre (19 single family homes) of low-density single family detached residential development. The current zoning is consistent with the neighborhood which is single family detached residential houses. This neighborhood is in the Historic Overlay District.

The developers are proposing to increase the density to PDH-5, and are currently asking for 42 duplex units with a height of 35'. The land is south of the intersection of 32nd Street and Main Street, adjacent to the Loudoun Golf and Country Club. MI Homes is proposing each unit to be 2,500 – 2,800 sq.ft. and is calling them villa units. The name of the development is "The Cottages at 32nd Street". They are proposed to be one and a half to two stories and age restricted to 55 and older.

For the past several months the Planning Commission has been considering a less complicated zoning process that allows for commercial zoning on 32nd Street including high density PDH zoning for this area. Staff has been pushing this zoning which will include commercial with residential and they used the Ball property as an example.

The plan calls for 61 guest parking spaces with a total of 228 spaces including garage and driveway parking. MI Homes says that the development would generate 6 trips in the peak morning hours, and 144 new daily trips. They are claiming that the requested zoning increase would generate less traffic than if the property were to be developed by-right.

In June of 2013 there was a similar proposal for the Ball property. It was withdrawn due to community opposition and the cost of utility hook ups.

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# An Update From Delegate Dave La Rock - 33<sup>rd</sup> District

- By Dave La Rock

It's an honor to serve you as Delegate of Virginia's 33rd House District. I'm writing to give you an update on some of the issues I've been working on, but also to invite you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance that you may have.

My top priority is to help Virginia's economy continue to recover. I believe improving our Commonwealth in these following areas is key to making Virginia a viable place for businesses to grow and for families to live and work.

### Health Care Services

As you probably know, the House and Senate voted together to opt out of a statewide Medicaid expansion. I strongly support this decision because of the severe negative financial implications expansion would have had for Virginia, and because I believe we're capable of doing better. The fact remains, though - thousands of Virginians still need access to quality health



La Rock

care and are struggling to afford it. I'm excited about the possibilities that are opening up through the free clinics serving our district, and I supported increasing the amount of state aid they received in our last budget. These clinics do an excellent job of providing services to needy families without the layers of bureaucracy and waste that are attached to a federal entitlement program,

and they rely for the most part on donations from folks right here in our community.

### Transportation

If you know me personally, you know that I have a passion for smarter transportation spending. This is especially relevant in a district where so many of our residents commute to jobs far from their homes. I supported a successful effort to obtain federal financing that will help freeze rates on the Dulles Toll Road, a corridor on the eastern end of the district that

*Continued on page 8*



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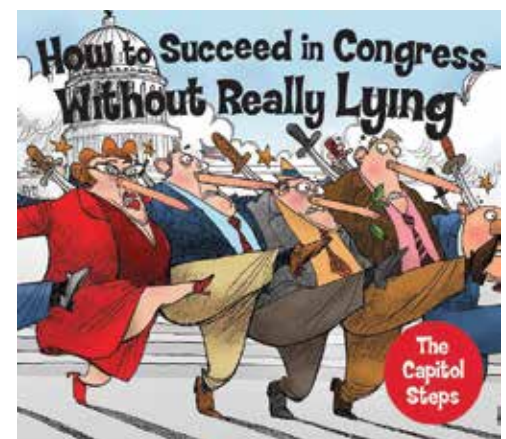
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Fraser, continued from page 1

**town government and the citizens. What progress has been made about this?**

**Mayor Fraser:** For starters, we reinstated an open interview process for appointing volunteers to our boards, committees and commissions. Our citizens are now able to freely observe the interview process for appointing those who have stepped up to serve our great community. Via this new open process, we were able to fill most of our remaining positions.

Secondly, our citizens are now able to access and listen to the audio recording of each town council meeting online.

Finally, I continue to encourage my fellow council members to approve the purchase of and to have staff implement the low cost financial transparency platform, OpenGov, Socrata or other off-the shelf citizen service financial transparency platforms will present our town's financial status in an easily accessible and understandable manner via charts and graphs. Moreover, it will show our citizens how their tax dollars have been spent and managed currently and for the past 5 or more years in order to hold us accountable. At present, our citizens cannot easily access our financial documents which requires multiple steps to browse, to search, to click, to download and then to attempt to extract to get to any meaningful information about our financial state. This scenario does not promote the trust and openness our citizens seek from our government and is unacceptable. Nominally, we should have quick and easy access to see how our tax dollars are being spent without having to search for financial data, click through multiple file locations, download and wait for PDF files in which data cannot be easily extracted, and browse through 70 pages of a comprehensive budget document before arriving at a meaningful chart or table. I continue to push for implementing this necessary solution for financial transparency.

**BRL: Businesses and citizens are still concerned about the 5 percent meals tax in Purcellville. What has been done to address this?**

**Mayor Fraser:** As you may know, in June 2012 the Purcellville Town Council voted to increase our meals tax to 5 percent—a 1 percent jump—making it the highest meals tax in Loudoun County. This increase, which took effect in July 2012, resulted in us paying a combined 11 percent tax on meals at restaurants in Purcellville. At the time of the increase, council members pointed to a need for increased revenue to recover legal costs, some dating back to 2000, of approximately \$1.5 million. As of August 2014, two years following the implementation of the meals tax increase, the town has collected an additional \$553,331 in revenue as a result of the rate change. This represents a substantial source of revenue to Purcellville and is on pace to achieve the \$1.5 million target over seven years. We are \$947,000 or 5.4 percent of our current budget away from achieving the target established by our prior town council.

Recently, we directed the Purcellville Finance staff to conduct a meals tax analysis to show the impact of the 2012 meals tax increase on tax revenue. Preliminary results of the analysis show a substantial increase in meals tax revenue from over \$848,000 in Fiscal Year 2012 to almost \$1.4 million in 2014. A substantial portion of the increase in revenue is attributed to the number of new restaurants opening during that time period. In the coming months, we will further analyze the meals tax to determine when and how we may be best able to reduce the tax rate with the purpose of stimulating economic growth and revitalizing the business of Purcellville's restaurants while continuing to recover our previously accrued costs.

**BRL: Fiscal responsibility was a hallmark of your campaign. Where are we over 100 days into your administration?**

**Mayor Fraser:** We are doing several things in this area, and they are as follows:

We are working with staff to develop an inventory of our \$128 million worth of town assets to identify ways

to ensure the town and citizens are realizing optimum economic value from these assets.

We are working with our Public Works department to develop a process for identifying projects that will decrease operational expense and increase non-tax revenue and efficiency within our public works department. Several initiatives including in-house maintenance of vehicles, energy efficiency measures and vendor cost negotiations and management are being considered.

We are exploring opportunities to reduce electric utility spent across all town operations which is currently budgeted for over \$260,000.

We are proposing non-tax means to increase revenue to the town such as planning events for Fireman's Field with the goal of breaking even or perhaps of making a profit.

**BRL: What is the most interesting comment you have received from someone in the community since you have been mayor? Speak to any issue.**

**Mayor Fraser:** A Hirst Farm resident asked me, "Why don't we have a gas pipeline in Purcellville?" This resident, burdened by the cost of propane during the winter season, does not have the flexibility to pursue competitive rates since he does not own his propane tank. A pipeline would require substantial infrastructure costs; however, we should explore ways to address our residents paying exorbitant amounts for propane.

**BRL: You live with your wife, your mother-in-law, and your three children; you were Mr. Dad before, and all of a sudden you are Mr. Dad, the mayor. How might the members of your family say that your dinner table conversation has changed?**

**Mayor Fraser:** My wife would definitely say that we talk more about the needs of Purcellville. We have realized that we are now ambassadors wherever we go; hence, a visit to the grocery store is no longer for just groceries but also for citizen encounters to hear their issues, concerns, and compliments.



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## Ebola: Touching a Little Too Close to Home

– By Hannah Hager

One Washington Dulles Airport traveler had a very bad day Oct. 13. The middle-aged woman who had just returned from a West African country was immediately served with an outstanding arrest warrant from Maryland. But, her troubles didn't end there - she caught a slight fever while awaiting extradition at the Loudoun Adult Detention Center. Measures of great precaution ensued.

Luckily, INOVA Loudoun Hospital physicians cleared her of posing any risk to others and she was able to leave Lansdowne hospital on Oct. 17. Nevertheless, her bad day could have wreaked havoc on the thousands of Loudoun residents and airport travelers left in her wake.

As a gateway to the U.S., and the world, Washington Dulles Airport has been under mounting pressure to set a safety precedent. The airport this week launched a new layer of entry screening for all travelers from the Ebola-affected nations of West Africa as fears of the deadly Ebola virus continue to spread.

On Oct. 9, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention together with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection announced it would beef up security at Dulles, New York's John F. Kennedy and Newark International airports, Chicago-O'Hare and Atlanta. The five airports welcome nearly 95 percent of all travelers from Ebola-affected areas.

"We work to continuously increase the safety of Americans," said CDC Director Tom Frieden. "We believe these new measures will further protect the health of Americans."

Only 150 people from West Africa travel to the U.S. daily, according to customs officials.

Still, that won't stop trained staff from looking out for incoming West African passengers who may show signs of the illness. Travelers will have their temperatures taken with a no-touch, infrared thermometer at a pre-determined screening site. If a fever is evident – one of the first signs of the deadly virus – they will be taken to a CDC quarantine station for further review. If not, they are free to go, but will be encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms.

The extra measures should come as welcome relief to Loudoun residents who have already had their fair share of Ebola scares. In addition to the middle-aged inmate, United Airlines confirmed earlier this month that Thomas Eric Duncan had made a layover stop at Dulles before heading to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Less than one week later, Duncan became the first Ebola victim to die on U.S. soil.

Loudoun officials are taking the threat seriously.

"As the home of Dulles Airport, it is critical that we are prepared for any eventuality," said Loudoun Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York. "We take our mission to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Loudoun very seriously."

Ebola is not an airborne illness, but is transmitted through human-to-human interactions. It has an incubation period of two to 21 days and therefore humans are not infectious until they develop symptoms, according to the World Health Organization. Symptoms have a sudden onset and include fever fatigue, muscle

pain, headache and sore throat followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, impaired liver and kidney function and sometimes internal or external bleeding. Nearly 4,000 people have been killed by the virus in West Africa, but Duncan is the only person who has so far been diagnosed and died of the virus in the U.S. Shortly thereafter, a Dallas area nurse was positively diagnosed with Ebola, but she is expected to make a full recovery.

Despite the extra layer of security, some passengers are taking prevention matters into their own hands. A viral image circulating various social media shows a Dulles passenger donning a homemade plastic hazmat suit and face mask – an image you would expect to see in an episode of *Breaking Bad*, not in one of the nation's top airports.

Fear has prompted the top Loudoun health official to make assurances that the risk of Ebola spreading widely here is low.

"It's important to remember that people with Ebola cannot spread germs until they have symptoms, and that the disease is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of a person who has Ebola," said Dr. David Goodfriend, the Loudoun County Health Department director. Duncan did not show symptoms when he traveled through Dulles.

The Loudoun Health Department is part of a network of health agencies that routinely share information on disease management and control. Still, citizens can take precautions to fight any deadly illness; Regularly wash your hands, cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, get routine flu shots and avoid anyone who is sick.

## For Him The Nobel Prize In Chemistry Tolls

– By Hannah Hager

Have you ever heard of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy? Most likely not, but you should. This type of microscopy assists scientists in tracking the aggregation of proteins that cause Parkinson's,

Alzheimer's and Huntington's diseases so they can learn how to better treat and prevent them. The microscopy also allows for the tracking of the proteins of fertilized eggs as they become embryos.

This wasn't always possible. Put simply,

microscopy has a light diffraction limit, which occurs when a light wave encounters an obstacle. But there was a breakthrough earlier this year when the light diffraction limitation was significantly decreased thanks to Eric Betzig, a physicist at the Janelia Research campus at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Ashburn.

Betzig and colleagues Stefan Hell and William E. Moerner were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry Oct. 8 by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for "the development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy."

"For a long time optical microscopy was held back by a presumed limitation: that it would never obtain a better resolution than half the wavelength of light. Helped by fluorescent molecules the Nobel Laureates in Chemistry 2014 ingeniously circumvented this limitation. Their groundbreaking work has brought optical microscopy into the nanodimension," the Howard Hughes Medical Institute said in a press release announcing the award.

Super resolution microscopy allows images to appear at a much higher resolution than the diffraction of light. Shortly after the award was released, the American

Association for the Advancement of Science reported that the new technology will be used to visualize the movement of HIV into T-cells in an effort to eventually create a vaccine capable of blocking the infection.

In addition to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry this year, Betzig was awarded the William L. McMillan Award in 1992 and the National Academy of Sciences Award for Initiatives in Research in 1993. But, throughout the years his interest and love in physics and chemistry waxed and waned. At one point he left the world of science behind in order to join the family business, the Ann Arbor Machine Company in Michigan. While there he helped develop a new technique to quickly move the massive machine equipment. But, it wasn't long before his mind wandered back to the lab.

"Progress in the imaging field, such as the development of fluorescent proteins, makes the need for advanced microscopy even more critical today," Betzig said in the press release. "I knew I had to come up with some intellectual capital to get people to listen to me again."

It's safe to say the world is watching.

# Blue Ridge LEADER & Loudoun Today

Since 1984

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*We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.*

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## Hirst Road Developers Continue Push For Quick - Fix Zoning - Special Treatment Vs Full Comprehensive Plan Review -

At the Purcellville Planning Commission over the past several months, town staff has addressed significant zoning changes along Hirst Road.

The properties set for development are along Hirst Road east and west of Hatcher. One of the parcels was recently proposed for comprehensive plan amendments and zoning amendments to accommodate the Tilley Entertainment and 178 unit apartment complex (Catocin Creek Town Center) that was eventually withdrawn because of community opposition. The community wanted the zoning to stay as CMI light industrial similar to the building

the town leases for the police department.

The discussion on whether or not to change the zoning along Hirst Road has been managed by town staff with ongoing input from developer John Chapman and developer/attorney Mark Nelis. Planning commissioners have noted that if Chapman sells his Hirst Road property the change in zoning would increase the market value.

For example at the Oct. 2 planning commission session, commissioners agreed to propose to change the zoning on property west of Hatcher from CMI to MI- which staff says is similar in many ways. Planning staff said that the "Stakeholders

want to see it go to MC" which is mixed use commercial and residential –to include entertainment. Staff said that this would give property owners what they want – and town staff is calling this process consolidating districts. Commissioner Chip Patouli said that "You are messing with people's zones." Chairman Doug McCollum wanted a review of the comprehensive plan, and Commissioner Theresa Stein said, "Don't patch work it."

The newly proposed high density district initiated in a prior meeting was eliminated, with staff noting that "We tried to keep density lower and keep it out of the political

arena." However staff and commissioners also agreed to put most of what was proposed for that high density area into another district reserved for residential (PDH). At the same time, they changed the PDH by adding commercial uses – the first two stories commercial and above those stories - residential. They then took out the actual residential density numbers, leaving it to the developers to come in with a plan with staff saying, "We have one goal of getting commercial and residential in one lot." Commissioner Patouli said, "... why should we mess with it now?"

*continued on page 8*

## Town And Browns Reach Settlement Avoiding Court Battle Farm Bisected By SCR Looks To Its Future

After two years of preparation for a trial that was supposed to begin Nov. 17, the Town of Purcellville and Sam and Uta Brown, owners of Crooked Run Orchard farm, have settled the case with an award of 1 million dollars for the Browns with nearly three-quarters of the settlement – \$742,180 – for damages caused by eminent domain by quick take.

The trial concerned the town's quick take of over 7 acres of the Brown's farm to complete the Southern Collector Road. This fast track of eminent domain allows municipalities to confiscate land literally overnight with no thought of the consequences to the landowner.

The original quick take action occurred in January of 2011. The Town of Purcellville placed compensation funds in an escrow account which the Browns did not use. Commercial land in this highly-sought-after area is currently valued at approximately 1 million dollars per acre. The Brown's original lawsuit requested \$4.5 in damages and compensation.

After reaching the settlement, Sam Brown stated, "The mayor and this town council did a great job of trying to make a fair settlement. There was no point drawing out litigation and possible appeals. That would just be hurting well intended people for the bad behavior of others."

Some key provisions of the settlement – which attempt to compensate the Browns with respect to other damage to their land



and farm operations – require the town to do the following:

Return to the Browns approximately 2 acres of land – .97 acres returned free of town easements, and 1.03 acres that will continue to be maintained under easement by the town.

Allow the Brown's to erect a fence buffer and easement entrance separating their land from the west side of the road - just 18 feet from their residence. The Browns will be allowed to plant a tree buffer on this west side; the town will plant a tree buffer on the east side to stabilize the slopes near the creek running along the east end of the farm.

Provide a marked crossing giving the Browns and their farm equipment safe public and farm access across the road and surrounding drainage ditches. This 24-foot crossing of the road will radically reduce Brown's exposure to fast moving cars and allow him to avoid the traffic circle.

Despite the wrongs that many believe were visited on Crooked Run Orchard, the town's new leadership, as well as the Browns, look to the future and a fresh start.

The council voted 5-2 to settle the lawsuit with council members Karen Jimmerson, Doug McCollum, Ben Packard voting to

settle along with Vice-Mayor John Nave and Mayor Kwasi Fraser. Council members Joan Lehr and Patrick McConville voted against the settlement – both saying that the settlement was too much – among other things. McCollum said that "both parties must compromise" and that they should do so. He said that it was in the best interest of the citizens to settle. Packard said that he was nervous about the potential for litigation in this case. Vice- Mayor Nave said that this case was a question of risk and he was not willing to risk the taxpayer's money not to settle. "It would have been a huge gamble."

When asked for comment, elected Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "Both Purcellville and Sam and Uta Brown won with this settlement, which has resolved a contentious situation that has for too long inhibited a beneficial partnership between the town and what remains of its rich agricultural heritage. Our Town Council made a decision based on readily available data, analysis, and probability, which mitigated potential negative financial impact to our taxpayers. Now, collectively we can move forward for the betterment of our community."

Newly elected town council member Karen Jimmerson echoed a similar sentiment, "With regards to the Crooked Run Orchard settlement, the other council members and myself had to weigh the risk of a lengthy trial and potential endless appeals and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent in legal fees

Councilmembers Patrick McConville and Joan Lehr voted against the settlement. In council comments before his vote, McConville placed the blame of moving the Main Street roundabout on the Browns. The first roundabout was proffered by the developers of the Harris Teeter Shopping Center. The alignment of the first roundabout was the original alignment on the county plan for the Southern Collector Road. Then, town officials changed their minds and moved the alignment 90 feet from the first alignment requiring the dismantling of the first roundabout approximately one month after it was completed. This action also required the town to condemn over 7 acres of the Brown property instead of 2 ½ acres which was on the back parcel of the Brown's farm.

verses a settlement the town could live with and provide final closure to seemingly endless litigation. More than anything, this will allow the town to move forward free of any uncertainties and burdens of litigation. There has been much emotion in this case, and, in the end, both sides gave a little to get it resolved, and I cast my vote in favor of settlement in the best interests of the town and in an effort to heal old wounds and create new partnerships toward the future. The settlement of this case represents the best available outcome for all involved."

## Letters To The Editor

### Vote For Western Loudoun Schools

Dear Editor:

This November's school bond referendum is a threat to every school in Western Loudoun. On November 4th, voters will be asked to approve a \$162,900,000 bond to finance ES-27 Dulles North Elementary, MS-9 Dulles North Middle, and the Advanced Technology Academy.

One could argue truthfully that that none of these new schools will be located in Western Loudoun and, thus, will continue to move more Western tax dollars to pay for projects in the East. But there is an even greater threat. ES-27 and MS-9 are to

be built for new students who are coming from new families bringing new tax revenue. The Advanced Technology Academy is not. The ATA is an overlay school for existing students that will necessitate funneling more money from all other schools in order to pay for its construction, maintenance, and operating costs.

With the School Board's most recent attempt to close Western Loudoun schools, every single dollar counts. Voting for this school bond puts greater strain on the school budget and will increase the likelihood that some or all of Western Loudoun schools will be closed in order to fund the ATA. I

encourage all residents to vote for Western Loudoun schools and vote against this bond. David Dickinson  
Leesburg

### I Hate Fraud

Dear Editor:

I watched my father get taken by a variety of fraudsters. Some even came to our house to take his money under false pretense. Scotch whiskey investment scams, oil and gas lease scams, business start-ups that never really started up etc each taking a piece of his meager savings and a big chunk of his confidence. My reason to write this

is not to relive history but to warn fellow Loudouners of a very current scam that I was shocked to recently watch play out. I got a call from people claiming to be the US Treasury Department warning me they were issuing a bench warrant for my arrest unless I paid overdue taxes from a prior year. They left this message on my legal office line quite audaciously as that didn't intimidate them from still trying to execute a scam. When I called them back they answered their line "U.S. Treasury" claiming that they had given up expecting my tax demand response and it was too late to avoid the arrest. I keep my

*continued on page 8*



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*Letters, continued from page 7*

returns close and the year they said I owed money was a year I actually got a refund so I knew something was wrong. When I asked for their supervisor I was introduced to someone who used a different name but had the very same heavy accent using the same threat. He knew how I filed my taxes and my wife's name as well. I took this more seriously than normal since my oldest son has exactly the same name but does not even have a credit score so I thought maybe there was a legitimate mix up. When they insisted that if I hang up the police will be on their way so the only way to avoid an arrest was to go to CVS with cash and get further instructions while I stayed on the phone I told them to please call the police and I look forward to visiting with them. I share this because many might not know this is an issue. Go to this web page and you can read about it directly from the IRS. [http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact\\_report.shtml](http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report.shtml).

I contacted the Inspector General and alerted them to the place and phone number that called me so perhaps a bit less of this will happen. But be advised there are people out there who have no morals. The IRS must provide notice to any citizen of their issue and they don't make phone calls. If you move as we just did it might put you on the scammer hit list. If someone tries to scam you please file with whatever agency they are saying they are from and tell them whatever info you know. These are vicious criminals in my book as they steal both precious resources and your confidence in the systems we all depend on in a civilized society.

I recently had my book published on Amazon "How To Spot Investment Risk" so I am especially sensitive to anything that smacks of deception and very willing to take action to attack it back.

Bob Ohneiser Esq.  
 Leesburg

**Keep Zoning By Right**

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my lovely neighborhood in the historic district of Purcellville, I urge the town authorities to deny the developer's request to change the R-2 zoning of the Ball property on 32nd Street.

Our neighborhood has been blessed with

several young families. They chose to move here to avoid the travails of congested living.

The developer, MI Construction of Ohio, has requested rezoning the Ball property from R-2 to R-8. Currently, the property is zoned by right for two houses per acre which reflects the character of the neighborhood. A change to R-8 would allow the building of up to 80 units on ten acres.

The density requested in this proposal is unacceptable. We said no to a former proposal and, again, we say no.

Judith Thieman  
 Purcellville

**Thank You For A Wonderful 4th Annual Halloween Block Party**

Dear Editor: The Purcellville Halloween Block Party drew 1000's for the 4th annual event held in Old Town on 21st street. Everyone had an awesome time participating or just watching the 5 categories of costume contests, with over \$1500 in cash prizes and trophies awarded to the many creative costumes.

We must give a BIG thanks to the record number of sponsors whose donations made it all possible; Montessori School of Purcellville, Kianoush Tari Orthodontics, Purcellville Pediatric Dentistry, Bank of Clarke County, Allstate Sengpiehl Insurance Group, Blue Ridge Veterinary, I.J. Canns, Butterfly Gourmet, It's Bazaar, Casper Insurance Group, Valley Energy, Appalachian Readiness, Mr. Print, Catocin Creek Distillery, Joy's Dream Bakery, Atoka Properties, Middleburg Bank, Matthew

*continued on page 32*

*LaRock, continued from page 4*

is widely used by commuters and for business travel. Beyond that, I'm working to improve Virginia's entire transportation funding structure by making sure that every project that the Commonwealth funds is subject to a uniform rating system first. Our current system has huge holes in our project rating requirements, and this encourages wasteful spending. As our spending gets smarter, our roads will gradually get better with fewer taxpayer dollars required - I think this will be a significant economic boost to the state.

**Education**

I think it's always best to let parents make choices for their kids. I have opposed efforts to move education away from parental control (such as making Virginia schools submit to federal "common core" education standards). Saying "no" isn't enough though. I believe Virginia's education system will grow stronger as parents are given more and more control over their children's education, and that's why I'm working to bring meaningful educational choice to our Commonwealth. Parental choice in education has been tried with success by a variety of other states, and making it happen in Virginia will mean better educational outcomes, more skilled employees for businesses to hire, and a more attractive environment for workers and companies considering a move into the state. This year, I also supported a budget allocation of \$6 million for

upgrades to school security like hallway cameras, buzz-in systems and automatic locks on classroom doors; \$105,000 of this funding is going to Loudoun, Clarke and Frederick Counties. Education matters to our economy, and I will continue to make it a top priority.

**Electricity Bills - Your Cost at the Switch**

A recent report shows that proposed EPA regulations will mean power plant closures and higher electric bills for everyone in Virginia, with a net cost that could exceed 6 billion dollars. At a time when our economy is still struggling to recover, this is simply bad economic policy. I'm looking into joining other states in a lawsuit against the EPA to block these regulations. This situation could have substantial implications for Virginia, not just for families struggling to keep the heat on in winter, but for employers that have to consider utility costs in evaluating Virginia's viability as a place to do business. These regulations are a job killer, and they need to go.

The next session isn't far off. I believe that addressing these issues (and others) will put Virginia on a course to economic prosperity, give our citizens the good jobs we need, and improve the quality of life of our neighbors, families, and children. As I said before, if you have any comments, requests, or suggestions, don't hesitate to call me at 540 751-8364. I will do my best to help.

*Hirst, continued from page 7*

Stein agreed and asked if the focus of the planning commission shouldn't be on the comprehensive plan review.

At the Oct. 16 planning commission meeting Mark Nelis urged the commissioners to proceed with the rezoning. His clients want to develop property along Hirst Road. These clients will invest millions, but don't want to have to get a special use permit or go through other processes that trigger public input (e.g. a comprehensive plan amendment and or zoning amendments). If the town council were to change zoning in this area, that would eliminate the need for public hearings, and open the door to uses that are not consistent with Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan. Nelis position is that the plan is "antiquated" ... and "full of holes..." He urged the planning commissioners to "finish the work" and make the uses "as broad as possible." This is in sharp contrast to many on council who have been pushing for a comprehensive plan review where the citizens would be able to participate in the process and weigh in on what they would like to see in various corridors, that ultimately affect their property values.

At the planning commission work session following the meeting, staff urged the commissioners to make zoning use changes

along the Hirst corridor, both east and west. Commissioner Chip Patouli said that this would be another way to propose the same thing [as staff had been unsuccessful in proposing weeks before:] he said "It's time to move forward...we decided no last week." Newly appointed planning commissioner Nedim Ogelman asked, "Why would you want to cede control of the town's design?" Commissioner Theresa Stein led the way proposing zoning use changes along the Hirst corridor to both east and west of Hatcher. Planning director Patrick Sullivan was not present, but staff read from a hand written note he provided stating that the height restrictions would propose to change in the area up to 60 feet (5 or 6 stories). At the end of the discussion, staff said these proposed changes would be farmed out to lawyers and it will come back to the planning commission.

PDH zoning was again briefly discussed at the end of the work session. Staff wants this zoning to be mixed use commercial and residential with much more flexibility. They gave examples of Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna. Commissioner Ogelman said PDH zoning was for big places and noted Purcellville is a small town. Staff said this would be for potential annexed property and any properties already within the town boarders 5 acres or more.

The audio of these meetings are now online.





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## Mobile Hope Receives Non Profit Status

Mobile Hope of Loudoun has received their 501(c)(3) status. Earlier in the year, Mobile Hope broke away from Inova Loudoun Hospital in order to focus on an issue of startling importance for our community – youth homelessness. Donna Fortier, the Founder and CEO of Mobile Hope has been the inspiration and the



motivation behind raising awareness and working toward a solution to support our most vulnerable – children 21 years of age and younger who are at-risk, precariously housed or homeless in Loudoun County. Once Donna realized the problem – she also began to realize that no other human service organization or county run program was available to help these “invisible and silent” children – and her wheels started turning.

Donna along with the Mobile Hope Board of Directors has been waiting for several months for Mobile Hope to officially receive their nonprofit status. Donna described how she received the news, “One of our homeless boys went to the mailbox and saw a letter from the IRS. He called me saying – ‘Oh! Ms. Donna something from the IRS is in the mail and that can’t be good.’ I told him to go ahead and open the letter. He did and told me that it was the certificate. I thought how ironic it was that one of our boys is telling me

the news.”

Mobile Hope is also pleased to announce that Bonnie Inman, the past Executive Director for Loudoun Interfaith Relief, has joined the staff. Bonnie will be responsible for fundraising for the organization. “I am so over the top thrilled to be working for this organization.

There is so much to do and so many places to grow Mobile Hope. I thought I knew all about the human services Loudoun County provided, but my eyes have certainly been opened. In the short time I have been here, Mobile Hope has helped so many children who can’t find a place to turn given their circumstances. I can’t believe the horrific and heart-wrenching stories we have heard. I also feel certain – that there are many more children who are too afraid to reach out. I used to think (and still do) that hunger was a startling issue, but can you imagine being 17 – hungry and without a safe place to sleep?”

Last school year, Loudoun County Public Schools identified about 1,000 children that were identified as homeless or precariously housed through the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act addresses the needs of children who “lack[ed] a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” For more information go to [mobilehopeloudoun.org](http://mobilehopeloudoun.org).

## Saving Our Children In Loudoun

The Purcellville Police Department will host “Saving Our Children in Loudoun,” on Thursday, Nov.13, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Purcellville Town Hall, 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville. There will be many youth service providers speaking on what is available in Loudoun County to assist our children and families including Youth Pastor Kevin Cole (Purcellville Baptist Church), LeeAnne Johnson (Loudoun Valley High School Counseling Director), Geri Fiore (Woodgrove High School Counseling Director), Rev. Jessica McClure Archer (Youth Pastor/Counselor, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church), Donna Fortier (Mobile Hope), Dr. Terry Tinsley (Joe Gibb’s Youth for Tomorrow), Crisis Intervention Team members from local departments, representatives from Loudoun County Juvenile Courts, Loudoun County Mental Health and Blue Ridge District Supervisor Janet Clarke. Many local political leaders will be in attendance as well.

This is a great opportunity to receive information about what is happening in our county referencing the youth and what services are available. Attendance is free. “This is our, ‘It Takes a Village

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**“Every life is precious and this is a call to action for our community to support our young people given the many seemingly hopeless challenges they face in life.”**  
**– Mayor Kwasi Fraser**

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to Raise a Child,’ continuance. We truly believe that,” said Chief Darryl Smith. “Hope to see you there.”

“Our community cannot afford to go on as business as usual. Every life is precious and this is a call to action for our community to support our young people given the many seemingly hopeless challenges they face in life. I commend Chief Smith for taking the lead on this effort,” said Mayor Kwasi Fraser.



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# Will You Remember Me?

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel



**MOORE-SOBEL**

What's in a legacy? Is a legacy about how hard you worked, how much money you made, how many times you performed? Or is it about the lives you touch? These are questions that I have been pondering over the last few months. Do you ever wonder about what your legacy will be?

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to hear Joshua Bell perform at Union Station in Washington, D.C. Joshua Bell performed in L'Enfant Plaza metro stop seven years ago, dressed as a street performer. No one recognized him, yet his performance has drawn much fame. Bell's publicist discovered that this performance has been mentioned in the media at least once a week for the last seven years, whether in articles, advertising or blogs. Upon reflection while listening to the recording, Joshua Bell decided he wasn't satisfied with his performance, and due to his fear that he would be forever remembered for it, he decided to do something to supersede the past.

Bell reprised his Metro performance from seven years before, performing in Union Station for a packed house. I met my mother in Washington to hear him play and I have to say that he was mesmerizing. It is always a pleasure to witness someone doing

what they were made to do, and Joshua Bell is meant to play the violin. Yet what intrigued me most about Bell's story was his desire to write his own legacy. He wanted to be remembered as a violinist at the top of his game, in a controlled setting with better acoustic sound, not as a violinist in a metro stop dressed as a street performer.

What Joshua Bell desired is not unusual. In fact, most professionals are concerned about their legacy. Musicians such as Billy Joel and Lionel Richie have refused to hang it up, launching tours this summer perhaps in an effort to secure their legacy and to become relevant to the younger generation so that their music will live on. It is not just in the music world that we find a desire to solidify a legacy, though. I will refrain from listing political examples since my columns are filled with many of them. All I will say is that it is easy to see how legacy matters to politicians, considering that presidents spend much of their retirement years offering explanations for the decisions they made with the hope that history will judge them fairly.

After hearing Joshua Bell perform, I began wondering what my own legacy would be. How will I be remembered? I

*continued on page 23*

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# Up All Night: Studying Never Ends

It seems that many people like to continuously remind me of the fact that I need to prioritize my time so that I'm focusing on my schoolwork. Virginia Tech is a school of academics first, like most colleges. It is hard not to fall into the prey of other activities though. Time management is key and many people have also reminded me that college "is the most time you'll ever have." Though it doesn't always seem like it with all that happens. It still seems that there aren't enough hours in the day.



LUNDE

For many, time management is divided into three: Sleep, studying/homework and socializing. Unfortunately, many students decide to sacrifice sleep to satisfy the other two. In my hall, studying has begun to shift into socializing with barely any time left to get actual work done. This means that it takes longer to do less homework than what needs to be done. In fact, my study lounge is louder than the library is. I have studied in the hallway because there are so many distractions in the study lounge (and I don't want to disturb my sleeping roommate).

Although this is the case in my dorm, it is not always a hindrance to everyone. "I study for 60-70 hours a week," my

hall mate Brynn Schaadt told me. I can vouch that this true because I've watched her stay up until 3 a.m. doing homework and studying for tests waking up at 6:30 to get ready for class. I don't think she's ever in her room anymore because she's always off somewhere doing homework or studying or practicing her flute. Even when we're having a movie night in my room she'll bring her homework. Brynn is double majoring in engineering and music performance (flute).

My other friend Pat Shorter told me that she studies eight to ten hours a week for tests and quizzes and allows for 40 hours of homework. She is part of the honors program at Virginia Tech and has to keep a minimum GPA of 3.5 every semester in order to stay in the honors housing known as Hillcrest. Every time I talk to her she talks about her classes, mainly her microbiology class and how she has to get an A in every assignment. I don't think we've ever had a conversation that doesn't involve some form of talking about how much work we have to get done before a certain point. Pat is majoring in microbiology with two minors added on.

It is amazing how much students allow significant time studying and doing homework. Though Brynn and Pat spend a tad bit excessive amount studying and doing homework, it is evident that most college students have that amount of work assigned every night. I was told before I came to Tech that for every credit taken there would be three hours associated per week. With 16 credits that's 48 hours a week of studying and doing homework. It seems logical since there are 168 hours in a week, but often studying takes longer than three hours per credit. I've already

pulled an all-nighter and it's only been two months. If anything, I have realized that sleep is a grace that I need to appreciate. With all the studying needed to do well, it's a miracle that any of get any sleep at all. The studying we do keeps us up all night, but at what cost?

*Mary Rose Lunde is a freshmen at Virginia Tech double majoring in biology and creative writing. She is involved in Chi Alpha and spends any other remaining time she has doing homework and studying.*

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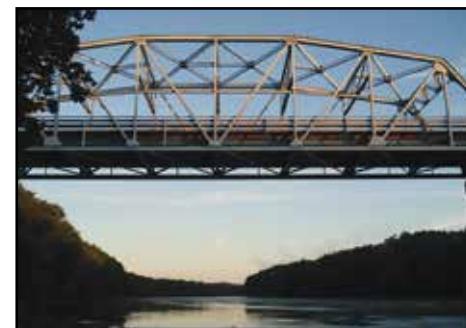
- By Tim Jon



JON

Yeah, I know; I seem to be coming up with a list of contradictions for this particular place: Imposing yet stimulating, simultaneously calming and invigorating, ethereal and grounding, still and moving. Those are just some of the pairs of opposing impressions and sensations I recall from my last visit to the banks of the Potomac River at the spot we call Point of Rocks.

Now, I know that the village by this name lies across the way in Frederick County,



Md., but the views afforded by the place (in my opinion) are far more rewarding from the northern shores of Loudoun (yes, I know that's the south bank of the river). You can

*continued on page 33*

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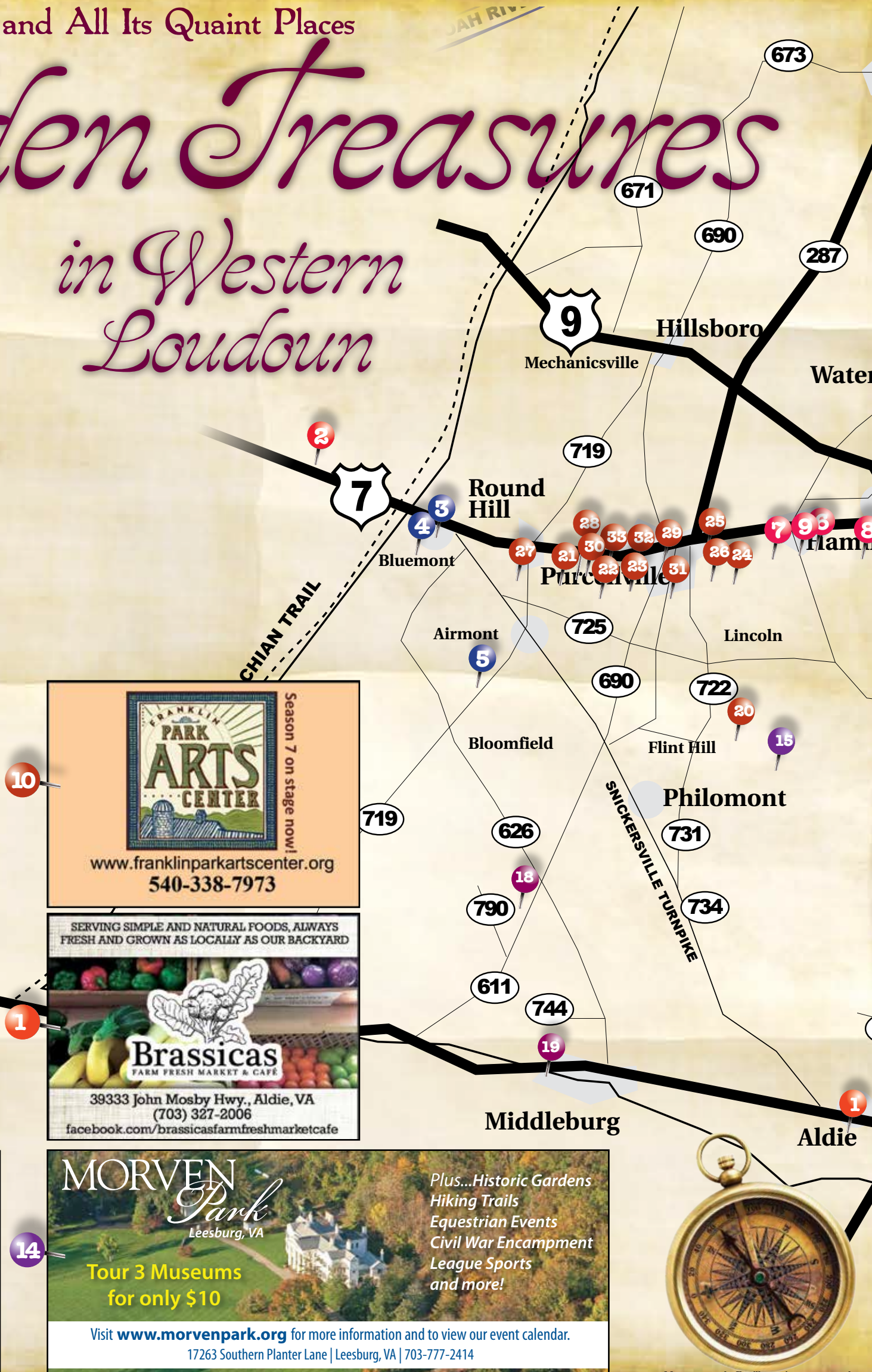
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## Amy & Dan Smith's Planning For Life: The General Power Of Attorney

A power of attorney is a writing authorizing one person (the agent) to act for another person (the principal). The term "durable" is often used with power of attorney. This simply means that the power continues even if the principal becomes incapacitated. By law in Virginia now, all powers are durable unless they expressly state otherwise.

A power of attorney is effective upon signing unless it states that it is effective upon a certain date or only upon the occurrence of a future event or set of circumstances. A power which is to become effective in the



AMY & DAN SMITH

future is called a "springing power." A power which is effective immediately avoids the difficulties necessitated by having to prove the satisfaction of whatever conditions are established before the power becomes effective such as, for example, obtaining a doctor's certification of incompetency.

Thus, a power which is effective immediately is more efficient, but of course, leaves the principal at greater risk of being victimized by the agent. Trust is the basis for any appointment of an agent under a general power.

A power of attorney may be general in scope or specific. For example, a person may authorize another to execute documents on his behalf in a real estate settlement. A special power of attorney would be drawn for that purpose and would be limited in scope only to those actions necessary to close the transaction. Usually an outside date is set upon which the power will expire if the transaction has not been completed by that time.

The existence of a valid general power of attorney can avoid the time-consuming and costly process of appointing a guardian or a curator for an incapacitated person. The process requires a physician's report on

the nature and extent of the incapacity, a judicial hearing, and regular reporting to the court or to the Commissioner of Accounts regarding the finances (the "estate") of the incapacitated person.

A power of attorney may be revoked by the principal at any time (assuming he/she is competent) but terminates automatically upon the death of the principal.

An agent under a general power of attorney has broad authority to deal with a wide range of matters on behalf of the principal, everything from, for example, buying and selling real estate to providing

*continued on page 31*

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## Achieving A Natural Balance In The Garden

- By Donna Williamson



This spring I noticed that my *Magnolia sieboldii* was looking wonky. This is usually a spectacular magnolia with downward facing blooms and red stamens in the center of the flower.

I thought maybe the terrible winter had damaged it. The leaves had come out but the closer I looked, I saw that it had sooty mold. It's called sooty mold because it looks like soot staining the bark or the leaves. It is a fungus that grows on the sugary poo of tiny leaf-sucking critters, often aphids or whiteflies. And, in my experience, sooty mold is a harmless symptom of insect activity. It doesn't really hurt the tree.

I went to get my glasses so I could look more carefully at who was on my magnolia. It turned out that scale insects were all over the bark of the tree. They look like bumps on the branches. Scale insects are covered with something that looks like a shell – very well protected. Some were large, some were tiny, but there were hundreds.

There are many different types of scale insects and they often attack a plant that is in distress already. Folks who have planted euonymous in a hot, sunny location will often see a lot of scale and over time the plant deteriorates. Bad winter, I thought. But I don't want more damage from the scale insects that suck out plant juices.

And then I noticed that there were dozens

of wasps in the magnolia, different colors, and sizes, and they were feasting on the scale insects.

Two weeks later I went to check the magnolia again. The scale insects had been substantially reduced in number. The wasps had done their work. Even the sooty mold had faded on many of the leaves. Less sugary poo around.

It's now November and there are a few scale insects still hanging around. This winter when the leaves are gone, I will spray the magnolia with a light dormant oil to suffocate the remaining scale critters. The wasps did a terrific job of controlling this outbreak. And I was able to avoid buying and using a chemical that would have killed all the insects out there – wasps and bees included.

Doug Tallamy talks about achieving a natural balance in the garden where pest insects are largely controlled by other creatures – predatory insects, birds, toads, etc. It's so great to see it all work.

*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. Her e-book, The Mid-Atlantic Garden is available on Amazon. Email donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or call her at 540 877-2002.*

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**Loudoun Country Day School To Hold Annual Veterans Day Tribute**

Loudoun Country Day School will host its annual Veterans Day tribute on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 8:30 - 11a.m. For this event, students are encouraged to invite family members and friends who are veterans or active duty military for a full morning program that involves a bagpiper, a flag raising, the pre-kindergarten leading the Pledge of Allegiance, musical numbers by kindergarten - second grades, and a recitation of the Gettysburg Address by the fifth grade. Honored guests then visit the classrooms of their host students, sharing their experiences and talking about the locations where they served.

Preparations begin months ahead of time,



with the music department teaching students their musical numbers and the art department and classroom teachers working with all students on projects to decorate the school for the

occasion. The school also makes a donation to paws4vets, an organization that trains and places service dogs with veterans with physical and emotional disabilities. The donation is made possible by the students eagerly bringing in all of the "noisy money" (loose change) over the period of three months. Questions regarding this event may be directed to Renee Kelahan, the LCDS Librarian, at 703 777-3841 or via email: renee.@lcds.org.

*Sobel, continued from page 12*

have worked extremely hard over the past five years, but I hope this time has been used for more than just laying a foundation for the future. Am I doing enough to make a difference in the world now?

After some reflection considering my impact, I realized that for the past five years I have volunteered in a program through my church that serves special needs children. I have seen these children grow and change right before my eyes, and have had the privilege of walking with them and their families on their journeys. I will admit it is not always easy, but it is so rewarding, and I am glad that I have been able to serve. It is a small contribution that need not garner attention, but it makes a powerful difference in the lives of these special families. This is not to say that I am doing all I can in the

community as there is always more that can be done. Yet I am so grateful to have had the privilege of working with these children, and since this is the month of giving thanks, I am thankful for the opportunity I have been given to make a difference.

So I invite you to consider your legacy. Not one event, but a series of them, for there is more to Joshua Bell than his one performance, and his legacy should consist of all that he is as a performer, not just two hours in the metro. What can you do to make a difference? It matters not the size of a contribution. The power of one to change the world by serving others in bringing beauty to the world or helping others matters. What is your legacy?

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is a junior at George Mason University and an intern with the Office of Senator Marco Rubio.*

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## ONGOING EVENTS

☉ **Art Show at the Old Stone School in Hillsboro**, through Sunday, Dec. 21. More than 15 artists including: Zeynep Baki, Mary Champion, Vicky Garrison, Penny Haufe, Catharine Hillis, Aledra Hollenbach, Karen Mazza, Judy McDonnell, Cynthia McGranaghan, Alice Power, Libby Stevens, Dana Thompson, Becky Tighe, Donna Robinson, Carol Clay Ward and Betty Wiley. Part of the proceeds from art sales benefit the Old Stone School restoration fund. Go to [oldstoneschool.org](http://oldstoneschool.org) for more information.

☉ **Weekends in November, The Bluemont Mill Train Station** is open for history tours and has local artisans crafts for sale from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. at 18293 Railroad St. in Bluemont.

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

☉ **Nov. 8, Saturday, Makeup by Melissa Franklin and Jenny's Salon** are hosting an open house featuring service gift certificate giveaway, free blowouts and makeup applications. Jenny's Salon 550 E. Main St. Purcellville 4-7 p.m.

☉ **Nov. 8, Saturday, free spaghetti dinner** from 4-7 p.m. at Unison Methodist Church, 21148 Unison Road. Donations of unwrapped toys and canned food appreciated. All donations are given to families in need during the holidays.

☉ **Nov. 8, Saturday, tour of trees of Oatlands** by the Tree Stewards of the Master Gardeners of Loudoun at 11 a.m. at Oatlands, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane. Call Oatlands, 703-777-3174.

☉ **Nov. 8, Saturday, Ebenezer United Methodist Church country breakfast** 8-10:30 a.m. or until they run out of food. Breakfast buffet featuring sausage gravy, biscuits, eggs, coffee cakes, fruit, pancakes, ham, homemade bagels and fried potatoes. At 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671) Purcellville. Free will offering.

☉ **Nov. 8, Saturday, family program at Long Branch Plantation**, 830 Long Branch Lane, Boyce, from 1-4 p.m. Explore Virginia's American Indian heritage. Go to [www.visitlongbranch.org](http://www.visitlongbranch.org).

☉ **Nov. 8, Saturday, Custom Faux Wreaths and Arrangements** at Everyday Elegance, 600 E. Main St. in Purcellville from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Place your order for holiday delivery.

☉ **Nov. 9, Sunday, Lovettsville Historical Society Lecture**, "13,000 Years Beneath Our Feet: The Unknown Heritage of Loudoun's Prehistoric Native Americans." At St. James United Church of Christ, 10 East Broad Way, Lovettsville 2 p.m.

☉ **Nov. 9, Sunday, Pirates of Penzance**, 4 p.m. at Tally Ho Theater in Leesburg. Semi-staged, full costume concert performance. Go to [www.LoudounLyricOpera.com](http://www.LoudounLyricOpera.com).

☉ **Nov. 9, Sunday, 22nd annual Loudoun History Awards** at Thomas Balch Library, 208 West Market St., Leesburg, at 2 p.m. Vernon Peterson and Stephen C. Price will be honored.

☉ **Nov. 9, Sunday, 10th annual Turkey Trot 5K and Fun Run** at 8 a.m. The race will begin at the Loudoun Valley Community Center. For more information, please go to <http://pvilleturkeytrot.shutterfly.com>. Registration information can be found at [www.imathlete.com/events/pvilletrot](http://www.imathlete.com/events/pvilletrot).

☉ **Nov. 9, Sunday, Community Solar**, presented by Local Energy Alliance Program and Interfaith Power and Light for Energy Efficiency. Solarize Leesburg at 20460 Gleedsville Rd, Leesburg 12:30 p.m.

☉ **Nov. 11, Tuesday, Lovettsville Veterans Day Ceremony**, 11 a.m. on the Lovettsville Town Square.

☉ **Nov. 12, Wednesday, "Planning and Preparation for the Road Ahead, Dementia and Alzheimer's Care,"** from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Best Western Leesburg, 726 E. Market Street, Leesburg. Continental breakfast. Call Linda 540-327-3083.

☉ **Nov. 13, Thursday, free garden lecture** on holiday flower arranging from Loudoun County master gardener, floral designer and educator Kim Wright. She will present a demonstration of various easy-to-make holiday floral arrangements at Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg at 7 p.m.

☉ **Nov. 14-23, 2014 Cider Week Virginia festival** at various locations across the state, including Corcoran Vineyards and Cider in Waterford. Additional information at [www.ciderweekva.com](http://www.ciderweekva.com).

☉ **Nov. 15, Saturday, walking tour of Oatlands**, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg, with Dr. David Clark of the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation. The tour is \$5 per individual or \$10 per family.

☉ **Nov. 15, Saturday, five best designer tips and ideas at Everyday Elegance**, 600 E. Main St. in Purcellville 2 p.m. Bring your design dilemmas for a Q & A after the presentation.

☉ **Nov. 16 to Dec. 30, Christmas at Oatlands**, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg. Oatlands mansion is open for regular guided tours through the end of December

☉ **Nov. 22, Saturday, setting a beautiful tabletop for the holidays** at Everyday Elegance, 600 E. Main St. in Purcellville 2 p.m.

## Franklin Park November 2014 Calendar

– Details at [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org) –

**Main Street Theatre presents Oliver**, **Friday, Nov. 7, 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.** Nothing works on the stage like a well-crafted tale, and Oliver is just such a show. Based on the Dickens novel, it will engage you with its pathos and drama, while delighting you with its outstanding musical numbers. Tickets: \$23 adult, \$20 senior/student. Contact [karlahlouis@aol.com](mailto:karlahlouis@aol.com) to reserve, or call 540-751-9588.

**Barefoot Puppets presents Trickster Tales**, **Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.** Can a spider defeat an elephant at tug-of-war? Overpower a python? Capture a cloud of hornets? With Anansi the Spider, world famous trickster, all things are possible ... if you only have a plan. This show brings traditional stories from West Africa to live with expressive rod puppets, original music and lots of puns. Performed on a large, 12-foot stage with colorful scenery and amazing scene changes. It's a high-energy show with lots of laughs. Tickets: \$5/person, call to reserve 540-338-7973.

**VSA of Loudoun presents a Creative Arts Medley Show**, **Friday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16, 3 p.m.** Dancers, actors and musicians will perform original pieces inspired by artwork created by DaVinci artists. Tickets: \$10 all seats. Visit [www.VSALoudoun.org](http://www.VSALoudoun.org).

★ **The Capitol Steps**, **Saturday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.** They're back. The Capitol Steps return to Franklin Park with a new version of their wild and wacky political humor. Join us for an evening or matinee performance by the group that's put the "Mock" in Democracy since 1981 — when Reagan was president and ketchup was a vegetable. Ever since then they've been poking fun at presidents, congress, the political establishment and life in America. The Capitol Steps have recorded more than 33 albums—including their latest: "How to Succeed in Congress without Really Lying." This comedy troupe has been featured on national TV including ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS. "They're the best. There's no one like them, no one in their league!" — Larry King. Tickets: \$35/\$45.

**Loudoun Lyric Opera Presents The Pirates of Penzance**, **Friday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 23, 3 p.m.** Gilbert &

Sullivan's swashbuckling comedy featuring pirates, police, a bevy of beautiful maidens and a "modern major-general." All tickets receive a \$2 discount when ordered online at [www.LoudounLyricOpera.com](http://www.LoudounLyricOpera.com). Tickets: \$22 adults, \$17 college students/seniors 65+, \$12 youth 18 and under.

**Last Ham Standing**, **Friday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m.** Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. A group of talented performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway?, you'll love Last Ham Standing, the other comedy meat. Tickets: \$12 adult, \$10 student, \$8 child. Purchase online.

**Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders**, **Saturday, Nov. 29, 8 p.m.** Award-winning sing/songwriter Andrew McKnight's music traverses influences from Appalachia, tasteful slide and jazzy blues, feisty anthems, rustic folk and guitar-driven rock. Featuring founding Nitty Gritty Dirt Band member Les Thompson, Les' wife Stephanie Thompson and Lisa Taylor, Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders blends his charming tenor voice and acoustic and electric guitars with banjo, upright bass, drums and percussion. The band has delighted concert and festival audiences since their collective debut at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington (March 2008). Their eclectic arrangements of Andrew's award-winning songs fuse old-time influences, roots rock sounds, rich vocal harmonies and an assimilation of many stylistic elements that truly stretch "beyond Appalachian, beyond blues, beyond folk." Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 student/senior. Call 540-338-7973 to reserve.

**Riders In The Sky A Christmas Show**, **Thursday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m.** For more than 30 years Riders In The Sky have been keepers of the flame passed on by the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, reviving and revitalizing the genre. And, while remaining true to the integrity of Western music, they have themselves become modern-day icons by branding the genre with their own legendary wacky humor and way-out Western wit, and all along encouraging buckaroos and buckarettas to live life "The Cowboy Way." Tickets: \$30 all seats. Reserve seating. Purchase online.

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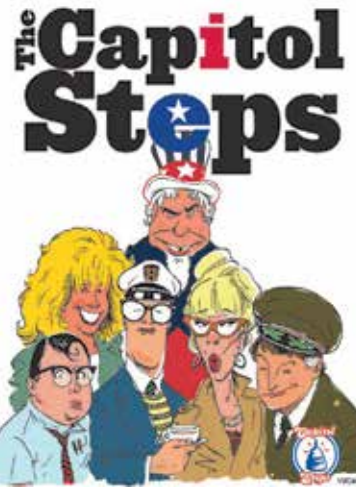
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### Main Street Theater presents: **Oliver!**

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### Barefoot Puppets presents: **Trickster Tales**

This show brings traditional stories from West Africa to life with

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### VSA of Loudoun presents: **pARTnerships**

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\$10 Seniors/Students Call to reserve 540-338-7973 or online [www.vsaloudoun.org](http://www.vsaloudoun.org)

### Loudoun Lyric Opera presents: **The Pirates of Penzance**

Gilbert & Sullivan's swashbuckling comedy

Fri, Nov 21	8:00PM
Sat, Nov 22	3:00PM & 8:00PM
Sun, Nov 23	3:00PM

featuring pirates, police, a bevy of beautiful maidens and a "modern major-general".

Tickets: \$22 Adults, \$17 Seniors/College, \$12 Youth

Discount \$2 when ordered on-line    [www.loudonlyricopera.com](http://www.loudonlyricopera.com)

### Last Ham Standing

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.

Fri, Nov 28 8:00PM

Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$8 kids    [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)

### Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders

Eclectic arrangements of award-winning songs that fuse old-time

Sat, Nov 29 8:00PM

influences, roots rock sounds, rich vocal harmonies that stretch "beyond Appalachian, beyond blues beyond folk – Beyond Borders!" Singer/songwriter McKnight is joined by Les Thompson,

Stephanie Thompson & Lisa Taylor. Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$15 Student/Senior Reserve by calling 540-338-7973



## Riders in the Sky—A Christmas Show

Thursday, December 4      8:00PM

Tickets: \$30 all seats

[www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)

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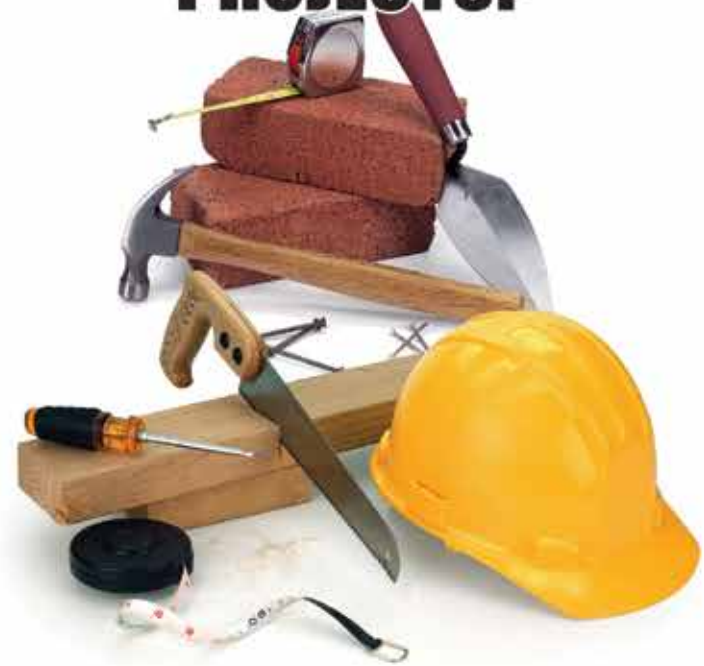
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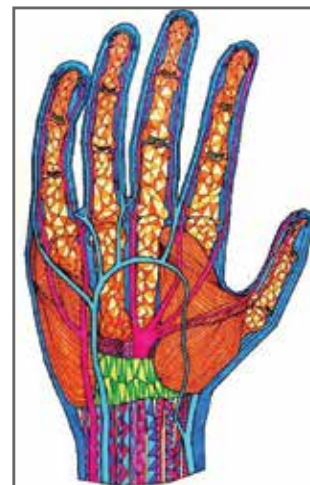
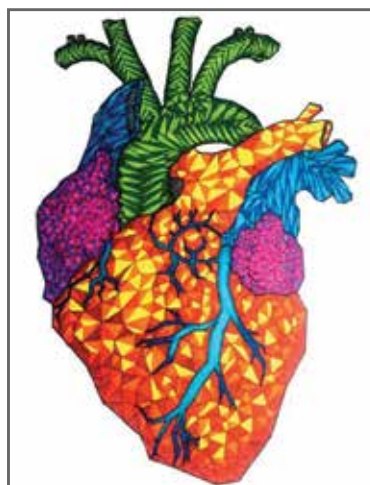
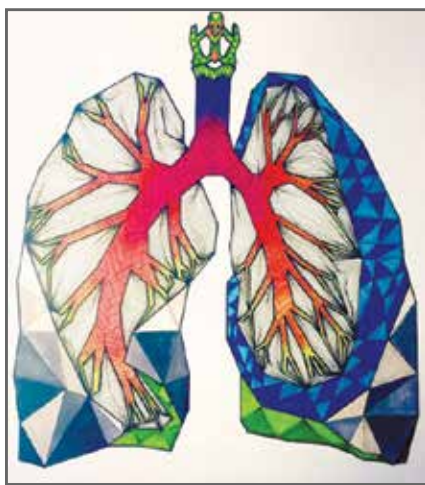
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## ARTIST'S PROFILE

# HEIDI FAILMEZGER - WOODGROVE HIGH SCHOOL ART STAR



– By Andrea Gaines

If you saw Woodgrove High School student Heidi Failmezger's recent work at an art show – and she has participated in many of them – it would surely stop you, make you think.

It is modern – colorful and intricate in a geometric kind of way. But, it also presents very familiar, very human images – hands, hearts and lungs, for example. And, that says to me that Failmezger's work draws on the traditional as well as the modern.

One piece depicts the heart as full of love as well as function. Another shows the lungs bursting with life as it receives blood from the heart ... slowly, breathing in, breathing out. One more shows a human hand, five fingers and a palm seen through a kaleidoscope of color as if lit from within ... a stained glass window in an historic church.

Heidi says she's been interested in art forever, recalling an old family picture of herself when she was just 2 years old, immersed in "something she was creating on an old piece of cardboard."

But while her interest in art is not new, the medium she

often works in now is quite new.

Heidi and many of her fellow students work in what is known to the non-artist as a magic marker. Today there are fine art quality versions of this familiar writing and drawing tool – in hundreds of shades and colors, metallic to translucent, in subtle to very brilliant colors.

Looking at Heidi's work, her somewhat quiet personality shines through. But, you also see, somehow, where the spirit of these amazing colors, shapes, attention to detail and light come from – a young artist relentlessly pouring her creativity into whatever medium she is working to master. For, although she is very modest in person, clearly proud of her work but a bit shy about showing it off – there is no denying she absolutely loves every piece of finished work that flows from her hand.

According to art teacher Geoff DeMark, who runs the high school's creative subjects programs with with teacher Shawn Grove, Woodgrove's arts program is "just starting to gel," with many students now having completed two, three, and four semesters of art study. DeMark has been teaching the creative arts for 20 years. And, it's clear that he revels in the creativity and talents of each and every student.

Heidi herself has completed Art I, Art II, Art III and Art IV at Woodgrove. Her studies have also included theater, musical theater and set design.

Heidi is a nationally recognized art student.

In 2014 she joined hundreds of creative teens in the United States as a winner of the Scholastic Arts Awards. In 2014 she won an award for three out of four of the self-portrait, ceramic and 2D/3D pieces she submitted – one Gold Key, as they are known, and two Silver Keys. A noteworthy roster of past winners of these awards include Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, Joyce Carol Oates, Stephen King and John Updike. Student artists are recognized for works that "exemplify originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal voice or vision."

Many of the art courses Heidi takes at Woodgrove qualify as Advance Placement or AP, some of which may help her with college boards and/or college credits. She has her sights set on Virginia Commonwealth University.

Thank you Heidi, and Mr. DeMark for enabling us to feature this amazing young talent in our newspaper.

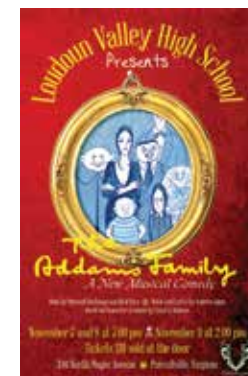
## Viking Players Present *The Addams Family*

The Loudoun Valley High School Viking Players are presenting a new musical this fall: *The Addams Family*. This hilarious romp through the halls of Addams Manor will be fun for the whole family, and a wonderful way to enjoy the Halloween season. Join Gomez and Morticia, Wednesday and Pugsley, Fester, Grandma, and Lurch as they dance and sing their way through

the joys and woes of love. Complete with all of the Addams family's ancestors and a "live" ghost orchestra. "The Addams Family: The Musical" has been a uniquely rewarding experience. All of the cast and crew have brought a great deal of energy, dedication, and excitement to our rehearsal process. We have found many new and dynamic ways of bringing this story to life, and we

are eager to share this hilarious story with you, the audience," said Russ Staggs – Theatre Director at Loudoun Valley High School.

*The Addams Family* performances are Nov. 7 and 8 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. in the main auditorium at Loudoun Valley High School, 340 N. Maple Avenue in Purcellville. All tickets are \$10 at the door. Call 540 751-2400 for more information.



On the web with daily updates at [www.brleader.com](http://www.brleader.com)



## Thanksgiving Games For Children And Adults

– By Andrea Gaines

Thanksgiving is all about spending time with the family ... with enough breaks from the cooking and eating to enjoy a little exercise and/or fun activities.

Here are four games that kids and adults can play together:

- **Turkey Touch Football.** This is pretty self-explanatory ... sort of! Divide into teams just as you would for touch football, but, instead of using a real football, use a stuffed toy made in the form of a turkey. Winning team gets to hold on to the stuffed turkey until Thanksgiving 2015 when it turns it over to the next winning team. (Winning team also gets to choose their preferred place at the 2014 Thanksgiving table.)
- **Taste, Color, Texture?** Everyone sits facing a leader. The leader thinks of a Thanksgiving food and writes it down on a piece of paper. Say the Thanksgiving food is cranberry sauce ... the leader then points to one of the players and says "Taste is tart, color is red, texture is chunky," describing the food. The chosen player must come up with the name of the Thanksgiving food before the leader counts to ten. If the player does not respond in time, he/she is out. The game continues until only one player remains. The winner gets to be the first at the dessert table.
- **Weave A Story Game** You'll need a notetaker/leader for this game. Take any ordinary family item – an old button, someone's favorite shirt, a piece of furniture, a piece of china, a photograph, a tool ... anything. The first person will say a sentence about the object: "This button came from Aunt Meg's favorite dress." The second person will repeat the first sentence and add one of their own: "This button came from Aunt Meg's favorite dress. I always loved that dress – it had holes in it but always smelled like it was fresh from the laundry." The game continues with each person repeating the sentences before and adding one of their own until the group has created a paragraph or two around the item. Great way to preserve family Thanksgiving memories.
- **Pumpkin Roll:** This is a simple race, but since pumpkins are not all that smooth and refuse to roll in nice straight lines, this game requires wandering room and persistence. You will need two pumpkins. Two racers with their individual pumpkins line up on a starting line with the pumpkins turned on their sides. On the signal, the racers use one hand to roll their individual pumpkins to the finish line. The losing player turns their pumpkin over to a new player so new competitors take a shot at winning. Repeat as many times as you like so everyone gets a chance to play. The most winning player gets to keep their pumpkin.

# Talking Turkey

– By Andrea Gaines

The turkey is a very delicious as well as a very popular bird!

The number of turkeys raised in Virginia is up 3 percent from 2013 to 2014 and now tops 16 million. The total number raised nationwide in 2014 is forecasted to be approximately 235 million, down 2 percent from 2013. The largest turkey-producing state is Minnesota, with Virginia ranking fifth and growing.

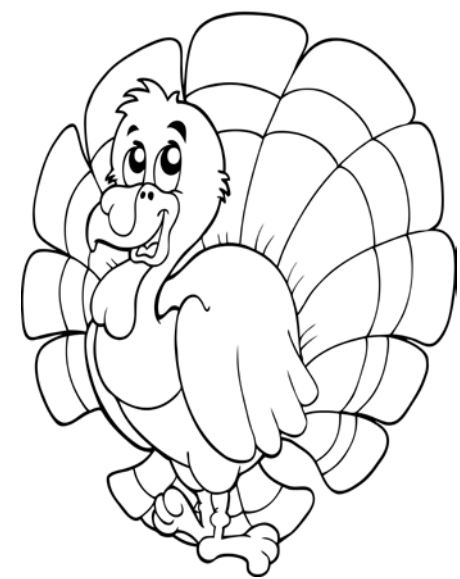
Today, consumers have many, many choices about what kind of bird they'll enjoy on Thanksgiving – a fresh or frozen conventional turkey, an "organic" turkey (defined as a bird that has been raised on organic grain and which may or may not be "free range"), or a true free range bird (defined as one that has ample access to the outdoors and "raises itself" on a diet most natural to the species, including grubs and other insects).

### Other fun turkey facts:

- Modern turkeys are the descendants of wild varieties native to North America. Native Americans hunted wild turkey for its sweet, juicy meat as early as 1000 A.D. A favorite food of the Aztecs, turkeys were brought to Europe by the Spanish. Henry VIII was the first Eng-

lish King to enjoy turkey, and Edward VII made turkey eating fashionable at Christmas. (In old England, turkeys were walked to market in herds. They wore booties to protect their feet.)

- The average American consumes about 16 pounds of turkey per year – turkey consumption has increased 104 percent since 1970.
- The average weight of a turkey purchased at Thanksgiving is 15 pounds – the heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds, about the size of a large dog.
- Turkey hens (females) are usually sold as whole birds. Toms (males) are processed into turkey sausage, turkey franks, tenderloins, cutlets and deli meats. Baby turkeys are called poults.
- Turkeys lived almost ten million years ago. Toms have beards comprised of black, hair-like feathers on their breast. All turkeys have very good hearing and can see in color. Male turkeys gobble while hens make a clicking noise. The carbuncle is a red-pink fleshy growth on the head and upper neck of the turkey. The bright red fleshy growth under a turkey's throat is called a wattle. Turkeys also have a long, red, fleshy growth called the snood from the base of the beak that hangs down over the beak. Wild turkeys can fly for



short distances up to 55 mph and can run 20 mph.

- Wild turkeys spend the night in trees (they prefer oak trees).
- Wild turkeys were almost wiped out in the early 1900's. Today they are found in every state except Alaska.
- The five most popular ways to serve left-over turkey are in a sandwich, in stew, in chili, soup or casseroles and as a burger. Turkey is low in fat and high in protein, with more protein than chicken or beef.
- Turkeys will have 3,500 feathers at maturity. The costume that "Big Bird" wears on Sesame Street is rumored to be made of turkey feathers.

## What To Do With Thanksgiving Leftovers? Turkey Pot Pie

### Ingredients

#### For the Crust:

- 1 1/4 cups unbleached white flour or gluten free flour, plus more for work surface
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 3 to 5 tablespoons ice water
- For the Filling:
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 medium onion, diced small (1-1/2 cups)
- 4 medium carrots, diced small (2 cups)
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup unbleached white flour/or gluten free
- 3 cups chicken broth or your home-made turkey broth
- 1 cup frozen peas
- Coarse salt and ground pepper
- 3 cups shredded cooked turkey
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley
- Small amount of chopped parsley and chives for garnish

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

#### For the filling:

- In a large pot, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and carrots and cook



until softened, 8 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant. Add flour and stir to coat vegetables.

- Slowly add broth, stirring constantly until sauce is smooth. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until thickened, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in peas. Season with salt and pepper, then stir in turkey and

parsley and set aside to cool.

#### For the crust:

- In a food processor, pulse together flour, sugar, and salt. Add butter and pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal. Sprinkle with 3 tablespoons ice water. Pulse until dough is crumbly but holds together when formed (if necessary, add up to 2 tablespoons of ice water).
- On a floured work surface, roll out dough to 1/8-inch thickness.

#### Assembly and baking:

- Choose either a pie-sized baking dish or small individual baking dishes. (If you choose small baking dishes, the kids can decorate before baking with a cookie cutter design of their choice as shown in our photo.)
- Add cooled turkey filling to dish.

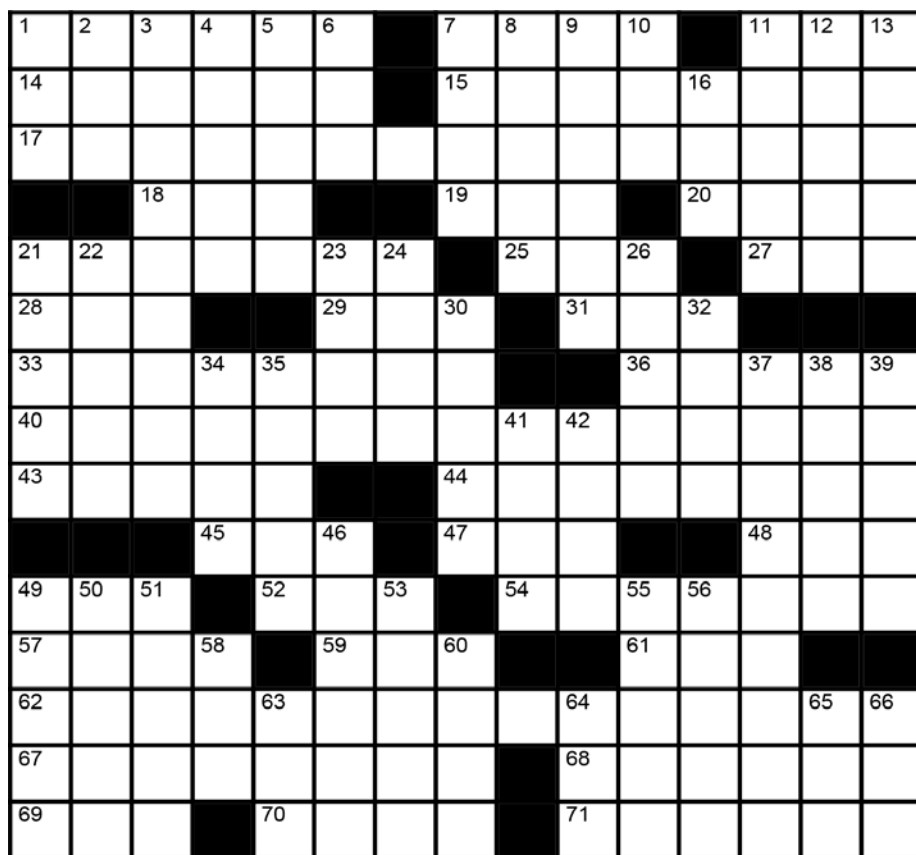
Place dough over large dish and fold overhang inward while pinching to crimp edges. For smaller individual baking dishes cut the appropriate size round and crimp to edge as above. Cut small vents in the top of the dough.

Place dish/dishes on a rimmed baking sheet and bake until crust is golden brown, approximately 45 minutes (check smaller dishes regularly; they may brown more quickly).

Garnish with more parsley or chives and serve.



## Wardrobe Basics – By Myles Mellor and Sally York



## ACROSS

1. Italian beverage
6. Black
11. Calphalon product
14. They were created in 1912
15. Mountaineer's tool
16. \_\_\_ Rancho (suburb of Albuquerque)
17. Be in charge
20. Go for
21. Egg
22. Faint
23. Bass, e.g.
24. Castle part
25. Diminutive
28. Turning chisel accompanier
30. N.B.A.'s Unseld
31. Be off base
32. \_\_\_ physics
36. Carbamide
37. Fancy frocks
41. Indian tourist site
42. Annoying
43. Debate position
44. Ribosomal \_\_\_
45. Dummkopf
49. Six-line poem
51. Achievement
54. \_\_\_ power
55. Cal. col.
56. Ostrichlike birds
57. Atlas section
58. "Calm down!"
62. Brown, for one
63. Adhesive
64. Bait
65. Pipe joint
66. Gas additive
67. Challenges

## DOWN

1. Lite
2. Interstice
3. Afternoon service
4. Cause for a lawsuit
5. D.C. setting
6. It doesn't hold water
7. Carry on
8. Road shoulder
9. \_\_\_-tzu
10. Oozes
11. Chief administrative officers
12. Cause of inflation?
13. Discouraging words
18. Furrow maker
19. Remain unused
24. Set aside
25. California's San \_\_\_ Bay
26. Elder, e.g.
27. Pitching stats
29. Maori war dance
30. Rings up?
33. \_\_\_ the town
34. 100 kurus
35. Breed
36. Drew on
37. Beanies
38. Beast
39. Ocular problem
40. Discharge
44. Enter again
46. Insect stage
47. Idle
48. Hamlet et al.
50. Call on
51. \_\_\_ Thieves
52. Chart holder
53. Old English character
56. Corn dish
57. Atlas stat
58. Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
59. Party time, maybe
60. Buttermilk morsel?
61. Common contraction

Answers on page 33

## Sushi – "Tails" From The Barnyard

– By Sushi

Well, I (the Mighty Carin Terrier, "Sushi") never felt more like singing to the stars because I have so much to be thankful for. I was in one of those deep hearty moods – you know that feeling when you enjoy great satisfaction at the end of a hard night's work? When you want to sit on top of a hill under a full moon, look out over the farm, breath deep and digest all that went right that day?

The October moon shone bright. The cool night air blew gently across "Turkey Hill." From my vantage point, I could see Stretch, sitting atop "Sheep Hill" aloof yet majestic, keeping watch in all directions for any predator that might harm his flock of ewe lambs. Stretch the Llama's deep red fiber was highlighted by the colors of the autumn blaze maple tree that he sat under. My buddy Stretch and I are depended upon to protect the family farm.

I was finished for the day after having checked the fence lines along "Turkey Hill." At the same time, I was keeping watch on the Sly Ones' activities out in the forbidden woods. "Turkey Hill" watch is extremely important this time of year as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach. Each and every bird is accounted for, as these "table birds" are the making of family memories to come. October, November, December, are my master Mrs. B.'s favorite months of the year.

Many of my nights are spent protecting the farm's poultry and fowl from the Sly Ones – the foxes that live out in the dark and forbidden woods. I live on a special farm called Fields of Athenry. Fields of Athenry is a place where we choose to live life as we think it should be lived. We work together, as a family, humans and animals side by side. Our farm is known for the meat it produces and sells, and the way we raise and care for our livestock.

This time of year our heritage breed turkeys are laying eggs and hatching is taking place in Mrs. B.'s incubator. As soon as the turkey poult's can get moved, outside they go. Each breed is separated in their own field right now, to make new babies ready for the 2015 table birds. Mr. and Mrs. Bourbon Red, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Palm and Mr. and Mrs. Bronze prance and dance as if they are the Cat's meow. Oh and speaking of cats – those two annoying barn cats; Hokie and Mountie can really be distracting in a young man's work, especially when that young man is a dog. They are always trying to get me in trouble. I took one more trot around the turkey Mama's pens as baby turkeys peered out from under their Mama's wings. Life is good on this particular fall night; even old Gnarly Gander (the China Goose) and the rest of the Goose gang are content and peaceful under the twilight moon. Lord Percy and his harem of hens roosted serenely in the chicken palace.

I have a lot to be thankful for. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas season



approaching it seems so appropriate. I decided to relish in my contentment with my old buddy Stretch. Stretch and I love meeting under the maple tree late at night, keeping watch over all the farm yards. Life was good. We had a strong year with very little livestock loss due to predators. I know Stretch and I will be rewarded by Mrs. B. and her family for our endless hard work throughout the year. It is so important to make someone happy through your actions. As you know, actions speak louder than words.

Every coyote fight, fox fight, skunk fight, possum fight has been worth protecting the farm. Not always pleasant but someone has got to do the grunt work. That's just the attitude Stretch and I take in our everyday duties that earn us the title of "Guardian's" of Fields of Athenry Farm. Don't ask what you can do for me but what can I do for you? Farm life teaches you this. So for now ... for this holiday season, come join Stretch and me and let our little light's shine all around the barn yard. I know if I do my job well, Mrs. B. will have my favorite sautéed chicken livers, cooked to perfection for my holiday dinner. Maybe you have never had sautéed chicken livers, but let me tell you, a real farm dog knows good food when he tastes it and you don't know what you are missing. This Thanksgiving and Christmas, I will be snuggled by the light of the farm house fire place. I will be the center of attention, body massages and belly scratches from all. That's right; scratches not scratches because that is exactly what dogs like. Even Stretch gets to join the fun. Yes, Stretch inside at Thanksgiving and Christmas – for you see Fields of Athenry Farm is a place where we choose to live life as we think it should be lived. We work together, as a family, humans and animals side by side.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
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 [www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com](http://www.fieldsofathenryfarm.com) or 703 926-8444.



*Dr. Mike, continued from page 2*

communicating are essential ingredients for a strong and successful co-parenting relationship. This is important for divorced couples who are in a state of high conflict since strong, negative emotions can contribute to defensive communication that can escalate into bad moments. Planning ahead and communicating about things clearly is even important for divorced couples who get along well since living separate lives can lead to assumptions and misunderstandings. For example, a patient of mine from several years ago made very expensive travel arrangements for her children and herself for the Christmas week. Unfortunately, her ex-husband had done the same thing. In the end, there were several non-refundable tickets and hotel reservations for one parent, and all of this could have been avoided with better planning and communication.

**Keep Or Create New Family Traditions:** Some families are able to continue their holiday traditions after divorce, and this can be very healthy. For instance, divorced couples of very young children may wish to be together on Christmas morning when gifts are being opened under the tree. This co-parenting moment can serve to give younger children the predictability, consistency and closeness that they have always experienced and known with their parents. Thus, listening to your children, or at least considering their needs (developmental and emotional) is a good idea when planning for the holidays as a divorced couple. Most families, however, create new family traditions, which can also be very healthy. Volunteering, running a 5K, visiting a specific destination annually or visiting extended family are some ideas that can feel good and become the new normal for your children over time.

**Practice Kindness:** Children can be very aware of how their parents feel about each other so be mindful of what you say to your ex and how you behave with him or her in the presence of your children. For couples who co-parent actively and with little trouble, practicing kindness is easier to do than for couples who have a more complicated history with ongoing struggles. Regardless of whether you co-parent actively or you co-parent in the minimum due to your situation, remember that children learn some of their most important life lessons from their parents, including how to have a loving relationship with a significant other.

Although children of divorced parents live in two separate homes, it should always be the goal of divorced parents to create two happy homes for their children. And children should always experience their parents as being together for them as mom and dad – especially during important moments. When working with divorced parents in high conflict relationships, I remind them to keep things in perspective; that they will very likely be attending their children's graduations and weddings and their children need them to be there fully for them. When divorced parents can move beyond their upset and instead demonstrate respect and practice kindness in the presence of their children, they are teaching their children how to love and how to be in a relationship. The holidays with your children can create opportunities for you to be mindful of how you are at transitions with your children and how you are (and want to be) together with your children as a divorced family.

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. Go to [www.Ashburnpsych.com](http://www.Ashburnpsych.com) or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.

*Amy & Dan Smith, continued from page 20*

for the support and maintenance to the principal out of his/her resources.

As explained in a prior column, the medical directive is a different document. It is similar in that both the medical directive and the power of attorney involve the appointment of an agent. The agent under the medical directive and the general power may be the same person or persons. The authority of the agent under the medical directive is restricted to health-related matters.

Tip: Even if you have a valid general power of attorney, it is wise, if you are able, to sign the power of attorney forms which each of your financial institutions (banks and brokerage firms) so that they have on record the appointment of your agent on their own form.

Next Column: What Is "Probate?"

*The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer.*

*Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy V. Smith, CFP, CIMA offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel: 703-669-5022. [www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com)) Any opinions are those of Amy and Dan Smith and not necessarily those of Raymond James. Raymond James does not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete and does not provide legal service. Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James.*

# Wild Loudoun

## Raccoons – The Fascinating Commoner



– By Andrea Gaines

It's not a good idea to come in physical contact with a raccoon – or any wild animal for that matter – or to allow your dog or cat to do so. As I found out one night trying to aid a raccoon that had been hit by a car, they do not like to be cornered and can be very aggressive as well as vocal. Luckily, the Animal Control professional I called knew just what to do – put on big heavy gloves, lasso the raccoon with a long stick and protective noose, ease it slowly into a sturdy cage and get it some medical attention as quickly as possible.

The raccoon is such a commonly sighted animal that we sometimes forget how ingeniously engineered and fascinating they are.

For example, one of the raccoon's most interesting physical features is the sensitivity of its front paws. Technically, the "fingers" on these front paws are classified as toes. They have a dexterity and sense of touch similar to that of the human hand, easily catching and manipulating a wide variety of foods. This includes food they might find protected by the latches, lids and sliding hooks humans use to secure outdoor pet food containers, animal feed bins and garbage cans – on our porches, in our barns and/or left on the sidewalk for pick up. Their sense of touch also is also heightened when their paws are under water – a quality that helps them find shellfish, fish, aquatic plant life and other foods.

Raccoons started out life in mixed and deciduous forests. But, due to their high adaptability, today they have extended their ranges to the mountains and the marshes, as well as our rural plains and urban and suburban areas.

Raccoons are now found almost worldwide. Families of females share common areas. Unrelated males live together in groups and vigorously defend their common ground.

The sweet facial mask of the raccoon is probably its most endearing feature, as is the sight of a family of raccoons peeking out from the hollow of an old tree limb. And, they are very intelligent behind those distinctive masks. For raccoons are noted for their smarts, and memory, remembering the solution to a particular challenge – how to unlatch a garage door for the first time, for example – for up to three years.

Part of the raccoon's remarkable adaptability is its diet. They are omnivorous, easily satisfied by a diet of both plants and animal material. And, the ability of their "fingers" and hands to recognize a nutritious meal helps them feed both themselves and their many young as long as food is available.

Interestingly, raccoons were revered by Native Americans who understood that the animals were adapted to live "in the air ... in the water ... and on the ground." They are classified as an arboreal or tree-adapted species, hence the reference to air. Their preferred nesting sites are older, hollowed out trees, and they also use trees as a place to escape from danger. They spend lots of time in the water – combing the rivers and creeks home to their preferred foods. And, they can scurry quite quickly along the ground. Their back legs, by the way, are longer than their front legs, which give the animal its characteristic hump as it moves across the ground. This is also a sign that they are closer to a canine (a dog) than a bear, which is how many scientists first classified them.

Captive raccoons have been known to live over 20 years, but their average life expectancy in the wild is much shorter – somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 to 3 years. Hunting and injury/death by way of cars and trucks are the two most common causes of death for raccoons.

Keep them as safe as possible by providing what habitat you can on your property ... and keeping your distance on the road.



## Lucky Winner Of Raffle Quilt

Emma Vest, a fourth-grade student at Waterford Elementary School in Waterford, fell in love with the beautiful quilt when she saw it being raffled at the Waterford Fair by the Waterford Quilters Guild while visiting the fair with her class. She bought a raffle ticket, went home, emptied her piggy bank and bought more tickets the next day. She just wanted to make sure that she would win the quilt that so captured her imagination. Her wish came true on the last day of the fair, when her ticket was, indeed, the lucky winner. Who says that wishes don't come true?

The quilt called "The Fields and Forest of Waterford" was designed by Kathy Ashland and completed by members of the Waterford Quilters Guild. Two years in the making, hand-embroidered and hand-quilted, it features the flora and fauna of Northern Virginia.

The Waterford Quilters Guild, one of the oldest quilting guilds in Northern Virginia, has the purpose of preserving the tradition of quilting and promoting knowledge and understanding of the art of quilting. Each



Emma Vest with her quilt – her wish came true.

year, the Guild creates a raffle quilt, using the proceeds to support the educational programs at the Waterford Second Street School, as well as its own activities. More information about the Guild is available at [www.waterfordquiltersguild.org](http://www.waterfordquiltersguild.org).

### Letters, continued from page 8

Bowe Design / Build, Hunt Country Jewelers, Mountain View Medical, Walsh's VIP Auto Service, Zicht & Assoc., Batman Handyman Services, Magnolias, Oak & Kathy Winters, Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink, Loco Joe's, Designing Flowers, Purcellville Motors, The Paint & Paper Place, My Deli & Café, Lickety Splitz, Mary Ellen Stover Antiques, M. Roundtree Estate Jewelry, Yoga Time Studios, Percy Bear Kids and Harris Teeter.

Also a special thanks to Laura Kowalczyk for the Face Painting, Loudoun Valley Dance for your Zombie Flash Dance, Loudoun Valley Drama for the preview of "The Addams Family" and Swell Daze for a rockin' concert. A HUGE thank you to the Town of

Purcellville, the Police Department and Purcellville EMS. A BIG thank you to Mayor Kwasi Fraser and council member Karen Jimmerson, also Geno Stampora, Karen Graham and Dr. Kurt Pierce. A BIG shout out to The Purcellville Business Assoc. and Tony Hudimac.

Kim and I moved to Purcellville 6 years ago and we absolutely, positively love living here, the best small town in America, our home. We love giving back to our community and its impeccable citizens who make Purcellville what it is!

Michael Oaks and Kim Patterson  
Purcellville Halloween Block Party  
Re-Love It a Consignment Shoppe

## Trail Race Benefits Boulder Crest

On Nov. 9 Loudoun County Road Runners will conduct the third annual Loudoun 10K Trail Race to raise funds for Boulder Crest Retreat.

Boulder Crest Retreat is a non-profit organization on 37-acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bluemont. The mission of Boulder Crest Retreat is to provide wounded warriors, their families and caregivers a place where they can enjoy recreational activities, programs and the opportunity to relax, recuperate and reconnect as they spend time together as a family.

The retreat provides services to these military families at no cost and is supported entirely through the generosity of private donations. In 2013, the Loudoun 10K Trail Race raised more than \$25,000 to support Boulder Crest Retreat in its efforts.

This year's race will take place at Camp Highroad, a 600-acre retreat located at 21164 Steptoe Hill Road in Middleburg.

There will be two registration options: \$35 which will not include a shirt and \$45 which will include a long sleeve, blue race shirt. All race proceeds go directly to Boulder Crest Retreat. To learn more about the race or register go to: [www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org](http://www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org).

The field is limited to the first 200 runners who register. The race will be conducted rain or shine and begins at 9 am.

Persons or organizations wishing to provide sponsorship for the race can do so by contacting Sponsorship Manager Tom Bowman at [tbowman@tothfinancial.com](mailto:tbowman@tothfinancial.com) or Race Director Jim Schatz at [schtred@aol.com](mailto:schtred@aol.com).

Private donations can be made by check to "Loudoun Road Runners" and mailed to P.O. Box 3342, Leesburg, VA 20177 by Oct. 24. Please write "Loudoun 10K Trail Race" in the memo section of the check, or you can donate on line at the following: [fundraising.active.com/event/LoudounTrail10K2014](http://fundraising.active.com/event/LoudounTrail10K2014).

## Remembering Julia Taylor Cannon

Julia Taylor Cannon, 65, of Lincoln, Virginia, died Thursday, October 16.

Julia was born July 5, 1949, to her adored parents, the late Thomas E. and Mary S. Taylor, and lived the majority of her life in her hometown of Lincoln. Her family and home were a source of great joy to her.

She was a proud alumna of both Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where she received her BA, and the University of Virginia, where she received her law degree.

From her childhood, Julia was a voracious reader and avid horsewoman, and she retained a love of both throughout her life. Her other interests included the care and keeping of her several gardens, hosting and cooking for family gatherings, and celebrating Christmas in a style that her family will always remember with gratitude and awe. Inspired by her parents, she became a passionate advocate for civil rights, and was committed throughout her life to equity and justice.

Julia was a retired Chief Justice of the Loudoun General District Court. She served as a General District Court Judge from July 1992 to April 2012.

Julia had previously practiced law for several years, including in private practice with her dear friend John Ryan, and had



Julia Taylor Cannon

been County Attorney for a time before becoming a judge. She continued to enjoy her work as a substitute judge after her retirement, particularly as it enabled her to remain connected to the many people she enjoyed in the Virginia legal community.

She is survived by her sisters Mary Jay Michel and Carolyn Taylor, her brother Henry Taylor, countless friends, and her husband Thomas F. Cannon, Jr., and daughters Jessica Taylor Cannon and Johanna

Taylor Cannon, who consider themselves lucky beyond compare to be her family. She is remembered for her incredible kindness and warmth, her wit and intelligence, her generous spirit, and her deep care for others.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 29, at the Goose Creek Friends Meeting House in Lincoln, VA (18204 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, VA 20160).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Development Department, 4805

Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215 ([www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)) and Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, 41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg, VA 20176 (<http://ltrf.org/>).

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.hillandwood.com](http://www.hillandwood.com).

## Kitchen Science Kids: Water Lenses

By Leah Enright

Sometimes I crave pizza or ice cream, but Antony Van Leeuwenhoek craved something else - knowledge. While he was living in Holland, and working with fabrics for a living, Antony discovered a love for designing powerful magnifying lenses, or microscopes. He is known to have made hundreds of them, and in fact, some are still around today, though he died almost 300 years ago. Though Antony didn't go to school to study science, he learned from his daily activities, reading books and his own experiments. Eventually he went on to discover bacteria (which he called "little animals") and other forms of microscopic life. Antony Van Leeuwenhoek died in 1723, but not before writing about his discoveries, and helping scientists everywhere to understand more about the natural world. Thank goodness he didn't stop with pizza and ice cream.

Antony used glass to design his lenses, but we can make a lens with a few simple items.

You'll need:

1. A clean, plastic eye or medicine dropper (ask an adult)
2. This newspaper



ENRIGHT

3. A teaspoon of petroleum jelly
4. A cup of water

Now, do this:

Rub a small amount of petroleum jelly onto a small part of the newspaper, with printed words. The square of jelly should be about one inch high, and one inch wide.

Using the dropper, place a drop of water over one of the words.

What do you see?

If this activity went as planned, you see that the water has formed a round ball, and magnifies the print beneath it. Fascinating.

Though this activity is simple, it recreates many of the important points of lenses. To work properly, lenses must be rounded and see-through (transparent), and even simple magnifiers can make things look larger. This is how Van Leeuwenhoek discovered bacteria - the tiny creatures were hidden to his eyes until he viewed them with magnification.

So, once again curiosity has led to great discoveries. Keep learning and looking - you never know what you'll see.

*When she's not writing about kids, science and business-y stuff, Leah Enright is cutting hair in Purcellville, and living in Round Hill with her family.*



Just Like Nothing Else, continued from page 14

get there easily enough: take the Boat Landing access from Lovettsville Road – immediately off Route 15 just before the bridge – and you can get out of your car and traipse around – and under – the huge pylons that support the structure for some inspiring sights – both natural and man-made.

After the initial impact of the size and shape of the high overhead bridge (and the slowly moving water it spans), the most obvious visual attraction stands on the opposite shore: the very ‘rocks’ which sprouted the name of this area. From what I’ve read of the history and geology of the site, it took a lot of water and a lot of time to leave those exposed stone surfaces peering out over the Potomac. And, just to the left of those cliffs sits Paton Island, flanked by Heaters Island on the downstream side; these two ‘sentinels’ seem to add just a bit more focus onto the aforementioned steel and rock.

And – at one of my favorite times of day – early morning – the sun first hitting the bridge, then the partially hidden cliffs on the opposing shore, and finally the Islands and River (and its low-hanging fog) gives the entire area an almost mystical quality, and elevates the Point of Rocks Bridge to heights found only among certain rare sights amid dawn’s colors. Seeing otherwise humdrum steel change from deep blue to black to rose and then settle down to its usual robin’s egg hue lets this hulking, inanimate structure ‘dance’ in the light for just those few seconds each morning and evening. Well, if it doesn’t exactly dance, at least it glows.

And, in the dream landscapes to which so many of the elements found at Point of Rocks can lend themselves – the bridge, the River and its fog, the promontory and surrounding hills, the

Islands, the blanket of woods, and even the railroad across the water – these images can plasticize, animate, and even take on human characteristics. Well, depends on the dreamer, I guess. But even an objective examiner would agree that this spot’s filled with mythic symbols – which can merge with an enlarged imagination and become something to behold. It’s easy for me to believe that some of the first humans in the area may have referred to Point of Rocks (even without its more modern amenities) as a place of ‘Big Medicine’ – a location in which they could visit to recharge their first American batteries, so to speak.

That cathartic power that even this humble storyteller experienced one early morning not so long ago lent itself to that file of seeming paradoxes fumbled for in the opening paragraph: Imposing to the point of monstrosity, stimulating with the subtlety of a river at sunrise, calming with its cool, fresh air and immobility, invigorating in the way all the large elements seem to send out a challenge to match their energy level, ethereal in the height offered by parts of the whole – or my own dwarfishness in comparison, grounding in that I felt in the presence of something at least close to eternal, and finally – still and moving in the river itself: the downstream current under the water somehow leaves what appears as a motionless, undisturbed surface.

And: do I like it here – some may ask?

I prefer to answer in my usual, cryptic manner: This place is part of what I am, and I choose to allow these elements to perform their work upon me. I’ve never left Point of Rocks worse for the experience.

Answers to puzzle from page 30

1	L	A	T	T	E	6	S	A	B	L	E	11	P	A	13		
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43	P	R	O	44	R	N	A	45	I	D	46	I	O	48			
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<sup>1</sup>Restrictions and conditions apply; see your local representative for details. Cannot be combined with prior purchases, other offers, or coupons. No adjustments to previous orders. Offer not available in all areas. 40% discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to minimum purchase of 6 or more windows. Discount applied to lowest priced window products in purchase. Offer does not include bay/bow windows or any upgrades considered non-standard options. Offer only available as part of our Instant Product Rewards Plan. As part of the Instant Product Rewards Plan, all homeowners must be present and must purchase during the initial visit to qualify. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for a free Window Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 11/30/14 with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. 0% APR for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. Higher rates apply for customer with lower credit ratings. Financing not valid with other offers or prior purchases. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. Renewal by Andersen retailers do not assist with, counsel or negotiate financing, other than providing customers an introduction to lenders interested in financing. This Renewal by Andersen location is a independently owned and operated retailer. VA Lic.# 2701030764A. DC Lic.# 420212000031. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2014 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2014 Lead Surge, LLC. All rights reserved. \*See limited warranty for details.