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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7 P.M.
PURCELLVILLE TOWN HALL**

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Public Hearing Feb. 10 To Add 24/7 Flammable Liquid Operations To CM-1

In 2008 both the Purcellville Planning Commission and the Purcellville Town Council voted to delete as a by-right use the permitted storage and 24/7 distribution of petroleum and propane from the CM-1 District to reflect changes made to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the CM-1 Office Commercial district, according to the adopted 2006 Comprehensive Plan, "is to provide for planned office parks or for offices and similar business buildings and limited office support uses."

Valley Energy and Amerigas are the only propane distribution and storage companies that currently operate

in Purcellville. These businesses are considered non-conforming, which means their use is grandfathered in because their zoning no longer permits their operations, however it means they cannot expand their business. In November of 2014, Valley Energy requested that the Town of Purcellville add the use back into the CM-1 District and a Planning Commission public hearing for Valley Energy was held on Jan. 8, 2015.

At this public hearing, many neighboring business owners of the applicant came forward to speak in support

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Loudoun Grown Expo In Purcellville Feb. 14

The fifth annual Loudoun Grown Expo is in Purcellville on Feb. 14. The event attracted more than 3,000 attendees last year and features the home-grown goods that fuel Loudoun's rural economy.

The expo is free of charge from 1 to 5 p.m. at the historic Bush Tabernacle (skating rink) at Fireman's Field, 250 S. Nursery Ave. New this year, attendees can purchase Early Harvest Tickets. These tickets provide early admission from 12 to 1 p.m. and exclusive gifts for ticket holders. Limited tickets are available for \$7 per person (ages 13 and over). For VIP tickets, visit tinyurl.com/expo-VIP.

There is a small charge for alcoholic beverage tastings. There will be ample seating to eat at the 'Loudoun Grown Café' within the venue and the convenience of stroller and cart parking.

Following great successes over the past four years, many vendors are returning. The 2015 expo has over 30 exhibitors, including wineries, breweries, CSAs, food and food truck vendors, artisans of locally produced fineries and other rural economy entrepreneurs.

"The expo has become a great winter treat for Purcellville, Loudoun County and the entire metro D.C. area. As the expo has grown over the past several years, we have seen a surge in interest of locally grown and harvested foods, beverages and artisan crafts," said Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser. "Agribusiness has been, and continues to be,



a very important component in our local economy. We wish to thank our generous sponsors, the Village at Leesburg, Giant Food and The Dulles Greenway."

A shuttle is offered to and from Loudoun Valley High School. There is ample parking within walking distance to the expo at Bush Tabernacle from Town Public Parking areas, Emerick Elementary and also the Loudoun Valley Community Center.

There are many volunteer opportunities associated with this event. If you would like to participate as a volunteer please visit bit.ly/14J43Xq for more information.

For a full list of participants and links to their websites, please visit www.loudoungrownexpo.org.

Randall Launches Bid For BOS Chair

Phyllis Randall, a community activist and 20-year resident of Loudoun County will run for the office of chairperson of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

Randall's service to the community began with her volunteer work in her children's PTA's and PTO's and continues today at the state level. In 2009 Gov. Tim Kaine appointed her to be the citizen representative on Virginia's Fair Housing Board.

Gov. Bob McDonnell retained her position on the FHB where she eventually served in the capacity of chairperson. In March Randall was appointed to the Virginia State Board of Corrections by Gov. Terry McAuliffe and is currently the vice chairperson of Virginia's State Board of Corrections.

Randall said she is running for various reasons but chief among them is her commitment to education. She said she believes Loudoun can and should have a school system that is responsive to the voices of parents and teachers while

Continued on page 11



Phyllis Randall



*Wild Loudoun, Northern Cardinal –
Celebrating The Language Of Love, see page 25*

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Ask Dr. Mike

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,
These past few weeks of ridiculous two-hour delays and school day cancellations have been very frustrating for me as a single parent. I've had to juggle my day care, call out for work twice and my kids' midterms were cancelled. For what? One bad day with a bunch of extra days off when the roads and weather were perfectly fine? Back in the day when I was a kid, school was rarely cancelled and we even walked to school knee deep in snow...oh yeah, and it was cold, very cold but we still had to go. How do I manage my stress when I am at a breaking point for such stupidity and my kids now feel entitled that a light dusting of snow always means a delay or day off?

Concerned Parent

Concerned Parent,

I think anyone who was impacted by Loudoun County Public School and Fairfax Public School's decision to not cancel school on Tuesday, Jan. 6, agrees that the two school districts made a poor

call. Both school districts even formally apologized for the error inasmuch as that morning turned out to be treacherous for children, parents and teachers who were on the road.

Then there were the delays and days off that followed over the past few weeks; and, to your point, while some seemed to make sense, others did not. Most recently, some privately held events at Loudoun County Public Schools were cancelled this weekend due to predicted poor weather conditions but the weekend weather turned out to be just fine.

You raise several very good points, which I think are important to address since so many parents in our community are likely also frustrated by the delays and closings.

First, are school closings on the rise? Second, do frequent school delays and cancellations lead to entitled children? And third, how do we make sense of it all and manage our stress?

I did a little research on the history of school closings in Loudoun County and what I discovered was interesting. According to reporter Dennis Mersereau of *The Washington Post*, the snowfall at

Continued on page 29



ACTIONS SPEAK MORE THAN WORDS

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Loudoun Valley Drama Crowned State Champs

Loudoun Valley High School's Drama Department had a successful fall. They traveled to Norfolk in October for the Virginia Theatre Association's annual conference and state competition. Their production, "The Trial of Ygor," written by Virginia native Brian Wrestler and directed by Loudoun Valley's Russ Staggs, swept the awards, bringing home nearly a dozen different trophies in various categories. The cast and crew were recognized for lighting and sound design and execution, ensemble work and acting.



Individual acting awards were given to juniors Matt Geczy and Patrick Dahlman, who portrayed the judge and Victor Frankenstein, respectively. Charlie Trochlil, a sophomore, was named the best actor in the state of Virginia.

After two intense performances, the Loudoun Valley Drama troupe was named state champions for their performance.

"It's amazing to see these students garner this type of recognition for all of their hard work and creativity," said Russ Staggs, the cast's director. "I've seen great performances over the years, but this one takes the cake."

The Loudoun Valley Drama Department's

next stop is the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, Tenn. To make the trip to the national competition, the Valley Drama Department needs to raise more than \$15,000 in funds for transportation, lodging and registration. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Staggs said, "but like most amazing experiences, it requires funding. In this case, a lot more funding than we're used to raising."

In an effort to raise funds for the competition, the group has created a "gofundme" account. Anyone wishing to support this group of students can donate by going to www.gofundme.com/lvhssetc.

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M/I Homes Application For 32nd St. Moving Forward

The Planning Commission at its Jan. 8 regular meeting heard a presentation from Bowman Consulting regarding developer M/I Homes' rezoning and development application for the 10-acre Ball property on 32nd Street (S 690). M/I Homes has applied to build 42 one and a half to two story duplex units on the property, but with a zoning request for mixed-use commercial, residential and other building options. The current development proposal is for residential units of 2,500 to 2,800 square feet. Bowman Consulting's ensuing discussion with commissioners covered topics relating to the project's density, age-restricted designation enforcement, traffic estimates and property access points. Bowman Consulting representatives compared the proposed development to a hypothetical community that could exist under the current zoning. The current zoning conforms with the property's position in the town's historic overlay district and the town's comprehensive plan. Commission Chairman Gil Paist introduced the segment of the meeting with an explanation of the town's development application process and also Planned Development Housing zoning.

Paist noted that a developer's rezoning application is subject to change according to input it receives from the planning commission and the public. Paist said that the process is important, particularly with respect to PDH zoning requests because the PDH district is a "floating zone" that any applicant can request for any parcel of land. He said that a PDH district is possible "anywhere in town." Bowman

Consulting spokeswoman Packie Crown explained to commissioners that the type of development M/I Homes seeks to build would require PDH zoning. They are applying to rezone the Ball property to PDH 5 which requires a zoning amendment and a comprehensive plan amendment.

While neighbors have not heard from M/I Homes thus far, the company communicates through Bowman Consulting, which sent a letter in October to neighbors inviting them to attend a presentation at the Carver Center. At the October meeting Bowman Consulting told the audience the developer would seek residential zoning - specifically R8 - which neighbors then anticipated for the application.

At the Jan. 8 planning commission meeting, Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman asked Crown why M/I Homes had not applied to build senior housing in the context of the existing residential zoning of R2. Crown said that the existing zoning would not accommodate the level of density the developer is seeking on the property.

Crown told the Planning Commission that M/I Homes plans to provide seniors with homes in which they can age in place. However, the development has no provision for continuing care services associated with retirees and the elderly aging in place. M/I Homes' application is intended for an adult community - aged 55 and older. Bowman Consulting staff attorney Dave Culbert explained to the commission that 80 percent of the units would need to have one resident aged 55 or older. The age restriction applies to occupants only,

not owners. In addition, 20 percent of the community could consist of any age adults and any family size. Town council liaison to the Planning Commission, Doug McCollum, asked Culbert how the community would enforce the senior housing status of the community in a resale situation. Culbert said that likely a homeowners' association would include covenants and requirements governing resale of the property and the housing requirements. McCollum asked Culbert if residents could challenge a household or property owner in violation of the standard. McCollum pressed Culbert to confirm whether a legal challenge would have to occur in federal court, citing a violation of the Fair Housing Act and/or the Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995 (HOPA), and noting this would be an expensive and lengthy process for any homeowner and HOA.

Commissioners inquired about traffic estimates concerning the application. Commissioner Ogelman asked Steve Schmidt, the group's transportation consultant, to make the data they used in the traffic study available to the community. To date the community has not received a copy of the traffic study.

Crown told commissioners they have made changes to the application since the October meeting, including "improving" the street network and consolidating access points to the property from three

to two. Crown asserted that in a by-right development with 19 homes, there would be children and therefore more traffic. She said that M/I Homes' development with 42 homes would mitigate traffic by having only two entrances to the property. Commissioner Teresa Stein asked Crown to explain how two entrances would reduce traffic if all 42 units' residents would be using both of them. Commissioner Stein also asked whether the roads inside the development would be designated as private. Crown said they would be and noted that another change to the application is the addition of a sidewalk, to be constructed inside the stone wall along S. 32nd Street. This, she explained, would connect the development's residents to the rest of the community. Questions remained, however, regarding to what the sidewalk would connect as there is no sidewalk at the 7-11 and no sidewalk on 32nd Street.

Chairman Paist said he would be interested in seeing a proposal for lower-priced triplex homes as opposed to the \$450,000-\$500,000 duplexes currently proposed by M/I Homes. Commissioner Paist also indicated there could be significant changes to the application when the Planning Commission takes up the proposal for a public hearing and vote in two to four weeks from the January 8 meeting.

Historic Corridor Overlay Districts Explained

As detailed on its website, "Preservation of the Town's historic resources is an important goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Town has a rich history as a railroad and commercial hub for the County and the area."

In 2006, Purcellville put its Historic District on the Virginia Landmarks Register, and in 2007 the district was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The owners of property within the historic district and/or on the State and National Registers have only "honorary" obligations, meaning, such districts do not bring with them specific regulations with respect to what a property owner can do with their properties. Property use is controlled by existing zoning.

However, the town has also created a Historic Corridor Overlay District (HCO) designed to protect the look, feel and some argue the densities of all properties adjacent to important historical routes - including Main Street, 21st, 23rd, and 32nd Streets and Route 690 - a link between Purcellville, and historic towns and villages of Philomont, St. Louis, Upperville and Middleburg.

The properties on these streets and byways have been judged by the town as contributing to the overall feel of the place as visitors come into Purcellville for the first time and/or move around its quiet residential and historic areas.

Blue Ridge Leader Editorial Calendar 2015

January
By the Hearth and
Organizing the House

February
Neighborhood Comfort and
Community Leaders

March
Landscaping (4 months; March - June)
Camps (4 months; March - June)

April
Out and About Loudoun and Beyond!

Hidden Treasures Map
(4 months; April, May, June July)

May
Retail - Shop Loudoun - Dine
Loudoun

June
Safety - Graduation

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WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Submissions may be sent to
Editor@BRLeader.com, or via mail to, PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325.
Please include your name, address and telephone number.

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

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Reston Style Development And Big Box Expansion On Planning Commission Agenda

– By Valerie Cury

Town planning staff is working with the planning commission to review and approve changes to the Planned Development Housing (PDH) district, adding commercial and other uses. Three communities in town are currently zoned as PDH districts: the Courts at Saint Francis, Courtland Square and Village Case. Town staff, along with the majority on the planning commission is pushing for these changes. Staff asserts that the overall purpose of a PDH district is to encourage innovative and creative design, and that adding commercial or mixed residential/commercial multi story buildings would serve this purpose. This is a development pattern common to places such as Reston and Ashburn where for example, condos, commercial and even entertainment businesses are bundled together in one dense development.

In a staff memo dated December 31, 2014 entitled, "Staff Report; Planning Commission PDH and PUD changes to the zoning ordinance," staff outlines its plans to expand uses in the districts to accommodate everything from residential to commercial and entertainment. It specifies that PDH, "should be a flexible district that and should provide all sorts of retail, office, service, recreational, and residential uses." It also states that recent development applications in town for PDH rezoning do so for "the increased density that they could achieve by utilizing a PDH zoning district." The memo also states that "the PDH district is a floating district and must have a minimum of 10 acres (proposed). At the last planning commission in January developer John Chapman said he wants the PDH district to be for 5 acres or more since he wants this use for his land along Hirst (which is currently zoned CM-1 office light industrial). He has said in past planning commission meetings that he would like to sell his property and with the current CM-1 zoning/office light industrial he can get more money for his property if it has commercial zoning or PDH. "Once approved it becomes its own district with its own predetermined and approved standards and regulations," notes the memo.

Also, at the last planning commission meeting in January, developer and attorney Mark Nelis came before the planning commission and urged the planning commission to change the big box ordinance in town from a maximum of 10,000 square feet to 30,000 or 40,000 square feet. Currently if a business has the zoning in place they can build a building up to 10,000 square feet, however anything over that requires a special use permit. This enables the community to speak for or against anything over 10,000 square feet.

At the last planning commission in January developer John Chapman said he wants the PDH district to be for 5 acres or more since he wants this use for his land along Hirst (which is currently zoned CM-1 office light industrial).

Also there is a fee to the developer with a special use permit. Nelis has previously asked the planning commission to eliminate special use permits, indicating that his clients do not want to have to apply for a more publically driven comprehensive plan amendment or zoning amendment. He would rather the zoning use already be in place- eliminating the need for public hearings. He also asked that they change the zoning limitations on restaurants from a maximum of 4,000 square feet to at least 10,000 square feet.

Staff has been reviewing these zoning use changes with the Planning Commission at the commission's bi-weekly work sessions, which follow the regular meetings and are open to the public. The majority seems intent on continuing with the zoning use changes before they address a comprehensive plan review, despite the fact that these proposed changes are not consistent with Purcellville's current Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Packard said at the January town council work session that they are doing the zoning use changes before the comprehensive plan review because it takes two years to review the plan. However, most localities take up to just a year for such a review. If there are not many changes, it takes less than a year. In that way residents can weigh in through a series of well-organized comprehensive plan review public sessions. The zoning in town needs to be driven by the public and this sentiment is echoed by other planning officials throughout the State of Virginia. Over the last several years Purcellville's zoning picture has been driven by piecemeal changes pushed by developers and supported by town staff, with the comprehensive plan and the public taking a back seat. For this reason Mayor Fraser and councilmember Karen Jimmerson continue to urge that a comprehensive plan review be conducted prior to making any zoning changes.

Proposed Plan For Review Of Purcellville's Comprehensive Plan - Mayor Fraser's Council Comments From January Work Session

Without vision, people perish, and if we fail to plan, we plan to fail. These are old sayings which I value, and they are as applicable now as they were when I first heard them. Today, they apply to our citizens' vision for Purcellville and our Comprehensive Plan. "Purcellville... Where history intersects with progress the people prosper," is our vision, and as our town is being approached with overtures from landowners, developers, and other enterprising individuals, we owe it to ourselves to carefully vet each proposal through the lens of our Comprehensive Plan. Such vetting will ensure that our vision for Purcellville is realized and represented by any potential developmental efforts. The Comprehensive Plan serves "to guide to accomplish a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the territory which will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the inhabitants, including the elderly and persons with disabilities." Given the inevitability of time, however, the Comprehensive Plan's lens have become somewhat foggy and need to be cleared. As a council, we have committed to doing this which is expeditiously needed to ensure proposed development efforts are in conformance with our Comprehensive Plan.

I have been told that this much needed review of the Comprehensive Plan will take up to two years. I find it hard to believe that in 2015 in one of the world's most technologically advanced counties, it would take two years to mobilize a representative sample of Purcellville's population of 8,200 to review and to revise our Comprehensive Plan. In my line of business, we look at complex processes and find ways to effectively reduce their cycles and

processing times. Our Comprehensive Plan is a relatively simple document, and the process of reviewing it can be broken down into less than twelve steps as follows:

- Produce a statistical representative sample of Purcellville's population past and present.
- Invite our citizens to submit their names for consideration to serve on the Comprehensive Plan review committee and obtain their commitment for weekly meetings for three months to map and confirm the face of Purcellville.
- Hire a licensed facilitator to lead the Comprehensive Plan review.
- Identify the sections of the Comprehensive Plan that will not need review (e.g., census data, demographics, history sections)
- Randomly select committee members from the pool of volunteers.
- Licensed facilitator to lead meetings with committee members to review the Comprehensive Plan section by section to be completed within time allotted.
- Capture and record committee members' input and present to the citizens.
- Vote on recommendations.
- Obtain maps to reflect recommendations and final selections.
- Package and distribute the revised Comprehensive Plan to all concerned parties.

These steps represent a simple process that can be streamlined and fast tracked with an innovative and engaging facilitator, full citizen engagement, and the use of technology. New development requests that are inconsistent with our existing Comprehensive Plan should not be approved prior to our Comprehensive Plan being review and revised; without a revised plan we do not have a clear vision of what, if any, type of development our citizens want in Purcellville.

Letters To The Editor

Support Virginia's Parental Choice HB-2238

Dear Editor:

Today, we're spending more on public education than ever before in history, but American students are falling behind in core subjects such as math and science. This is especially so among at risk and special needs children in underperforming and failing schools.

The solution to this is two-fold. First, we must continue to reform our public education system to provide better education at a lower cost to taxpayers. And second, we must create more opportunities and choice for students and parents.

Delegate Dave LaRock (R-33rd) has introduced HB-2238 that addresses this issue directly. Modeled after Arizona's education savings account, Virginia's Parental Choice ESA's would have 90 percent of the Commonwealth's education

funding for a student deposited to a state managed savings account. The funds could then be used for educational purposes for eligible students. What's left over can be saved for college. The remaining 10 percent and the local funding would remain with the local school.

Specifically, this proposal would be targeted to children with special needs, foster children, and children of active-duty military personnel. These students would benefit most from the opportunity to create a custom-tailored education plan.

This concept would save our local schools money, improve educational, access and opportunities for at-risk students and give parents and students greater control and more flexibility over their education.

Contact your delegate and ask him/her to support HB-2238.

Matt Leeds
Berryville

Cozy Up In This Paeonian Springs Abode

– By Hannah Hager

Perhaps you're looking for a cozy home you'd never want to leave as the winter continues to grace us with waves of snowstorms. If that's the case, cast your eyes upon this truly unique home that effortlessly marries its deep history with modern amenities.

This stone home will welcome you in with its deep porches and thick columns. Its custom masonry, hardwood floors and flourished arches give a hint of its past. This was once the home of Mary Godfrey, an avid equestrian and Loudoun celebrity who was married to radio and television personality



Arthur Godfrey.

The Godfrey's resided at Beacon Hill, a 1,970-acre Leesburg estate where they raised horses and entertained dignitaries for decades until they sold the property in 1979. The Godfrey's main residence at Beacon Hill was on Hurley Lane and looked over



what is now the Beacon Hill subdivision just west of Leesburg.

This home is truly a historic landmark in Loudoun's real estate community, but its undergone several renovations that have uplifted it to a modern marvel

thanks in part to the craftsmanship of local artisans. Donnie Walker installed its new, pristine metal roof on the house and barn as well as a custom built cat house. Dave Cardok completely upgraded the custom kitchen to the tune of \$150,000. You'll never want to leave this kitchen with its custom cabinets, wainscoting, stainless steel appliances and marble countertops. Cardok even commissioned built-in kennels for stashing your pups

Address: 16561 Old Waterford Road Paeonian Springs, VA 20129
Bedrooms: Four
Bathrooms: Four and .5 baths
Acreage: 25
Built: 1912
List Price: \$1.75 million
Realtor: Sam Rees, Atoka Properties
Phone: 540-338-7770

for a minute or two when guests enter the kitchen - they are built into the cabinetry.

If you do decide to leave the kitchen you could go to the formal living room with built-in bookcases and a cozy fireplace. Or

you could pop into the study for some privacy. It also boasts built-in bookcases. Take your guests to the dining room that seats 10 guests comfortably and has a built-in China cabinet and a walk out French doors.

When the weather finally thaws, enjoy your back veranda, which holds 30 guests comfortably or show off your fabulous barn with tack, water and riding ring. With all these amenities, you'll never want to leave.



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B&B Guild Seeks New Partnership With Purcellville

– By Andrea Gaines

The Loudoun County Bed & Breakfast Guild is promoting an ambitious plan to link the hospitality and related services of its 41 members and partners to the many town-sponsored events in Purcellville, including the Loudoun Grown Expo, the Purcellville Music & Arts Festival, the Purcellville Wine & Food Festival and others.

Loudoun's \$1.5 billion tourism industry – which employs 16,000 people, and provides \$24 million in tax revenue – is an increasingly important part of the local economy. The Bed & Breakfast Guild – which represents the majority of the B&Bs and country inns in the county, and also partners with related businesses such as farms, conference centers, wineries and the like – has been very vocal in its efforts to promote the room stays and other services available through its members and partners. Guild B&Bs and country inns, for example, have a total of over 100 guest rooms, one-half of which are located within 10 miles of downtown Purcellville.

In a recent presentation to the Purcellville Town Council, Guild Business Development Chairperson Amy Marasco Newton said that bed and breakfast owners seek to counter the myth that there is nowhere to stay in western Loudoun.

As the guild website notes, “The Guild represents a diverse membership of properties, from lovingly restored Victorians located in historic districts to luxury country estates situated on acres of farmland, to Wedding and Event Planning facilities and Wineries and Vineyards.” This was echoed by Newton who said in an interview with the Blue Ridge Leader, “We offer guests wonderful places to stay, from the quaint to the grand and everywhere in between.”

Partnership opportunities outlined by the guild's presentation included:

Formal links between the town's website and the guild's website as well as promotion of the guild and its members on social media and town flyers

Cross marketing, where the guild would likewise promote Purcellville-sponsored events, make guest referrals and distribute town event marketing materials

Internships for young people wanting to learn more about the home-grown hospitality industry

All of these things, noted Newton, can serve to encourage more visitors “to come and stay” in and around Purcellville, while at the same time increasing revenue for the town. When you have a place to stay, noted Newton, you have a place to spend – and that means more dollars for local businesses.

In 2014, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors adopted amendments to county bed and breakfast, country inn and banquet/event facility regulations to encourage a more business-friendly environment within this segment of the hospitality industry. The amendments, for example, eased private party-



The Fieldstone Farm Bed & Breakfast is owned by Amy Marasco Newton.

permit regulations, allowed B&B, country inn and banquet/event facility businesses in more zoning districts, reduced unnecessary regulations and streamlined the approval process.

Some western Loudoun towns including Middleburg and Hillsboro have zoning regulations in place that make it easier for bed & breakfast businesses to operate within their boundaries. Purcellville, noted Newton, could do the same.

The Purcellville Bed & Breakfast Guild presentation was set in motion by Town Council Member Karen Jimmerson who suggested the guild come and talk about ways the town and the guild's members and partners might work together to take advantage of the economic potential in Loudoun's tourism industry. Increasingly, Loudoun is seen as “a great place to be.” For example, Loudoun County has been chosen as the host for the Wine Tourism Conference and will also help host the World Police & Fire Games – two very high-profile 2015 events.

“B&Bs are small businesses, and small businesses contribute more to the local economy than national chains, Jimmerson said. “When their industry thrives in Loudoun, so does our local economy. The rise in vineyards and breweries has created more opportunity to promote Loudoun as a weekend destination for the DC Metro area and B&Bs are a perfect fit with that type of marketing. The proprietors of B&Bs are local residents who offer recommendations on where to dine and shop, and opportunities exist for partnerships between the industry, other business groups and the town of Purcellville. B&B growth is expected to increase almost 10 percent over the next few years. This growth can be attributed to the appreciation of the services that the B&B provides. The increases in air travel make non-local vacations less practical and people turn to B&Bs as a unique vacation or weekend getaway, and Loudoun is a prime getaway for the DC Metro.”

Follow up meetings between the guild and the town will be scheduled for early February.

For more information on the Loudoun Bed & Breakfast Guild and its members and services, visit www.loudounbandb.com. The Purcellville presentation is also available on the guild's website and at www.purcellville.gov.



Public Hearing, continued from page 1

of adding the use back. One such speaker was Councilmember Joan Lehr, who voted to remove the use from the district in 2008, and spoke in favor of adding it back. “I voted twice,” said Lehr, “to remove the use from the CM-1 district. We were trying to get rid of uses that were not valid.” When asked by the Blue Ridge Leader why she voted in 2008 to eliminate the use from the CM-1 district Lehr said that the agenda was “so thick” she didn't read it.

Speaking against adding the use back into the CM-1 District as a whole, town resident Kelli Grim asked if there were any limitations that could be placed on the rezoning. She stated that the expansion of the business should be by special exception – “this would be a smarter way.” She expressed concern that if the use were added back into the district as a whole it would adversely affect the Dominion Valley neighborhood. Echoing the same sentiment, new Planning Commissioners Nedim Ogelman and Theresa Stein said that a special exception seemed to be more suitable for this particular case. This would allow a business to expand and also protect existing neighborhoods and future business along the Hirst Road corridor by not making the use by-right throughout the entire district – which has dozens of acres that are undeveloped. The planning commission ultimately voted in favor of the text amendment 6-1, with Commissioner Ogelman the lone vote against it.

What Do Other Cities And Towns Do?

Most cities and towns have moved toward relocating this type of use – above and below ground storage and distribution of petroleum and other flammable liquids to include propane and the fueling of propane fueled vehicles – to either a medium/heavy industrial zoned area or outside of dense town and city limits. In these areas there is more land available, and a 24/7 business would not be close to neighborhoods or businesses with more than a certain number of employees. Propane storage comes with a risk. According to the EPA, the possibility of a massive explosion is very rare but

despite the many safety precautions, however, massive explosions known as BLEVEs (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosions) do happen. In the event of a worst-case scenario (explosion), an ensuing blast wave could break windows within a 1/2 mile radius of the tanks and this would pose a large risk for the residents of Old Dominion Valley.

The Future of CM-1 District

Several land and business owners have argued in recent months that there is no demand for professional office space in Purcellville. The property where Chick-fil-A is currently being constructed in the Purcellville Gateway Plaza was originally planned to be a professional office building and the town permitted the change of use based on the notion that demand for space was low. However in November of 2014, Mark Lowers of Lowers Risk Management, located on Hirst Road, spoke to the town council about the need for him to expand his business, the desire to keep his company located in Purcellville, and his need to have one unified office space for his expanding company.

According to the Comprehensive Plan, the town is to “ensure adequate availability of industrially-zoned land for light industry and major employees. Encourage clean and environmentally-conscious industry. Ensure the adequate availability of industrially-zoned land for light industry and major employers. Encourage clean and environmentally-conscious industry. Encourage the clustering of compatible industrial uses.” Some residents of Dominion Valley fear that adding this zoning use change to the MC-1 district would be detrimental to their homes and strays from the town's stated goals for the Hirst Road corridor.

The majority of property owners in Old Dominion Valley were unaware that the notice of Public Hearing was applicable to properties other than Valley Energy's.

The Purcellville Town Council will hold its only public hearing on this issue at its regular meeting on Feb. 10, 7 p.m. in the town hall.

Ask And You Shall Receive: School Board Approves Williams' First Budget

– By Hannah Hager

The Loudoun County School Board has given Superintendent Eric Williams more than he asked for. At its Jan. 29 meeting the board approved an amended Proposed Fiscal Year Operating 2016 Budget that now totals \$982 million -- \$1.2 million more than Williams had requested.

Williams presented his first budget proposal as Superintendent to the Loudoun County School Board in early January asking for \$68 million. An average 2.5 percent pay raise for teachers and staff topped off his list of requests.

The Board matched Williams' requests in kind. It voted that LCPS employees who are already at the top of all pay scales will see their paychecks bumped up thanks to a one-time increase representing 1 percent of their annual salary. This can be achieved with no fiscal impact to the budget.

The board hopes to reduce the LCPS employee health insurance program by five percent – from 15 to 10 percent – for a cost savings of \$2.6 million while also reducing the health insurance premium increase from 10 to 9 percent, which saves \$450,000.

Altogether, the board approved 10 motions that altered the budget in ways sure to have parents and school staff alike celebrating. High school class sizes will be reduced by one student each, which will require the system to open up an additional 41 full-time teaching positions to the tune of \$3.69 million. The board also hopes to reduce class size contingency positions from 40 to 35 full-time-equivalent positions for a savings of \$450,000.

Kindergarten classes, which have had to make numerous concessions during the past few budget cycles, are primed to make a resurgence. Williams' budget sought to allot for the addition of an estimated 1,875 full-time Kindergartners as well as a more than 2,500 additional students across all grades. While aiming to fund all-day kindergarten classes at those schools with space available, the 15-to-one student teacher ratio means 14 full-time employees have been removed from the budget. This will save the school system just short of \$1 million.

The budget includes a handful of

Continued on page 11

Resident Advisors Are Heroes Of The Hall

– By Mary Rose Lunde

Living on campus is not what most upperclassmen choose to do for various reasons. It's rare to find an upperclassman who chooses to stay on campus. Though there are people who have the biggest responsibility in the dorm: Resident advisors. These



LUNDE

dedicated students are in charge of creating a positive community within their hall. These students are greatly admired and are often the nicest people on campus.

One of my RA friends, Alyssa Bushhouse, said that "being able to have a tremendous impact on incoming freshmen first drew me to becoming an RA. Through the role you have the opportunities to build community, foster self understanding, help others transition into college and create a unique bond with your staff members." I see the way she lights up when she talks about her job. Though it is a big commitment it is well worth the experiences.

Although being an RA doesn't stipulate easy decisions. There are definitely a lot of difficult responsibilities associated with being an RA. Alyssa told me "the most rewarding aspect of the role [to her] is watching [her] residents' own personal growth. It truly is a wonderful feeling seeing [them] begin to find their own place in the campus community and discover their own unique passions." I admire Alyssa's commitment to her position and her true passion for the girls that she advises.

Greg Lomaka, my hall's RA, explained to me that he loves to be an RA because it is a

way for him to give back to Virginia Tech. "It's my way of following our motto of 'Ut Prosim' - that I may serve. I enjoy helping out my residents and engaging in a community." Greg is the hero of our hall because he's not only a figure of authority but also a friend.

Not just anyone can be an RA.

The process to becoming an RA involves an application process and several interviews. I am currently in the process of applying to be an RA. The process itself is a lot of waiting, with different stages. Each candidate must submit their application, pass the academic and conduct review, go through multiple interviews, and be offered a position. My friends and I are anxiously awaiting emails about the status of our application. Though this is a competitive and long process, I look forward to the rest of it.

Brynn Schaadt, who is also applying, told me that she believes becoming an RA is the next step. "I want to leave an impact on others and give back to the community at Tech," she said. She has the right motivation and potential to be a good RA because she isn't in it for the obvious benefit of free board and money associated with the job. To be a good RA you need to be motivated by the right reasons and genuinely want to be a positive influence on other people.

Mary Rose Lunde is a freshman at Virginia Tech double majoring in biology and creative writing. She is involved in Chi Alpha and is currently in the process of interviewing for a resident advisor position.

Amy & Dan Smith's Planning For Life: Five Equity Market Themes for 2015

– By Amy and Dan Smith



AMY & DAN SMITH

Each year I read many market forecasts for the coming year from investment experts around the globe. Accordingly, I'd like to provide you with a recent article from Jeffrey Saut, Raymond James Chief Investment Strategist titled "Five Equity Market Themes For 2015". (Readers may find the complete 2015 Outlook from Raymond James Investment Strategy Quarterly on my website www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com under "Market Views.")

Lower Fuel Prices

This extended period of lower fuel costs should benefit companies that are dependent upon fuel as an input, such as the airlines, trucking and cruise lines, railroads, shipper, etc. Additionally, consumers are paying less at the pump and the hope is that those savings will now flow into other areas of the economy, like the consumer discretionary sector.

Smarter Policy Makers

One of my major themes has been that we will elect smarter government policymakers and subsequently smarter policies. With the mid-term elections over, we now shall see whether these newly elected officials can help enact policies to further boost the economy and create jobs.

Interest Rate Increases

The Federal Reserve is expected to begin raising short-term interest rates in the second half of 2015. Will the market begin to anticipate this move and buck the trend of lower rates that we have seen in 2014? We believe so, with higher rates more likely in second half of 2015, because the economy

is strengthening.

Immigration Reform

President Obama issued an Executive Order in November that may allow approximately five million immigrants to legally work (and pay taxes) here in the United States. This action should benefit certain companies and industries, while providing additional tax revenue for the country.

Long-Term Secular Bull Market

Equity markets tend to enter a long period of expansion after emerging from an extended period of negative returns (the lost decades of 1964-1982, or 2000-2012). Typically, these expansion periods last for about 15 years with annualized returns of roughly 16% per year. Using March 2009 as a starting point implies that we may have another 10 years left in the current secular bull market. Of course, there will be corrections, but they should be viewed within the context of the long-term secular bull market. To quote my departed friend Sir John Templeton, "Bull-markets are born on pessimism, grow on skepticism, mature on optimism and dies on euphoria." We are still in the skepticism phase ...

The foregoing article contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, an independent firm, 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) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James.

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Budget, continued from page 9

restorations, including fully scheduled summer schools and the reinstatement of 14 eliminated middle school library assistants. These two restorations total around \$1.8 million.

Smaller line items include building a playground at Meadowland Elementary for \$50,000 and hiring a transition specialist who will be able to assist special education students. This position will be advertised for \$119,000. Lastly, the board hopes to shuffle several staff members from Heritage and Potomac Falls high schools to Park View High School, which will have no effect to the budget.

When presenting his budget in early January, Williams lauded LCPS's successes, including its high SOL pass rates and its ability to make concessions to close the budget gap. Those concessions, chief among them freezing Library assistant positions, passing on athletics

participation fees to students and not offering teachers and staff pay raises beyond cost of living increases, are forcing LCPS to bend to where it might break. This argument will most likely be heard time and again as the budget is presented to the Loudoun Board of Supervisors this month.

In order to fund these requests and more, the board must accept the equalized tax rate, which is estimated at \$1.13 per \$100 in assessed value. This would leave an estimated \$30 million gap and assumes the Loudoun's Board of Supervisors will give them \$59.7 million from the general fund.

It's a tall order, but one that Williams isn't asking for in blind faith. Still, the comprehensive list of requests comes after last year's especially contentious budget season when the Loudoun Board of Supervisors' budget left the school system with a \$38 million shortfall.

Randall, continued from page 1

demonstrating measurable outcomes and wise use of taxpayer dollars. Randall said, "I'm excited about running a positive, issue focused campaign discussing important topics such as education, transportation, lowering the property tax rate and ethics. I look forward to meeting my neighbors throughout the county and hearing their concerns. It's going to be an exciting year."

"Our school system should prepare our students for 21st century challenges by teaching them how to question, how to think critically and how to solve the urgent problems facing our society," Randall said.

Randall said she also wants to grow Loudoun's business and commercial

tax base. She believes the only way to lower the residential tax rate is to incentivize more businesses to locate in Loudoun. To increase the business tax base, she says, Loudoun needs a transportation grid that moves people efficiently and safely and that includes metro.

Randall is a mental health therapist with an emphasis on substance abuse and offender populations. She and her husband Thaddeus, are the parents of two sons, Ashon and Aaron.

Randall's formal campaign kickoff will be held March 14 at noon at the Tally Ho Theatre, 19 West Market Street, Leesburg. For more information go to www.Randallforchair.com.

LVHS Lady Vikings Play To Benefit Tree Of Life

The Loudoun Valley High School Lady Vikings basketball team recently played in Player vs Parent Throwdown on the Court to benefit Tree of Life. Each of the three Lady Vikings teams played their parents in a basketball game at Loudoun Valley High School. Players were asked to bring canned goods to benefit Tree of Life to play in the game. At right is a picture of some of the food collected with Coach McFarlane, Coach Wilcox, Coach Mic, and Tree of Life food pantry volunteer Jack Bauer.



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Police Chief Smith Announces Retirement Community Supporting Willis Family

Chief Darryl C. Smith, Sr. announced recently that he would be retiring on April 1. He came to the community over nine years ago after a nationwide search that resulted in him being selected as a unanimous candidate to lead Purcellville's Police Department. Chief Smith will be remembered for many positive items through his tenure. Two examples of his accomplishments are completing the State Accreditation for the Police Department and the winning of numerous local, state, national and international awards for his Department's Youth Engagement and Outreach programs. In addition, he worked hard to update the entire fleet of vehicles and equipment issued to all officers while implementing a progressive staffing model.

In 2007, Chief Smith and the Department won a VML Achievement Award in the 5,000 – 10,000 population category for his Youth Engagement and Outreach programs. This award was followed up in 2009 with the Department receiving the Webber Seavey International Award given by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Motorola.

"The town was blessed when we were able to hire Chief Smith over nine years ago. It is rare that someone can have such a positive impact on an organization and community that he has served in such a short period," stated Robert W. Lohr, Jr., town manager. Lohr also stated "to Chief Smith, this was not just a job but a love and a passion for the community and his officers. In a period where administrators tend to spend too much time behind their desk, he was constantly in the community working with our youth, residents and businesses. Chief Smith will be greatly



missed and will leave some mighty big shoes to fill in this department and on our management team."

Mayor Fraser added "Chief Smith's leadership has transformed the Purcellville Police Department into the community focused organization it is today. Programs such as the Homework Club, Back to School Picnic, and End of School Picnic were led by Chief Smith and have been instrumental in connecting our young people and their families to our police force in a meaningful way. While I do not have a tremendous amount time working with Chief Smith, it has been my observation that he is a dedicated public servant and has worked tirelessly to secure our citizens and garner community trust. Chief Smith has provided us with a template as to what traits and capabilities we must expect and require from a new police chief. I thank Chief Smith for his service to our community and wish him and his family all the best during his retirement."

"This has been a wonderful time in my life," said Chief Darryl Smith. "Maria and I have enjoyed Purcellville, its people, its small town feel, and the community has been so welcoming of us since 2006. I am going to miss the great people that I have worked with in town and also the true professionals in and around Loudoun County," Smith continued. "I thank everyone for their kindness and support. Purcellville has a special place in our hearts."

The Purcellville community is coming together to support a 14-year-old eighth grader at Blue Ridge Middle School who was diagnosed with brain cancer in November.

Sara Willis, the daughter of James and Angie Willis, is currently undergoing treatment. Friends and community members planned a silent auction and dinner for Jan. 24 and have also made meals and donations and helped with the Willis's other two daughters, Ava, 9, and Julie, 12.

"When you're sick and you have every reason to be depressed it's a waste of time to be negative," said Sara. "When I am pleasant and smile, people smile back and it makes me feel better."

James Willis said his daughter is "approaching this fight with an indomitable spirit and a remarkable amount of cheer and positivity. In elementary school she won the Citizenship award nearly every year. This is an award that is voted on by classmates to recognize the child who is the kindest and most inclusive to all of the other children. In middle school, on her own accord, she baked cookies and brought them to a new girl who moved in to the neighborhood to make her feel welcome. She also approached school officials to plead for help for a dear friend who was being shunned by classmates in the lunchroom. My wife wakes up very early for work and Sara sets her alarm clock on special occasions to prepare muffins and coffee for her. For Christmas 2013 she asked Santa for a donation to be made to a local food bank in lieu of gifts. She kept and cherished the thank you letter from the food bank and never complained about not having a Santa gift. I don't exaggerate when I write that she is a better human being than I could ever dream to be."

For more information on how to help the family search for "Pray for Sara" on Facebook or go to www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/help-sara-fight-brain-cancer/264121#.VGkD0CrqGDp.facebook.



Sarah Willis

Photo: Amber Warner

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Reporting From Richmond

– By Delegate Dave LaRock

Mark Twain once said that “No man’s life, liberty or property are safe while the Legislature is in session.” Folks, the legislature is in session. I’m doing my best to keep you updated as important issues develop that will impact the future of our Commonwealth, and more importantly, I’m working to see that your life, liberty, and property are kept safe by (and from) this well-meaning group of representatives.



Delegate Dave LaRock

I’m working together with other members of the legislature to move forward on proposals that will improve our Virginia’s education system, help improve our roads (and keep our budget in line) by reforming spending, fight higher taxes on industries that we rely on, and strengthen the protections of our fundamental rights.

It remains to be seen how much help we’ll get from our governor. His continued push to expand Medicaid (after being rejected by the House, the Senate, and more importantly the people of Virginia) isn’t fiscally responsible. His push to bring back the obsolete “one-handgun-a-month” restriction isn’t an answer to any of the problems that Virginians face. That said, to the degree the governor takes sensible action to improve Virginia’s economy he will find the legislature a willing partner.

We need to make the whole state a business-friendly and family-friendly environment. Here are some ways I’m working to make that happen.

HB 1470: Transportation Rating

This bill will bring some needed sanity to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority’s spending by requiring that transit projects be rated for the same efficiency standards as other transportation projects before receiving funding. It sounds crazy, but right now they don’t have to be rated at all! This concept has strong support from a coalition of local business chambers, and when it passes, our region will get an economic boost from better transportation and leaner, smarter transportation spending.

Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts

HB 2238 is a measure to make more educational options available for special needs students who opt out of public school. It would allow parents to have direct control over a limited portion of the money the Commonwealth would otherwise spend on their kids if they had remained in public school. Parents get more choices, kids get better academic results (both inside and outside of public schools) and the Commonwealth saves money overall – it’s a win-win.

HJR 35 Communications Sales Tax Study

This study will examine how our communications tax revenue is currently being allocated, with the eventual goal of updating the allocation methods we use to help our local and statewide communications networks flourish and grow faster. Eventually, this could mean communications tools like high-speed internet could find their way to rural areas

faster, improving the quality of life for local families and helping to open up new areas for business development.

Common Core: HB 1752

I know that parents in my district hold differing opinions on Common Core standards, but I think we can all agree that the decision of whether or not to integrate these standards into the Commonwealth’s public schools should be made by the legislature, not any one person. That’s what this bill will make law – no Common Core for Virginia unless your elected representatives say so.

As my team and I work to serve the folks in the 33rd District and Virginia as a whole, it’s my goal to not just keep you informed but to help you be involved. If you have any questions or concerns about any bill, mine or otherwise, or if you have ideas for ways to improve our Commonwealth, please don’t hesitate to contact me. My in-session contact information is (804) 698-1033 and DeIDLARock@house.virginia.gov; I will do my best to help.

Delegate Dave LaRock represents the 33rd House District, including parts of Loudoun, Clarke and Frederick Counties, and the towns of Leesburg (partial), Purcellville, Berryville, Lovettsville, Round Hill, Hamilton and Hillsboro. LaRock serves on the Transportation Committee, the Science and Technology Committee and the Courts of Justice Committee. Dave and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Loudoun for 28 years, building a successful family-owned general contracting business. The LaRocks reside near Hamilton with Laura, Abby and John, the youngest of their seven children.

A Tribute To The Other Sam

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

Feb. 1, 2015, marks the 35th anniversary of my great-grandfather’s death. While I never met my great-grandfather, I am his namesake, and have heard stories for many years about this man.

The story of Herman Samuel Postal is a story like many others about those who came to America in search of a better life. His parents journeyed from Poland in 1912 when he was less than a year old and came to lead a successful life in America. Though I am told that he could have been anything he wanted to be, he chose to be a shoe salesman, following in the footsteps of his hard working parents in a profession that would become a tradition in the Postal family. He worked hard to provide for his wife and two daughters. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather. His time came too soon.

Sam Postal was in his store in Fredricksburg on Friday, Feb. 1, 1980. An armed criminal entered the store and fired at the man standing behind the counter. The details are murky as there were no known witnesses to the crime. The criminal fled and was never found nor brought to justice for the heinous murder of Sam Postal. He was only 68 years old.

There are few material things to remember him by. There is his brown fedora, a hat that symbolizes not only a different time, but a different era, along with his watch. Yet I have come to know this man whom I have never met through the stories of those he loved the most. My father’s aunt adored her father and still talks about him incessantly, never failing to keep his memory alive. I would listen to her stories for hours as a child, trying to piece together a picture of a man I so desperately wanted to know. She tells of how he used to bring home milkshakes every night for her and my grandmother and reveals that he always wanted both of his young daughters on his lap while he ate dinner. She loves him dearly and refuses to let anyone forget it.



MOORE-SOBEL

Gregarious and personable, Sam Postal was known as the life of the party, the man with whom everyone wanted to talk. His presence was felt in every room that he entered, and if you ask any of his relatives they would be quick to tell you that they were his favorite. His deep and abiding love for his wife was always evident and he was faithful to remind those around him how beautiful my great-grandmother was over their 43 years of

marriage.

Everyone will lose a loved one at some point in their lives. It is never easy, especially if they are taken under tragic circumstances. Yet death does not mark the end of the story. The memory of loved ones can live on for many generations, impacting those born long after they have gone. They are kept alive by memories, the memories of those whose lives they touched.

I often wonder what my great-grandfather would think of me if he were still alive today. I am told that we would have shared a love of politics and of milkshakes. Would he be proud of the man I have become? On my 21st birthday my aunt assured me that he would have, saying, “The other Sam, I am sure, is bursting with pride.” She went on to say, “Oh, I wish you could have known him, Sam! But in a way, I think you do.” His memory has lived on in the lives of his children and grandchildren and now great-grandchildren. His memory is also kept alive through a grandson, my father, who like his grandfather is a loyal son, loving husband and devoted father. Big shoes to fill, but I’m going to give it my best. May the memory and legacy of Sam Postal continue to be felt for many generations, and may he forever rest in peace.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a junior at George Mason University. He is majoring in government and international politics.

Comstock Named To Three Subcommittees

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R-VA) has been named to three subcommittees for the 114th Congress. They are Highways and Transit, Aviation and Economic Development and Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

“These subcommittee assignments will give a voice to the 10th District on important transportation needs,” said Comstock. “I look forward to working with my colleagues on improving the growing road network in the 10th and making Dulles Airport stronger.”

The Subcommittee on Highways and Transit has responsibility for the development of national surface transportation policy, construction and improvement of highway and transit facilities, implementation of safety and research programs and regulation of commercial motor vehicle operations.

The Subcommittee on Aviation has jurisdiction over all aspects of civil aviation, including safety, infrastructure, labor, commerce, and international issues. All programs of the Federal Aviation Administration except for research activities are within the purview of the subcommittee.

The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management conducts oversight of programs addressing the federal management of emergencies and natural disasters, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security’s other disaster management responsibilities. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over agencies and programs promoting economic development in communities suffering economic distress. The subcommittee is also responsible for oversight of public buildings, federal real estate programs and the Public Buildings Service of the General Services Administration.



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Romantic Tips From The Red Carpet

– By Sarah Nearis

Hollywood is right in the middle of award season – the Golden Globes, the SAG Awards and the upcoming Academy Awards. In terms of fashion, this is a time of dreams and of pushing envelopes.

For many years one of the most prominent fashion themes in red carpet hair, makeup and dress has been how to weave a little romance into a woman’s look. Just in time for Valentine’s Day, here are some of the little romantic touches I’ve found to be most appealing this award season.

Each is subtly and easily worked into your own personal style. As fashion icon Alexander McQueen said, “romance is more about how a woman expresses herself than the label or trend she wears.”

Add a Little Flair To Your Hair

Every hairstyle, short and long, is on parade this awards season. On the romantic side, we’ve seen pretty braided styles and French-style twists, shoulder-length bobs and short, short styles as well.

What makes them romantic is how natural the style looks on the woman herself. On this point we like the braided style of Downtown Abby’s Joanne Froggatt – perfect with her her beautiful face, Marchesa gown and drop earrings. For shorter hair we like Maggie Gyllenhaal’s tussled boy-cut with soft waves across the forehead. Really sweet, it’s a style that could also accommodate a small plain or sequined barrette.

Black Can Be Just as Romantic As Red Or Pink

Dresses with romantic intention often have red, pink or



blush tones. But there is nothing more romantic to me than a simple black dress, jacket, blouse or pair of pants that acts a backdrop for a fantastic sapphire blue scarf, a set of dressy pearls, or other dramatic accessory. Sometimes it’s the shoe that steals the show. Keep the backdrop simple and go wild with the other. Some thought Amal Clooney’s white elbow length gloves were too much for her lovely black dress. We think she looked great – in perfect control of her femininity.

How To Look At Makeup And Nails

With your nicely coordinated casual daytime or dressier outfit in place, think about how to approach your makeup and nails. I don’t always like it when a woman’s nails match her lipstick or her dress. You don’t want them to clash, but it’s just fine to wear your favorite shade of dark lipstick with a softer or even nude nail color. Actress Emily Blunt pulled this mix together very well with a flowing white dress, dramatic earrings, a very plain nail and a pretty rose-toned lipstick. A beautiful bracelet and ring completed her very romantic look.

Romantic touches in fashion are not in the eye of the beholder, but in the sense of the woman who puts them together.

Sarah Nearis is a fashion stylist, fashion blogger and style expert. A graduate of Bay State College in Boston and The School of Style, Sarah’s attitude is as refreshing as her impossibly sweet personality: “The moment you are ready to quit is usually the moment right before a miracle happens. Don’t give up.” Connect with Sarah on her All Things Beautiful blog: sarahnearis.blogspot.com.

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Purcellville Volunteer Rescue members recognized by Loudoun Valley High School for their service to the community during the 2014 football season. Photo courtesy of Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad.

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park

– By Tim Jon

I'm still curious to see if that little trail goes all the way along the Potomac to the eastern end of the Park; see, I'd left my car in the lot off Riverpoint Drive and walked along Goose Creek all the way to the meeting place with its bigger sister; I turned around at that point in order to keep an important appointment in Leesburg, but a substantial portion of me wanted to just keep going – into what was, for me – undiscovered, unexplored country. In planning this little excursion, the name didn't sound real exciting on paper: Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park – or my access point: Kephart Bridge Landing – but, hey - what's in a name? I was rewarded by my gamble that I'd be able to negotiate my way along the Goose and find its outlet into the Potomac River, and see sights along the way that could have been witnessed centuries earlier: Mature forest, an undisturbed river, and its often-rocky opposite bank.

I also saw some curious juxtapositions: Part of the ruins of the Goose Creek and Little River Navigation canal system – which looked somehow fitting in that setting of earth banks, overgrown roots and vines. What was even less expected (by me – a proud non-golfer) was walking right out onto the finely-manicured greens of the exclusive club which shares the landscape along the shores of the Potomac: A bit like the pseudo-psychedelic road show in the oft-footnoted movie, *Apocalypse Now*. But, like Martin Sheen's brave character, I didn't let it deter me from my



JON



mission at hand: I shunned the civilized links for a return to the undergrowth and the unknown.

And, not far away, I found the terminus of Goose Creek and the expanse of the Potomac River. My timeline meant that I could take a few snapshots and then hightail it back to the car and return to the 'real' world of appointments and other obligations. But I felt well-rewarded for my somewhat abridged outing; I'd probably logged a couple of miles of winding, uneven, shrub-enshrouded hiking – an activity not commonly encountered in 21st Century Loudoun County. And I'd filed away mental images of some very rugged, natural geography: the rivers, their banks and surrounding ecosystem – including some engaging kingfishers,

woodpeckers, deer, squirrels and other – unidentified – shadows and rustlings in the nearby brush. It was the kind of walk (even if interrupted by my schedule) that gets the heart pumping and the lungs working and the legs tingling: that sort of activity forces the body to propel itself forward in space, all the while maintaining a more or less upright position to orient the torso atop the hips – or to lose balance and find oneself on his keester.

I don't think I'll get back anytime real soon: Those aforementioned obligations (not to mention finite amounts of 'free' time and energy) mean that I need to use discretion in selecting seasonal perambulations. But when I do go, I will definitely leave enough time so that I can not only re-connect with the past at those canal system ruins, and wave to the stray golfers out on the greens, and get that sense of openness where the Goose meets the Potomac – but to follow that little trail all the way to wherever it leads – presumably at the border of Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park and its more formal neighbors. And I'll take plenty of photos along the way – and a few to memorialize the 'end of the line,' and trudge back to my car and drive back home – perhaps with no more sense of completion than I recall from my first visit to that inviting little path – because what I'd discovered on that first trip was the journey itself – and perhaps that was my destination all along.

I just hope I don't run into a crazy, fat Green Beret Colonel (who looks like a bald Marlon Brando) at the end of the trail. I'll make it 'up the river,' but I'll leave the rest of that mission to Martin Sheen and the boys. "Never get out of the boat," I always say.

News From Woodgrove's High School Student Council

This February, Woodgrove High School's Student Council will celebrate the 100th day of school. All students will be invited to the Student Council's monthly general assembly meeting the day after the 100th day of school. Prizes will be raffled off to those in attendance at the meeting. All prizes will include a 100th day theme, including items such as 100 pennies, 100 pieces of chewing gum, 100 bottles of ice tea, and 100 cupcakes. The Student Council will also be celebrating the 100th day of school by hosting a door decorating competition. Homerooms across the school are challenged to decorate their homeroom doors in accordance to the 100th day theme by using 100 of any item of their choice in their design.

The Woodgrove Student Council is also planning to host Woodgrove's first ever winter dance this February. The dance will be Sadie Hawkins with a Great Gatsby theme. The dance is currently being organized by members of the freshman and sophomore classes, along with help from the PTSO. The dance will be preceded by a spirit week, during which students will be asked to dress up to show their school spirit according to different themed days selected by the Student Council. Lastly, in order to celebrate the school year being half way over the Student Council plans to hand out free Rice Krispie treats before school sometime this month. Every student in the school will be able to take one treat, along with a sheet of information regarding the upcoming Spirit Week and Gatsby Winter Dance.

Ogilvy Washington Hires Dan Scandling

Longtime Capitol Hill Chief of Staff and Press Secretary Dan Scandling has joined Ogilvy Washington as senior vice president for Corporate and Public Affairs. As part of the DC-based Corporate and Public Affairs group, Scandling will work with clients to increase their media profile in the Washington, DC media market, manage their social media advocacy and reputations inside and outside the Beltway.

"Over the past 20 years, Dan has advised two senior members of Congress and served as their official spokesperson dealing daily with national and international media. He also managed 11 Congressional campaigns," said Robert Mathias, CEO of North America. "His combined understanding of the Hill, Washington media, and reputation management makes him a tremendous asset to Ogilvy and to our clients."

Scandling worked for Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Northern Virginia) from 2000 – 2014 and the late Herb Bateman (R-Tidewater, Virginia) from 1990-2000. In addition to his political media contacts on Capitol Hill, he has worked with his national and international media based in Washington, D.C., as well as local reporters in the Washington, D.C. media market and across Virginia.

Scandling said that he is looking forward to the challenges of his new assignment. "While it has been a privilege to work for two members of Congress from Virginia for the past 24 years, joining the talented Washington Corporate and Public Affairs team will provide me with new opportunities to lead strategic communications as we work with clients inside the Beltway and beyond," Scandling said.

Women Featured In February Show At Franklin Park

It's Main Street Theater's third take for its annual February production. "Take Two: Life in Review" features a cast of 32 talented women from previous productions all telling the up and downs of relationships and their complications.

"What I love about this show is that everyone gets to shine. There's talent across the board from 12-year-old's to mature ladies and every kind of feminine pulchritude in between," said Director Karlah Louis.

From ballads to upbeat, varying time periods, musical styles and locations, this show is all over the map, literally.

"It's a roller coaster ride. Every emotion touched upon. Your funny bone is tickled, but get out your handkerchiefs," Louis said.

Musically, there's also something for everybody. This

cabaret style show includes ensemble and solo numbers from "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oklahoma," "Chicago," "Songs for a New World" and more.

Besides large and small ensemble numbers, sprinkled throughout are local solo talents. Alie Campbell, LVHS senior, is featured as Marilyn Monroe in a medley of "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" with "Diamond's Are Forever," as well as Reno Sweeney in "Anything Goes." Lauren Albanese sings "Will He Like Me?" and performs as Adelaide in "Bushel and a Peck." Both also star in "Cell Block Tango."

This one weekend run includes Friday Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available through Karlah Louis at Karlahlouis@aol.com or call 703-751-9588.

Lovettsville's New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Celebrates 250 Years

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lovettsville. The year-long celebration will include a series of special services during October 2015, leading up to a "Homecoming" day on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1 in which Bishop Thomas Graham of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod will participate.

Events marking the anniversary will look back at the story of this venerable congregation, as well as toward the future. Recollections of old-times are being recorded, and old photos and other artifacts are being collected. Quarterly luncheons for seniors are being planned, and community projects are being organized to support the homeless, the hungry and the needy.

At every Sunday service throughout 2015, a "History Minute" is being presented, featuring an aspect of New Jerusalem's heritage.

German Lutherans settled in the Lovettsville area as early as 1733 and reportedly were visited by the pioneer clergyman the Rev. John Caspar Stoeber Sr., as early as 1733-34. New Jerusalem was organized as a congregation in 1765 by the Rev. Samuel Schwerdtfeger of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Frederick, Md. The German language was used at New Jerusalem until around 1830, when services began to be held in both English and German and eventually only in English.

Four church buildings have stood on the property which was originally granted by Lord Thomas Fairfax. First, a log building served as both church and parochial school. A stone church, built in 1802, replaced the log structure until it collapsed in a snowstorm in 1839. Those two structures were both located in the old cemetery. The third church



Photo courtesy of the Lovettsville Historical Society.

survived the Civil War. It burned in 1868, and was replaced by the present two-story brick church building which was dedicated in 1869. The landmark bell tower was added in 1903 and the education building in 1964.

Three other congregations were established as preaching points of the New Jerusalem parish. These were: (1) St. Paul's in Neersville, created in 1834, which then separated during the Civil War; (2) Bethel, at Tankersville, built in 1868, and (3) Zion, at Morrisonville, built in 1892, but organized much earlier. Bethel and Zion became separate congregations in 1999, but have been invited to participate in New Jerusalem's anniversary celebration. New Jerusalem is the oldest member congregation in the Metropolitan DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with which it has been affiliated since 1988.

Eden Troupe Presents John, His Story

— By Jeannette Clift George

Experience the timeless story of the gospel of John in Patrick Henry College's latest production of *John, His Story*, running from February 12-15 at Patrick Henry College's town hall.

This show is a unique retelling of the miracles described in the fourth Gospel. While the cast is comprised of only six actors, more than 30 different characters are brought to life over the course of the production. This show has been produced in a minimalist style, inviting the audience to connect with the story in a new and meaningful way.

"For those who are familiar with the gospel story, we want this production to be a new and refreshing look at the life of Christ and his sacrifice," said director Jason Long. "For those who have no experience with this timeless story, we want this play to show the truth that perhaps they have never seen before."

The story reminds people that life is precious and that in a world filled with suffering and pain, there is always hope and light. "It is a puzzle. You get to see all the pieces of the story come together to form one grand narrative, giving us hope to fight through the struggles that we all face," said Long.

Performances are Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. They will be held at Patrick Henry College's town hall located at 10 Patrick Henry Circle, Purcellville. Tickets may be purchased at www.phc.edu/edentroupe.php.

Purcellville Music And Arts Festival Seeks Musicians And Performers

The Purcellville Music and Arts Festival slated for May 16, celebrates Purcellville's community, history and culture. The event will be held at Fireman's Field located behind the Historic Bush Tabernacle, 250 South Nursery Avenue. The family friendly festival will include multiple stages, featuring a wide range of entertainment. The park setting is also ideal for art exhibits and competitions, workshops, crafts and games. This event is free and open to the public.

Organizers are searching for local bands, entertainers, musical acts and performers to include in the 2015 entertainment lineup. Prospective performers are requested to submit an application by the application deadline which is Feb. 9. An entertainment subcommittee of the Purcellville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board evaluates all applications and selects performers based on a number of criteria. The application can be found at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

Please contact Melanie Scoggins at Mscoggins@purcellvilleva.gov or Chris Bledsoe, Chairman, PRAB, tcbledsoe@yahoo.com for more information about this event.



Remembering Jean Sutphin Mohler

Jean Sutphin Mohler passed away Jan. 16, following a valiant struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born Dec. 12, 1943, to Melvin and Ruth Hatcher Sutphin. A life-long resident of Lovettsville, Jean graduated valedictorian in 1962 from Loudoun County High School and studied psychology at Mary Washington College.

In 1965, she began her career in education teaching first, fourth and fifth grades at Round Hill Elementary School. She loved children and considered herself "at home with the most creative creatures in the world." She later became a preschool teacher at the Lovettsville Community Center where she was also a member of the Board of Directors. In 1989, Jean began a second career as a dental assistant for Dr. Kirk Hawn, Dr. Ronald Segall, and Dr. Deirdre Kokel. Her gentle manner soothed many patients.

Jean served in the Lovettsville Community as an elected member of the Lovettsville Town Council. She chaired the Bicentennial Committee in 1976 which organized the 4th of July parade and Septemberfest, both of which continue today. She assisted with the writing of the book *Lovettsville—The German Settlement*. As the Intergenerational Chairman at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church from 1989 to 1996, she organized activities three times a year to appeal to children and adults. Jean was a member of Bethel Lutheran



Jean Sutphin Mohler

Church and served as president of the Loudoun Business and Professional Women's Club from 1972-1974.

A loving mother, on her resume, Jean listed as an accomplishment "Mother of four children—definitely on the job training and down home experience." She also worked in partnership with her husband Evan on the family farm serving as bookkeeper and cooking wonderful meals for people who worked on the farm. Jean, with her endearing smile, will forever be remembered for her beauty, creativity, poetry, and great love of family and community.

Jean is survived by her devoted husband of 51 years Evan Mohler, four loving children Michele Middleton (Brook), Brian Mohler (Kim), Troy Mohler (Lindsay), and Tiffany Ciancio

(Jordan), and four treasured grandchildren, Cole Mohler, Bree Mohler, Ava Jean Ciancio and Jace Ciancio and her sister Wanda Sutphin Reid (Theodore).

Her funeral was held on Jan. 20, at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church with interment at Lovettsville Union Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011, or the Carver Senior Center Adult Day Care Program, 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville, Va. 20132.



Franklin Park Arts Center Go out without going far!



Lúnasa

Tues. March 17 8:00PM

Ireland's finest traditional instrumental band takes the stage at Franklin Park for the first time featuring flutist Kevin Crawford, violinist Colin Farrell, uilleann piper Cillian Vallely, guitarist Ed Boyd and acoustic bassist Trevor Hutchinson. Lúnasa's innovative arrangements, virtuosity and passion have brought them to the forefront of Celtic Music and they will bring you to your feet. This Gold Start Performance is co-sponsored by Franklin Park Arts Center and Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Tickets: \$55 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Main Street Theater presents: Take 2 Life in Review Feb 13 & 14 8:00PM, Feb 15 2:00PM

Celebrate all the different kinds of love that bind us together, much like a patchwork quilt. Our quilt of characters will be sewn together through music that spans generations. Featuring talented singers and actors young and old, we do a "Take Two" and watch "Life in Review".

Tickets: \$23 Adults, \$20 Students/Seniors General Admission email for reservations karlahlouis@aol.com

Last Ham Standing

Fri, Feb 20 8:00PM

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.

Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$8 kids, Reserved Seating

Chinese New Year Celebration

Sat, Feb 21 1:00-4:00PM

Wear red, the lucky color, and celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Sheep. Traditional entertainment, crafts and refreshments. Bob Brown Puppets will present a puppet show, Pandamonium, at 3:00 PM.

Tickets: \$8 per person Register on Webtrac using activity# 263714-01 or call 540-338-7973

Dance Matrix presents: Riding on Courage

Sat, Feb 21 7:30PM

"Riding on Courage" showcases dancers from Dance Matrix. The dance pieces selected for this show are based around finding strength and courage to overcome life's obstacles. The performance will also feature special guests, VSA of Loudoun. This dance performance about strength and courage benefits SPROUT, a therapeutic riding center for individuals with special needs.

Tickets: \$25 per person

www.eventbrite.com

The Edge: An Evening of Dance

Sat, Feb 28 7:00PM

The Edge Performance company is a pre-professional contemporary dance company sponsored by Ballet Theater of Ashburn and Ashburn Academy of Dance. Ashburn Academy of Dance is a community ballet company established to bring dance performances to the residents of Loudoun County, Virginia. Ballet Theatre of Ashburn brings the joy of dance to residents of nursing homes and retirement centers as well as performing at local festivals, libraries and bookstores within the community.

Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$8 Students

Call to Reserve 703-723-8089

VSA Presents: Around the World in 80 Days March 6, 7, 13, 14 7:00PM

March 8 & 15 3:00PM

VSA of Loudoun presents another sensational musical with an inclusive cast of all ages and abilities. Travel around the world with Phileas Fogg as he visits India, England, "The Wild West," and various other countries in this retelling of the classic novel.

Tickets: \$18 Adults, \$10 Seniors, Students & Children www.vsaloudoun.org

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ARTIST'S PROFILE

NICK GREER – FINELY POLISHED BEAUTY

– By Andrea Gaines

True artists, and true craftspeople, generally have a reason why they decided to use a particular medium and/or approach their work in a certain way. My good friend Reggie Simms for example, loved National Geographic Magazine as a boy. So, at some point, as an adult, he decided one day to paint a series of huge canvases depicting his favorite covers. He “just had to do it.”

Antiques conservator Nick Greer is a little like that. Greer is in love with antiques and old knobs, gold leaf and inlay, wood and vintage glass, ivory and tortoise shell. He marvels at the old way of building things and the spectacular nature of the materials used.

For example, one of his favorite things is the original material known as shellac. Developed in the 16th Century, shellac became known as French polish in the early 1800s. It's made from the crust, as it were, of *Lacifer Lacca*, a tiny parasitic bug that lives on certain trees in India and other eastern countries. This form of shellac is sold in flakes that vary from pale orange to dark brown. When Greer restores a time period piece that has this finish, he uses this same material – the polish used perhaps hundreds of years ago naturally bonds with the new material being laid down, authentically restoring the piece.

He also seems undaunted by the complexity of restoring truly rare, truly fine things; in one case repairing or replacing missing brass, ivory and tortoiseshell inlay ... in another, bringing a piece of hand painted furniture back to life after a fire ... in yet another, restoring the hand painted leather on a hunt trunk.

Greer's work has been featured in *Washingtonian Magazine*, the *Washington Times*, the *Washington Star*, *Chesapeake Home* and more. His clients include the National Gallery of Art, *Dumbarton Oaks*, interior designers and antique dealers, as well as private collectors of beautiful things. Having been at his trade – his art – for 41 years. He's that good and that well known.

Greer learned furniture building, restoration and



Nick Greer at work.

repair from his grandfather, who was a sculptor. His first job was in a cabinet shop and one of his first big assignments was being part of the Smithsonian's Bicentennial exhibit. He shared with me that he had lost a finger on that job. Hmm, not sure what to say about that except it obviously did not stop him from doing what he loved.

As Greer described, you run into really interesting objects in his line of work. One of the oldest pieces he ever worked on is a solid walnut Umberte Arms Renaissance table from the 1400s, now on display at the National Gallery of Art.



Hand carved missing decorative trim.

You also get to see and feel some of the most beautiful and rare kinds of wood – including boxwood, satinwood and yew wood.

Greer's world is a fascinating one. I didn't ask him, but I'm sure he is familiar with something called “The Wood Database,” and the Periodic Table of Wood (that's right, not the Periodic Table of Elements, but of the Periodic Table of Wood). What a spectacular career Greer has made for himself. Just spectacular.

More examples of Nick Greer's work can be seen at www.greersconservation.com.



Chippendale side chair.



Early 19th Century mahogany chest of drawers – restored original French polish finish.

**CARVER CENTER
FEBRUARY EVENTS**

The Carver Center is at 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville.

Monthly Movie Night

Thursday Feb. 12 from 6:30-9 p.m. for ages 18 and older. Cost is \$3. Fee includes popcorn and bottled water.

Valentine's Day Dance

Friday, Feb. 13 from 1-3 p.m. For ages 55 and older, cost is \$3. Seniors are encouraged to bring their adult children. Enjoy the musical selections of DJ Sky Dantine.

Local History Presentation

Friday Feb. 27 from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Free

event for ages 18 and older. Carol Morris Dukes will be bringing a presentation to Carver about restoring the historic Grace Church in Lincoln, as part of Carver's celebration of Black History.

ONGOING EVENTS

Daytime knitting group

Fridays, 12:30-2 p.m. Fridays for ages 55 and older. Bring along your needles, yarn and patterns and spend time with other knitters.

Evening handwork group

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. for ages 18 and older. This weekly group meets in the Carver Library while working on knitting, crocheting and any other kind of easily transported handwork.

Jerry's Jukebox

Second and fourth Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 p.m. for ages 14 and older. Enjoy a dance floor, music and a helping hand for people who are learning to dance. Non-members pay a \$2 drop-in fee. Under 14 may attend if accompanied by an adult.

Decluttering for Seniors

Mondays, Feb. 2 through March 16 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. For ages 55 and older. Carolyn Bledsoe will focus on de-cluttering the kitchen, closets and paperwork.

Creative Writing

Tuesdays, 12:30-2 p.m. For ages 18 and older. A weekly group for anyone interested in exploring the writing process in a supportive, friendly environment.

Mindfulness

Tuesdays, 11:30-11:55 a.m. For ages 55 and older. Mindfulness is a technique which seeks to calm the mind and emotions through an intentional focus on sensations occurring in the present moment.

Tai Chi

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. For ages 55 and older. Slow-motion routines practiced in a group to promote strength, balance and flexibility.

e-COMMENT

Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m. For ages 55 and older. Use Carver's computer interface to leave written comments for the Board of Supervisors, in advance of their monthly meetings. Staff assistance available.

ONGOING EVENTS

☉ **Registration for the spring 2015 NFL Flag Football League** at Ida Lee is open. The town offers two leagues: Ida Lee NFL Flag Football House League and the Ida Lee NFL Flag Football Elite League. Registrations for the house league is until Feb. 16. The elite league registration ends Feb. 16. Go to www.idalee.org.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

☉ **Feb. 5, Thursday, Inova Loudoun blood pressure screening** from 11 a.m. to noon at the Lovettsville Community Center, 57 E. Broad Way, Lovettsville.

☉ **Feb. 7, Saturday, Hill School's Movie Night** with a 4 p.m. showing of "The Lion King" and an 8 p.m. showing of "Casablanca." A donation of \$5 per person is appreciated. At Hill School, 130 South Madison Street, Middleburg.

☉ **Feb. 7, Saturday, Queen of Hearts Tea**, at the Middleburg Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For all ages. Bring your favorite tea cup and tea bag for the both of you. Treats, finger sandwiches, tea and cocoa provided. \$10 per couple. Call 540-687-6375 to RSVP by Wednesday Feb. 4.

☉ **Feb. 7, Saturday, opening reception for the Middleburg Art Council's Juried Exhibit "On Main Street."** From 2-5 p.m. at The Byrne Gallery, 7-D West Washington Street, Middleburg. Show runs from Feb. 7 to March 1. Show details and artists listed at www.middleburgarts.org

☉ **Feb. 8, Sun., 2-4 PM Film Screening: GasLand 2 & Discussion** at PhotoWorks, 2a Loudoun St., S.W. Leesburg, VA 20175. Dominion Power plans to expand 2 natural gas pipeline compressor stations in Loudoun. Join 350 Loudoun for a screening of excerpts from this film. CONTACT: Natalie Pien, natcpien@verizon.net

☉ **Feb. 10, Tuesday, The Basics of Alzheimer's** from 7-8 p.m. at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington St. Knowing the basics of Alzheimer's Disease is vital to being diagnosed early and receiving the best help and care possible. Call 540-687-6375 to RSVP by Friday Feb. 6.

☉ **Feb. 12, Thursday, Inova Loudoun blood pressure screening** from 11 a.m. to noon at the Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville.

☉ **Feb. 13, Friday, Parents' Night Out** from 6-10 p.m. at the Middleburg Community Center. Dinner, a movie, crafts, and activities for the kids to do. \$20 first child, \$15 each additional child. Call 540-687-6375 to RSVP by Wednesday Feb. 11.

☉ **Feb. 13-15, Friday to Sunday, Valentine's Chocolate and Wine Paring at Greenhill Winery and Vineyard** from 12 - 7 p.m. at 23595 Winery Lane, Middleburg. Handcrafted chocolates paired with Greenhill wines. Go to www.greenhillvineyards.com/events.

☉ **Feb. 13-15, Friday to Sunday, fourth annual Middleburg Winter Weekend Sale.** Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday as posted by shops. Look for red balloons outside participating stores. Go to www.visitmiddleburgva.com.

☉ **Feb. 14, Sat., Carbon Drawdown Picnic & Cabaret**, 12:30 - 1 pm; Cabaret: 2 - 5 pm. Picnic: Leesburg Town Green; Cabaret: PhotoWorks, 2a Loudoun St., S.W. Leesburg, VA 20175: Natalie Pien: natcpien@verizon.net

☉ **Feb. 14, Saturday, "Valentine's Around the World."** at 8 p.m. at the Barns of Rose Hill, 95 Chalmers Court in Berryville. L'Tanya Mari' Trio recaptures the beloved and all-time favorites love songs by our great American composers.

☉ **Feb. 14, Saturday, country breakfast** hosted by the Between the Hills Community Association from 8 - 10:30 a.m. at 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd., (Rt.671) Purcellville.

☉ **Feb. 16, Monday, School's Out: Landscaping and Gardening** from 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Middleburg Community Center. Full day of games, crafts, and activities. \$55 per child. Call 540-687-6375 to RSVP by Thursday Feb. 12.

☉ **Feb. 19, Thursday, Inova Loudoun blood pressure screening** from 11 a.m. to noon at Lovettsville Community Center, 57 E. Broad Way, Lovettsville.

☉ **Feb. 23, Monday, Inova Loudoun blood pressure screening** from 11 a.m. to noon at Levis Hill House, 1000 West Washington Street in Middleburg.

☉ **Feb. 26, Thursday, Inova Loudoun blood pressure screening** from 10 a.m. to noon at the Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville.



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Two Kitchen Cousins Present ...

A Valentine's Recipe To Die For ... Coeur a la Crème With Raspberry Sauce

– By Lisa Wasson & Andrea Gaines

Roses are red, violets are blue, on this most scarlet of days, a sweet heart for you!

Enjoy this drop dead simple, absolutely divine dessert for Valentine's Day – or any time you want to show your love. This heart-shaped, no-bake crustless cheesecake is as easy to make as it is beautiful to serve.

Ingredients:

The cake

12 ounces cream cheese (softened to room temperature)

1 cup confectioners sugar

2-1/2 cups chilled heavy cream

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1/4 teaspoon grated lemon zest

1 pint fresh raspberries

Spring of fresh mint or rose petals for garnish

The sauce

1/2 pint fresh raspberries

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 cup seedless raspberry jam



Directions:

Creating the cheesecake mixture ...

With a paddle attachment, blend the cream cheese and confectioners' sugar in an electric mixer on high speed for two minutes. Scrape down the paddle/bowl, change to the whisk attachment and with the mixer on low speed, add the heavy cream, vanilla and lemon zest until the mixture has the consistency of dense whipped cream.

Molding and chilling/draining the mixture ...

Your mixture will be placed in a heart-shaped sieve mold and allowed to drain and set overnight in the refrigerator. Line your heart-shaped sieve mold with either cheesecloth or paper towels – leaving extra cloth/towel to fold up over the top

of the cake as it is refrigerated. Scoop the mixture into the mold, and suspend it over a bowl, leaving room between the bottom of the bowl and the mold for the liquid to drain away – and place in the refrigerator overnight. (You can also line a colander with the cheesecloth/paper towels to refrigerate/drain the mixture, and create your own heart shape with a flat knife or serving piece as you plate the dessert.)

Making the sauce ...

Place 1/2 pint of raspberries, the granulated sugar, and the raspberry jam in a small saucepan. Bring this to a boil, and then lower the heat, simmering for 4 minutes. Cool slightly and then blend in a food processor with the steel blade until smooth, adding a little water for desired consistency. Chill.

To serve your Coeur a la Crème With Raspberry Sauce ... pour a small amount of raspberry sauce in one corner of your favorite serving platter. Unmold the cheesecake heart onto the platter, drizzle a bit more sauce over the cake (reserving a small pitcher for your guests) and finish by sprinkling the dish with your remaining

fresh raspberries. Add the sprig of mint or rose petals as a pretty garnish.

About Andrea & Lisa: Andrea and Lisa are cousins who grew up on Long Island together. Andrea is a well-known writer for the Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today. Lisa is a private chef who has been making people's mouths water ever since she started baking fresh muffins for her office mates in New York City. We hope you enjoy this delicious new chef/writer cousin-to-cousin feature.



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Wild Loudoun

Northern Cardinal – Celebrating The Language Of Love



– By Andrea Gaines

Most wildlife biologists classify the northern cardinal as a bird that mates for life. And, why wouldn't they?

The unmistakably brilliant lipstick red of the male cardinal cannot be described as anything other than inspiring the language of love. Catching that bolt of red as it streaks across a field of freshly fallen snow is like watching a modern oil painting emerging from its bright white canvas.

Female cardinals are often described as sporting plumage of “an attractive tan/grey” or a “dull brown.” But, that’s not what I see. I see a sophisticated pale olive lady edged along its brow, neck, tail, wings and pointy crest with a subtle watercolor red. And, when you see a pair of these birds perched together on a twig or fence railing, it is clear that they are perfectly suited for each other. Perfectly.

The northern cardinal is well loved and very recognizable, making it the official bird of seven states, including Virginia. Before the mid 1800s cardinals were known as a southeastern bird, and one almost never seen north of Philadelphia. But, since then the bird has greatly expanded its range north and west and is today a year-round resident from the east coast to as far west as southern Texas and Arizona, as far north as southern Ontario and Nova Scotia and into Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. Cardinals generally do not migrate, as is the case with many birds. The expanded range of the bird is thought by scientists

to be linked to the popularity of backyard feeders and its ability to use parkland and suburban areas. Their cone-shaped beak is specially adapted crushing larger seeds such as sunflower, and, when not at a feeder the

birds forage for insects, other seeds, grain, fruit and tree sap. Insect-wise cardinals are very helpful to the farmer, consuming agricultural “pests” such as cotton cutworms, cotton bollworms, grasshoppers, aphids, snails and slugs.

The cardinal’s song is an important part of its biology and is distinctive and varied – with whistles ranging

The cardinal’s song is an important part of its biology and is distinctive and varied – with whistles ranging from “cheer cheer cheer,” to a “whit-chew whit-chew” to “purty purty purty.”

from “cheer cheer cheer,” to a “whit-chew whit-chew” to “purty purty purty.” Male cardinals typically have a home territory of approximately 4 acres, which they defend vigorously. If you see a bright red cardinal bump into your window, it may actually have been defending its territory against its own reflection.

Cardinal pairs raise 2-3 clutches of eggs per season, sharing parental duties such as feeding and keeping the nest fresh. In the early spring as mating gets underway the male cardinal bring seeds and other delicacies to the female in a manner, according to one biologist, as tender “as a first kiss between lovers.”

And the birds are, in human terms, also quite whimsical, enjoying a trip through a lawn sprinkler as much as the children of the household do.

Ah, the northern cardinal. From its magnificent colors to its endearing behaviors, it truly is the perfect winter blues Valentine’s bird. Just perfect.

“A Rose By Any Other Name
Would Smell As Sweet.”

– William Shakespeare

From the earliest times people worldwide have seen the rose as a symbol of the human heart and what it was feeling. Nomadic people planted roses along their most travelled routes. Roman women created a poultice out of rose petals and applied it to their skin to ward off wrinkles. Returning armies were showered with rose petals as a sign of victory.

When giving roses, make sure you give the right color. Here is what various colors have come to symbolize over time ...

Red – love

Yellow – friendship & joy

Lavender – enchantment,
love at first sight

Pink – love, gratitude,
appreciation

White – purity, innocence

Orange & Coral –
desire & passion



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Enjoying The Harvest Of Your Summer Garden - Now

– By Donna Williamson

Bitter, windy, nasty weather has given me an opportunity to look at some of the books I've collected recently and think about plants I want to try this summer season.

From the book, *The Resilient Gardener*, I read about parching corn. With certain species of corn, you can drop a few kernels in a dry cast iron pan and cook them to deliciousness. The author also parches kernels in a custard cup in the microwave. The toasted kernels enlarge, split, and get soft and sweet. It doesn't work with all kinds of corn; after doing extensive research it seems the red/purple varieties are

the tastiest. Seeds of Change carries "Red Supai" (seedsofchange.com) while Seed Dreams (SeedDreams.blogspot.com) offers "Parching Lavender Mandan". Siskiyou Seeds (siskiyouseeds.com) has "Magenta Parching Corn". The author, Carol Deppe breakfasts on a cup of tea and a handful of parched corn.

Part of the idea behind *The Resilient Gardener* is that we might consider growing plants that can sustain us past summer. Basil is great but cannot keep us going for long. Adaptability in uncertain times is a strength. Growing parching corn, nuts, apples, sunflowers, and pumpkins/



winter squash are examples of foods that can provide long-term sustenance.

Tomatoes can be stored in freezers or canned. After learning to can in my early forties, I experimented with peaches, jams, and other treats. Now I only can tomatoes – growing good tasting heirloom varieties makes for a delicious variety of meals in winter. And in August and September, it gives a strong sense of satisfaction to see tomato-filled jars lined up in a cabinet ready for the cold months.

Ten years ago I did some research about sunflowers and learned how remarkable sunflower seeds are. Nutrient dense with protein, vitamin E, selenium, folate, zinc, and copper as well as mono- and polyunsaturated fats, sunflower seeds also provide that wonder element – fiber. Almost every homeowner could grow sunflowers without much effort. Don't forget to remove the seed heads and allow them to dry or the birds will harvest them for you. You can store the seeds in the freezer and

use them in many dishes or blend them into sunflower seed butter. Siskiyou Seeds has the "Tarahumara" heirloom sunflower.

Hazelnuts grow well and are native to Virginia. Apples are hard to grow without lots of chemicals. One variety worked well for me and it's generally available from Edible Landscaping (ediblelandscaping.com) in Afton. Look for "Arkansas Black". It's a good keeper. One year I found one of my apples that had been on the ground in melting snow in late January – perfectly fresh and delicious.

Resilience.

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 now available on Amazon. Email donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or call 540-877-2002.

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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

Dulles Airport showed no trend (upward or downward) between the fall of 1975 and April of 2014, and school cancellations averaged about 5-6 days per year. Yes, there were big years for winter related school closings (e.g., 1993-1994 and 2013-2014) but the linear trend shows that those years were very unusual. While Mersereau noted that the number of times Loudoun cancelled classes did increase over the past four decades, that increase or trend appears to be only slight.

So why is your opinion (and likely the opinion of many others) more negative than the data suggests it should be when it comes to snow days in Loudoun County? To your point, delays and cancellations can create very real problems for us as parents - making changes last minute for day care and work can indeed be stressful. And remember that it was just last year that we experienced 14 winter weather school cancellations, and that may still be on our minds with the trepidation of so much more of winter to go. We also know that children do best when they have a routine to follow and structure. When school is cancelled parents then have to scramble to figure out how to occupy and entertain their children and that can be draining.

To your point that your children are becoming entitled in response to the many seemingly unwarranted school delays and cancellations, I think most of us who were raised "back in the day" can relate.

To your point that your children are becoming entitled in response to the many seemingly unwarranted school delays and cancellations, I think most of us who were raised "back in the day" can relate. As a native Midwesterner, I can recall many early mornings that were bitter cold with terrible ice and snow on the roads and walkways; and, if we could not get to school on those days, it was our problem, not the school's.

But was that approach a good one? And are our children really becoming entitled because we want to protect them from harsh weather and unsafe conditions? We know

that it's unwise to send our children out to the bus stop when the potential for frostbite is very real. We also know that it is unwise for school buses or parents with kids in cars to be on the road when it is unsafe to do so? So, yes, things were different "back in the day," but that does not necessarily mean that things were better. I suppose every generation thinks their generation is the best, and while it is normal for us to romanticize our past (especially as we age), I do not think that braving dangerous weather ever made children stronger.

To your point on stress, I understand and respect that you, like many other parents in Loudoun County, have been inconvenienced by the many recent winter school delays and closings, and that is unfortunate. That midterms were cancelled is also unfortunate, but none of us can control the weather or what the school system will do with delays or cancellations. You can, however, control how you think, feel and react, so I recommend taking control of what you can take control of - having a fail-safe action plan in place for day care or work adjustments with advanced notice, enjoying some extra time with your children and being happy for them on a snow day knowing that they are having fun and are safe.

Most of us also do not know why, how or when exactly a school system decides on delays or closures, but I trust that the involved parties are working hard for us to do the right thing for our children's safety and wellbeing in those moments. Will Loudoun County Public Schools get it wrong sometimes, of course. But at the end of the day, I think you would agree that the many stresses that come with having your children miss school is still better than fearing for their safety outside of the home and in bad weather.

With possible storms coming our way, keep in mind that you can control only what you can control.

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 or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.

Tasty Treats - By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12		
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51				52				53						
54				55			56	57			58	59	60	61
62					63	64				65	66			
67								68						
	69								70					

ACROSS

1. Stewed fruit
8. Bolivian ____
13. Mild laxative
15. Laughs, maybe
17. Tasty treat
19. Grad
20. Content of some bags
21. Start of some cloud names
22. Sapporo sash
24. It's definite
27. Car nut
28. Tasty treats
34. Not digital
35. Arise
36. Little kick
37. Class-conscious grp.
38. "O Sanctissima," e.g.
42. Way to walk
45. Charge
47. Tasty treat
51. General in gray
52. Tropical snake
53. Possessive pronoun
54. Some bends
56. Taboos
58. Beach item
62. Tasty treat
67. Folklore creature
68. Nodule
69. Certain print
70. Deflects

DOWN

1. A sparkling wine
2. Shade of blue
3. Remote control button
4. Overly decorous
5. Salad topper
6. Bus. card abbr.
7. Related on one side

8. Grand ____ ("Evangeline" setting)

9. Common Market letters
10. 1986 #1 hit for Starship
11. Simple eyes
12. Carved figure
14. Coupling
16. Smoke and fog mixtures
18. Chain
22. Sean ____ Lennon
23. Breathalyzer attachment
25. Dupes
26. Easily tamed bird
28. Dracula, at times
29. "____ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
30. Photographer Goldin
31. Star in Perseus
32. Back in?
33. Copper coins
37. Caribe
39. Away
40. D.C. setting
41. Science writer, Willy
43. Colo. neighbor
44. Blood-typing letters
45. Nest builder
46. Good buddies use them
47. Smart guys?
48. City in Ontario
49. Jai alai ball
50. Smell the coffee
55. Sean Connery, for one
57. Baseball great
58. Engine sound
59. Fungal spore sacs
60. Beach site
61. Dregs
63. Crumb
64. Get prone
65. Second degree?
66. Across, in verse

Answers on page 30

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Kitchen Science Kids: Laundry?

– By Leah Enright

One of the reasons I enjoy learning about science is that it helps me understand many things a little bit better. I am not as fooled by advertising claims-I can flip a bottle of hair conditioner on it's back and read the list of ingredients, knowing what more than half of those chemicals really are. That helps me know whether a product will work for me or not-and it saves me time, frustration and money. The same is true for other household products-I regularly make my own cleaners, and I enjoy controlling the scent, keeping my products non-toxic, and the good feeling I get from being able to be creative and try new combinations.

Want to try? Here is a very simple recipe to get started: Laundry Detergent.

You'll need:

1. An adult to approve and help with this project
 2. A bar of Ivory or Castille Soap
 3. A Cup of Baking Soda
 4. A Cup of 20-Mule Team Borax
- Place the cup of baking soda on a cookie sheet and bake it for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.
-While it is baking, ask an adult to grate the bar of soap on a cheese grater. -When the baking soda has cooled, and the soap is grated, mix them with the borax and store in a jar.
-Use 2-3 tablespoons per load for clean, fresh laundry.



ENRIGHT

That's it. It is almost too simple. Does it work? Absolutely, I have used it with great success for years and I love my clean, unscented laundry.

Remember my article called, "Smelly Science?" (You can look it up at brleader.com, under "Kitchen Science Kids"). I used those ideas one day when I wondered if heating baking soda *really* made any difference, and I set out to prove it to myself either way. Boiling some red cabbage leaves, and pouring only the cooled liquid into small, clear drinking glasses, I dropped in a bit of baking soda-both baked and unbaked. Viola. The unbaked turned soft blue, indicating one type of chemical, while the baked baking soda turned a dramatically different color (indicating a *different* kind of chemical). So, there you have it-Science in action, solving problems. The first being, "How can I clean my laundry using only simple kitchen ingredients? The second being, "Does baking this baking soda really change anything?" The answer to both of those questions is, "Yes." Now, go clean your room and gather a pile of laundry-your family will be impressed.

Leah Enright keeps her kitchen clean and does her laundry in her home in Round Hill.

When that's all done, she cuts hair in Purcellville. Leah welcomes comments and suggestions from Kitchen Science Kids in the online version of this publication.

Sushi – "Tails" From The Barnyard

– By Sushi

February is the month of love and this Valentine phenomenon isn't just for humans, it happens around the barnyard too.

Miss Ashley loves Sammy the bull, and if you recall last spring they had a beautiful bull calf together, which they named Smash. During the long winter months while waiting for their baby to be born, Sammy got a little self-absorbed with a very flirtatious heifer named Loretta.

Loretta and her best friend Victoria delight in swaggering around the fields turning the heads of even the best behaved bulls. Sammy was no exception, and he had learned a very difficult lesson. This Valentine's Day he was not about to let any femme fatale's ruin his marriage to Miss Ashley. He had fallen for that flirtatious trick once and almost lost the love of his life.

It was a crisp sunny day. Smash and the young bulls loved imitating the grown bulls, romping and head butting out in the fields. In their minds they could handle anything.

Loretta was not one to forget how Miss Ashley blew her off in front of the whole herd last Valentine's Day. Loretta and Victoria were determined to get back at Miss Ashley and win Sammy over. They were pure trouble. They couldn't help themselves.

The ladies sauntered toward the young bull calves singling out Smash, "Hey young feller! Who in the world gave you a name like Smash? When are you going to grow into those scrawny legs of yours, like a real man?" Smash's ears drooped and his shoulders slumped with a broken heart as he walked away.

Sammy and Miss Ashley watched from afar giving their son his new found independence, while lovingly munching hay together. They had no idea the cruel and heartless words being said to their beloved young son.

Sammy took notice as Smash slowly slinked further away from the young bulls. He shouldered Miss Ashley hinting that they meander together toward Smash. Sammy's fatherly instincts kicked in. He needed to find out why Smash was distancing himself so far from his buddies. This was not what herd animals do. As they approached their young son, they saw tears in his eyes, his whole body slumped in disgrace. Miss Ashley keenly picked up on the probable cause of this disturbing sight. Loretta and Victoria were at it again.

Sammy knew all too well what Loretta and Victoria were capable of. Smash was clearly embarrassed as he shared the hideous comments they had aimed at him. His parents learned that this had been going on for the last several months since they had allowed Smash his beginning tastes of independence.

Snorting and pulling his massive body into frame, every muscle rippled as Sammy approached the court being held by the double



trouble. Miss Ashley beamed with delight in her husband – their family would stand united.

Loretta and Victoria snickered at Miss Ashley, batting their long heifer eyelashes at Sammy. They really thought they had gotten his full attention. By now the entire herd was closing in to learn what was going on.

Sammy turned his back to Loretta and Victoria. Speaking loud enough for the entire barnyard to hear, he cleared his throat;

"Boys, there are bullies in life, in all walks of life. There are those of us who can be very gullible when our egos get stroked. Sometimes we are afraid to be brave enough to stop the bad influences in our lives. You must never ever let anyone bully you to think less of yourself.

"Let me ask you; does it truly matter how your body looks? Does it matter what others think of your bullnose ring? What matters is you are you, unique and cool! You are amazing just the way you are. Don't let anyone mess with your mind because you are different, that's what sets you apart. Be beautiful, be true to yourself, and be kind to yourself and to others. Don't let a bullies' ugliness scar you. The only reason they could possibly attack you so viciously is because you have something they don't.

"Smash, your Mom and I named you as a combination of our own names and the love we have for each other and for you. We love you, son. Let everyone remember you for being the remarkable you. Smash away son, make your mark."

Turning to the double troubles Sammy snorted louder, "You ladies are asked to remove yourselves from this herd until you can learn to be civilized. Your behavior has been despicable and will not be tolerated."

You could have heard a hay flake drop!

Sammy turned to Miss Ashley, gave her a wet lick across her schnoz, leaned into Smash and rubbed his huge head across his son's shoulder and the happy family headed off together.

And that my friends is the greatest of all love stories!

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 or 703 926 -8444.



Answers to puzzle from page 29



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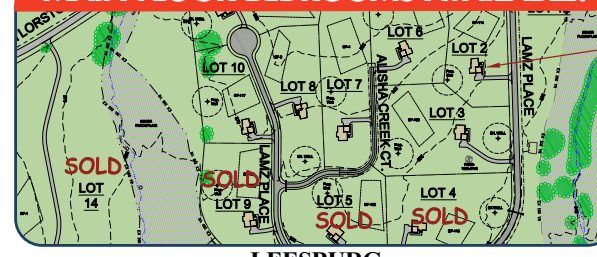
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We have just a few lots left at beautiful Loy Estates from 499,900. Lots range from 1.5 acres to 16 acres. Standard features include: Hardwood floors in foyer, kitchen and powder room, granite counters, 9 foot ceilings on main level, side load garage and several other value features! Mountain views and country living. Call for a personal tour with Builder and Agent.

These are just some of the homes Sam Sold in 2014:



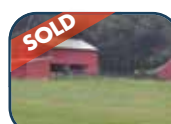
PURCELLVILLE
\$799,900



ROUND HILL
\$799,900



LEESBURG LOT 10
POWERS HOMES



PURCELLVILLE
10 ACRES



BLUEMONT
Five Acres \$499,900



THOMAS MILL
COTTAGE
\$379,900



BEACON HILL
0 DAYS ON MARKET!
\$1,025,000



WATERFORD
\$318,000



LEESBURG
\$469,700



HAMILTON
\$817,000



PURCELLVILLE
\$537,500

**IN 2013 & 2014 FEBRUARY
WAS A VERY STRONG MONTH
TO LIST HOMES.**

If you are thinking about listing your home this Spring you may want to consider the Winter. Please call me for a no-obligation consultation! Moving should not be stressful! I work a strong team of stagers, interior designers, contractors and movers



GOT CHICKENS?

Keeping Chickens as pets is becoming very popular in Loudoun County- Please call me to find out which of these homes are "Chicken Friendly!"

MIDDLEBURG
REAL ESTATE
ATOKA PROPERTIES

Call Sam Rees
703.408.4261

Associate Broker

Sam@atokaproperties.com

Find me on trulia

