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Zoning Administrator Rules Vineyard Square Project May Proceed Despite Expired Permits

Decision Goes Into Effect Unless Challenged By April 13

– By Valerie Cury

In a surprising reversal of policy, Purcellville Zoning Administrator Patrick Sullivan is siding with Vineyard Square developers John Chapman and Mark Nelis and allowing their project to proceed, despite the fact that numerous dates for their project have expired.

Sullivan's action is in direct conflict with a Purcellville Town Council vote in July 2014 denying an extension.

Background

Vineyard Square, a 5-6 story mixed use development planned for downtown Purcellville, obtained Certificate of Design Approval (CDA) permits from the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) to demolish certain buildings

on 21st Street, each requiring a separate CDA.

To proceed with the project Chapman and Nelis had to meet time limits on each CDA. Said zoning administrator Sullivan at the time, "Each of the CDAs has a time limit of one year that is imposed by ordinance (Chapter 54 Section 54-78 (f) of the Town Code). The CDAs will expire and a

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Shrek: The Musical Comes To Loudoun Valley High School

– By Kimberly Rinehart

The award-winning Loudoun Valley Viking Players will perform the hugely popular *Shrek: The Musical* at Loudoun Valley High School over two weekends in April.

The family-friendly musical tells the hilarious story of the lovable ogre, Shrek, and his quest to rescue Princess Fiona and bring her to Duloc to be married to the pint-sized Lord Farquaad.

"Shrek has a great message," said Christian Jost, who plays Shrek. "The show teaches kids to be comfortable in their own skin. Self-esteem is a big struggle for kids and I think that few other productions deal with this subject in a positive way. Rather than having the beautiful princess marry the handsome prince, this story shows that no matter what you look like or how you act, there can be a happy ending for everyone."

"It's a fairy tale with a twist," added Lauren Harris, who plays the Dragon. "The music is great and the show is incredibly well cast."

The production is the collaboration of more than 100 students,



Left to right: Christian Jost, Matt Merline, Alie Campbell, Melanie Clark and Roxi Smith.

teachers, parents and volunteers throughout the community.

"This is by far the most elaborate show I have ever been part of in terms of sets and costumes," said Matt Merline, who plays Lord Farquaad. "The cast is so funny and positive, and I think this really enhances the performances."

Theater Director William "Russ" Staggs, who directed the musical, said that, "this experience has been truly inspiring."

"The hard work everyone has brought to the process makes this one of the strongest musical theatre pieces I've had the honor to be part of. From top to bottom, this is a must-see show," he said.

Shrek: The Musical will be performed in the Loudoun Valley High School auditorium. Showtimes are:

Friday April 10 and Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m.;

Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door or online at www.lvhs Vikingplayers.ticketleap.com/shrek/.

Loudoun Getting Out-And-About

Longer Days Have Us Eyeing Our Calendars



– By Andrea Gaines

Last fall the Farmer's Almanac predicted that the mid-Atlantic region's impending winter would be "cold, wet and white." And, that was pretty accurate.

Now, though Loudouners are shaking off the snowflakes and making plans.

With so much right here – from historic towns and villages ... to great retail shops and galleries ... farms, wineries, distilleries and breweries ... historic spots, mountainside trails, parks and more – it's hard to decide what to do first. Here are some ideas as we all head into April ...

Wait ... How Many Daffodils?

Nature lays out a carpet of everything pink, green, yellow and lavender as Loudoun heads into April, and great flower and garden-related events abound.

Continued on page 28



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Ask Dr. Mike

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

I found a fake ID in my 18 year old son's backpack. He uses his own name, but gives a false birth year that makes him out to be 21 years old. My husband and I caught him drinking with his friends in our basement a few months ago, but we didn't make a big deal out of it because he does well academically and socially. My husband thinks that we shouldn't say anything to our son and is taking the position that "teenagers will be teenagers." My friends tell me differently that getting caught with a fake ID is serious business these days and that I should confiscate the ID and punish my son. He's heading off to college this fall, and this whole thing scares me. What do you think?

A Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent,

Your husband's idea that teenagers sometimes do stupid things is correct, however, that does not mean that we, as parents, should stand by and do nothing when we discover a problem. Assuming that your son has the fake ID

to purchase alcohol for himself (and/or others), your friends are correct to warn you of the seriousness of the moment. In Virginia, depending on what your son uses his fake ID for, his behavior could lead to criminal charges. In addition to criminal charges, his university could decide to suspend or expel him if he were caught purchasing alcohol for himself (and/or others) while away at school and under 21.

Yes, the late teen years can be a time of experimentation for some, but your son now has two infractions in your home and that should give you and your husband reason for pause. I recommend sitting down with your son as parents to discuss the ID and your concerns regarding underage drinking and the associated consequences. Make sure that you and your husband are crystal clear on what the ground rules are for your son regarding his use of alcohol moving forward – both for the remainder of his time at home and while he is away at school. If it is zero tolerance, he should know that, and he should also know what the punishments will be if you discover him drinking again. I would also have your son turn

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ACTIONS SPEAK MORE THAN WORDS

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Charles P. Clark, 107-years-old, is the oldest living WWII Veteran.

Oldest Living WWII Veteran In Martinsburg

Purcellville's Charles P. Clark, a 107-year-old World War II veteran has been living at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center Community Living Center since November and has pretty much seen it all.

Clark is the oldest living confirmed WWII veteran receiving health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration.

Living WWII Veterans experienced the most widespread war in the nation's history and are among the steadily declining veteran population in the world. WWII African-American veterans fought a global war when segregation was still among the ranks in the United States.

Clark was born in August 1907 in

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No Tax Increases

– By Delegate Dave LaRock

I've heard it said that elections should be held on April 16 so that people would cast their vote while still smarting from the pain of dropping that check in the mail on April 15. According to The Tax Foundation, Virginia State Individual Income Tax Collections Per Capita Fiscal Year 2013



Delegate Dave LaRock

totalled \$1,326 - the 8th highest in the US. It's important that taxpayers remember that feeling when they interact with their elected officials.

You may remember the bold message on the huge trailer-mounted pink tax pig seen in parades around Purcellville and Leesburg - "No Tax Increases." No doubt I'll be the brunt of some jokes for associating with that portly mascot, but that tax-related message is an important one that all elected leaders need to keep in mind.

On April 15, the Virginia General Assembly will reconvene for one day to consider the Governor's actions on legislation. On that day, the difference in styles of government

between the legislature and the executive will be most apparent. Most legislators would agree that we need a more efficient state government, and many adhere to the philosophy that local decision making by local citizens is best. Local decision making and leaner government are at the heart of the philosophy that guides my votes in the legislature.

When Virginia is lean and efficient, hard-working taxpayers get to keep more of their hard earned dollars and enjoy a better quality of life as you spend your money efficiently and wisely. On a personal and on a state level, good management practices can always yield more for less.

As an example, I recently met with a constituent who helped draw my attention to the benefits an interchange at the intersection of Route 690 and the Route 7 bypass would be. We all know how in-town traffic is affected by school and event traffic, resulting in harsh congestion. Fixing that will be costly, and that's why I have focused effort

on making sure our regional transportation funding priorities receive careful scrutiny. When that happens, there is more funding available for projects like the Route 690 interchange. It's just that simple.

Likewise, with education (which consumes over one third of Virginia's budget) seeking value for dollars spent is how we achieve our goals without continually asking for more in taxes. This past session, I submitted a bill that would have given parents of special needs children the ability to withdraw them from public schools and receive a portion of that child's state education funding to strike out on their own. Giving parents the means to customize their child's education has tremendous potential not only to improve educational outcomes for at-risk kids, but to cut down on the long term costs borne by the Commonwealth and local schools. Better results for fewer dollars is not impossible, but it does take some effort and a creative approach to problem solving.

As always, my top priority remains serving the citizens of Virginia and the

33rd District by passing laws that boost economic recovery, allow the creation of good, dependable jobs, improve education, reform government spending and protect our individual rights. And as always, I value your input – don't hesitate to give me a call at 540-751-8364.

After the reconvene session I hope to report back to you with the good news that our Governor has signed into law policy that favors more efficient state government and local decision making by local citizens.

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.

Planning Commissioner Raises Red Flag for Second Time

– Ogelman Challenges Significant Rezoning And "Muzzling" Of Zoning Debate –

– By Andrea Gaines

Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman is not afraid to put it in writing.

In passionately worded statements entered into the March Purcellville Planning Commission record, Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman called out his colleagues for taking actions in direct contradiction to the Purcellville Comprehensive Plan. Ogelman also challenged one town council member's characterization of recent proceedings

as negative and unproductive, saying "Sometimes we confront positions with which we disagree, but that doesn't make them negative ... I read that as short-hand for trying to muzzle debate."

Ogelman's statement comes in response to a long series of Planning Commission and Purcellville Town Council sessions where developers have pushed for sweeping zoning changes via what is essentially a closed door administrative process, versus the public

process called for by Comp Plan defenders, including Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Town Council member Karen Jimmerson.

At issue is whether the major changes proposed should happen piecemeal and in contradiction of the Comp Plan, or whether the changes should be delayed to allow the public to participate as part of the plan's mandated 5-year review.

Quoting *A Citizen's Guide To Zoning*, Ogelman challenged commissioners saying, "When citizens think of zoning procedures, they often think of 'rezonings'— applications to change the zoning map to redesignate a site from one zone district to another. However, there are actually three similar procedures that result in changing the zoning rules – one is a site-specific rezoning, the second is an areawide rezoning, and the third is a change to the text of the zoning ordinance that leaves the map unchanged." So, we are engaged in proposing rezoning the third way: changing the text of the zoning ordinance that leaves the map unchanged."

A few examples of the changes – the process for which have also been repeatedly challenged by Mayor Frazer and Councilmember Jimmerson include (as reflected in the March 10 town council agenda):

Adding 29 new proposed uses to the CM-I Commercial District and eliminating the need for developers to apply for a Special Use Permits (SUP) in 18 of them. (Special Use Permits require a developer to make a formal request for the proposed change in use and require a public hearing. By eliminating the

SUP the developer can proceed with the new use "by right," and is not required to present his or her case for the change to the public.)

Adding 27 new proposed uses to the C-I District and eliminating SUP requirements for three of those uses.

Adding 34 uses to the M-I Mixed-Use District and eliminating SUP requirements for three of those uses.

Changing the zoning designations within the PDH (Planned Development Housing) District so that a project can proceed "based on the needs and consideration of developers ... " Developers are requesting that PDH zoning be used for properties as small as 5 or 10 acres, that a "floating zone" designation apply – allowing a particular development to be dropped in virtually anywhere, and that commercial and residential be allowed in the same building. The changes, they argue, will allow developers "greater return on their investment."

At the March 19 Planning Commission meeting Ogelman objected to the major zoning changes being proposed by saying: "This is tantamount to rezoning ... We are redefining the purpose of the district."

At the beginning of the meeting Senior Purcellville Town Planner Daniel Galindo said that he would not recommend any more zoning use changes at this time. However, when discussing the CM-I District, he argued that adding data centers as a by right use throughout the district should be kept in place as one of the proposed changes.

The CM-I District runs along Hirst Road and backs up to the Old Dominion Valley

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WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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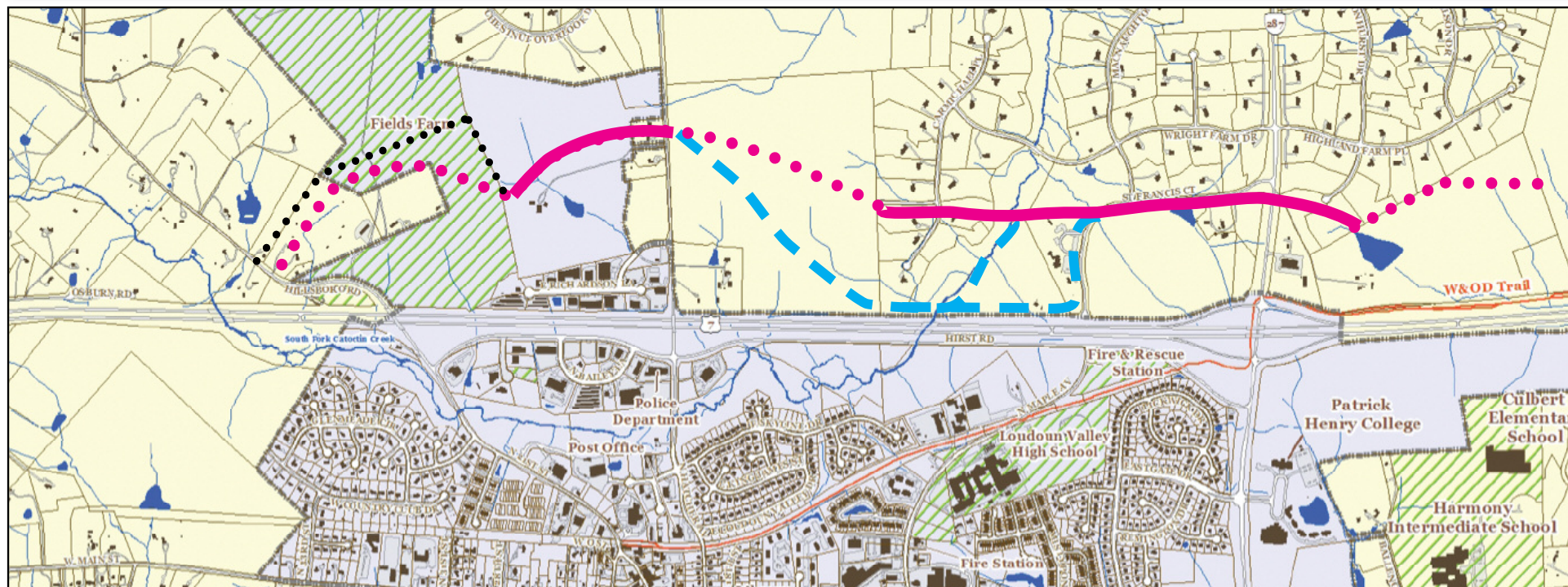
We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.

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On the web with daily updates at www.brleader.com

Study For The Northern Collector Road Advances

— Potential Alignment based on existing ROW reservations in Wright Farm (2005, 2010, 2012) and Mayfair developments (1991, 2013)
 ●●●●● Approximate location for Concept Alignments 1&2 Woodgrove High School/Fields Farm Road (2014)
 — Potential Alignment suggested by Supervisor Clarke (2014)



At the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (BOS) March 4 Business Meeting, the board unanimously approved the funding to complete the Northern Collector Road (NCR) study. The total amount approved was up to \$166,883, which includes funding for two phases.

The concept study for the NCR will include the following areas: Alder School Road to the north, Purcellville Road (61 I) to the west, Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) to the east and Main Street in Purcellville to the south.

The present and future developments listed as the reasons why the study is needed include: the Wright Farm residential community, the Fields Farm School Complex, the Mayfair/Autumn

Hill community (not yet built), the yet to be built Loudoun Youth Football Stadium, the yet to be built second access road to Woodgrove High School, the build-out of St. Francis de Sales Church and the future Route 690 interchange (projected to begin in 2025). Future build-out conditions for the town and the county will also be taken into consideration.

According to the March 4 BOS Business Meeting Action Item, Phase I of the study will determine if the NCR “is still needed given the level of actual and planned future development ...” This phase will cost approximately \$123,544, and is estimated to take 8 months.

Phase II will begin if it is decided that the road is necessary, and will determine

the recommended alignment for the road and conceptual design. This phase is projected to cost \$43,339 and may require an intersection analysis. It will begin “near month 6 and be completed by month 12,” according to consultant Kimley Horn’s draft work order.

According to a February draft work order from Kimley Horn, if needed the study will provide an updated road alignment that will take “approved development applications, current land use, right-of-way reservations and existing road networks into account.”

The plans of the Mayfair/Autumn Hill development contain a portion of the NCR as proposed by Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke (-R), along with the former Lazaro Administration. Negotiations for Mayfair/

Autumn Hill took place before the project was annexed by the then Lazaro Town Council.

The Wright Farm community had a meeting with Supervisor Clarke and Catocin Supervisor Geary Higgins (-R) to discuss the NCR, and have expressed opposition to the road in general. Supervisor Clarke has said that a study is needed as part of the process to take the road off the county plan. Typically, a proposed road can be taken off a county’s plan with a simple vote of the Board of Supervisors. The nearby Town of Hamilton removed their portion of the NCR from their own plan without a study. Clarke told the Wright Farm community that she would meet with them before the vote on the study, but this meeting did not occur.

Letters To The Editor

Let’s Let All Enjoy The Purcellville Watershed - Responsibly

Dear Editor:

Just wanted to drop a note and weigh in on the amazing opportunity to maximize the value of a community resource. As you may know, there are efforts underway to open the Purcellville Watershed up for recreational use of the public. This may include equestrian, hiking, bicycling and other low impact activities.



I am a strong believer in creating these recreational opportunities as a quality of life improvement for residents and visitors to Loudoun County. The land is currently

restricted to very selective use by a limited number of town employees and friends. Let’s allow everyone to enjoy this great resource in a responsible, thoughtful and sustainable manner!
Timojhen Mark
Purcellville

Planning Commissioner, continued from page 4

residential community. Developer John Chapman, who owns land along Hirst Road, said the best use for him would be a zoning of mixed use commercial which would allow for commercial and residential multi story.

Developer and attorney Mark Nelis has previously asked for a change in the zoning regarding restaurants and big box stores. Currently any restaurant over 4,000 square feet has to apply for an SUP – which gives the citizens a chance to weigh in. Nelis has asked the planning commission to change the size restriction to 10,000 square feet. The Town of Purcellville currently has a big box ordinance, so anything over 10,000 square feet has to have an SUP. Nelis has asked that it be changed to 30,000 or 40,000 square feet. Senior Planner Galindo said he will address what Nelis requested soon.

Supporters of completing a Comp Plan review prior to any major rezoning point to the fact that once a developer of a particular piece of property gets the desired zoning by right, that zoning cannot be challenged by the public or anyone else. This was the case with the massive Vineyard Square development on 21st Street, when in 2008 the Purcellville Town Council approved a text amendment to change the height allowed on 21st Street from 35 feet to 65 feet. This was done based on the developers’ advocacy. The owners of the property had secured changes to the zoning in much the same way that new changes are being proposed to Purcellville’s zoning districts.

Under pressure, the majority on the planning commission have agreed to have the public weigh in on zoning changes before any subsequent public hearing on the matter.

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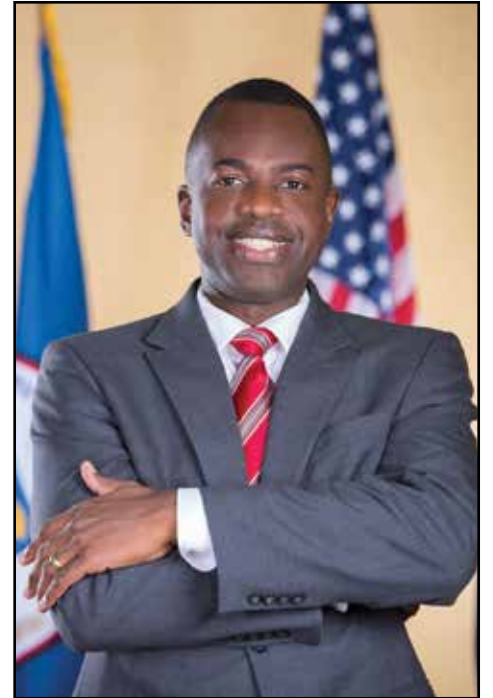
An Interview With Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser

Where The Town Budget Is ... And Where He Hopes To Take It

Loudoun County's incorporated towns set aside a specific period each year to establish their budgets for the coming fiscal year. The Town Charter and Code of Virginia §15.2-2511 also require that each municipality secure "an annual audit performed by independent certified public accountants of the Town's financial affairs."

In Purcellville, a Town Council Strategic Planning Session is held over the summer. Then the annual budgeting process occurs which incorporates the Strategic Plan into a financial plan for the next fiscal year. The following spring, the budget is formally adopted.

Spring 2015 marks the first time Mayor Kwasi Fraser will preside over the adoption of a new budget for Purcellville. *The Blue Ridge Leader* spoke with Fraser to get his take on what the town's fiscal priorities should be and how he plans to achieve them.



Blue Ridge Leader: You have been a strong critic of Purcellville's growing debt, at one point calling the process out of control. What approaches will you take to get the debt back under control?

Mayor Kwasi Fraser: \$60 million is an enormous debt for a town of our size but it is not unsurmountable. In fact, we have a few approaches in progress to tackle this debt head on. These approaches focus on leveraging our existing assets, and they are as follows:

- I directed the town manager to develop a portfolio view of all our major assets which was successfully completed and delivered earlier this month. We are now in the process of evaluating the underperforming assets to determine ways to further monetize them, be it through public private investment partnerships, leasing or sale. For example, Fireman's Field is a great asset, and we need to find investment solutions that will enable the town to retain this great facility, generate use fees from it, and pay down the combined debt of \$4.6 million between Fireman's Field and Bush Tabernacle. Today, the majority of this enormous debt is being paid by our citizens, who for the most part do not even use these facilities. So, we are working to find the right solution to alleviate the tax burden and enable Fireman's Field to add economic value to our community.

- We currently generate about \$150,000 per year from leasing our water tower to cellular carriers. We will be evaluating

opportunities within our real estate portfolio for additional cellular antenna leasing in areas with limited to no impact on our citizens.

- Our staff members were challenged to identify areas where we can wisely cut spending and increase revenue throughout town operations. As a result, we have identified several areas which staff will be quantifying and selecting to pursue. Recently, I was encouraged by some of their ideas such as buying items in bulk to save money and identifying certain tasks that can be done internally to avoid dependence on costly outside contractors.
- Our events team is tasked with finding ways to break even or generate profit from an event such as the Wine and Food Festival. Further, the Wine and Food Festival may be at a point to consider selling its rights to another sponsor that would then assume the associated liabilities and also would pay for the services required by the town to support it.

BRL: What steps have you taken to get the public more involved in the process?

KF: Via my monthly email newsletter, knocking on doors, and personal encounters with folks at the supermarket or during halftime games at high schools. Our open Town Hall Meeting is another vehicle to engage our citizens, and has been a result of one of my campaign promises. We need citizen input at meetings as I have only one vote on council.

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Zoning, continued from page 1

new CDA will have to be applied for if the applicant does not commence construction on each CDA prior to its expiration date.” The deadlines laid out in Sullivan’s May 29, 2014 memo were as follows:

- **November 14, 2014**, for the demolition of all the buildings along 21st Street, O Street and the other buildings in back of 21st Street with the exception of the two brick buildings at the southern end of the project. The applicant must begin demolition on all 10 buildings prior to November 14, 2014, or he faces having these CDAs expire.
- **December 16, 2014**, for the demolition for the two brick buildings on 21st Street, pending an approved site plan and complete zoning permit (for the building to replace it).
- **January 14, 2015**, this deadline required an approved site plan and zoning permit for the new building, along with the commencement of construction.

At the time of the May 2014 memo, staff expressed concern that the developers would not be able to meet these deadlines “... and the project would have to stop.” In response, the outgoing Lazaro town council in June of 2014 was planning a vote to extend the CDAs for a year. This effort failed due to community outcry over the special treatment being afforded to the developers. The issue came back to the newly elected town council in July 2014, at the request of council member Joan Lehr, but the majority voted 4-3 not to

extend the CDAs with Mayor Kwasi Fraser and council members Karen Jimmerson, John Nave and Ben Packard voting no, and Joan Lehr, Patrick McConville and Doug McCollum voting to extend.

At the March 24, 2015 Purcellville Town Council Work Session council member Jimmerson said, “So for nearly a year, the applicant found no reason to contest these expiration dates and I am naturally suspect that this is a back door way to get the desired extension that was sought back in June of 2014.”

What Changed

Now, over a year since the whole process began, developer John Chapman is again challenging the permit deadlines. In a March 9, 2015, letter to Purcellville Town Manager Rob Lohr, Chapman asserted that even though the final deadline for the CDAs was January 14, 2015, the notice letter wasn’t mailed by staff until March 19, 2014, making his permit expiration date March 19, 2015 (the original vote on the project took place in December 2013).

Setting up a completely different argument, Chapman now also asserts that the project “... is well under way,” since on November 17, 2014, the Chapman Group, LLC demolished three buildings under CDAs 13-13 and 13-14, making the CDAs, “in compliance and ... valid as long as we continue to work diligently to move our project forward.”

March 13, 2015, Zoning Administrator, Patrick Sullivan’s Final Word And Reversal

Despite his earlier memos clearly stating that “The CDA’s will expire and a new CDA will have to be applied for if the applicant does not commence construction on each CDA prior to its expiration date ...” Zoning Administrator Sullivan is now in agreement with and in fact lobbying for Chapman’s position.

Using Chapman’s own language now, Sullivan says that if “diligently” pursued the project would be considered “commenced,” adding that he defined the word “commence” based on dictionary.com – to “start or begin.”

He continued, “What is the project? Is it the individual request of each CDA to demolish a building or is it the totality of all the CDAs.” To that question Sullivan turned to the intent of the applicant, staff, the BAR, and the town council (Lazaro town council). He added that he must consider the concept of diligent pursuit. Sullivan continued that the meaning of the word project referred to the development of the site as “an integrated whole.”

Confusing things further, in conclusion Sullivan stated that all “CDAs en masse do not have to meet each validity deadline.”

All CDAs are valid despite expiration dates “as long as diligent pursuit occurs.”

The March 13, 2015 letter to John Chapman did not become public until it was mentioned by council member Karen Jimmerson at the March 24 Purcellville Town Council Work Session. Jimmerson said, “The zoning administrator’s letter to the developer also states that there is an appeals process listed and how a citizen can appeal. How would a citizen even know about the existence of this letter if they didn’t happen to look on the town website by happenstance?”

Interested parties (aggrieved) may appeal the zoning administrator’s decision within thirty days from that date. The appeal package must be received by the zoning administrator and the board of zoning appeals at the town hall, 221 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, Virginia 20132. The package must include a completed appeal application form, a copy of the zoning administrator’s letter, a written statement specifying the grounds for appeal and an appeal fee in the form of a check payable to the Town of Purcellville for \$500.

Stacks Selected As The Loudoun County Animal Control Chief

Mark Stacks is the new Chief of Animal Control for Loudoun County. Stacks began his career with the Department of Animal Services in 2005 as an animal care technician, later becoming an animal control officer and then deputy chief.

Stacks has been instrumental in creating the department’s Junior ACO (Animal Control Officer) Academy which provides young people with and overview of the Department of Animal Services and helps them explore the field of animal welfare from the perspective of law enforcement



Mark Stacks is the new Chief of Animal Control for Loudoun County.

and animal care. Stacks leads dozens of humane education presentations for school-aged children annually, often with his dog, Roosevelt, by his side.

He graduated from Radford University with a degree in biology. Stacks is certified in ice and swift water rescue and is the certified firearms instructor for the department.

For more information about the Animal Control Division of the Department of Animal Services, visit www.loudoun.gov/animalcontrol.

Prince William Mother, Daughter Killed In Germanwings Crash

– By Hannah Hager

When a tragedy happens close to home it can be hard to find any semblance of comfort. Such may be the feeling of the family members and friends of the two Americans killed aboard the Germanwings flight that crash landed into the French Alps this week.

Nokesville mom and daughter Yvonne and Emily Selke were two of the 150 passengers that died on the flight that took off from Spain, but never made it to its destination in Germany. Nokesville is in neighboring Prince William County.

Father and husband Raymond Selke confirmed to the Washington Post that his wife and daughter were the two Americans on the ill-fated flight. A majority of the passengers were German and French. Details are still emerging around what exactly happened. It is believed that the co-pilot, 28 year-old German national

Andreas Lubitz, locked the head pilot out of the cockpit after he momentarily left his seat. The co-pilot then intentionally grounded the plane into the mountains.

The State Department confirmed the Selke’s deaths and also revealed that a third American was on the flight but did not identify who it was. Yvonne Selke was a long-time employee of Booz Allen Hamilton and Emily a recent graduate of Drexel University.

“Yvonne was a wonderful co-worker and a dedicated employee who spent her career with the firm supporting the mission of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. We are in contact with her family to provide comfort and support, and providing support options to her co-workers, as well,” said Betty Thompson, Booz Allen’s Executive Vice President and Chief Personnel Officer.

Memorial dates and times have not yet been revealed.



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Woodgrove High School Senior Garner Signs With Wheaton



From left to right: Swim Team Coach Michele Song, senior Kristen Garner and Principal William Shipp.



Garner family, left to right, Kristen's brother Jason, mom and dad Lori and Jeff with Kristen

photos by Bruce Shepherd

Woodgrove High School senior, Kristen Garner, has signed to swim with Wheaton College in Illinois. She is the first Woodgrove swimmer to sign with a college and will compete on Wheaton's NCAA Division III team.

"I am incredibly honored to become a member of such a wonderful swim program at a school where I will have the opportunity to grow both academically and spiritually. Although I will miss Woodgrove and the team and coaches that have become family to me, I know that these past four years have prepared me to

flourish at Wheaton as a swimmer, as a student, and as a person," said Garner.

"I'm excited about Kristen's acceptance to Wheaton College and the opportunity afforded to her to continue swimming. She's been an important part of Woodgrove's team these last four years serving as team captain for the past two, but more than that and more than being a top notch competitor, she is really a well-rounded, intelligent young woman," commented Woodgrove Swim Team Coach Michele Song.

Is Sound The Future Of Fire Fighting?

- By Hannah Hager

What if you could extinguish fire with sound instead of carbon dioxide? That's what two undergraduates at George Mason University have set out to do.

Engineering seniors Seth Robertson and Viet Tran have submitted a patent application that could potentially revolutionize the red fire extinguisher we're all familiar with. The students' version uses low-frequency sound waves to stymie a blaze instead of the messy, white foam.

The idea didn't emerge out of thin air. The pair decided "to fight fire with sound waves" as part of a class project for a design course in which they built their own prototype using their own money, according to a university press release, which is also "free of toxic chemicals and eliminates collateral damage from sprinkler systems."

The recent Daylight Savings Time is a reminder to turn back the clocks, but it should also be a reminder to switch out your smoke alarm batteries. The National Fire Protection Association reports that smoke alarms sounded in only half the home fires reported between 2007-2011 in the U.S., and three of every five home fire deaths were in homes with no or non-working smoke alarms.

Fighting fire with low frequency sound waves such as those used in the bass of hip-hop songs could one day prove to be another line of defense. The students aren't alone in their thinking. Researchers at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and West Georgia University are also working on prototypes, according to the press release.

Smoke Alarm FAQs

Smoke alarms sounded in only half the home fires reported between 2007-2011

Three of every five home fire deaths were in homes with no or non-working smoke alarms

No smoke alarms were present in one-third (37 percent) of the home fire deaths.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

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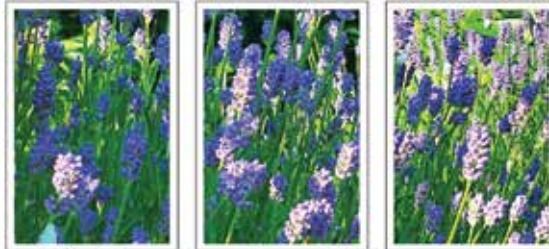


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- * May 20 - (Tea & Talk) with Eliza Doolittle. 1pm. \$35.00/person.

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Green Runs For Supervisor Seat

Craig Green, a nine-year veteran of the Hamilton Town Council has launched a Democratic campaign for the Loudoun Board of Supervisors Catoctin District seat currently held by Republican Geary Higgins. Green, a Hamilton resident since 1978, is an e-commerce consultant, and holds an MBA degree.



Craig Green

Green said his platform is centered on improving our world-class school system while focusing growth efforts on jobs and furthering our unique economy.

“As a long time resident, I’ve seen this county change from wide-open farm land to the exciting mix of suburban communities and thriving, innovative agricultural uses,” Green said. “As in the tech world, Loudoun’s leaders must know that innovation and disruption are the path to prosperity – it’s time to start approaching our problems of growth, transportation and

education with a fresh, intelligent approach. We cannot keep doing things in the same old manner.

“My nine years on the Hamilton Town Council and Planning Commission have given me great background and understanding of the issues we face as a county. We in Hamilton have struggled with growth, infrastructure costs and providing the amenities our citizens request, while maintaining a balanced budget. The problems may be of a different scale, but our willingness to work together as a team and bridge partisan differences has been the key to Hamilton’s continued success.” Green said.

This Month In History April 1757, Loudoun Is Born

– By Andrea Gaines

In April of 1757 then British citizens requested “An Act For Dividing” of Fairfax County, splitting off it’s northwestern lands.” The act provided that the land being spilt off would include “ ... All that part thereof ... above Difficult run ... [with] a line to be run from the head of [the] run ... to the mouth of Rocky run ... [known] by the name of Loudoun.” The map shown here is one of the last drawn before Fairfax County’s boundaries were changed, creating Loudoun County to the west. Interestingly, this map was created in 1751 by Thomas Jefferson’s father Peter Jefferson, and partner Joshua Fry.



Northwest part of old Fairfax County became Loudoun County

Close-up of the map drawn by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

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Mike Turner To Run For Supervisors, Ashburn District

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Mike Turner has announced he will run for the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors seeking to represent the Ashburn District. On his website, www.MikeTurnerForAshburn.com, Turner notes that he is the first resident of Lansdowne Woods, formerly known as Leisure World, ever to run for the county board.



Mike Turner

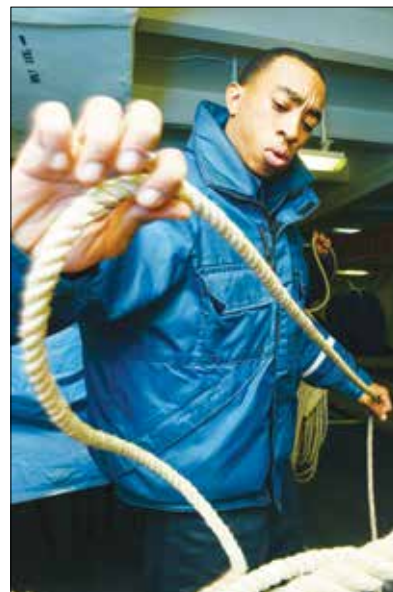
ought to be about negotiation, compromise and progress to achieve sustainable community solutions that benefit the greatest number of people.

A 1973 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Turner spent six years as an air-rescue helicopter pilot and the remainder of his

24-year Air Force career as a fighter pilot. He also saw duty as a Middle East/Africa senior policy planner on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a Desert Storm veteran, a former CNN, MSNBC, Fox News and NPR commentator, and a former Democratic candidate for the U.S. Congress from the Virginia 10th congressional district in 2008. Since his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 1997, Turner has served in executive leadership positions in six different nonprofit organizations including the American Red Cross, Wounded Warrior Project and Mental Health America, the oldest mental health advocacy organization in America. He is currently the executive director of a national nonprofit foundation dedicated to helping military families.

“We all share a common desire to see our neighborhoods grow and prosper,” Turner said. “We all strive to create a nurturing environment for our children that promises a bright future built upon a high-quality education. We all support an energetic and prosperous marketplace. And we have a reasonable expectation of safe and efficient travel everywhere in Loudoun County. These goals are achievable, but only when our elected officials place public service to the families of Loudoun County first above all other considerations. This is my promise to the citizens of Ashburn District: I work for you! My entire professional life reflects this enduring commitment.”

Turner also said he believes politics



Leesburg Sailor Works Far From Home

Seaman Jonathon Dublin from Leesburg untangles a line aboard USS John C. Stennis in the Pacific Ocean. The John C. Stennis Strike Group is assessing its abilities to conduct combat missions, support functions and survive complex casualty control situations.

U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kenneth Rodriguez Santiago



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Army veterans, the couple has taken their talent for the outdoors, self-reliance and health – including Cindy's fascination with TERRA essential oils – to their newest pursuit, outdoor outfitters with everything you need to get out-and-about this season. See you on the trail, Chuck and Cindy!



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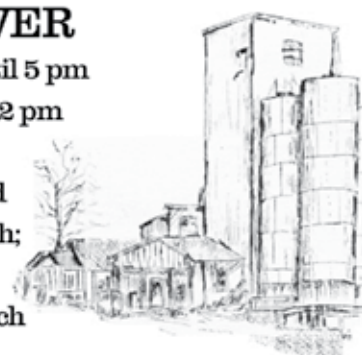


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April Is The Time To Plant – Don't Forget Hardscapes

– By Donna Williamson

April is a perfect time to plant permanent fruit-bearing plants at your home. The soil has good moisture and we can get the plants established before it gets too hot and dry.

You might be interested in the excellent book *The Holistic Orchard* by Michael Phillips. He has valuable information on growing all kinds of trees and berry fruits.

Blueberries love our climate but hate hot and dry conditions. Areas with sun, good moisture, and good drainage are premium spots for your blueberry bushes. Blueberries bloom on old or last year's woody growth so early pruning would be counter-productive for your pie-maker.

Blackberries are delicious, love our summer heat/humidity, and are easy to grow. Like raspberries, they grow well in northern Virginia. You will enjoy them more with a little containment system that makes picking the berries easier. Google 'berry trellis' to view various design and building options.

Gooseberries and currants are shrubby. These old-time fruits are delicious in pancakes and jams. There are several varieties you can grow easily. Tuck them into a shrub border. Little hands can pick them easily. Don't plant near white pines.

Rhubarb is another permanent fruit for your home landscape. Each year, it will emerge in spring to treat you with great pink stalks ready to be stewed with a bit of sugar and served by itself or with strawberries.

Figs require space and some winter protection but are well worth it. The leaves can be large and tropical looking and the fruit is the flower. Delicious and succulent fruit ripens in late summer.

Grapes can be wonderful – I've had good luck with the Concord grape. It tastes exactly like childhood memories of grape jam. There are seeds though. Grapes grow on a woody vine that can be trained over a fence, arch, pergola, or trellis, providing a leafy canopy in summer. Annual pruning keeps it from getting out of bounds.

Now On To Hardscapes

"Hardscapes" is a term used by landscape folks about the stuff that is not plants. Walkways, patios, fountains, pergolas, stairs, pool decks, fences, and stone walls are all examples of hardscaping.

If you are planning to have some hardscaping done, you will want that finished before you add the plants. Plants are easily beaten up in the midst of stone, stone dust, gravel, forms, concrete and big construction boots.

My best advice to you is when you have any steps installed, be sure the riser (the up piece) is no more than 4-5 inches high and the tread (the part you step on) is at least 16-18+ inches wide. It will give you a nice, comfortable step or stair. Steps should be solid and flat – no tipping and evenly spaced for good, safe, long-time usefulness.

Walkways are most accommodating when they are 4-5 feet wide, so two people can walk side-by-side, and are uniformly flat.

Stonewalls are lovely. A short stonewall, as part of a patio, can be useful as extra seating when entertaining. Short walls can also create terracing when there is a change in grade.

Donna Williamson is a garden designer and coach. She has taught classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands and Shenandoah University. She has two e-books on Amazon – one is an updated version of her Virginia gardening book and her new perennials book. She can be reached at donnawilliamson2002@earthlink.net or 540 877-2002.



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Hats – The Perfect Topping

– By Sarah Nearis

Most women think hats take a little nerve to wear. But, worn right a hat has a way of freeing you, making you feel more put together.

Three things to keep in mind. Number one, keep your hat neutral, like your choice of shoes. Pick up a splash of color from your outfit, but don't let the hat control. Number two, when wearing a hat, keep the other things around your face on the simple side – a sleek scarf, for example. Number three, avoid hats that are trying to be all things to all women. Let one thing dominate; the hat's shape, color, decoration or material – but not all four. My favorite types of hats and how to wear them this season.

Baseball Caps: This most casual of hats looks great with a nice white T-shirt and a crisp pair of jeans – great for sun protection and when you don't feel like spending a lot of time on your hair. Don't be afraid to wear them with your hair pulled back or if you have short hair – they make for a tidy look. But avoid over-embellished baseball cap styles – keep it simple.

Casual Woven Hats: These are casual hats with less shape and structure. They give you a lighter, brighter look and are perfect for sundresses and sleeveless tops and shorts. As with baseball caps, keep it simple and don't over do it with accessories.

Fedoras: This is my favorite style of hat. They can be small or large brimmed, but they all have a structured shape – tailored, nothing extra. Think of them as the man's shirt of women's hats – smart and fashion forward. Wider-brimmed versions are great for the beach, shorter brimmed versions perfect with a simple tunic and capris pants or leggings.

"Kentucky Derby" Hats: Not just for the most watched horse race in the world, big, colorful hats can be really beautiful. This is the only case where you CAN let the hat take over. Just remember, it's a hat, not a floral display. Use it to show off the sophisticated simplicity with which you put the rest of your outfit together. Turning up the hat? Tone down the rest.

Berets: A certain woman I know looks fantastic in berets. She buys her clothes here, but her wardrobe has a very European look to it – with well-shaped, well-tailored cottons, silks and linens accented with feminine touches such as simple embroidery, stripes, fitted waistbands, and softly structured pleats, collars and cuffs. Sound like you? Try a beret. You'll know instinctively how to wear it.

Take the plunge and wear a hat!

Sarah Nearis is a fashion stylist, fashion blogger & 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. Connect with Sarah on her All Things Beautiful blog: sarahnearis.blogspot.com.



Buchanan Earns Eagle Rank

Harry Buchanan, V, from Waterford, earned his Boy Scout Eagle Rank three days before his 18th birthday. The Eagle Rank is the highest rank from the Boy Scouts of America to award. Less than 2 percent of all Boy Scouts receive this honored ranking. Buchanan finishes up his Boy Scout endeavors with 33 Merit Badges, countless community service hours, successfully completed the Northern Tier Canadian Boy Scout wilderness adventure program and the Florida Sea Base, Key West Sailing Program. He began Cub Scouts at the age of 6 completing this level of scouting earning the Arrow of Light and advancing to the Boy Scouts. He earned his Rank of Eagle by completing, among other tasks, his Eagle Service Project. Buchanan

selected a worthy and substantial construction project of designing and building exterior stairs to benefit the Waterford Foundation. These stairs benefit the Village of Waterford as well as the many visitors who visit Waterford each year for the Waterford Fair. In addition to this construction project, he donated \$1,060 to the Waterford Foundation to use as they wish. Buchanan will continue his scouting service through assisting and mentoring other scouts to reach their goals. He plans to attend an Engineering College and pursue a profession in Civil/Mechanical Engineering. "It has been a very rewarding experience and I have loved every minute of it. I really learned a lot to carry with me through life experiences," said Buchanan.



Margaret Good and Tom Kuehhas, Waterford Foundation preservation directors with Eagle Scout Harry Buchanan, V.

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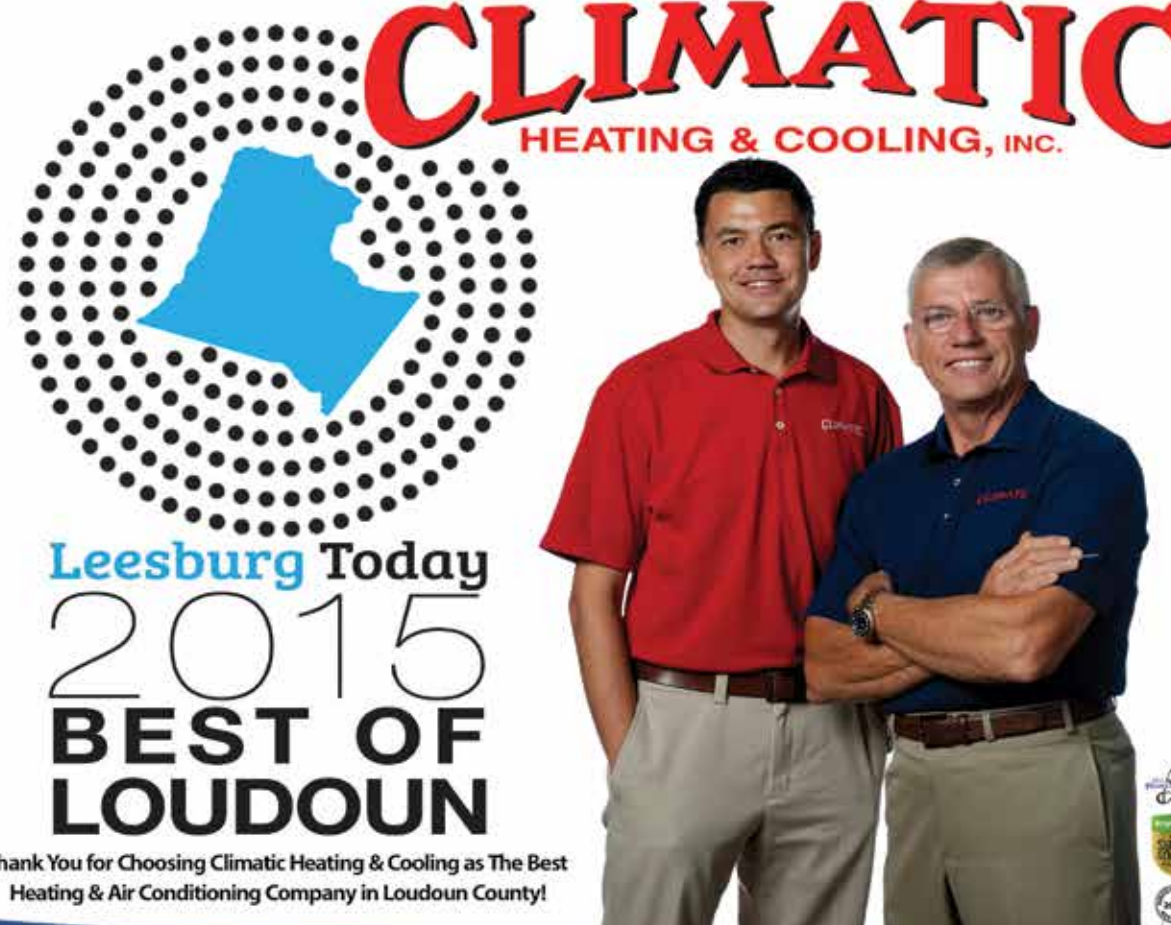
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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Edgar Tillett Memorial Park

– By Tim Jon



Whenever I'm at the edge of a woods – or other 'wild' place, I always find myself listening; I'm not sure where I picked up the habit – maybe my brothers, or father, or grandfather – or maybe from one of those other writer guys, like James Fenimore Cooper, or Hemingway- or even Ken Kesey. But, come to think of it, those guys were probably all listening for different things – and they might not have known what it was, either. But, sure enough, I found myself one recent foggy morning at the edge of a very undisciplined growth of trees and brush, and I caught myself: Standing there, breathing quietly, surveying the 60 or so yards into which my vision penetrated the darkness, listening and waiting. About all I heard was the nearby traffic on Belmont Ridge Road, and the occasional jet taking off or landing at Dulles Airport – and maybe a faint drip of melting snow and ice.

This was my first visit to Edgar Tillett Memorial Park – in Ashburn, just south of the Greenway. There wasn't another soul utilizing the park that morning – they were all probably heading off to work



– and, even if they had the day off, one of the last things on their agenda - likely - was traipsing around the half-frozen ballfields and scattered stands of trees at this neighborhood recreation area.

Those commuters had more important things to do than stand on the edge of civilization and await communication with the great mysteries to perhaps be discovered at Edgar Tillett Park. Not me. I had the day off, so there I stood... no, I didn't receive any deep messages from beyond, or anything; I really didn't experience a great deal in the way of excitement or drama – but I did feel the ice crunching under my boots, felt the cool, crisp damp air fortified by all the melting, and enjoyed quite a few

minutes of the closest thing to solitude I could probably find this far from the Blue Ridge. Or at least that's what I told myself.

Now, I'm imagining that my experience on a summer Saturday afternoon would be quite different: All four ballfields would most likely be in use – maybe the park would even be hosting a youth athletic tournament of some sort, with families gathered from across the region to enjoy some friendly competition at this convenient site for such activities. The noise of play and the cheering of the crowd might even drown out the sounds of traffic from Belmont Ridge Road and that of the overhead planes from Dulles. All that activity might even give the scattered Saturday commuters

a moment of pause as they headed for all that important stuff up or down the road, too. Yeah, if I were to pay a visit to this place on a summer weekend, during heavy ball-playing season, I may not even have a stray moment to catch myself listening for whatever it is that I listen for at the edge of those woods. Maybe 'it' wouldn't even be there for me to listen for – who knows?

But, I'll bet that it's still pretty peaceful there on the mornings of those games and tournaments, and it might even be foggy on some of them, and, if a guy like me were to take an early stroll out there, he could even find himself standing on the edge of the woods, as if almost listening for something – even if it was something he couldn't positively identify. And the traffic on the road and the planes in the sky would be all the sounds he could recall – other than, perhaps the echoes of last year's ball games, or that lone tree falling in the forest which he needed to be present for to make audible, or maybe even the faint reverberations of that long-ago Big Bang from which we're still evolving.

I suppose the ball players will continue ball playing, the commuters will continue driving, the planes will keep on flying, and me – I'll keep on finding myself on the property lines of places like Edgar Tillett Memorial Park – listening for something I've never experienced.

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Police Cruiser In Early Morning Accident

On Saturday March 21 at 4:45 a.m., Purcellville police Officer Ryan McGann was traveling northbound on Hatcher Avenue when his police cruiser crossed from the right hand lane to the oncoming left hand lane in the vicinity of the 100 block of the residential street, striking a parked car.

The impact forced both the police vehicle and the parked car off the road. McGann's police 2013 Dodge Charger then continued for approximately 130 feet, back onto the right side of the road, where it stopped. A wheel from the police cruiser came off the vehicle and onto the road, and was seen by witnesses from nearby homes awakened by the accident.

Four law enforcement vehicles, a firetruck and an ambulance arrived at the site of the accident shortly thereafter. Witnesses at the

scene said that the officer declined a sobriety test and also declined medical treatment. Officers at the scene told witnesses that the officer had apparently fallen asleep while driving.

The police have reported that the vehicle was travelling 20 mph at the time of the accident. The speed limit on this stretch of Hatcher is 25 mph. Witnesses also indicated that the driver's side window of the vehicle was smashed and that the officer's head had most likely come in contact with that window. Police at the scene said that falling asleep at the wheel was most likely the cause of the accident.

According to witnesses, the parked vehicle appeared to be hit "head on." However the police report indicates that McGann's cruiser "sideswiped" that vehicle.

Gold Cup Celebrates 90th Year

One of the nation's largest steeplechase race meets celebrates its 90th anniversary this year on Saturday, May 2 at Great Meadow in The Plains.



The Virginia Gold Cup (and the International Gold Cup in October) are now become the only venues in Virginia to offer sanctioned betting.

About 50,000 people come out in their race-day finest to socialize and entertain.

Celebrity judges will decide whose hats are the most impressive in the day's hat contest. There is also a very competitive tailgate contest.

Gates open at 10 a.m. with pre-race entertainment starting at 11 a.m. including the Jack

Russell Terrier Races. The first of nine horse races will be underway at 12:30 p.m. General admission car passes are \$85. Visit www.vagoldcup.com for more information.

Middleburg Academy Basketball Champions



Back row from left: Assistant coach Jordan Furtado, assistant coach Elander Lewis, Trey Lewis, assistant coach Joe Posey, manager Bryan Correa, Patrick Kim, Myles Lewis, Sanu Basu, Andrew Corum, Taija Blaylock, David Mishack. Front row from left: Jake Rossi, Sebastione Gonzalez, Bishop Robinson, AJ Robinson, Aygei Edwards, Jack Gruden, Myles Penfield and head coach Jaye Haggler.

The Middleburg Academy boys varsity basketball team (ranked #1) won the VISAA D-III state championship against Christ Chapel (ranked #3) with a score of 66-62. Christ Chapel enjoyed leading much of the game with a determined defense and a fast-paced attack that found Middleburg Academy playing as much as 10 points behind in the third quarter. It was in the final quarter that Middleburg Academy responded to overtake Christ Chapel.

The team's coach, Jaye Haggler said, "When I walked on to the Middleburg Academy Campus I could have never have imagined this outcome. My goal was to teach the boys how to play this game and in the end I learned how and what it meant to sacrifice everything. I watched my guys grow from

boys to men in one season. I could not be more proud and will never be for my first state championship and the young men who helped us achieve this goal."

Middleburg Academy's Athletic Director Carla Adgate said, "There is not another group that is more deserving of a state championship than the young men on our boys varsity basketball team, Coach Haggler and his coaching staff. They worked extremely hard in the off season and all season long. Things were not going well for them most of the championship game. They trailed Christ Chapel for the entire game, but somehow dug down deep and played together as a team to pull out the victory. I am so proud and happy for all of them."



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Wild Loudoun

Agreeable Tiger Moth – Luminous, White-Caped Wonder

– By Andrea Gaines

On a cool April night you see a small winged insect – bright white and perhaps 1 inch in length – perched on a thin horizontal stem like a teeny tiny owl.

With the black night all around, the creature has a soft and cozy look to it – content and warm in textured body and wings, a feathery cap and a cashmere like stole that covers its chest, back and shoulders.

The white wings are tented behind, making its small body look longer and thinner. Its abdomen has small black dots.

Looking at it more closely you see deep black eyes and long whitish antennae that define its head and face. A bright, golden orange bib accents the eyes and marks where the front legs begin – thin, white, finely jointed sticks with distinct black stripes – stripes like a tiger’s legs.

So, what is it? Well, the stripes you will help you remember its name the next time you see it. It is a moth, as you suspected. But, more specifically, a tiger moth, an “agreeable tiger moth” (*Spilosoma congrua*).

Tigers are part of the larger moth



Agreeable Tiger Moth, photo credit Steve Nanz.

subfamily Arctiinae. With perhaps 11,000 species worldwide, the whole subfamily is referred to as “tigers.” Members of one subgroup within it have distinctly bold allover patterns – and that’s how it got its name.

Continued on page 34



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Submitted designs should be rendered simply and with minimal color to facilitate replication on Bluemont Fair's distinctive poster, T-shirt, mug, etc. The artist's name will be printed on the poster and his/her work acknowledged in fair brochures and publicity.

Artists should also include a brief biography for inclusion in publicity. Artwork should be mailed to Bluemont Fair Logo/Poster Design Competition, P.O. Box 217, Bluemont, Virginia, 20135 and must be postmarked by April 30.

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Red Molly

Sunday, April 19 3:00PM

American powerhouse vocal trio Red Molly is known for its gorgeous harmonies, musicianship, infectious song writing and warm stage presence. Laurie McAlister (bass) Abbie Gardner (Dobro) and Molly Venter (guitar) weave together the threads of American music: from folk roots to bluegrass, from heartbreaking ballads to barn-burning honky tonk. This Gold Star Performance is sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Tickets: \$35 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Last Ham Standing

Friday, April 3 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. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway?, you'll love Last Ham Standing, the other comedy meat!

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Student, \$8 Child www.franklinparkartscenter.org

In The Gallery! Fabric Fantasies II

Friday, April 10 to Monday, May 11 9:00-5:00 PM

Exhibit Opening Reception Sunday, April 12 2:00-4:00 PM

Carousel Puppets: Spring Fling

Wednesday, April 15 10:00AM

You'll see bunnies, birds and a host of woodland creatures dancing their way into the season. Help the Jolly Frogs with their annual Frog Hop and clap along with the Bunny Hoppers, with a special appearance by Humpty Dumpty!

Tickets: \$5 per person For tickets call 540-338-7973

The Ballet Theater of Ashburn Malone Foundation Benefit

Friday, April 17 7:00PM

The Ballet Theater of Ashburn will be sponsoring a benefit dance concert for the Teri and Shari Malone Foundation.

Tickets: call 703-723-8089 to reserve and for pricing

Troy & Paula Haag Concert and CD Release Party

Saturday, April 18 8:00PM

An evening of original acoustic music by singer/songwriters Troy and Paula Haag. They will be joined by local singer/songwriter Clark Hansbarger.

Tickets: \$15 per person For tickets call 540-338-7973

NEW! Gallery Coffeehouse: Alex Little-Acoustic Music

Sunday, April 12 6:30PM

Readers Theater Tuesdays with Morrie Sunday, April 19 6:30PM

Poetry, Prose & Prompts Sunday, April 26 6:30PM

Main Street Theater presents: Once Upon a Mattress

April 24, 25 & May 1, 2 8:00PM

April 26 & May 3 2:00PM

If you thought you knew the story of "The Princess and the Pea", you may be in for a walloping surprise! This rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans.

Tickets: \$23 Adults, \$20 Seniors & Students www.mainstreettheaterproductions.org

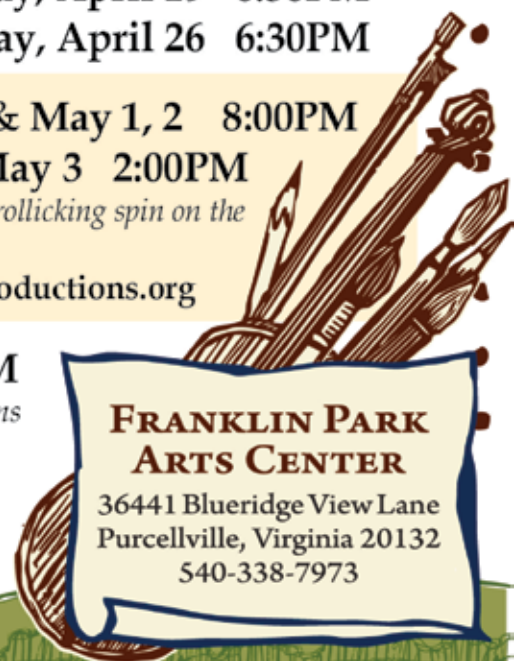
Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble

Saturday, May 9 8:00PM

Footworks presents an exuberant uniquely American fusion of live music, comedy, song and percussive dance forms including Irish dances, dances rooted in other cultures, and good old American dances to Bluegrass music.

This Gold Star Performance is sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Tickets: \$35 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org



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ARTIST'S PROFILE

PEWTERSMTHS KAREN AND STUART HELBLE – IN LOVE WITH THE LUSTER

– By Andrea Gaines

As I began my interview with Stuart Helble he said, “Sorry I missed your earlier call, Andrea. My cat was sitting on my cell phone.”

That was all I needed to know. What a generous and unassuming guy, I thought. And, I admired him even more as with great care he welcomed me into the fascinating world that has been his and his wife Karen’s passion for almost 40 years – pewtersmithing.

Most people look at pewter pieces – bowls, ornaments, candlesticks, etc. – as things that sell well at old-time crafts fairs ... soft, silvery items with that classic colonial look.

But there is so much more to this glorious material and the people who work with it.

Served by a thriving pewter industry through the 18th and 19th centuries, at one time every household in America save the very poorest was filled with items made of pewter – everything from dinnerware, to drinking vessels, candlesticks, plates, bowls and porringers, oil lamps, pitchers, mugs and tankards, coffee pots, even baby bottles.

As Helble noted, today’s pewtersmith typically crafts the more decorative of these, as well as commemorative items such as ornaments. But, many reflect the same style as early pewter, and were crafted in the same way.

Today, as in the pewter shops of hundreds of years ago, there is the process where molten pewter is poured into a mold and trimmed and polished. Ornaments, handles and more decorative parts of an item are fashioned in this way.

There is the process where, using a lathe, sheets of pewter are pressed over a mold with the heat created by the tools used to shape and smooth the alloy. Cups and plates are created in this way.

And, then there is the process where, as Helble describes, “I throw like I was a potter working with clay.” Here, with the lathe acting as a kind of super potter’s wheel, the pewtersmith uses his or her tools to direct sheets of metal into the



Goblet



Classic candlestick



Oil lamp



Colonial-style porringer



Beautifully crafted fruit bowl.

desired shape. This technique is used to create pieces that taper at the top, such as a vase or coffee creamer.

As Helble noted, today’s pewtersmiths also act as a “lending library” of sorts for each other, just as they did centuries ago – sharing space, sharing molds and tools, sharing stories of how they met this or that production challenge. This practice is important to the people working in pewter today, for, according to Helble there are only “50 or 60” pewtersmiths in the country.

If these pewtersmiths are as hardworking and innovative as the Helbles are, I’d say that the craft is safe.

When Stuart and Karen started in the business – he with degrees in psychology and anthropology, and she with degrees in

art and biology – they first experimented with a wok and the stovetop. A wok and a stovetop!

Today they are one of the most well known pewtersmith businesses in the country – featured at the Annual Colonial Market & Fair At Mount Vernon, The Waterford Fair and The Gateway Gallery in Round Hill.

In 2008 a coffee pot made by famous 18th Century pewtersmith William Will sold at

an auction for \$315,000. I’m sure that Karen and Stuart don’t see that level of payout in their future, but for what they have done for their craft, they surely deserve it.

More examples of Karen and Stuart’s work can be seen www.kspewter.com. The Helbles will be on this year’s Western Loudoun Artist’s Studio Tour, June 20–21, 2015. See www.wlast.org for details.

ONGOING

☉ Donate Books To Library

Donations of books, CDs and DVDs are now being accepted for the Purcellville Library's May 2 book sale. Items may be dropped off in the lobby of the Purcellville Library during regular hours. Proceeds from the book sale will help support the Purcellville Library.

☉ Northern Virginia Community College Summer Registration

Summer registration has started. Students must register by 11:59 p.m. on the day before a session begins. Classes in the 12-week session begin May 18 and end Aug. 9. NOVA also offers two six-week sessions during the summer, starting May 18 and June 29. Students may register 24 hours a day online at www.nvcc.edu.

☉ **Purcellville Town Market Back Outside** The market is back outside the Purcellville Marketplace, 130 East Main Street, on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

☉ Volunteers Needed For Beautification Day

Saturday, April 11 is Purcellville's annual town-wide Beautification Day from 8 a.m. until noon. Purcellville invites all citizens, families, individuals, sports teams/organizations, Scouts and church groups to participate.

For more information email Anna Broshkevitch at klb.purcellville@verizon.net.

☉ **Summer Art Camps** Opus Oaks, 109 1st St. in Berryville, is releasing its summer workshop and camp schedule. Go to www.OpusOaks.org or call 540-955-4226.

☉ Exhibitors Needed For Health Expo

Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling is hosting a sports, health and fitness expo on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Providers of sports, health and fitness-related programs and services interested in exhibiting should email Chris.J.Thomas@loudoun.gov or call 571-258-3600 by April 10.

☉ Rain Barrel Workshops

The Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District will offer rain barrel workshops in Leesburg during April and May 2015. The rain barrel workshops will be held at Tuscarora Creek Park (425 Solitude Court SE) in Leesburg from 6-8 p.m. The workshop dates are Tuesday, April 7, Wednesday, April 8, Tuesday, April 29, Wednesday, April 30, Wednesday, May 19, and Thursday, May 20. For more information, please call Suzanne Brown at 571-918-4530, ext. 105.

APRIL EVENTS

☉ **April 4, Saturday, annual Easter Extravaganza from Ebenezer Church.** From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with egg hunts, games, crafts and live music. Located at Between the Hills Community Center 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd Purcellville.

☉ **April 4, Saturday, Lucketts Bluegrass Concert Series** at 7 p.m. at the Lucketts Community Center. Featuring the Dark Hollow Bluegrass Band. Tickets are \$15. Go to <http://www.luckettsbluegrass.org>

☉ **April 4, Saturday, on the Lovettsville Town Green** from 2-4 p.m. Egg hunts, cake walk, basket raffles, petting zoo and the Easter Bunny. Given by the Lovettsville-Waterford Ruritans.

☉ **April 5, Sunday, Family Easter Event** at 9 a.m. at The Loudoun Salvation Army Headquarters, 10 Cardinal Park Drive in Leesburg. Call 703-771-3371.

☉ **April 5, Sunday, Easter egg hunt and egg roll** at Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg at 9:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Go to www.salamanderresort.com.

☉ **April 9, Thursday, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's "Monarch Butterflies: The Great Migration Underway,"** from 7 - 8 p.m. at North Gate Vineyards, 16031 Hillsboro Road in Purcellville.

☉ **April 9, Thursday, free garden lecture** on landscaping with heirloom flowers and herbs with Smithsonian Gardens horticulturist Erin Clark. At the Virginia Cooperative Extension, 30 Catoctin Circle in Leesburg. Go to www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org.

☉ **April 10, Freebo Live, also featuring local singer JULIANA MacDowell** 7 - 10 p.m. at Waterford Old School 40222 Fairfax St Waterford, VA 20197. www.waterfordfoundation.org

☉ **April 10, Friday, Concert on the Steps at Middleburg Community Center,** 300 W Washington St, Middleburg, with Gary Smallwood from 5-8 p.m.

☉ **April 10, Friday, Blue Ridge Hospice annual conference** featuring Ron Culberson, speaker, humorist and author. From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Millwood Station in Winchester.

☉ **April 11, Saturday, Round Hill United Methodist Church sponsors Stop Hunger Now** at Round Hill Elementary School, 17115 Evening Star Drive in Round Hill from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Go to events.stophungernow.org/rh2015.

☉ **April 18, Saturday, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Spring Native Plant Sale** from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Morven Park. Go to loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **April 19 and 20, Sunday and Monday, Oatlands guided garden tours** during Historic Garden Week. Oatlands is 6 miles south of Leesburg on US Route 15. Go to www.oatlands.org.

☉ **April 25, Saturday, Oatlands' 50th Anniversary Spring Gala.** This black tie event features a live band, dinner and auction items. Go to www.oatlands.org.

☉ **April 25, Saturday, Spring Blooms!** art class from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Round Hill Arts Center with VSA of Loudoun. Learn to artfully arrange silk flowers. Register at www.roundhillartscenter.org.

☉ **April 25, Saturday, country band Old Dominion to perform at the Hollywood Casino** at Charles Town Races at 8 p.m. Go to www.ticketmaster.com for tickets.

☉ **April 30, Thursday, Cooking Class by Chef Wes Rosati, An Elegant Three Course Springtime meal,** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., \$65, at Butterfly Gourmet, Purcellville. To register call 540-441-7094.

CARVER CENTER APRIL EVENTS

The Carver Center is at 200 Willie Palmer Way in Purcellville.
Call 571-258-3400 to sign up for the following programs.

Passover Event

Friday, April 10, from 12:30-2 p.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older. Learn about the rich history and beautiful rituals of Passover.

AARP Smart Driver Class

Friday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15/AARP members, \$20/non-members. For ages 50 and older. This full-day class improves the skills of older drivers and may reduce insurance costs. Pre-registration required, call 571-258-3400.

Appraisal Day

Saturday, April 18 from 1-5:30 p.m. \$5 per item, maximum 3 items per person. Pre-register for time slot before April 14. Antiques and art appraiser Todd Peenstra will be offering appraisals of furniture, glass, porcelain, silver, bronze, coins, toys, documents, etc. Call 571-258-3400 to schedule your time slot.



Earth Day Excursion

Wednesday, April 22 from 10:30-2 p.m. Non-members pay a \$2 fee. For ages 55 and older. Celebrate Earth Day with a guided visit to Banshee Reeks.

Very Beginner Line Dance

Mondays, ongoing from 12:30-1 p.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older.

Beginner Line Dance

Mondays, ongoing from 1-2 p.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older.

Tai Chi for 55 & Up

Tuesdays, ongoing from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older. New students welcome.



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Calendar, continued from page 1

52nd Annual Upperville Garden Club Daffodil Show is April 14. With thousands of daffodils of all sizes, colors and forms, this American Daffodil Society show will not disappoint (www.uppervillegardenclub.org).

25th Annual Leesburg Flower And Garden Festival is April 18 & 19. Described as an annual “rite of spring” – with everything from music to plant sales to a wine and beer garden to landscaping displays and kids’ entertainment – the festival has something for all (www.flowerandgarden.org). **The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Native Plant Sale is also April 18 at Morven Park** (www.loudounwildlife.org).

Virginia Garden Week is April 18–25. Known as “America’s Largest Open House,” Virginia Garden Week is another rite of spring, welcoming visitors at hundreds of magnificent homes, gardens and historic sites throughout the state. There are several sites in the Leesburg area, and/or an easy drive from here in Winchester, Warrenton and Front Royal (www.vagardenweek.org).

Flower And Garden Classes, Demonstrations And Exhibits. Our area has many opportunities for both intensive and everyday gardening classes. Three great sources are Blandy Experimental Farm, State Arboretum of Virginia (blandy.virginia.edu), Rust Nature Sanctuary (www.audubonnaturalist.org), and master Gardeners of Loudoun County (FaceBook).

Wait ... How Many Calories Would I Burn?

It varies by your age, height, weight and sex, of course. But, on average, a person burns 150 calories per hour during a slow walk, almost 500 hiking cross country, 245 walking the dog, 200 bird watching, and 200 pushing a stroller or walking with their children.

With 27 county parks and 11 community centers, 8 region parks and easy access to both the WO&D bike trail and the 2,174-mile Appalachian Trail – Loudouners have lots of opportunities to get moving. We also have some of the most advanced private health clubs in Northern Virginia.

So, here are some tips for finding that perfect recreational opportunity this spring ...

A good source for area fitness clubs is the **Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce** (www.loudounchamber.org).

Earth Day’s 45th Anniversary is April 22. Three organizations with local events are: Earth Day Loudoun (www.earthdayatloudoun.org), The Nature

Generation (www.natgen.org) and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (www.loudounwildlife.org).

A quick search of parks, trails and community centers at www.loudoun.gov will connect you with Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Claude Moore Park, Potomack Lakes Sportsplex and other great opportunities for individual and family recreation.

For more information on nearby access points for the **Appalachian Trail** go to www.appalachiantrail.org. For the **WO&D Bike Trail** go to www.wodfriends.org.

For camping, hiking, and canoeing try **Watermelon Park** (www.watermelonpark.org).

Wait ... George Washington Really Did Sleep Here?

George Washington did indeed sleep here – at Middleburg’s 1728 Red Fox Inn & Tavern. Loudoun County is a magnet for local and visiting history buffs alike. Here are some ideas for how Loudouners can get out and about to enjoy our local history and hospitality this spring.

Loudoun’s historic towns and villages are a great place to visit. Old-fashioned county stores, where you can grab some lunch, also anchor many of our historic villages – including Bluemont, Philomont, Waterford and Middleburg. Go to www.loudoun.gov and search “county historic districts” – lots of things to explore, there.

The Loudoun Museum cares for and displays approximately 8,000 local artifacts – from documents signed by Presidents Washington and Monroe, to a schoolgirl’s 18th Century sampler (www.loudounmuseum.org).

A sampling of other museums and historic libraries include: The National Sporting Library and Museum (www.nsl.org), Thomas Balch Library (www.balchfriends.org), The Winmill Carriage Museum at Morven Park (www.morvenpark.org), and The George C. Marshall House (www.georgecmarshall.org). A little further afield but worth the drive is the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum (www.discoverymuseum.net).

The Loudoun County Bed & Breakfast Guild 6th Annual Open House & Self-Guided Tour is coming right up, too, on May 4. The tour features 10 Bed & Breakfast stops as well as helpful hints about the nearby wineries, lunch stops and farm shops you can visit along the way (www.loudounbandb.com).

Enjoy, and look for more out-and-about opportunities in our May issue.

All Points Broadband Buys Loudoun Wireless

All Points Broadband announced it will acquire Loudoun Wireless.

“We are excited to welcome Loudoun Wireless and its customers to the All Points network,” said Jimmy Carr, CEO of All Points Broadband. “This acquisition dramatically expands our service area and will give more homes and businesses in western Loudoun access to the next level of broadband service.”

Loudoun Wireless customers will receive additional information regarding this transition over the next few weeks and do not need to take any action at this time. There will be

no disruption of service and customers with loudounwireless.com email addresses will have uninterrupted access to their accounts.

“It was important to us to work with a partner with a similar vision and a commitment to continuing to improve broadband access in the communities we serve,” said Loudoun Wireless owner Gloria Westerman. “All Points Broadband is that partner, and this is an excellent opportunity for our customers.”

In November 2014 All Points acquired Roadstar Internet Inc., another Internet service provider in Loudoun County.

Oldest WWII Vet, continued from page 3

Hamilton. He is one of seven children of a sharecropper and a housemaid. At 32-years-old, Clark was drafted into the U.S. Army, and on Dec. 12, 1944, he was called to serve in WWII after graduating from basic training in Fort Lee, Va.

“When I left, I was on a big ship with about 5,000 men of different cultures and backgrounds,” said Clark. “There were 53 ships in the convoy and we landed in Liverpool, England, at about quarter to seven in the evening. It was a month after D-Day.”

Clark’s unit was the 3238 Quartermaster Service Company, an all-black unit of the 9th Armored Division. Clark and his unit were part of the over 2.5 million African-American men registered for the draft during WWII and among the 125,000 African-American men who served overseas during WWII. The unit delivered, supported and served food to the troops, but was not allowed to fight upfront in combat.

“My main duty was kitchen patrol,” said Clark. “I furnished food to the men and guarded food and supplies when we traveled on convoys. “I remember one time we got a little too close to the front while we were serving food, and a colonel came over and told us to get back; they didn’t allow us to serve up front.”

Clark’s commanding officer and two lieutenants were white, but his first sergeant and the rest of his unit were black. Clark said that he wasn’t mistreated while serving in WWII and most people were nice to him. “It didn’t bother me too much,” said Clark. “My commander was a nice guy; he was from Baltimore, Maryland and his brother was captured by the Germans before we even got there. We were all there fighting the war.”

Clark provided food service support in England, France, Germany, Belgium and Poland under the most hostile conditions. One night he thought he was going to fight because he could hear the Germans getting closer. “I was on guard duty one night and I told my buddy that we’re

going to fight tonight because I felt the Germans were right on us,” said Clark. “My commander told us to get ready, but we never did.”

Clark served 22 months during WWII and returned to Purcellville after his military discharge. Once home, Clark worked on an apple orchard, became a neighborhood barber and drove a county school bus for 25 years.

On March 16, 2015, the Martinsburg VAMC director presented Clark with a Certificate of Appreciation and a coin for his military service and contributions during WWII.

“Mr. Clark’s service and contributions during the world’s largest conflict are nothing less than extraordinary,” said Timothy Cooke, medical center director. “Just like so many other men and women, he served our country with great honor and distinction and it’s a privilege to have him at our medical center.”

Clark’s daughter-in-law, Della Clark attended the presentation. “I believe Pop’s longevity secret is that he never gets angry and he loves to graze all day long,” said Clark. “I’ve known him since 1964 and have never seen him raise his voice nor get upset.”

According to the VA’s population analysis and statistics, by 2038, WWII Veterans will be no longer available to share their story. Roughly 16 million Americans served during WWII and a little over a million WWII Veterans are still living.

“It is important that we thank and listen to the stories of all men and women, especially those who served during World War II while they are alive, because soon we will only hear their story in our history books,” said Cooke. “Preserving their history is up to all of us.”

Clark said he believes his service in WWII helped him to become a better man. When Clark was asked his secret to living a long life he smiled and simply said, “Eat good food and not a lot of junk food.”

Comedy Comes To Hollywood Casino

Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races started the Hollywood Comedy Club in March with Louie Anderson. On Friday, April 24 nationally recognized writer, actor and comedian Tom Arnold will perform. New acts will premiere on the last Friday of every month

April’s main act is the multitalented Tom Arnold, who began his career as a writer for comedy sitcom “Roseanne” in the early 1980s. Arnold then transitioned to acting, appearing in several films throughout his career. Standout roles include James Cameron’s 1994 picture “True Lies,” and 2005’s dramatic comedy “Happy Endings.” Arnold also served as host of Fox Sports Net’s talk show “The Best Damn Sports Show Period” from 2002-2005 before moving on as host of CMT’s “My Big Redneck Wedding” in 2008.

Other performers will include Bobby Collins on May 29 and Jon Reep on June 26. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, visit www.hollywoodcasinoharlestown.com.



Purcellville Horse Farm Property

– By Hannah Hager

Have you ever heard the phrase, “It’s what’s on the inside that counts?” Well, not so with this beautiful Cape Cod-style home and barn in Purcellville. You’ll have no problem kicking your kids out the front door – they’ll be running out on their own.

This is a professionally designed, yet personally maintained, horse farm property that boasts glorious views of green pastures from your front porch. The pristine, eight-stall, center-aisle barn boasts 12x14 stalls, a heated tack room for four season enjoyment, and a feed room and wash stall. It’s an equestrian’s delight with 3 x Run-ins that are fenced and cross fenced.

Have your choice of seven fields and two paddocks as most are equipped with water and electric. Had enough of the free range? Escort your horses to the 120x200 FICS lighted ring.

It may be an equestrian’s delight, but even the most avid riders need their downtime. The property’s red-roofed Cap

Address: 15840 Purcellville Road
Purcellville, VA 20132
Bedrooms: Four
Bathrooms: Two full and one half baths
Acreage: 25.75
Built: 2001
List Price: \$950,000
Realtor: Marcy Cantatore, Atoka Properties
Phone: 540-533-7453

Cod abode has a master suite on the main level. The large kitchen comes equipped with everything you need, including a neighboring breakfast nook.

Kick your feet up in the family room, which is also off the dining area and kitchen. This home’s open floor plan ensures you’ll have plenty of space to breathe and peer out the window at your more than 25 acres. In addition to amenities such as hardwood floors and a deck with views, the house is accommodating to a large family with three bedrooms on the upper level.

Whether you find yourself in the house or barn, you’ll be sure to enjoy yourself. But, every morning you’ll also be asking – is it time to go outside and play yet?

“Reclaim Your Story” Event At Oatlands April 11

– By Andrea Gaines

Personal diaries and United States Census records indicate that shortly before the Civil War 133 African Americans worked as slaves at the historic Oatlands Plantation south of Leesburg.

Denied their freedom, in many cases their names, family history and family connections were also lost to history— save the personal memories and family memorabilia individuals and family units we able to keep alive pre- and post-Civil War.

African Americans and others with a connection to Oatlands are invited to come and share their stories, memories and memorabilia during a free, daylong event on April 11. Sponsored in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Gleedsville and the Loudoun County Sesquicentennial Committee, the event will feature several keynote speakers – including black history author Kevin Grisby – forums and discussions where individuals can share their own stories and learn from others, two Civil War Trail marker dedications recognizing African American history, and more.

The stories to be collected are intended to document the family histories of individuals while at Oatlands, and later as they started their new lives as free people in



nearby Gleedsville. The Oatlands Telling All of Our Stories Project is maintaining a database recording every reference to named slaves of the old property.

African American and family names of particular interest to the organizers include Buchanan, Day, Fisher, Gleed, Howard, Jackson, Johnson, Mason, Moton, Murray, Rust, Stewart/Steward, Valentine, Warner, and Washington.

For more information on the event, including hour-by-hour schedules for the day at both Oatlands and the Unitarian Universalist Church go to www.oatlands.org or call Lori Kimball at 703-777-3174.

Speak Up Against Anti-Semitism

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel



MOORE-SOBEL

Anti-Semitism. It’s an ugly word, a word filled with hate and bigotry. Yet it has been on the rise over the last year. It is alarming and unacceptable, and it is time for all to take a stand against it.

In Europe, anti-Semitic sentiment has been smoldering under the surface and is now coming out into the light. Recently there was an attack on a French kosher market that left four Jewish hostages dead at the hands of a gunman who claimed to be carrying out the wishes of the Islamic State. Jewish residents are reportedly planning to leave their beloved homes in Saint-Mande, as the fear for their safety escalates. Yet the decision being made by many Jews in Saint-Mande is nothing new. In fact, anti-Semitism has been on the rise across Europe.

Europe does not hold a monopoly on anti-Semitic sentiment. Emily Shire reported in a recent column in “The Daily Beast” that more than half of all Jewish college students, 54 percent, either experienced anti-Semitism or observed it occurring on their campus during a six-month period. This data was gathered by the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights and published in 2014. There are also extensive reports of swastikas being found all over the U.C. Berkeley campus, and “Death to Israel” graffiti. There are similar reports at universities all across the nation, such as swastikas spray-painted on the mailboxes of fraternities at Vanderbilt University and the University of Oregon, just to name a few.

After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of Congress last month, I was alarmed to hear the anti-Semitic comments made by students all across my own university. It is one thing to disagree with the policies of the state of Israel; but, policy disagreements are no excuse to discriminate against Jews. Calling for the demise of an entire nation is calling for the destruction of a people group. Who has said the nation of France should not exist?

Throughout my time in college, I have seen anti-Semitic words scrawled in the stalls of the men’s bathroom and idle chatter throughout campus filled with hatred against the Jews. After Prime Minister Netanyahu’s speech, the chatter only increased. A display was erected in the center of the George Mason University campus. Each day thousands of students

were greeted with the words, “Palestine Lives,” accompanied by words accusing Israel of carrying out “apartheid.” College is supposed to be a place where opposing views are debated, compared and contrasted. Why is only one side of the story being told?

The hatred of Jews is not a new phenomenon. It has been going on for thousands of years. A few months ago I wrote about my great-grandfather, Samuel Postal. His wife, Yetta Protass, was born in Russia. Her story is eerily similar to Tevye and his family’s depicted in the iconic movie “Fiddler on the Roof.” She and her family were forced from their town in 1907, along with thousands of other Jews throughout the Soviet Union. She was a victim of the pogroms carried out all across Russia in the early 1900s.

When I think about my great-grandmother’s story, I soon turn to the story of her husband. I sometimes wonder what would have happened had my great-grandfather’s parents decided against leaving Poland when they did. They would possibly be victims of the Holocaust, and I would not be here writing this column. While the rise in anti-Semitism certainly does not compare to the Holocaust, it is concerning to see such sentiment just 70 years after the end of World War II.

Whenever anti-Semitism is brought up, there is an image that haunts me from our not so distant past. Flipping through old pictures that belong to my great-aunt, there are some that include a sign reading “No Blacks No Jews” in the background of mid-20th century beach scenes. Even after the atrocities of the Holocaust, the lessons had still not been learned. It is time for someone to take a stand, to ensure that the future for all ethnicities is bright and prosperous. Those pictures serve as a powerful reminder, and are signs that I hope my children and grandchildren will never have to see in their lifetimes.

After Prime Minister Netanyahu’s speech, a close friend wrote to me and said, “Anti-Semitism will never go away, or even fade. The only question is how overt it will be. Europe has already answered that question. America is still in the process, although I think we’re OK for now.” With no political clout or particular influence, I use my humble pen to show some of what is happening in the world around us. I hope that America will make the right choice and choose to be on the right side of history.

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

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Amy & Dan Smith's Planning For Life: Planning For The Unexpected

– By Amy and Dan Smith

Life-changing medical events of the past week have reminded me to not only review my plans but perhaps serve as a messenger for a “call to action” to any of you who think financial and estate planning is for the well-heeled or something you cannot afford or don't need.

The situation happened quickly. I had visited my parents last month and, while chronic issues were evident, crisis did not seem imminent. Then one of my elderly parents began falling at home repeatedly. My other parent, also physically impaired, did not register the gravity of this matter and did nothing. My sister, arriving a few days later, immediately called 911, taking my parent to the hospital emergency room.

I won't go into the details of what transpired the next four days but suffice to say it was quite intense. Our large family was split as to what action to take while our other parent accused some of us of “over-reacting.” The doctor made it clear to us that my parent would not be released from the hospital until a plan was in place at home for 24/7 nursing care.

Two of the first questions were “how much will it cost” and “how will we pay for it?” Even for someone with adequate financial resources, it can be quite sobering to



AMY & DAN SMITH

calculate what the cost of 24/7 home care might add up to over the course of a year and the impact it can potentially have on retirement savings and the amount left for heirs.

For example, while Medicare may pay up to the first 20 days of qualified, skilled nursing care after a hospital stay, thereafter it could be as much as \$20 per hour. Multiply this by 168 hours per week (\$3,360) times 52 weeks and the total could come to as much as \$174,720 per year. Unfortunately, my parents had refused long-term care insurance years before, thinking they would never need it. What to do?

First, my parent told the doctor that family members would provide this care at home. I loved what our doctor said about family members taking care of critically ill parents: It's the family's job to love the patient, not provide nursing care, unless they are professionally trained. After spending 14 hours a day for 4 consecutive days in the hospital, I had a better understanding and appreciation of the professional nursing skills and sheer physicality required to feed, toilet, transport and bathe my parent (who was essentially dead weight) without causing further injury.

We kids thought the ultimate medical decision rested in the hands of my brother, who had been named power of attorney. This was incorrect. We had to find out who held my parent's medical directives and decision-making powers restricted to health-related matters. (See complete “Health Care Decision Making” article by Dan Smith on my website mentioned below.)

After lots of confusion, tears, and prayer, my parent was allowed to return home the last day of my stay and is now experiencing a “new normal” in light of these events. I hope my story will help some of you review your plans for when the unexpected occurs and consider the following action items if not in place:

Ask a legal professional in your state of residence to execute a written medical directive, selecting an agent (usually a family member) to execute your wishes.

If your agent is not capable to make appropriate medical decisions when needed, provide appropriate language in your documents to remove agent, specify under circumstances agent can be removed, and then provide the name of a successor.

Discuss your wishes with loved ones preferably before a crisis occurs.

Consider setting aside separate funds for health-care needs or invest in long-term care insurance.

The foregoing article contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, 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. Past performance may not be indicative of future results.

Run In Remembrance

– By Mary Rose Lunde

When people think about Virginia Tech, most people would associate the college as the engineering school. Many people, although they are hesitant to admit it, automatically associate the college as the school that has a bad reputation with safety. It's likely that if you say the word shooting around campus, you will get a mixed response. If you say that word in front of me, I cringe at the thought, and, like many of my classmates, fall silent in remembrance.

My creative non-fiction teacher recently had us read an article by Michelle Bliss originally published in *The New York Times*. It was about the shooter as well as the students and led to mixed responses in the discussion that followed. Many of us sat quietly in our seats during this discussion pretending to pay attention as our minds wandered elsewhere, longing to avoid the subject. It is not an easy thing to talk about for sure.

Virginia Tech carries the legacy of the 32 people in its current students and faculty. Not a day goes by that I don't walk by the Drill Field and see the memorial that stands in front of Burruss Hall. It is sad to think that Virginia Tech will always hold an association as “the shooting school.” It angers me that people associate the school with this, and yet I feel like this association honors those whose lives were lost. Their legacy is never going to leave the campus, or its identity. The community aspect of Virginia Tech won't allow it.

Every year Virginia Tech hosts the 3.2



LUNDE

run for 32. This year, as a student, I will be able to run with my classmates to remember them. Crossing the finish line will mean honor and remembrance of those lost and I know that I won't be the only one proud to be a Hokie on that day, April 16.

I don't know if classes will be canceled. I know people often throw themselves into work to cope with the anniversary of a tragic event. My creative non-fiction teacher explained that last year was the first year that he taught on the date since the shooting. Even 8 years later he still had trouble talking to the class about the events and feelings of the story.

Being a freshman, I didn't have much to offer, but listening to my classmates talk about friends that were on campus and had siblings attending on the day made me squirm in my seat. The events alone are tragic, but the stories from people that have an actual tie to the day are much more deep and scary. It makes me appreciate all the safety precautions Virginia Tech has created since then.

I am a proud Hokie, as are many of my classmates. On April 16, we will run to remember those on that tragic day. We will come together as a community of Hokies and we will run. We will run to honor their lives. We will run to remember them because they will not be forgotten. Once a Hokie, always a Hokie.

Mary Rose Lunde is a freshman at Virginia Tech. She is excited to join her community in the 3.2 for 32 mile run on April 16.

Kitchen Science Kids: Sweet Science

– By Leah Enright

When I was a kid, I was taught in school that everything that takes up space, and has mass is matter, and matter can be in the form of a solid, liquid or gas.” This is still true, of course, (though scientists have added a bit to it), but understanding this is a great scientific start. But, what does it mean? It means that everything: That slice of pizza you had for lunch, the water in the ocean, and even the breath from your mouth is matter. (Don't believe me about the last one? Blow up a balloon, and you'll see.) The pizza is solid, the water in the ocean is liquid, and your breath is gas. Pretty simple, isn't it?

Well, we can't leave things there, we have to do something, and preferably something that tastes good. How about homemade sweet lemonade?

To make this delicious drink, you'll need an adult helper and a solid, (a cup of sugar), liquids, water and lemon juice, and you will create gas - steam escaping from the pan.

Here's how to do it:



ENRIGHT

1. First, ask an adult to make a syrupy sweetener by placing one cup of sugar and one cup of water in a pan. Simmer and stir until the sugar is no longer grainy, and the mixture drips easily from the spoon. Set syrup aside.

2. Use a hand juicer to twist the juice out of 4-6 lemons, so that you have one cup of juice, (or pour a cup of prepared lemon juice from the supermarket into a measuring cup).

3. Pour the juice and the syrup into a serving pitcher, and add 2 cups of water.

Stir and taste. If the lemonade is too strong, add ½ to 1 cup of water, until you like the flavor.

4. Serve and enjoy.

So, we see that matter is anything that takes up space and has mass, and can be in the form of a solid, liquid or gas. (There is a fourth stage of matter, called plasma, which is a subject for another time.)

Solids, liquids and gases coming together in a refreshing drink –yes, kids - science can be sweet.

Leah Enright believes that a playful attitude toward science creates a love for the subject. She lives, writes and works in western Loudoun County.

Stop Hunger Now - April 11 Event

On Saturday, April 11, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Stop Hunger Now will hold its fifth annual meal-packaging event in Round Hill to be held at Round Hill Elementary School, 17115 Evening Star Drive, Round Hill. The event is hosted by Round Hill United

Methodist Church. Five hundred or more volunteers are needed to package at least 50,000 meals.

To sign up and donate go to <http://events.stophungernow.org/rh2015> or email Regina Kyle at stophungerroundhill@gmail.com.

Fraser Interview, continued from page 6

BRL: Fireman's Field has been a hot topic in budget discussions. What are the expenses and costs of maintaining it, and, in your opinion, should it be required to pay for itself?

KF: Fireman's Field is a Purcellville asset that is to be cherished for generations. The primary expense of Fireman's Field is the \$85,000 annual payment for the owner financed note, with the final payment in 2028. Fireman's Field, however, is part of the Parks and Recreation Fund which had expenditures of \$515,000 last year. The majority of the revenue to fund these expenses is derived from the Fireman's Field Service District tax which equates to 3.5 cents of every \$100 of assessed real estate property value. Regardless of what it is labeled, it is a property tax. Last year, 72 percent of the Parks and Recreation Fund revenue came from the Fireman's Field Service District tax. This needs to change. Fireman's Field has significant potential to be self-supporting via increased fee based events such as games or entertainment. We will need the right partnership to increase utilization of the field in order to generate more revenue to unburden our citizens from the Fireman's Field Tax District. Also, we are asking staff to calculate the return on investment and payback period to ensure we are making the right spending decisions. Being \$60 million in debt, we cannot afford to spend without a clear understanding of how that investment will pay for itself or reduce our debt burden.

BRL: Regarding Purcellville's assets, how can the town generate non-tax revenue from the \$128 million in assets that some say are "just sitting there?"

KF: We now have a portfolio like view of each of the town's major assets, and we are evaluating each of these assets to determine how they can be used to decrease our debt. We envision that through partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and other key stakeholders, we will discover ways to generate revenue from these assets via leasing or selling.

BRL: How do you envision attracting the right businesses to Purcellville to create higher business tax revenue?

KF: Many businesses are attracted to a location owing to its residents and its carefully designed Comprehensive Plan. Purcellville is a gem, and businesses are looking to come here. Recently, I welcomed a new restaurant, and when I asked its owner why he had chosen Purcellville, his first words were, "Its people are friendly and the town is beautiful." These are key factors in attracting businesses to Purcellville, but others exist such as favorable taxes and water fees, and a culture of clarity, fairness, and predictability. Our existing business owners are concerned with the

high water rates and the high meals' tax, and I am confident that this council will work to create an environment that will retain the right businesses here. Further, we have tasked our Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) to research and identify which businesses will best suit Purcellville and what we will need to do to attract them to increase our town's economic vitality.

BRL: The Purcellville meals' tax is 5 percent (combined over 11 percent with state tax included). Will you propose to lower this rate during your first budget cycle?

KF: Absolutely, by at least 1 percent. Our meals' tax being 1 percent higher than anywhere else in Loudoun County places our restaurants at a competitive disadvantage and burdens our citizens. While I acknowledge the argument that the majority of those impacted by this tax are people who visit rather than reside in Purcellville, I would counter that a lower tax will increase the number of Purcellville's citizens frequenting our restaurants. The 1 percent increase was established to obtain \$225,000 per year for 6.7 years, and we are currently averaging over \$270,000 per year due to more choices of restaurants here in Purcellville. My recommendation is to reduce our overall spending by 1.3 percent to achieve the \$225,000 in savings and reduce the meals tax by 1 percent. Given the recent opening of the new Starbucks coffee shop, and the planned Chick Fil A, we will see a significant increase in our meals' tax revenue. Thus, decreasing the meals' tax by 1 percent this year will result in increased spending by our citizens and will enable our restaurants to compete with other restaurants in the county. Throughout our nation's history, when tax rates have been reduced, the economy's growth rate has improved and living standards have increased. Recently, the town manager has introduced his budget for 2015-2016, and he proposes to leave the meals' tax at 5 percent. Our council needs to hear from our citizens and restaurant owners whether or not they support a reduction in our current meals' tax.

BRL: What about the high water rates?

KF: Staff has suggested some cost cutting and revenue generating plans which, once implemented, should start a reduction in fees. Some of these plans include utilizing internal skills and expertise rather than relying on consultants, selling land that is not fully utilized, enrolling in a demand response program to obtain revenue from voluntarily curtailing energy utilization at our facilities, and examining forestry management solutions to obtain revenue from selective trimming and cutting of trees to spur their growth and to prevent infestation.

This Way And That - By Myles Mellor and Sally York

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ACROSS

- 1. Classified information?
- 5. One way to be taken
- 10. Fly, e.g.
- 14. "It was ___ mistake!"
- 15. Parlor piece
- 16. Head or night starter
- 17. Film unit
- 18. Cockamamie
- 19. Battering wind
- 20. One way to move
- 23. Rock fracture
- 24. Gardener's soil
- 25. Whips
- 28. Astringent
- 30. Achieving Moksha is one of its goals
- 31. Rivera product
- 33. Elusive one
- 36. One way to move
- 40. Balancing pro
- 41. Order
- 42. Chills and fever
- 43. Hordeolum
- 44. Monovalent radicals
- 46. Île de la Cité locale
- 49. Free-for-all
- 51. Every which way
- 57. Boor
- 58. Showy flower
- 59. D.C. al ___ (musical direction)
- 60. Suffix with neur-
- 61. Hinder
- 62. Opposite of charge
- 63. Actor Green of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
- 64. Fop's footwear
- 65. Wraps (up)

DOWN

- 1. Rattles
- 2. Promise, e.g.
- 3. Cheese variety

- 4. Playa
- 5. Farewells
- 6. Double
- 7. "Stop!"
- 8. Empty talk
- 9. Had down cold
- 10. Organized persecution
- 11. Duck
- 12. Goes (for)
- 13. Deuce toppers
- 21. Ate
- 22. "Be-Bop-___"
- 25. Accord
- 26. Campus store
- 27. Indian tourist stop
- 28. Chichi
- 29. Kind of partner
- 31. Just
- 32. G8 member
- 33. Provocative
- 34. Jewish month
- 35. Strong cleaners
- 37. More than unpopular
- 38. Crooked
- 39. Illegal shares of profits
- 43. Rat
- 44. Nuptial sites
- 45. Island ring
- 46. Flies alone
- 47. Chew the scenery
- 48. Indigenous Canadian
- 49. Peach ___
- 50. Pomp
- 52. Does in
- 53. Alternative to steps
- 54. "Blue" or "White" river
- 55. Avon anti-aging brand
- 56. Historic Virginia family

Answers on page 34

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

over the ID to you during that conversation rather than confiscating it yourselves.

If your husband feels that this approach is too harsh, I would try to get him to understand that the stakes are simply too high to not take a firm approach. Just look at what is happening on university campuses across the country with underage drinking due to student hospitalizations and deaths that have occurred on several campuses over this past year. Universities are cracking down more than ever on drinking and other

sorts of inappropriate behaviors.

In the end, your son's safety and wellbeing as a young man in the world is what is most important - at 18, however, your son is still too young to always know what is best for him.

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.

Wild Loudoun, continued from page 23

Close cousins to the agreeable tiger moth are, among others, the pink-legged tiger moth and the Virginia tiger moth. (From a distance they'd look exactly like "agreeable," as, visually, they are separated by only very small differences in their markings. But, each is unique nonetheless.)

In its caterpillar stage, the agreeable tiger moth is known as the yellow woolley bear. It is often light gold in color, but can also be a rust color, a dark brown or even black. You know what woolley bears are, or you at least remember how at certain times of year woolley caterpillars of all colors and sizes are making their way across our roads, lawns and patios - curling into a ball if we touch them but all intent on going somewhere.

After bursting from its egg in the spring, the immature yellow woolley bear

caterpillar begins an earnest season of eating. As the weather cools and winter approaches it finds a safe place - as a mature woolley bear - to over-winter. Releasing water from its body, special chemicals freeze its remaining tissues solid. In the spring the caterpillar thaws, eats a bit and then fashions a cocoon from its bristles, entering its pupate stage. After about a month the young moth emerges from the cocoon and mates. Eggs are laid, and the lifecycle starts again.

By the time you saw that luminous, white-capped wonder on that thin horizontal stem, it was near the end of its life, intent on finding a mate, and, at that moment, perhaps enjoying the cool spring night as much as you were. Interesting that such a tiny, mostly inconspicuous creature has such an elegant story.

Two Kitchen Cousins Present ...

Six Of Our Favorite Herbs And How To Use Them



- By Lisa Wasson And Andrea Gaines

Fresh herbs are packed with vitamins and minerals. They add not just flavor and beauty, but nutrients, to any dish. Here are our six most favorite herbs for spring, along with our favorite ways to use them.

Tarragon: This herb is our choice for use in chicken salad, or any chicken dish. Tarragon's sweet, slightly bitter taste - similar to anise - is also great in sauces, salads and dressings.

Thyme: With its subtle, slightly minty flavor, we love thyme with grilled vegetables - including spring asparagus. Thyme is often included in the seasoning blends we use for poultry, lamb and soups. But it works well on its own, too. Fill the cavity of a fresh chicken with an onion and some thyme and roast away.

Mint - Mint is another herb often used in heavier meat dishes, but we love it in fruit salads - either sprinkled on top or added to a sweet or savory dressing. Another tip ... mint is fantastic with fresh peas and in pea soup. Puree steamed peas and blend with salt and pepper, garlic, mint and grated cheese as a spread for crostini.

Basil - Basil is perhaps best known for its use in pastas and tomato sauces. But, we love it in a traditional pesto preparation, with garlic, pine nuts, olive oil and Parmesan cheese - which we then add to everything, from soups to salad dressings to sour cream dips.

Parsley - Parsley is light, spicy and versatile - alone or combined with other herbs. It is used most commonly as a garnish. But, we like to highlight its color and freshness by combining it with yogurt or sour cream, garlic, and lemon

juice or vinegar for a tangy, flavorful dip. It is also a great breath freshener.

Rosemary - This herb has a beautifully strong flavor. We use rosemary in pasta, with oven-roasted potatoes and marinated meats, and with breads such as focaccia. It is fantastic paired with olive oil and garlic, and is also a heavenly scent to have in the kitchen. Easy to grow!



Bonus Herb ... Borage: This herb is used in Mediterranean cooking along with parsley, chives and watercress when making green sauces such as salsa verde. Its beautiful blue flowers make a lovely garnish, Experiment with Borage as a garnish for now. And, look for it in one of our upcoming recipes.

About Andrea & Lisa: Andrea and Lisa are cousins who grew up on Long Island together. Andrea is a well-know 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.

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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.

Answers to puzzle from page 33

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