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BOS Approves \$167,000 for Northern Collector Road Study

Another Give Away To “Deep-Pocketed” Developers, Says One

– By Andrea Gaines

In March, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved funding for a study of the NCR. The road – envisioned as a four-lane highway – appears on Loudoun’s Countywide Transportation Plan. However, smart growth advocates point out that collector roads are often purely conceptual in nature, put on transportation documents in the event they are needed in the future. Loudoun’s official transportation plan map, in fact, is designed to chart county transportation needs through the year 2030. Said Wright Farm resident Ray Baker, whose residential neighborhood would be directly impacted by the road “ ... for every deep-pocketed voice which demands zoning changes, there are dozens of regular folks like myself who moved to Purcellville specifically to be away from the noise and congestion of other areas ... the last thing this area needs is a four-lane Northern Collector Road running through our peaceful development.”

Drawn into Loudoun’s CTP some 25 years ago, the NCR has been a hot topic recently as Purcellville began to fill out, and developers came forward with annexation requests and other proposals designed to take advantage of the large open areas on Purcellville’s northern boundary.

Still predominantly rural and zoned for parcels of 3 acres or more, residents in the area have experienced Purcellville’s recent annexation of approximately 75 acres of land for the high-density industrial /residential development known as Autumn Hill/Mayfair, as well as attempts by developers to rewrite the zoning map to allow for various forms of mixed-use entertainment/commercial/high density residential complexes.

Specific neighborhoods such as Old Dominion Valley were able to put enough pressure on public officials to stop the suburban-style complex known as Catoctin Creek Town Center along Hirst Road. But, developers continue to push for changes that would make many of these kinds of developments extremely difficult if not impossible to challenge, giving them by-right zoning.

Thousands Of Mostly Rural Acres In NCR Study Area

The road concept study for the NCR will include thousands of acres in the area north of Purcellville defined by Allder School Road to the north, Hillsboro Road (690) to the west, Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) to the east and Main Street to the south.

The developments listed as warranting the study include

Continued on page 19



Photo by Steve Simpson

Left to right: Jonathan Loveless - Fairfax, Robert Muhlbaugh - Middleburg, pilot John Lohmar - St. Louis and David Wood - Purcellville. The airplane is based in Culpeper.

World War II Bombers Buzz Purcellville

– By David L. Eno

The unexpected bombers flew out of the west, circled overhead with the rumbling large radial engines and headed toward the southeast ... bound for Washington. Motorists on U. S. Route 7 pulled to the sides of the road and grabbed their cameras, because there had never been anything like it. On the first day, the fleet of 56 airplanes seemed to be

Continued on page 4

Richard Jimmerson To Run For Blue Ridge Supervisor Seat

Purcellville resident Richard Jimmerson has announced his candidacy as an Independent running for the Blue Ridge District seat on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

Jimmerson is “excited to get his campaign moving forward, meeting and connecting with supporters ... Decisions made by the Board of Supervisors over the next four years will have a profound and lasting impact on the future direction of the district,” he said “ ... I am confident I can balance the needs and interests



Richard Jimmerson

of our varied communities in the Blue Ridge.”

The Blue Ridge District covers a vast area of land that includes western Loudoun County and Brambleton. Jimmerson indicated that the needs of these two areas are often not aligned, and he will “work hard as Supervisor to bring needed infrastructure improvements for the rapidly growing Brambleton area and will relentlessly advocate for both preservation and conservation efforts in Western Loudoun.”

Continued on page 11



Streamside Rock Star, page 31

This Month In History



June 1863, A Former Slave Enlists, page 11



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Ask Dr. Mike

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

I think my husband is going through a mid-life crisis, and I'm worried. It started about two years ago. He tries to get away from the kids and me every chance he gets on the weekend. He complains all the time none of us can do anything right anymore. He drinks a bottle of wine pretty much every night. He works out several hours a week and pampers himself with massages, facials and frequent shopping sprees at Nordstrom's. He's into teen popular music and has a new trendy hairstyle. He bought a new expensive and flashy sport car that no one can eat, drink or pretty much even breathe in. He puts down our house and where we live and always wants the bigger and the better of whatever. He has become more reckless and adventure seeking. Like he recently told me that he wants to plan to climb Kilimanjaro with his guy friends next summer because he "deserves it." I don't think he's cheated on me (yet), but I have caught him looking at inappropriate things on-

line a few times. Last weekend he told me that our lives are "lame" and that we live in "Lamedoun County." He says that "getting crazy" should be more than shopping at Costco or getting a babysitter to eat out at Clyde's or Ford's Fish Shack with your wife. He's 49 and doesn't want to discuss or celebrate his 50th Birthday, and he's completely miserable about it. I actually love my husband and my life with him, but the drastic changes in him over the past two years have taken a toll on the kids and me...and him. I miss the man I fell in love with and want him back. I plan on showing him what you write, so please get this right!
Concerned in Loudoun County

Dear Concerned in Loudoun County:

The Canadian psychoanalyst, Elliott Jacques in 1965, coined the term "mid-life crisis." Developmentally, Jacques posited that mid-life is a transitional phase rife with uncertainty and emotional conflict pertaining to one's sense of mortality. Later research in this area has found that to varying degrees, people during mid-life can experience disappointment,

Continued on page 34



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Woodgrove Odyssey Team Competes At World Level

The Woodgrove High School Odyssey of the Mind team was among 800 teams from around the globe to attend World Finals at Michigan State University from May 20-23.

Odyssey of the Mind is an extracurricular creative problem-solving team activity in which groups of 5-7 students solve long-term as well as spontaneous problems in competition. The program is open to students from kindergarten through college and beyond.

The Woodgrove team placed 24th in the world among high school teams in Problem 2: Experiencing Technical Difficulties. They were competing against teams from 18 U.S. states and teams from Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, Mexico, South Korea and Canada. The team qualified to attend World Finals by placing first at the regional competition in February and first at states in April. This is the fourth year in a row the team has qualified to compete at worlds and the third time they have attended.

The team is comprised of sophomores Harrison Furlow, Elyse Morris, Patrick Ramsey, Joe Warndorf, Molly Warndorf, Ben Taylor and David Zhang.

While World Finals is centered around the competition, team coach Kim Ramsey remarked that what really made the trip special for the team was the opportunity to develop strong ties with the two other LCPS high school teams that were at World Finals as well – Heritage High School’s Problem 1: Runaway Train team and Freedom High



The three LCPS high school teams. Freedom is in costume and it was taken immediately after Freedom performed their long-term, Heritage is in the purple shirts and Woodgrove is on the right.

School’s Problem 5: Silent Movie team. The three teams bonded over meals, pin trading and supporting one another’s long-term performances.

“Hearing the cheers and laughter from our friends from home during our performance was the highlight of our trip,” Ramsey said.

The team would like to thank Woodgrove Principal William S. Shipp, the Woodgrove PTSO and the Woodgrove Music and Arts Association for their support throughout the season. They would also like to thank Anthony’s restaurant, Jersey Mike’s and KFC/Taco Bell for hosting spirit nights for the team, and Carahsoft, Zeta Associates, Allpoints Broadband and Catocin and Virginia VOICES for their financial contributions to help fund the trip to Michigan.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Odyssey program may visit www.odysseyofthemind.com.



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Photos by Steve Simpson

WWII Bombers, continued from page 1
right over the tree level. They circled until the other vintage air craft arrived and went into formation.

People heard the roar of the engines and all eyes turned toward the sky – even some of the cows in the pastures outside of town took notice. In most cases it was all unexpected. World War II bombers and fighter planes – the very ones that helped bring victory in Europe and the Pacific – were headed to D.C. to highlight the 70th anniversary of VE Day – Victory Over Europe. They flew in formations in a salute to war veterans under the auspices of the Commemorative Air Force (formerly the Confederate Air Force).

Two Purcellville area residents had leading roles in the exercise: David Wood of Nursery Street was on the Air Show staff, and Mark Corrigan, a salesman at Nichol's Hardware, was surprised with a ticket for an 80-minute ride in a B-17 Bomber. His brother bought him the ticket as a surprise birthday present. Corrigan, a military veteran and a long-time private pilot got to have the bombardier's seat – which of course was the best seat in the house. It is located right flat against the huge, frontal bubble window in the B-17, with a 180 degree view of both earth and the sky. "Sitting in that seat makes you think you're going to fall off the side of the world," said Corrigan, whose flight at went south to Warrenton, followed the Shenandoah River



and crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains several times before returning to its temporary base in Manassas.

David Wood rode in the "Letye" flight of three aircraft including a Curtis SB2C Helldiver and two TBM torpedo bombers similar to the type President Bush (41) flew from an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific. Wood has performed in more than 500 air shows since 1981. "This event is the highlight of them all. To be able to honor the legacy of our parents and grandparents with this flyover on VE Day plus 70 years was a thrill I will never forget," said Wood.

Corrigan said his brother was not a pilot, but an airplane enthusiast, and therefore got to ride in the navigator's seat up front. (Not as good as the bombardier's seat, but good enough for bragging rights for this historic day for Purcellville).

While the Corrigan brothers remained strapped in their seats, rumors began to make their way back to Tammy's Restaurant in Round Hill that the best place to view the circling bombers and fighters was a knoll on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Simpson south of the village. That brought out Simpson with his camera and a few hangers-on from the diner.

Three bombers, escorted by the fighters, made a high-banked left-turn-port over the farm. The bright morning May sun reflected brilliantly off all the planes.

The unmistakable rumble of the radial engines reminded one of the first daylight bombing of Berlin seven decades ago.




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Governor Signs Senator Black's Campus Sexual Assault Bill

On Thursday, May 28, Sen. Richard Black traveled to Richmond for the bill signing ceremony of his bill, Senate Bill 712, the Campus Sexual Assault Bill. Black's law will change the way that Virginia's colleges and universities handle sexual assault cases.



"When I heard about the Hannah Graham case, I began looking into how Virginia's colleges and universities handle sexual assault reports and I was appalled to find that they handled them internally," Black said. "I do not think that expulsion is an acceptable form of punishment for rape and my bill will fix that."

Black's law now requires Virginia's colleges and universities to report sexual assaults to law enforcement. "SB712 puts the protection of our students ahead of the protection of a college's reputation," Black said. "We have given the police the help they need to protect students from sexual predators."

With the death of Hannah Graham, it became clear that Virginia's colleges' and universities' procedures for handling rape cases was lacking. Jesse Leroy Matthew, Jr., who was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of U.Va. student Hannah Graham last fall, had previously been accused of sexual assault at Liberty and Christopher Newport Universities. Each

time, Matthew was asked to leave the school, but the assault was not reported to law enforcement. At the time of Hannah Graham's disappearance, Matthew was employed by U.Va. Medical Center.

"I spoke with Hannah Graham's parents about my bill," Black explained. "If we can prevent another family from going through what her parents endured, I will be very happy. Protecting women from sexual assault and abuse has been a priority for me since my earliest days as a military prosecutor."

Senate Bill 712 went through countless redrafts because lawmakers struggled to work around a Federal Title IX Law that has numerous privacy rules that shield rapists from prosecution and protect universities from bad publicity. Black worked closely with Sen. Mark Obenshain and Del. Rob Bell to break the law of secrecy. Sen. Obenshain is widely expected to run for governor and Del. Rob Bell is expected to run for attorney general. They joined Black as conferees to work out details of the bill. The bill also requires the assault be reported within 72 hours and gives oversight to the Department of Criminal Justice Services to ensure colleges and universities comply with the new requirements.

The law will take effect on July 1.

Kline Proposal Update

In late May the developers of the Purcellville Crossroads Property had a meeting at the Carver Center to update the neighbors on the proposed annexation project – although the residents in the town of Purcellville were not notified of the meeting.



Pleasants Kline, along with three other property owners, is requesting the annexation of approximately 50.4 acres. The property is currently zoned JLMA-3 (one house per 3 acres). It is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Berlin Turnpike (Rt. 287) and Harry Byrd Highway (Rt. 7) and along St. Francis Court.

The proposal currently calls for 64 residential units, 75,000 square feet of commercial, an 80 room hotel, a park and ride lot for 260 spaces and Tilley's Entertainment Center to include indoor and outdoor entertainment, a sound stage, batting cages and mini golf to name a few. When asked if the bumper boats and

go carts were still part of the Tilley Entertainment plan, Kline replied no, "Not for now." This would add approximately 3,054 daily car trips according to a study included with the annexation proposal.

Residents attending the meeting echoed their concerns about the density and scope of the proposed project. "We unanimously said build by-right," said Chris Braganza. Others echoed their previous concerns which were that the proposed project would be in the middle of residential neighborhoods and that the project is not consistent with the rural development strategy – as the property is in the county.

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Minimum Wage: A Wrench In The Gears

– By Delegate Dave LaRock

You may have read in the news recently that the second-largest city in the United States, Los Angeles, voted to raise its minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Minimum wage advocates are actively working around the nation. New York's governor announced he is still working to raise the state's minimum wage after his state's legislature rejected his proposals to do so, and, just this last session, several bills were introduced in the Virginia House and Senate to increase the minimum wage in the Commonwealth. None passed.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Freidman once said that, "One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results." The intentions of those advocating for a legal wage hike are, by and large, honest and good. They want to see workers enjoy greater financial security and have a better standard of living. I share the same goals, but we need to exercise great caution in



Delegate Dave LaRock

how we go about achieving them.

There's no question that minimum wage hikes result in job losses, a fact borne out in the heavy majority of studies according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. For those whose work product has a market value below the minimum wage, the new artificially high rate often does little more than leave them unemployed. As one writer observed of the Los Angeles hike, "People who are worth about \$9 per hour are going to find out that the "minimum wage" isn't \$15 per hour, it is \$0."

The minimum wage also hurts unskilled and inexperienced workers, like young teens newly entering the job market, making it harder for them to find entry-level or part time work that they can use to gain experience and future employment credentials. It has little to no effect overall on poverty rates, and it acts as a drag on the economy overall, increasing the cost of doing business and resulting in higher

prices for consumers.

Common ground still exists, though. Improved financial security and better standards of living for our citizens are both worthwhile goals. The way to go about this isn't by artificially cranking up wages to an arbitrary level, though. It's by giving employees and employers the freedom to negotiate the arrangement that suits them best.

One such opportunity in Virginia to improve the economic prospects of our citizens in a real, meaningful way is still in the legislative process. Virginia has a "Right-to-Work" law that prevents unions from forcing workers to pay union dues as a condition of holding their job. Studies have shown that these laws attract businesses and jobs to states that have them and result in higher employment rates without hurting wages.

Virginia is on the verge of going one step further by solidifying our Right-to-Work law in our State Constitution. If this amendment passes the legislature again, voters will have the opportunity to vote on

it at the polls in 2016. This law is a crucial component of our Commonwealth's ongoing economic success. Businesses crave legal stability, and by putting the Right-to-Work law in our constitution, we will invite even more businesses to create jobs within our borders – and odds are, some of those businesses will come from places like Los Angeles or New York, where well-intentioned people ignored the results of their legislative tinkering.

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.

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Let's Focus On The Big Issues – Not Gotcha Politics

– By Karen Jimmerson

As a member of the Purcellville Town Council since 2014, I take my job very seriously. My most urgent passions revolve around issues of government openness, fairness in the process and the principal that, as elected officials we are accountable, first and foremost, to people ... not to politics.

At a recent town council work session, tempers ran very high between myself and fellow town council member, Doug McCollum. Our exchange garnered quite a bit of coverage in the local papers, some of which, in my opinion, mischaracterized the issues at stake – at best. I'd like to take this opportunity to clear the air and set the record straight. I can do nothing less than that or fail to serve properly the people of Purcellville.

Our town processes are most efficient and productive when we work well together. Each of us on the town council has a role to play, and each of the people we interact with on town business – from the town manager to the planning commission to town staff – has defined responsibilities. Conflicts arise when the needs and responsibilities of one are not understood or respected by another, and, to be frank, garner one or the other person an advantage within the balance of power within town government.

When there is a conflict or concern, be it on behalf of two staff members, or members of the town council, the matter should be discussed privately. My recent issue of concern – which blew up first in the recent town council work session and then, to some extent, in the press – centered around an email I sent to the Mayor and Town Manager Rob Lohr regarding Mr. McCollum's appointment to the Virginia Municipal League's Community and Economic Development Committee.

My email challenged why the appointment had gone through in a way that bypassed the mayor and the full input of the town council.

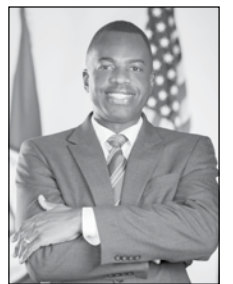
My colleague, Mr. McCollum, chose to address this in a most public way. He claimed, once again, that our council is "fractured." This is not the first time Council Member McCollum has done this, creating controversy where there is none. It was a simple although heated email questioning the VML nomination process that turned into a very public dressing down. His actions and the actions of others have me considering the motivation for throwing fuel on the fire – fuel for the idea that we are a fractured entity.

Continued on page 14

Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increase – Not Good For Our Citizens and Businesses

– By Kwasi Fraser, Mayor of Purcellville

Prior to the decrease in rates last year, our citizens and businesses had experienced over six years of increasing water and sewer rates. This decrease in rates, although small when compared with the double digit increases Purcellville citizens and businesses faced for years, was well received and deserved. The question remains – were those increases politically driven or strategically done with a plan to enable us to cover the lower rate? With the agreed to connection fees from the Mayfair project along with our debt refinancing and restructuring, the lower rates from last year were financially supported by fees throughout the year.



Kwasi Fraser

"Many of our citizens are struggling to pay their water and sewer bill in addition to their other monthly financial obligations."

In addition, following financial analysis and modeling of our water and sewer operations, our consultant, Municipal & Financial Services Group, recommended no increases or decreases in rates for Fiscal Year 2016, but increases of 3 percent in water rates and 5 percent in sewer rate starting in Fiscal Year 2017. The town paid the Municipal & Financial Services Group over \$12,000 for their analysis and recommendation. A few of our council members, however, have decided to ignore the recommendation of our paid consultants at the Municipal & Financial Services Group and raise rates in this new Fiscal Year. I do not support this increase based on the following:

Continued on page 15

– Citizens To Get Their Day In Zoning Court –

Public Asked To Weigh In On Developer Demands For Sweeping Changes To Zoning Map

Expanded Big Box Stores, By Right Drive-Thrus, Data Centers And More On Planning Commissioner's Agenda

Purcellville Planning Commission Chairman Gilbert Paist – under significant pressure from Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Town Council member Karen Jimmerson, Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman and others – is asking for public input on a long and increasingly aggressive list of developer demands for sweeping changes to town zoning regulations.

Paist, serving on the Planning Commission since 2011 and as chairman since 2014, is viewed by the preservation community as decidedly pro-developer, as are many long-standing members of both the Planning Commission and the Purcellville Town Council.

The public input sessions have been re-scheduled for July 7, 8 and 9. Defenders of the citizen-driven Comprehensive Plan want the town to slow down and first complete the legally required 5-year review of the plan, while developers have urged Paist to move forward with the zoning changes immediately, with a comp plan review to follow.

The Remapping Of Purcellville

At the center of the controversy are both the substance of the zoning changes proposed, and the more streamlined – and private – application, review and appeals process sought by developers.

“My clients do not want to have to get a special use permit ... a comprehensive plan amendment ... zoning amendments. They want uses by right.”
– Developer Representative Mark Nelis

Developers are asking for a zoning map that has a much more suburban flavor, with mixed use residential/commercial complexes, high density residential developments, big box stores – with virtually no size limits, new high tech business uses, and retail zones capable of accommodating more national chains.

Citizen groups reject what they call this suburbanization of Purcellville. Said resident Kelli Grim, “Knee-jerk, high density development brings bigger profits in the short term, but robs a community of its uniqueness and bankrupts its soul, in the long term.”

The By-Right Debate

Investors with ready-to-be-developed properties want the majority of the zoning for the proposed 200+ new/changed uses to be by right – avoiding the time, hassle, and expense of applying for Special Use Permits, and sidestepping the public input process designed to vet a project's impact on neighboring communities, the environment and community welfare.

The 5–6 story Vineyard Square development fit into the by right category. As planning proponents noted, once the property owner had secured an upgrade to by right zoning, the public was helpless to do anything about the size and scope of the project.

This is in contrast to the project known as the Catocin Creek Town Center, where the public outcry during the SUP process prevented developers from locating a new 187-unit apartment/retail/entertainment complex in the back yard of an established residential neighborhood.

Town Center-Style Dreams

Developers have a substantial amount of support for the quick, sweeping changes that will be the subject of three public input sessions in July. Staff documents from recent

Total Proposed Zoning Changes = Approximately 229

Zoning District	Unchanged Uses	Added Uses	Removed Uses	Converted Uses	Total Changes
CM-1	22	29	12	19	60
C-1	29	27	9	5	41
M-1	29	34	15	6	55
PDH	15	53	9	11	73

Within the Added Uses and Converted Uses categories, 142 of the 184 zoning changes, if implemented, would allow a particular use By Right (no public hearing required). Only 42 would require a developer to, for example, get a Special Use Permit, triggering a public hearing.

“Investors with ready-to-be-developed properties want the majority of the zoning for the 200+ new/changed uses to be by right – avoiding the time, hassle, and expense of applying for Special Use Permits, and sidestepping the public input process designed to vet a project's impact on neighboring communities, the environment and community welfare.”

public planning commission work sessions suggest:

- Adding 54 new by right uses to the Planned Development and Housing district and allowing these high-density residential/commercial development on as little as 5 acres. Similar in scope to the original Reston Town Center, these complexes will give developers the by right option of building two floors of commercial topped with residential, complete with firing ranges, theaters, data centers, stacked

parking decks, indoor/outdoor commercial recreational facilities and multiple other uses. Data centers, with 24/7 operations, for example, are not a currently permitted use.

- Eliminating SUPs for drive thru. Proposed zoning changes convert this to a by right use, preventing even a project's immediate neighbors from providing public input. Drive thrus, due to their late hours, noise and traffic are now subject to special public scrutiny, but would now be allowed as by right uses.

- Increasing sizes on big box stores. Currently limited to 4,000 sq. ft. unless the developer had successfully completed the Special Use Permit process, restaurants of virtually any size would be a by right use in Purcellville.

- Eliminating all limits on big box store size. Currently limited to 10,000 sq. ft. unless, again, the developer had successfully completed the Special Use Permit process, the size of big box stores would be increased by a minimum of over 500 percent – to as much as 55,000 or 75,000 sq. ft., with no public input required.

Who Will Be Making The Decisions?

PURCELLVILLE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser:
kfraser@purcellvilleva.gov

TOWN COUNCIL
(Individual emails below. Email the town council as a group at: purcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov)
Councilman John Nave: jnave@purcellvilleva.gov
Councilwoman Joan Lehr: jlehr@purcellvilleva.gov
Councilman Patrick McConville:
pmconville@purcellvilleva.gov
Councilwoman Karen Jimmerson:
kjimmerson@purcellvilleva.gov
Councilman Doug McCollum:
dmccollum@purcellvilleva.gov
Councilman Ben Packard:
bpackard@purcellvilleva.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION
(Individual emails below. Email the commission as a group at: planningcommission@purcellvilleva.gov)
Gilbert Paist, Chairman: gpaist@purcellvilleva.gov
Doug McCollum, Vice Chairman/Town Council Liaison: dmccollum@purcellvilleva.gov
Commissioner Chip Paciulli:
cpaciulli@purcellvilleva.gov
Commissioner Theresa Stein:
tstein@purcellvilleva.gov
Commissioner Nedim Ogelman:
nogelman@purcellvilleva.gov
Commissioner Edward Van Istendal:
evanistendal@purcellvilleva.gov
Commissioner Chris Beldsoe:
cbeldsoe@purcellvilleva.gov

Let The People Speak

The planning commissioners are on record saying they will listen to public input and make changes accordingly.

The SUP Process Explained

Special Use Permits are, essentially, an additional step a developer is required to take to get approval for certain projects or portions of a project. The developer must pay a fee to offset costs, and, planning officials must hold formal public hearings sessions so that neighbors of the project and other interested parties can comment on what is being asked for.

As detailed in Purcellville's zoning code, “The purpose of the special use permit procedure is to provide for certain uses which cannot be well adjusted to their environment in particular locations ... uses [which] either have unusual characteristics, or have characteristics which are different from those of their immediate surroundings ... [uses which could impact] not only on neighboring properties, but ... a large section of the town.”

For example, a commercial developer building next to a residential neighborhood wants to put in a 6,000 sq. ft. restaurant with multiple drive-thru windows, and, also wants outdoor entertainment. Per Purcellville's current zoning ordinance, a restaurant can be built by right when the zoning is in place. But, if the developer wants to build an unusually large structure (more than 4,000 sq. ft.), with drive thrus and outdoor entertainment, he or she will need to show that this will not negatively impact the quiet neighborhood that backs up to the property, or the general welfare of the citizens in town.

Special Use Permits are a simple, common sense way to make sure that the rights of all are protected.

It's Time We Invest In Public Education

– By Chuck Hedges

Delegate David LaRock believes in school choice. So do I. Delegate David LaRock is concerned about children with special needs. So am I. But that's where our agreement ends.

I have worked with children with special needs for some two years. I know the joy that comes with offering an effective program for these children. For 95 percent of the children in Loudoun, Clark and Frederick counties, the best - indeed, the only - opportunity for children to learn, grow and thrive is through strong public schools. That is why our citizens and taxpayers need to place their highest priority on ensuring that public schools are well funded and that they offer all children - including those with special needs—the services and learning



Chuck Hedges

opportunities they need and deserve. The 17 percent reduction in the state's education budget since 2009 must come to an end.

School choice can and should be expanded within the public schools—and there is evidence that that is already happening. Loudoun County needs—and in some areas is already beginning—to expand services for special-needs kids, as well as offerings of magnet schools, charter schools, special permission for families to enroll their children in schools of their choice outside their assigned districts (space permitting), and enhanced STEM (and even STEAM, with the addition of the arts) programs. Similar efforts are underway in Clarke and Frederick counties. Quality full-day kindergarten must be offered to all of our children.

Del. LaRock introduced a bill last year to award parents tax credits for opting out of the public schools in favor of private and home-schooled education. It went nowhere in the House of Delegates, but this year LaRock tried again, this time focusing the tax credits on special-needs children. In an opinion piece published simultaneously by both Leesburg Today and the Blue Ridge Leader, he cites cases in Lynchburg and unnamed other Virginia jurisdictions where children with autism were treated unduly harshly. One should certainly condemn such actions, but there is no indication that such cases are the norm in the state, or in Loudoun, Clark or Frederick Counties.

Most importantly, however, LaRock's bill would do little or nothing significant to help such children or their parents because the value of the tax credits

proposed is miniscule relative to the cost of private education. Nor is home schooling a low-cost solution available to many parents, because so many families rely on two incomes to make ends meet, and thus cannot consider the home schooling option.

What we need is full funding for our public schools and a strong mandate and financial support for excellence in services to all children, including those with special needs. And that is exactly what I plan to work for when elected to the 33rd District in the Virginia House of Delegates, replacing David LaRock.

Chuck Hedges and his wife Betty have lived in Lovettsville for 15 years. They have two sons and five grandchildren. Hedges is running to represent the 33rd in the House of Delegates.

Why We Teens Should Care About Politics

– By Quinn Reichard

I want you to care about politics. So often, it seems like there's no point. We frequently get news of scandals, gridlock, and power plays — apathy becomes so easy.

I think that at some level, most of us teens know that the government can be changed by the people. It's hard, though, and it

takes time. The slow pace of change causes us to lose interest.

Keep in mind, however, that politics affect you every day. You may not think about it often, but local government controls the public schools and state government controls the roads. So, if you go to a public school or drive on a public road, you are subject to the government. Those are but two minor examples. Government is the only institution that can legally use force on people. I realized that I had to care about politics when I realized that the essence of government is legalized force. Think about it. Only government has the authority to make regulations and dispense justice. Such an organization needs to be watched closely. Luckily, in America, we can influence government. And teens can, too.

Here are three compelling reasons to care about politics:

Politics does affect you. Often I hear people say, "But politics doesn't affect me!" That's simply not true. The reach of government is far, affecting matters from the price of gasoline to the availability of jobs. Most importantly, the decisions made by those in power affect your freedoms every day.

You can make a difference. Some of my friends get a sense of hopelessness when the subject of politics comes up. The mentality is, "Nothing can be done! I can't



Quinn Reichard

make a difference." Again, the idea that nobody can make a difference is balderdash.

Less than 60 percent of the eligible population will even bother to vote, even on a presidential election year. As a teen, merely being willing to discuss and think about politics makes a difference, because

discussion is where opinions are formed. I'm not asking you to "get involved." I just want you to think about the issues.

Politics can be unpleasant, but it controls your freedom. So often, I hear, "Politics is disgusting - It's a twisted game for power, and I don't want to be involved with that." Yep, sometimes, they are. Power attracts corruption. That's precisely why the workings of government warrant the attention and vigilance of every citizen.

All over America, teens get involved in political efforts without even being old enough to vote yet. Why? Because they understand that they are part of the next generation of leadership. They don't want to be part of an apathetic sheeple.

I want you to *care*, just a little tiny bit. Listen to politicians and try to determine what principles they hold. Keep up with current events. Figure out what *you* believe.

Remember, your freedom is what's at stake.

Quinn Reichard is the founder of American Individualists and serves as Director of Music at Hillsboro United Methodist Church.

American Individualists is a political education organization located in Purcellville. Founded by teens in 2013, the group provides a forum for political education and activism opportunities for young people. To learn more about American Individualists and its mission, visit www.americanindividualists.com.

Letters To The Editor

Reflections For Father's Day A Child's Constitutional Rights

I've been a licensed attorney and a father since the late 80's. Yet, I wonder about how many of our country's legal theories — theories that directly impact our children and therefore teach them what's right, and what's wrong — conflict with what we really want them to learn.

During my 8 years on the Loudoun County School Board it was obvious school administrators and security officers were interrogating children which in some cases forced them to admit to things there might not be evidence of ... all under the false premise that schools need immediate cooperation from children, even if it leads to their expulsion, even if there were no serious exigent circumstance such as a fire, a gunman in the building, etc. Calling parents prior to such interrogations was rare and fiercely resisted by school administrators. And, so, what are teaching our children? To tell the truth no matter what ... even though all citizens have a Constitutional right not to self-incriminate? The 5th Amendment may use the terms capital or infamous crime when referring to self-incrimination; but does that mean a child possibly facing school disciplinary action — or worse — has no rights? Not even the right to have their parent present when there is time and opportunity to do so?

And, what about when a deputy pulls your child over claiming they were speeding. Should that child be advised cooperate with the officer no matter

what? What has your child been told to do if the officer wants to search the vehicle? What if there are camping items in the trunk, a weapon used for hunting or gardening ... or something else unknown to the young person — that could get them in trouble? What if the traffic stop happened in a school parking lot on a Saturday and the item in the trunk was a large camping knife? — perfectly legal anywhere except on school property, where the presence of any knife over 3 inches could mean expulsion.

My conclusion is that it's not good enough for legislators to proudly announce to their supporters what new bills they have submitted. I want to know what they are doing to eliminate Constitutionally-suspect practices against our children under the guise of "protecting and serving." This is a tough topic for me. As a candidate for Commonwealth Attorney for Loudoun County, I'm running for the top law enforcement job. But, I'm also a father ... and a Constitutionalist. I wonder if we have lost some of the freedoms intended by the Bill of Rights, especially when it comes to our children and the difficult situations they find themselves in. If we emphasize "cooperate" at their peril with our most vulnerable citizens — our children — while the media reports on the big white collar thief ... who just got a slap on the wrist — what kind of society can we expect in the future?

– Robert Ohneiser, Esq.
Taylorstown



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Bipartisan Legislation Hopes To Reduce Wasteful Spending

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Rand Paul (R-KY) have teamed up on a bipartisan proposal to empower federal workers to identify and cut down on unnecessary federal spending. The Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act of 2015 would build on existing law by expanding a program that allows U.S. government inspectors general to reward federal employees with a bonus for finding and reporting wasteful or fraudulent spending.

Under the proposal, that program would be expanded to include “unneeded or surplus” end-of-year funds. Spending at federal agencies in the last week of the fiscal year is 4.9 times higher than the weekly average the rest of the year but research shows that the quality of spending is lower than the rest of the year. Under the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act, federal employees who identify unneeded or surplus funds will be eligible for a bonus

worth 10 percent of the savings, up to \$10,000.

“This bipartisan proposal encourages federal agencies to return unused funds instead of rushing to spend-down their appropriations at the end of every fiscal year,” said Sen. Warner. “When we empower federal employees to identify surplus funds instead of encouraging the ‘use it or lose it’ mentality, we are better stewards of taxpayers’ dollars.”

“Under the current law, federal employees have a perverse incentive to spend all of their agency’s annual budget before the end of the year, and subsequently, bonuses will reverse the incentive to the benefit of the employee and the taxpayer,” said Sen. Paul. “The Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act will reduce the federal deficit and reverse the trend toward agency bloat, by combating inefficiency and mismanagement of funds in the government.”

Are Pesticides In Nursery Plants Killing Bees And Butterflies?

– By Andrea Gaines

The decline of monarch butterfly and honeybee populations has been evident for many years, as has the agriculture and gardening industries’ increasing reliance on a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids, or neonics.

Gardeners committed to supporting monarch butterfly and honeybee populations typically avoid the use of pesticides, while at the same time stocking their gardens with the native flowers and plants monarchs and honeybees rely on. But, conservationists are urging consumers to read the label at their local nursery, as many common flowers and plants are grown with neonics.

Neonics are applied to the soil and absorbed into a plant’s leaves and stems via the roots. This prevents pesticide residue from building up on the plant and also prevents the pesticide drift that results when crops are sprayed, for example. For this and other reasons, these pesticides are widely used in agriculture and promoted as less toxic to birds, mammals and beneficial insects such as bees. The pesticide is also said to offer greater protection to farm workers.

The European Union, however, imposed a 2-year ban on the pesticides in 2013, and, a highly regarded Environmental Science and Pollution Research study has now linked the phenomena known as honeybee colony collapse disorder to these pesticides.

While manufacturers of the pesticide have challenged the connection with declining bee populations, starting in 2014 many large American retailers and nurseries – including some in our area – began to either ban the use of neonics in their products,



Honeybee on lavender

or require that all products exposed to the pesticide to be labeled. Many retailers are also actively marketing alternatives to neonics.

Neonics, as a class, kill insects by attacking their nervous system. For honeybees, while the pesticide might not cause the outright death of the insect, it does appear to interfere with their brain function, including their memory of where to find food. With monarchs, while research shows that an adult butterfly feeding on the nectar of a plant exposed to the pesticide may have some resistance, monarch caterpillars have extremely high mortality rates when exposed to the chemical, even for short periods of time.

Many nursery plants are grown with the use of neonics – including common bedding plants, roses and houseplants. One local monarch butterfly conservationist doing her own research found butterfly weed – a plant widely used by gardeners to attract monarchs – labeled as having been grown with the pesticide. Butterfly weed attracts aphids, a pest targeted by neonics.

The websites of many large and small retailers have information on their use of neonics, and their store policies with respect to the pesticide. Other good sources of information include The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

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Jimmerson, continued from page 1

Per Jimmerson, “The need for a true advocate for the residents in the Blue Ridge District is a driving factor in my decision to become a candidate for Blue Ridge Supervisor.” Decisions made by the Board of Supervisors in the next four years, according to Jimmerson, “will have a deep and lasting impact on the future of our farms, scenic landscapes, and identity as a community.” He continued, “I believe we can grow as a district without having to sacrifice our ability to retain strong farms, vineyards, and open country living. I place high value on the need to preserve the sense of community and quality of life in our small towns.”

Jimmerson indicated he will work to provide excellent public safety, infrastructure, and education in a cost efficient manner. He will support economic development that equalizes taxes for all taxpayers; including businesses

and residents. “As Blue Ridge Supervisor,” Jimmerson pledged, “I will fight for programs that are cost effective and make sure those programs have clear, measurable goals. My focus centers on making sure our government is serving the needs of everyone in our community and making life better for all.”

My “common sense leadership,” Jimmerson continued, “and willingness to invest the time necessary to share the views of the Blue Ridge with other Supervisors, will help to build consensus around some of our toughest problems.”

On the topic of a voting record on the BOS Jimmerson says, “It is not enough to have a single vote on the board representing your views. I will work hard to garner the support of fellow Supervisors to help bring positive decision-making that serves the needs of people in the Blue Ridge District.”

Jimmerson is the Chief Information Officer for the American

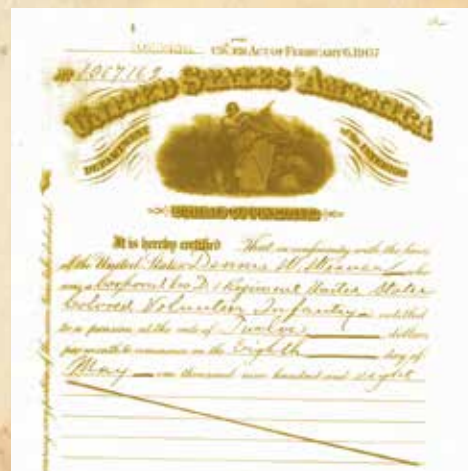
Registry for Internet Numbers. He notes that he is an expert in community engagement and outreach with experience “managing and balancing budgets.” He has managed both small community and international scale communications and technology projects, and says that “I will bring my leadership and business experience to my role as supervisor.”

Prior to his work for the internet industry, Jimmerson managed information systems for the United States Marine Corps. He is currently in the process of working with other Internet industry professionals in Loudoun County to prepare a solid proposal that, if executed, will thrust Loudoun to the forefront of world-class broadband offerings.

Jimmerson has been a resident of Loudoun since the 1990s. He and his wife Karen, have three daughters attending the local elementary, middle, and high schools.

This Month In History June 1863, A Former Slave Enlists

In June of 1863, 19 year-old Dennis Weaver – a former slave from Loudoun – joined the Union Army. Of the approximately 250 Loudoun County African Americans who fought in the Civil War, fewer than 20 made it home. Weaver was one, and upon his death in 1911 was laid to rest at Rock Hill Cemetery near the village of St. Louis. Some 100 years later, 81-year old cemetery caretaker Vernon Peterson found Weaver’s gravestone and relayed the 19-year old’s story to his cousin, author Kevin Grisby. Familiar with Weaver’s name from research he’d done on a book on the black community of Howardsville, Grisby went on to write a second book, “From Loudoun To Glory,” preserving for history the stories of Weaver and the hundreds of black Civil War soldiers from our area.




Department of the Interior certificate awarding Civil War veteran Dennis Weaver a pension of \$12 per month.



In November 2014 developers of the Vineyard Square project knocked down the first few of the buildings behind 21 Street in order to meet the first permit deadline of their multi deadline process. Although no details were provided on the terms of the leases, tenants of the property reported that they arrived to work to find their electricity cut off and subsequently were given 10 days to vacate – in order for the few buildings to be torn down. The rubble still remains in the area - 6 months later.

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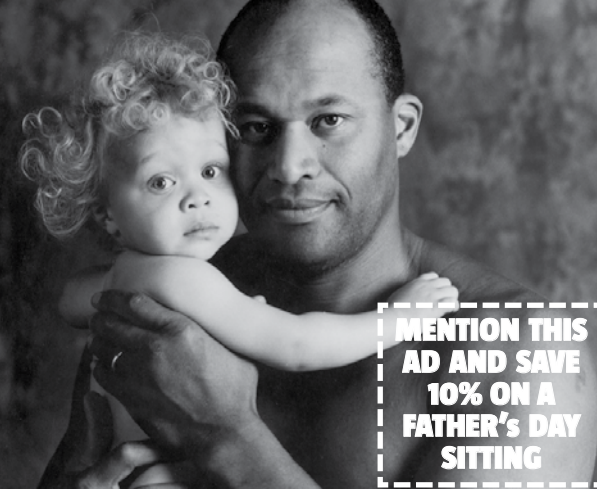
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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Brandon Park

– By Tim Jon

Considering its location – amidst the swirl of transportation axes, commercial and industrial scenery, residential neighborhoods, and the shadow of the busy downtown section of Leesburg, I was surprised to have this quiet little oasis of (mostly) green to myself – if you exclude the family of geese (who got their goslings into the water lickety-split for safekeeping). Brandon Park sits just off the junction of Catoctin Circle and Harrison Street – and the confluence of a couple of little waterways: Tuscarora Creek and the Town Branch, so it's no surprise that lots of us may quite frequently pass this way, yet take it completely for granted without stopping for what Loudoun County is supposedly known for: a breath of fresh air.

I couldn't count the number of times I've driven by the place – often with the mental note to stop (some other time) and explore. Most times I'd pass by, I'd see Moms kibitzing while their kids got the most out of the playground equipment; it really is



JON



a convenient location for what must be a large number of young families living just across the Creek off Harrison Street.

But – the early hour of my recent visit meant that the dew still lay thick on the grass, the air was cool and the sun was just poking its head up to see what was happening in the good old Town of Leesburg. The minnows in their sheltered little pools were loosening up for a day of making a living – more successfully, perhaps, than some of their more 'advanced' fellow creatures. Heck, the owls had just gone to roost – after a wild night on the town. The (usually) constant traffic on nearby Catoctin Circle didn't even seem to have yet hit its stride for the morning. (Anytime you can park near Brandon Park on that little stretch of Harrison Street you've beat the rest of the early birds.)

But, despite my relative isolation and the general peace I experienced here, I sensed an energy that I imagine drew from all the surrounding activity: neighbors getting ready for their day, early commuters heading to work, nearby businesses opening their doors and getting the lights on, school buses moving out to their appointed routes – all this human endeavor had its effect on my morning even though I stood in a place of near-stillness and quiet. I took some time that day and walked along Tuscarora Creek until the undergrowth met my progress at the rear of one of our friendly neighborhood car dealerships; I stopped at the water's edge – just before a sharp bend into (for me) undiscovered territory.

No – it wasn't a challenging scramble along a raging river in primeval wilderness, with scenery to inspire the maddest visionary (although there are places in Loudoun County where this can be at least simulated); no – this was just a short, quiet, perhaps contemplative stroll amid the wet ankle-length grass at the water's edge – in sight of residential backyards and business backlots – with the most forbidding qualities coming from the

as-yet uncut patches of 'undeveloped,' fallow land along parts of Tuscarora Creek. But, at the time, I wasn't thinking of what the place wasn't: like most visitors, I'm sure, I just sort of absorbed the subtle sensations as they came and took them for what they were – a bit of a respite from what can get to be a pretty blurry swirl of experiences in 21st Century Northern Virginia. This was no physical fitness test and my heart rate probably slowed – if anything, and my breathing may have become less frequent, and maybe deeper than during my more 'normal' (and more hyper) state.

Long after my visit to Brandon Park – and the nearby section of the Town Branch across the street (a riparian buffer, flood-mitigation project that also looks a little more natural than careful grooming of a creek-side), I came to appreciate the affects it had on my sense-memories of the place: Cool solitude and a brush with a small piece of the earth; maybe this is part of what those local tourism marketers meant by that by-now familiar slogan: "Catch Your Breath." I guess, sometimes it really does pay to be a visitor in your own home town.

Big Issues, continued from page 6

Town Manager Lohr promptly provided the background on the appointment, and, through a series of emails we all came to a consensus on how to proceed under the same circumstances in the future. The issue was resolved quickly by the town manager, the mayor, and me. After my email had been circulated to the entire council, I expressed to everyone that my email might have been perceived as hostile, and I apologized to all on council who saw it. I also said that although I was concerned about the process ... I would have readily supported council member McCollum before the VLM. Town Manager Lohr also apologized to me, as the appointment was indeed an item that should have been on our agenda.

But, again, I need to be frank.

Over the course of the past year, there have been numerous private emails from my colleagues on the council that I consider very disrespectful, serving to not only undermine the mayor's authority, but me as a duly-elected member of the town council. But, never did either the mayor or myself "leak" those emails or seek to undermine our colleagues in the Council by making such matters public.

And, again, a fair balance of power within town government is at issue.

Last year, two members of our town council attempted to deny Mayor Fraser his authority to make an appointment to a local governing committee. In the end, the Mayor declared and took full advantage of his authority ... but not without unwarranted protest.

Last November I emailed my colleagues about my extreme disappointment that yet another last minute supplemental item had been added to our agenda.

I asserted that to repeatedly do so was not acceptable, stating: "to continually neglect to include information in a timely fashion is not simply an oversight." One council

member chastised me via email saying that my comment was "very demeaning." Another council member proceeded to chastise me unnecessarily at our town council meeting.

And, it is not just procedure that is the problem.

Since early April 2015, a pilot program was initiated to sell Purcellville's bulk water supply. This program has the potential to bring in up to \$130,000 a year in revenue for the town. Not satisfied, several members of the council emailed questions that took on a tone of mistrust in the program and possibly our staff. While it is sound policy to understand fully any action our town takes, the hypocrisy is palpable when their criticism and questioning seem to target only programs or ideas that Mayor Fraser has initiated.

I can't help but wonder if these public attacks on the Mayor and myself serve to distract the media and residents from the real issues. If so, it is a disservice to town residents and the staff who work for our town. Regardless. We continue to function as a council. We continue to move things forward.

Town staff and Council have worked hard to produce a sound budget. Council has moved forward on initiatives such as the citizen's survey and new town policies. We are charting our future and hopefully pulling away from the paradigm that growth is the only way to pay off our debt.

Developer pressure for annexation and growth north and west of Purcellville is immense. Work on the comprehensive plan is about to begin.

These are the issues that we should be focusing on. Not, a gotcha strategy exposing email communications in an attempt to grab political power.

Our goal is to serve the community.

Karen Jimmerson serves on the Purcellville Town Council and was elected in 2014.

Simpson To Run For Sheriff

Former Sheriff Stephen Simpson has announced he will run as an Independent in the November election. "I run because I see a sheriff's office in need of new leadership, a sheriff's office that has been allowed to regress over the last four years ... in this campaign I will discuss a number of issues that need the public's immediate attention. In my 16 years

as sheriff, I never went over budget, even in the leanest of years," he said.

Simpson continued, "Incumbent Sheriff Chapman overran the budget by \$3 million. When confronted by the Board of Supervisors, Chapman said he didn't know anything about it. And he blamed his underlings. That prompted one supervisor to observe Chapman was blaming everyone but himself. This year, of course, Chapman claimed he returned \$4 million to the treasury. What he doesn't tell you is how."

Simpson said, "The bulk of his 'savings' came from unfilled positions – money he couldn't spend on anything



Stephen Simpson

else. He promised savings, but what did he really do? He disbanded the narcotics and gang units ... and sent some deputies to work on task forces not even doing cases in Loudoun County."

Simpson told the Blue Ridge Leader he wanted to bring the personnel in the narcotics and gang units back up to their full complement,

as well as filling other vacancies in the patrol and specialty divisions.

"Deputies have reported to me that the lack of manpower attributable to unfilled positions has resulted in fewer investigators working actual cases inside this county. I propose filling the funded positions as an answer to increased gang recruitment and activity in the eastern part of the county, and increased drug activity, including meth, in the western part. Even the sheriff's office has published numbers showing a staggering increase in heroin overdoses and fatalities here in Loudoun County," Simpson said.



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Distracted Driving: Focus On The Here And Now

– By Barbara S. Williams

I want to talk to you about distracted driving. What is it? Why should we not drive distracted?

There are many definitions of distracted driving. The U.S. DOT's definition is "any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety." Safety is why we don't want to drive distracted.

There are 3 major types of distracted driving:

- Manual - taking one of both hands off the wheel while driving;
- Visual - looking away from the road either within the interior of the car or the exterior; and
- Cognitive -being mentally engaged in some activity that reduces the concentration and attention devoted to the task of driving.

We all intuitively know what distracted driving is: Texting, cell phone use, eating food while driving, brushing our hair or putting on makeup, rubbernecking when there is a crash on the side of the road and flashing lights, talking to passengers, using a map or navigation system in the car, listening to the radio, etc.

Some of these involve 2 types of distractions, usually manual and visual.

Text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, so it is by far the most alarming form of driving distraction.

Here are some statistics, again from the U.S. DOT's website:

As of December 2013, 153.3 billion text messages were sent in the U.S. (includes PR, the Territories, and Guam) every month.

Ten percent of drivers of all ages under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.

Drivers in their 20s make up 27 percent of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes.

An estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.

Engaging in visual-manual subtasks (such as reaching for a phone, dialing and texting) associated with the use of hand-held phones and other portable devices increased the risk of getting into a crash by three times.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

A quarter of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive- 20 percent of teens and 10 percent of parents admit that they have extended multi-

message text conversations while driving.

What do these facts tell us? That crashes are occurring due to distracted driving. And that texting is the most dangerous type of distracted driving. As a matter of fact, texting will increase the likelihood of crashing by 23 times - as compared with dialing a cell phone which increases the likelihood by only 6 times.

I'd like to remind everyone of the bigger picture: As parents and leaders in our community, we need to lead by example and refrain from texting and all other forms of driving while distracted. If you are talking on your cell phone with your kids in the car, you are teaching them to drive while cognitively impaired. If you text and drive in front of your kids, you are teaching them that it is ok to text and drive. As examples to our families, we should not only stop texting and driving ourselves, but we should help spread the word about the dangers of distracted driving. It is easy to do. Take a pledge to not drive distracted. You will be doing yourself and your community a favor. And maybe you will even save a life.

Barbara S. Williams practices law in Leesburg. To find out more go to www.williamsfordlaw.com.

Fraser, continued from page 6

• A significant portion of the projected revenue from the proposed increase can be achieved by our current pilot project which sells water to select outside companies. The pilot will result in projected revenue of \$130,000 for the year, which is more than the projected \$70,000 in revenue we will obtain from increasing the water rate by 3 percent.

• Many of our citizens are struggling to pay their water and sewer bill in addition to their other monthly financial obligations.

• Many of our local businesses are hampered by the already high rates and any increase will make it more difficult for these businesses to achieve profitability.

• The Citizens paid for the Municipal & Financial Services Group to complete a rate study and to present us with a recommended strategic plan, and they recommended not to increase the rates for the next fiscal year.

We should accept and enact the recommendation from our consultant. The Town Council will be voting on a rate increase at our Tuesday June 9 town council meeting 7 p.m. at town hall. Please plan to attend our next town council meeting or email our council members to voice your concern or support for a rate increase. The town council email is purcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov, to sign up for my newsletter email KwasiFraser@gmail.com.

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Willow Point Estate – A Timeless Lovettsville Manor

– By Hannah Hager

If you've ever dreamt of being the lady or man of the manor, consider this home your wish come true.

The principal house situated on the 3 acre "Willow Point Estate" in River Point is likened after the grand Montpelier home once owned by the fourth President of the United States, James Madison and his wife, Dolly. Family and visitors alike will be struck by your home's grandeur as they make their approach. The custom-finished luxury home, while at once majestic and imposing, is also warm and inviting – a treat to discover upon entering is threshold.

Climb the brick entry stairs and pass through the columned porch to the front entrance where you'll be greeted by wide-planked hardwood floors in the foyer that add warmth to an already inviting home. Wallpaper evoking the days of yesteryear perfectly suits this stately home with twin staircases that meet in the middle of the second floor widow's walk. This is where you'll find the first glimpses of some exquisite finishing touches – 10-foot ceilings throughout the rooms that aren't cathedral, architectural details such as upgraded trim and custom lighting fixtures.

Saunter through the opening underneath where the staircases meet and you'll find yourself in a great room that will take your breath away. A two-story, double-sided stone fireplace is the centerpiece of the family room. Strategically placed to be enjoyed from all four sides you can have your choice of comfort from any angle. The second-story widow's walk wraps around the near side of the home, but on the other side of the fireplace you'll find plenty of windows that capture the sweeping landscape beyond.

The generous sized rooms in this home are balanced off



with many spots to cozy up for some intimate entertainment. While the great room surely caught your attention off the bat, don't discount the formal living room and dining room that flank both sides of the entrance. Both boasting the same hardwood floors and recessed ceilings that make for a perfect getaway if you need some alone time.

If you're the type who prefers to gather around the kitchen table, you'll find the gourmet concept kitchen to be the perfect backdrop to share snacks after sports games, complete homework assignments or for sharing wine and cheese with neighbors.

As the lady and man of the manor you'll also require your own chambers, right? This home has a unique opportunity you won't often find nowadays – a flexible floor plan that allows for a very modern living situation. Not only is there a first-floor master suite, there is also a second-floor master suite, both of which are equipped with luxury spa baths and amenities. Of course, another member of the family could be deemed worthy enough for the second master suite – it's



11502 Mica Place
Lovettsville, VA 20180
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Acreage: 3.01
Additional Amenities: Three car garage, Potomac River access, full guest apartment, two master suites

your choice.

The six bedroom home has ample room for little ones and 'mature ones' – the east wing holds an independent guest or in-law suite with an air of exclusivity. Whoever resides there will have private access to a full kitchen, full bath, living area and a large bedroom with walk in closet and sitting area.

It is important to have rallying rooms

in a home so encompassing. That's where the lower level provides a recreational room, a large game room and a fitness center. All this and you still have around 3,500 square feet of unfinished space in the lower level to personally customize. The space has a rough in for a full bath, a propane line for a fireplace, windows and walk out to a patio. What more is there to want?

Beautiful grounds, of course. While not especially ample, the 3 acre lot brings a lot of bang for the buck. Take a dip in the saltwater pool; visit the charming stone garden cottage that is equipped with an electric, dual-zone invisible pet fence. Furthermore the Potomac River is just a short walk away.

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NCR, continued from page 1

the Wright Farm residential community, the Fields Farm School Complex, the yet to be built Autumn Hill/Mayfair and Loudoun Youth Football Stadium projects, new road access points to Woodgrove High School, the build out of St. Francis de Sales Church and the future Route 690 interchange. Other future build-out conditions for the town and the county will also be taken into consideration.

At least three rough road alignments are on the table, with one or more taking a more southerly route based on existing right-of-ways in place and/or efforts to minimize the road's impact on farmland, wetlands and other sensitive areas.

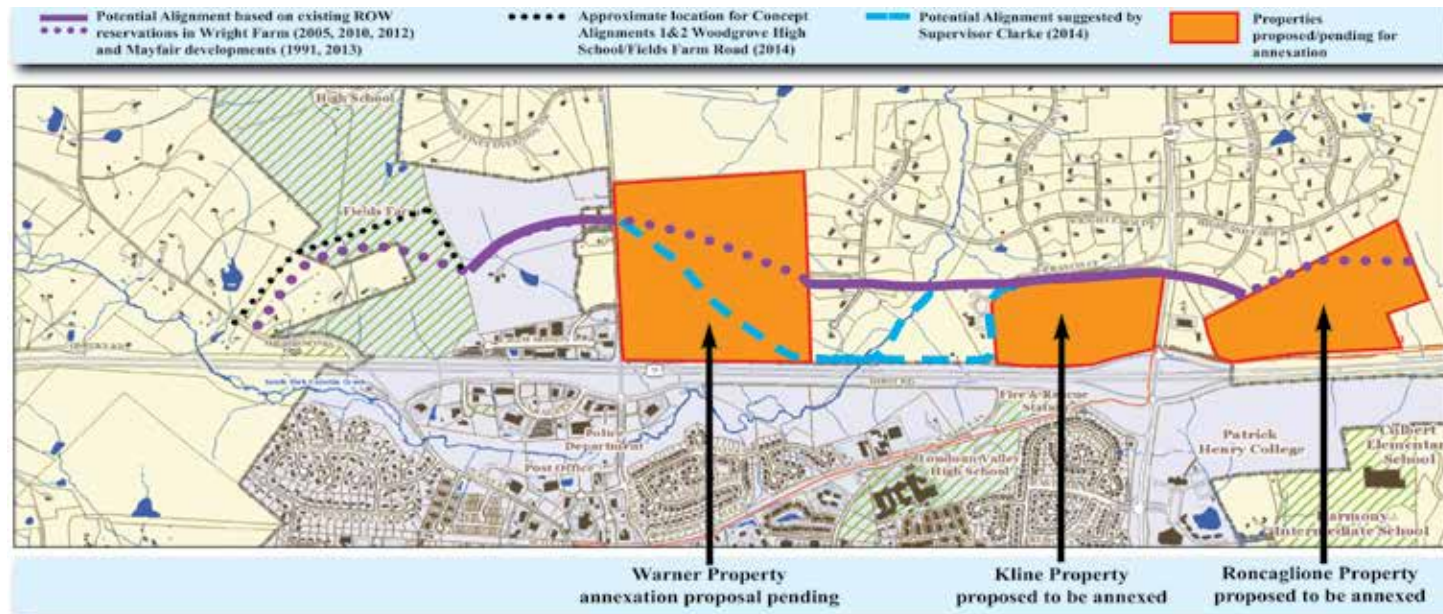
The entire study will cost approximately \$167,000 and take 8 months to complete.

A Study In Confusion

While it is the BOS that approved the funding for the study, several local officials, including Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke (-R) and Catocin Supervisor Geary Higgins (-R) have cited the Virginia Code and other authorities as mandating the action. But, citizen activists and other transportation experts disagree.

Wrote Supervisor Clarke, per Virginia Code Section 15.2-2222.1 "Localities are required to submit to VDOT comprehensive plans and amendments to comprehensive plans that will substantially affect transportation on state-controlled highways ... [noting also] "the Purcellville Northern Collector Road (PNCR) study was a [BOS] directive to Staff (11/4/14) to perform a study and analysis of the need and/or alignment of the PNCR ... " Clarke was integral to the town/county negotiations which resulted in Purcellville's annexation of the Autumn Hill/Mayfair property, an annexation agreement which includes a segment of the NCR.

Supervisor Higgins, citing communications with County Department of Transportation & Capital Infrastructure's Joe Kroboth, echoed Clarke's support for the study, while at the same time saying "I am



not aware of any specific law or statute that requires a study, per say (sic)."

Study Just Another Excuse To Build The NCR, Critics Say

Citizen groups see the \$167,000 study as feigned at best – driven by developer supporters of the road and by politics.

Said Purcellville resident, Pamela Lindo in an email to Supervisor Higgins: "... the nearby Town of Hamilton removed their portion of the NCR from their own plan without a study ... "

Several transportation experts we interviewed said that a proposed road could be taken of the transportation plan with a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The process requires that VDOT be notified of a proposed change in the CTP and be allowed to comment. VDOT, however, does not have approval authority over the county transportation plan, nor can it mandate that a study be initiated.

The BOS is perfectly within its authority to request the study say these experts, but there is no legal requirement that the study be done.

Residents of this rural part of western Loudoun and others can also see the writing on the wall. The NCR would dramatically increase the development and profit potential associated with properties that

are the subject of three major annexation proposals in various stages of the process – The Warner property, the Kline property and the Roncaglione property.

Supporters of a more rural-style of development for western Loudoun see these potential annexations as the real motivation behind both the study and the NCR itself. Said Wright Farm resident Baker: "Expansion of roadways is supposed to be for true public needs, not for the hope of motivating future development ... Elected Supervisors are supposed to listen to our voices – the people who live here and who make this area a blessed community."

Developers have been just as vocal in

their support of the NCR and are growing increasingly frustrated at the idea that road will be either delayed, modified or removed from the CTP.

Addressing the public at a meeting in May one of the developers who has property along the NCR's route, James "Ron" Roncaglione said, "I want to develop the property and that's the reason we are going to build the road ... I agreed to build the road for your benefit ... You are unappreciative." Roncaglione was even more strident at a previous public meeting when he said that if he didn't get what he wants, he could put "a pig farm" on his property or ... "a mosque."

690 Interchange History

In discussing NCR alternatives, including a simple Rt. 690/Rt. 7 Bypass interchange, Supervisor Higgins seemed to defend his support for possible alternatives to the NCR saying: "Jim Burton prevented the 690 from being built and [we] put it back in the CTP." However, former supervisor Burton was not responsible for preventing the 690 interchange from being built.

In 2006, the BOS voted to add to a November ballot referendum two questions which contained seven projects for county-financed road improvements totaling \$51.3 million of local tax funding.

The board was extremely frustrated that the Virginia General Assembly had consistently refused to appropriate sufficient funding for road projects, thereby neglecting one of its primary responsibilities. One of the seven projects included \$500,000 for the conceptual design and an Interchange Justification Report for a Rt. 690/Rt. 7 Bypass interchange. The voters approved both questions.

Shortly after a contractor was selected, the county entered its worst recession since the Great Depression. During the recession, the county lost one third of its tax base as property values dropped significantly and consequently, tax revenues decreased accordingly. The Board decided to cancel many of the 7 projects that had been approved on the November 2006 referendum, including the \$500,000 Rt. 690/Rt. 7 Bypass project, the \$3.3 million design effort for the Rt. 50/606 interchange, the widening of Rt. 50 to the Fairfax County line and the Rt. 7/Belmont Ridge interchange – to name a few.



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Calling All Kids: Lets Make Popsicles

– By Andrea Gaines

Love popsicles? I do. The delicious and healthy kind kids can make at home with summery treats from the garden or local farm stand. The kind that – if the kid doesn't happen to have a real life popsicle mold – can be made with everyday items from the kitchen like a juice cup, Dixie cup, ice cube tray or cupcake tin.

Popsicles are a – mostly – no rules kind of treat. Just a few things to keep in mind: 1) Freeze your popsicles for a good 4 to 6 hours before eating; 2) Let your popsicles freeze for about an hour before you insert your popsicle stick; and 3) To unmold your popsicle, run the container under a bit of warm water.

Here are some simple recipes to get you started, or, make some up on your own.



Lots of great popsicle ideas at www.weedemandreap.com.

*Practice makes perfect
when it comes to popsicles.
So, be patient and keep
pouring – you'll be a popsicle
pro in no time.
Enjoy and stay cool!*

Peach Lavender Popsicles

Ingredients: 10 peaches (peeled, pitted and cut into slices), 2 tbs. honey, and fresh lavender leaves (about 4 sprigs worth).
Directions: Blend the peaches and the honey in a food processor. Pour your mixture into a bowl, gently fold your lavender leaves into the mixture, and then pour the mixture into your mold.

Watermelon Mint Popsicles

Ingredients: 4 cups of ripe watermelon cut into 1-inch cubes, 2 tbs. raw sugar or honey, 1/4 cup mint leaves (minced), 2 tsp. lemon zest and a pinch of salt.
Directions: Puree the watermelon and sugar until smooth, add the lemon zest, mint and salt to the mixture, and start pouring.

Strawberry Basil Popsicles

Ingredients: About 20 really ripe strawberries – cored and cut in half, 10 leaves of fresh basil (minced), 1 tsp. sugar, and 1 tsp. honey.

Directions: Combine all your ingredients and puree all of your ingredients until smooth. Ready to pour!



Round Hill Hometown Festival Highlights

Round Hill's 13th annual Hometown Festival was May 23. There was a full-day of activities. Highlights included 187 runners in the Round Hill 5K starting the day. The popular pie-eating contest was won by Robert Cairns from Round Hill Exxon with Round Hill Elementary School Principal Andrew Davis coming in second and RHES PE teacher Eric Turrill coming in third.

The day also included a parade, Memorial Day ceremony and downhill derby. Entertainment was provided throughout the day and into the evening.



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Woodgrove HS Senior To Run Cross Country For NOVA



From left to right: NOVA head coach Nicole Manici, WHS assist coach Kauren Fritzius, WHS head coach Scott Burns, Cary Brown and WHS assist coach Dave Ciccarelli.

Northern Virginia Community College Women's Cross Country Head Coach Nicole Manici traveled to Woodgrove High School in Purcellville to conduct a signing ceremony with WHS senior Cary Brown. Brown and Coach Mancini signed a National Letter of Intent for Cary to run for NOVA for the fall 2015 season. Brown ran cross country for Woodgrove for 4 years, varsity-lettered as a junior and senior, was a team captain for the 2014 season and put in a solid performance at the VHSL 4A State Championship meet in November 2014.

She is the recipient of the 2014 Wolverine Award for leadership and dedication and has maintained high academic standards

throughout high school. Brown is the first runner to be recruited and signed to the NOVA Cross Country program since its inception in 2013. NOVA Athletics is part of the National Junior College Athletic Association and the team won the NJCAA Region 20 D-I Women's Cross Country Championship in just its second season. Coach Manici looks to Brown to add a strong dimension to the team. "I'm so thankful to everyone who has helped me reach this amazing accomplishment. Also, I'm very grateful for the opportunity to help the NOVA program grow and become a running powerhouse in Northern Virginia," said Brown.

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Franklin Park Arts Center Go Out Without Going Far!



Circle Unbroken, The Gullah Journey from Africa to America Saturday, June 13 3:00 & 8:00 PM

Audiences nationwide have been mesmerized by South Carolina Sea Islands' Gullah Kinfolk, with their unique style, memorable performances and uplifting renditions of their historical repertoire. Borne of slavery, Gullah spiritual music transcends time and takes the listener on a journey through history. This Gold Star Performance is sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Tickets: \$35 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org or call 540-338-7973



Bob Brown presents: World On A String

Wednesday, June 10 10:00AM

Travel around the world to visit puppet friends in Australia, China, The Congo, Egypt, England, France, Holland, Japan, Russian and more!

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

Harp Ensemble: Out of the Silence

Sunday, June 7, 2015 3:00PM

Evocative compositions for solo harp and harp and violin composed and performed by Astrid Walschot-Stapp with additional compositions for flute and harp by Hovhannes and Andres among others. Flute: Karen Johnson, Violin: William Stapp.

Tickets: \$10 All ages Reserved Seating

NEW! Gallery Coffeehouse: An Impromptu Evening With Ike

Sunday, June 7 6:30PM

Sharing A Piece Of My Mind While I Still Have One

Readers Theater-Duck Hunter Shoots Angel Sunday, June 14 6:30PM

Readers Theater-Red, White and Tuna Sunday, July 12 6:30PM

Tickets: \$8 per person Purchase tickets at the door

Loudoun Symphonic Winds

Sunday, June 14 3:00PM

In the footsteps of great bands from Sousa to the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Loudoun Symphonic Winds' members and Principal Conductor Gil Corella give you a spectrum of music including original works for band, transcriptions from the classical repertoire, the great marches, Broadway songs and holiday favorites.

Tickets: \$10 All Seats

www.loudounsymphony.org

Last Ham Standing

Friday, June 19 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!

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Child

www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour

Sunday, June 20 & 21 10:00AM-5:00PM

The 10th annual Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour offers a weekend of art, shopping and relaxation. Visit 35 studios with over 60 talented artists as you wind through the scenic countryside and historic villages of western Loudoun County. Artists demonstrate their artistic process in paintings, pottery, jewelry, photography, fiber, sculpture and more!

Admission: FREE

www.wlast.org

Main Street Theater presents: AristoCats, Kids

Thursday, July 2 7:00PM

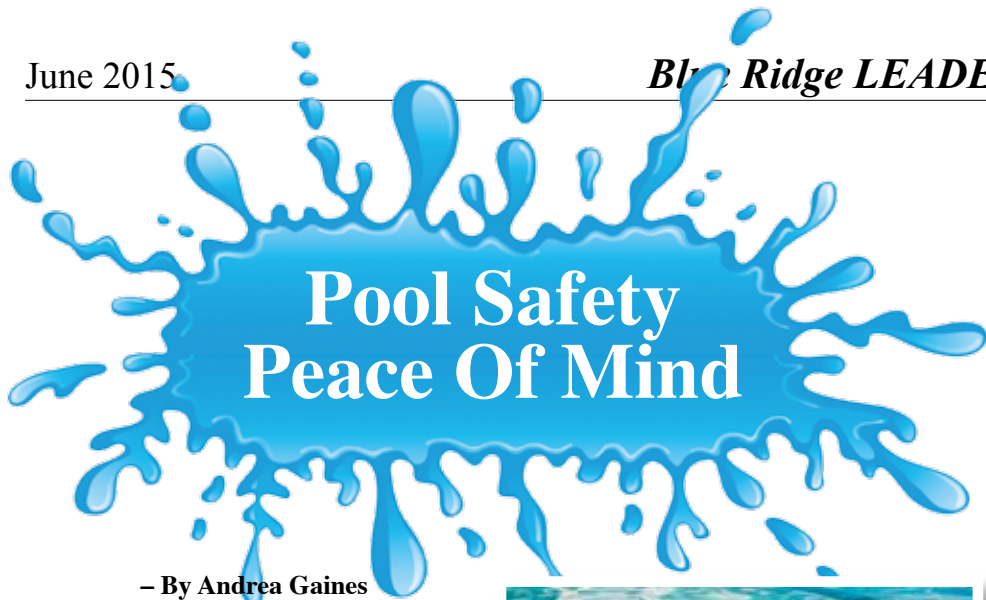
Friday, July 3 7:00PM

In Disney's The Aristocats KIDS, Madame's jealous butler Edgar cat-naps Duchess and her Aristokittens and abandons them in the Parisian countryside. Luckily, Thomas O'Malley and his rag-tag bunch of alley cats come to their rescue!

Tickets: FREE Call 540-751-9588 to reserve or email karlahlouis@aol.com

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Pool Safety Peace Of Mind

– By Andrea Gaines

Summer is here and splashing around or relaxing in a cool, sparkling pool is one of the best ways to take advantage of it.

Pool time enjoyment is nothing, however, without pool time safety. Drownings – including those in in-ground pools, above ground pools and inflatable pools – are the leading cause of injury-related deaths in children 1 to 4 years old, and the third leading cause of injury-related death among children 19 years and under. Thousands of children and adults are treated at emergency rooms each year as a result of pool-related accidents.

Experts from our own local rescue squads, the American Red Cross and industry groups such as the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) say that our growing awareness of pool safety basics is saving lives and reducing the rates of pool-related injury.

Here's how to achieve greater pool safety and the peace of mind and enjoyment that comes with it:

Adopt a cool, but uncompromising attitude. Know what your personal pool safety rules are – whether you are at home, at a friend's pool or at a public pool. Then, enforce those rules. Be that person who steps up, on a mission to ensure the safety of those under your care. Take charge!

Make sure that even the youngest have swimming skills. According to the Red Cross, children don't become good swimmers until they are 6 or 7. But, the American Association of Pediatrics says that children as young as 1 year of age can learn to swim. In fact, drowning accidents among preschoolers decreases dramatically in situations where the child has basic swimming skills.

Avoid the most common pool dangers.
 – **Keep it clear:** Don't allow toys, hoses, rafts, chairs and other obstacles to pile up on the pool deck or in the pool.
 – **Keep it calm:** 1) no running on the deck; 2) no pushing each other into the



pool; 3) no horsing around near the steps, ladders, rails and pool edges.
 – **Keeps diving boards and slides safe:** 1) one person on the slide or diving board at a time, 2) no diving into the shallow end of a pool or an above ground pool, and, 3) no sliding head first into the pool.

Put the cell phone away. The APSP recommends that if your young child is in the pool ... you should be, too. All this is to say that it's best to put the cell phone, book, magazine or I-Pad away, stay within arm's reach and not be distracted if you are the one in charge of pool safety at the moment.

Know CPR. It's important that at least one person present at the pool knows how to perform basic CPR. Two local sources for training are Loudoun County Fire-Rescue (703-777-0333) and the Loudoun County American Red Cross (703-777-7171).

Control access to your pool. Every pool owner knows that they are responsible, not just for their child but for any vulnerable person who might wander into their pool area. Make sure your pool is fenced off, secure and monitored.

Remember the 1-inch rule and other life-saving basics. Pool-related accidents can happen in as little as an inch of water. Empty out inflatable pools, buckets and basins when you are not using them, and cover up above ground pools and hot tubs. Also, keep a long-handled hook, life preservers and a first aid kit with written instructions on how to administer CPR, nearby.

Lay down the law ... and enjoy both pool time and peace of mind.

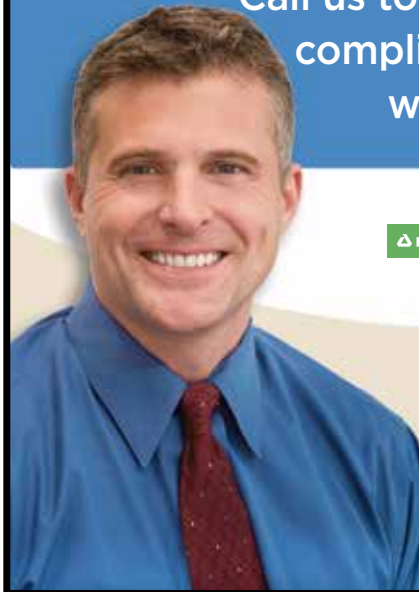


For details on area pools and other summer recreational resources, including the facilities at Franklin Park, go to www.loudoun.gov/prcs.

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The Summer Semester Is No Break

– By Mary Rose Lunde

So, what should a college student do with their summer? The appropriate response is relax; summer is meant to be a break complete with sleeping until noon each day and marathons of episodes on Netflix. Instead of doing this however, many college students wake up earlier for internships that aren't paid, jobs involving many hours or tedious summer classes. This is the price we have to pay to get experience and an advantage for potential jobs in the future. Yes, college students are sacrificing their summer to get ahead any way they can.

College students start to prepare for summer the beginning of spring semester in fear that the best opportunities will disappear before their very eyes. Many students begin their search in the most effective way possible: They Google internships. After hours of searching, they use different sites such as internship.com in attempt to find just what they are looking for. For many, this is often harder than it looks, especially for those that want specific internships that will help them compete in the job frontier they will face in less than four years. The ones that get paid internships are the lucky ones, especially if they are doing something in their field of choice. I only have three friends that are getting paid to do an internship within their major. The other are all in unpaid internships that will receive experience hardly worth the hours they put into it. I am hopeful that the internships will all be worth it.

Another option for college students who wish to return home is to work. College is certainly expensive, especially if the student is out of state. It is a student's duty to reduce the amount of debt they face with paying for school. Getting a job is the easiest way to reduce the debt, even if it means sacrificing the relaxing nature of summer. I know many of my college friends that



LUNDE

are applying for jobs in addition to the internships they have in order to reduce costs. One of my friends is working two part-time jobs for a total of 80 hours a week (not to mention the lab work she also does). Even with her job she still has to pay for rent, food, electricity, water, travel and leave

some to reduce the massive sum she has to pay per semester. This doesn't even begin to cover how exhausted she will no doubt be with very limited breaks.

The third option many college students choose is to take summer classes. Many of my friends choose to take summer classes to either make up classes they should have taken for their majors or to get ahead. Students are offered summer classes at the college they attend or they can take classes at the local community college to earn credits that will hopefully transfer to their actual college. This is especially useful to the many freshmen that switch their majors before sophomore year. It is always helpful to those perusing a double major in subjects that do not overlap in terms of required classes. In order to get to the advanced classes, many colleges require certain introductory classes as a way to give needed beginner material before specialized classes. Unfortunately, for those who wish to take the advanced classes but do not wish to take the lesser advanced classes, they are forced to take the introductory classes during summer sessions to reduce course overload during the actual semester. For those who need the required class to pursue the advanced class, this is a hindrance that can only afford to be overcome during the summer once more reducing the needed relaxation time.

For the typical college student summer is not a break, but rather another three months of work and stress.

Mary Rose Lunde is a rising sophomore at Virginia Tech. She has recently accepted an internship with a company called Words for Hire and eagerly awaits her first assignment.

Amy & Dan Smith's Planning for Life: Challenges For Blended Families

– By Amy & Dan Smith



AMY & DAN SMITH

The blended family has become more the norm than the exception in our society. As with most second marriages, Amy and I came into our marriage with our own children, our own careers and our own estates. We have experienced the challenges of the blended family.

Typically, a parent in a second marriage has conflicting loyalties. There is the desire to provide for the well being of the second spouse while, often at the same time, there is a felt duty to preserve some part of the estate (especially, of that acquired before the second marriage) for his/her children of the first marriage. This conflict can be especially acute if there is a significant age difference between the spouses. Thus, the older spouse could provide a trust for the life of his/her spouse, but this could delay significantly the benefit to the children of the first marriage by many years.

Under the law of most states, including Virginia, a surviving spouse has a statutory right to a percentage of the deceased spouse's estate, no matter what provision the decedent has made for the surviving spouse upon his/her death. In other words, the surviving spouse may elect rights at law against the provisions of the will. This right of election can result in a major disruption in a well-thought out estate plan.

A key tool in the planning process is the Marital Agreement. In Virginia, as with most states, this can be entered before or after marriage. The purpose is to address and resolve the possible legal issues that can arise from the marriage. Many people consider such an agreement distasteful because it typically addresses the possibility of divorce, an awkward subject for two people planning for – or already in – a marriage. While most lawyers would recommend including provisions pertaining to a possible dissolution of the marriage, the agreement does not need to cover that topic. Rather, it can – and should – deal with the rights of the surviving spouse upon the death of the first spouse to die. This would include the financial arrangements to be provided in each spouse's estate for the survivor and the right to serve as

executor and/or trustee of the decedent spouse's estate and trust. The marital agreement can also deal with the right of the spouse to be the agent for the other under a power of attorney or advance medical directive. Such provisions can eliminate potential conflicts among the

children of each spouse and the step-parent.

Creative planning and honest communication can avoid painful, disruptive family conflicts. Consider a factual situation: The surviving wife discovers that, upon the sudden death of her husband, his adult children of the first marriage are appointed to serve as executors of the estate and as trustees for the trust established for the benefit of the surviving wife. In other words, the step-mother must apply to her step-children for disbursements from the trust, and the step-children inherit what remains from the trust after the death of their step-mother. This situation is destined to create on-going tension. Creative alternatives exist which could have avoided such a potentially painful situation.

Planning in the context of the blended family can evolve as circumstances change, as, for example, children graduate from college, an inheritance is received, the residence is downsized, a spouse retires. Thoughtful planning can accommodate life changes and avoid disruptive family conflicts.

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

July 4th Parade Applications Available

Applications for the annual 4th of July Parade are now available. The Purcellville Volunteer Fire Department and the Town of Purcellville's parade is being held on Sat., July 4th at 12:30.

For 2015 the top three patriotic themed entries will receive a banner to carry during the parade. Winners will be selected by the July 4th Parade citizen volunteer group based on creative, musical, and patriotic decorations incorporating the 2015 theme, "You're a Grand Ol' Flag." Winners will be notified prior to the parade so that winning

units can display their prize banners during the parade.

The Parade will start at 12:30 p.m. at Emerick Elementary (continuing up Orchard Avenue, right on Main Street, left onto Maple Avenue) and end at Loudoun Valley High School. If you would like to participate in the parade, please contact Donnie Embrey, Parade Chairman of the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Department at 703-727-7191 or ForestFfembrey@aol.com or visit www.purcellvilleva.gov to download an application.

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Good Character Takes Work

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

How is character developed? It is a simple question that requires, I suspect, a somewhat complicated answer. New York Times columnist David Brooks gives us profiles of the mental and moral qualities distinctive to great leaders in his new book, *“The Road to Character.”* Brooks’ desire was to provoke a conversation about character, and ever since hearing him speak, I have certainly carried out his wish.

Brooks has been on a journey, one in which he examined the road to character and how others have navigated it. His journey began by pondering resume virtues, a list of skills and experience, and eulogy virtues, the ones that are discussed at a funeral. Most people readily admit that eulogy virtues are more important, but how often are they emphasized in our world today?

This idea led me on a journey of my own, beginning by asking family and friends about character. How often was character mentioned in school? Most (including myself) had trouble recalling a time when this occurred, and my 12-year old sister told me that character is never mentioned in her classes. I remember so many of my peers in high school being consumed with the quest of getting into a good college. Clubs were joined, classes were taken and programs were participated in simply because it would lead to college acceptance with the promise of a good job after graduation. Resume virtues, indeed, but what is the purpose of pursuing and achieving success if we neglect to develop strong character?

A friend told me of a professor he had who frequently reminded his class, “Don’t let your skill take you where your character can’t sustain you.” Success is a good pursuit, but it is important to remember that skill or talent will not compensate for a lack of character. We live in a world where we are constantly advised to “build our brand.” According to Brooks, high school seniors were asked the question, “Do you consider yourself to be a very important person?” In 1950, 12 percent responded yes. When the same question was posed in 2005, the number jumped to 80 percent. This change could be attributed to many different factors. Facebook has taught its users that the world revolves around them. Every part of life becomes documented, from the interesting to the mundane. If the world according to Brooks is correct, a shift in culture has taken place in which self-centeredness is celebrated.

Character is also necessary to sustain people when confronting adversity. In our greatest moments of weakness, true character is revealed. This moment of truth either reveals whether a person is strong enough to face the



MOORE-SOBEL

storms of life, or too weak to withstand the waves. Suffering reveals true identities and also helps refine a person’s character.

Building character may require an attempt to conquer our greatest weakness. A story is included in the book to illustrate this point. President Dwight Eisenhower, when he was a boy, got mad when his parents wouldn’t let him go out on Halloween. In response, he started punching a tree out in the yard, tearing up his hands. He was sent to his room, and his mother quoted a verse from the Bible: “He that conquereth his own soul is greater than he who takes a whole city.” Eisenhower later called this the most important conversation of his life, and he set out to conquer his anger, which was his greatest weakness.

As I reflected on this story, I realized that I too have a mother who gave me a quote that has helped shape the trajectory of my life. “Brains are like muscles you can rent them by the hour, but at the end of the day, all you have left is your character.” She heard this quote uttered by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, words his father used to tell him as a child. No other words ever spoken to me have been as influential as those.

The road to character is long and winding, with many twists and turns along the way. Our character is molded by the people that we allow into our lives. The perspectives they bring and the experiences they have impact each of us. Character is a lifelong pursuit, not a single goal that can be attained. The road to character requires near-constant effort at working towards the person we want to become.

While Brooks’ doesn’t have all of the answers, there is a moment of authenticity that makes his new work compelling. “I was born with a natural disposition towards shallowness,” he writes, stating that he is paid to be a “narcissistic blowhard” which ensures that he must “work harder than most people to avoid a life of smug superficiality.” Yet David Brooks is not alone in his struggle. I too, along with the rest of humanity, must work hard to avoid a life in which the trappings of success are more highly valued than the scars left-over from the formation of character.

When I met Brooks, he was disarmingly nice and one could detect a hint of humility. I shared with him my mother’s quote, and he readily agreed. “Very true,” he said, “Although I don’t know if you can hire any brains anymore.” We shared a laugh, and he added in a reassuring tone, “Your mother is a very wise woman.” Very wise indeed.

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

Organic Bronzing Lets Your Glow Shine

– By Hannah Hager

Aldie resident Jennifer Wignall is shining a different light on the tanning industry. The time has come to ban the act of baking in a tanning bed. Take a moment to wash clean of orange streaks and rinse off the potent stench of chemical-laden creams.

Tanning, at its core, is a practice laced with a tinge of egotism. It’s akin to whitening, waxing or other self care regimes and is not exactly a must-have service. Or is it?

Jennifer was once a lifelong tanning bed user who visited the salons on a routine basis to obtain and maintain a bronzed glow. She loved the way she felt with tanned skin. Years later, after her twins were born and she suffered a bout of Melanoma – of which she has since fully recovered – the entrepreneur decided to drop tanning beds altogether in favor of spray tan.

But the best of intentions are not always well met and she suffered an allergic reaction to the spray tan.

“People don’t realize that your largest organ is your skin. What goes into your body is just as important as what goes on it,” she said.

Instead of retreating to a life of pale and insipid skin she took matters into her own hands. She has a medical background, a natural curiosity and built-in gumption that helped her as she dove into research of the ingredients of typical spray tan solutions. She spent months breaking down the chemicals and striped bare what wasn’t needed. The Organic Bronzing Station was born.

The company is not a vanity project for Jennifer. Sixty percent of materials placed on the skin are absorbed into it. Over time this can be toxic to overall health. Armed with this knowledge the 28 year-old mother of two twin boys then developed her own custom formula that is organic, vegan and gluten and paraben-free in 2013 and the company was born.

The spray is high quality and high-end. It runs an average \$50 for a seven-to-10 day tan and is currently found in 33 stores throughout the Washington, D.C., metro area, Florida, Arizona and New York. She hopes to hit 75 partnerships by the end of this year.

The product has four strengths that blend nicely with people of all skin tones and nationalities and clients discuss their ideal color with consultants who create a customized experience. The goal is to give clients a glow or a step or two darker than they’re natural color.

Jennifer isn’t aiming to transform anyone. She just wants to let them shine.

Wicked Design Creates New Websites For The Town Of Round Hill And Hillsborough Vineyard

Dave Levinson of Wicked Design in Purcellville has launched two new websites, one for the Town of Round Hill and one for the Hillsborough Vineyard.

The Town of Round Hill website features more than 70 web pages, and nearly 400 documents which are available on demand. The design for the Town of Round Hill leverages a Victorian Era color palette and photos. The Hillsborough Vineyard website took a uniquely creative approach by using family created art as the background - using the color of burgundy and wheat for the color palette.

Wicked Design was founded in 2012 by Levinson. The



company also provides graphic and logo design services. The design firm supports businesses organizations across Loudoun County, and the mid-Atlantic region.

“It’s an exciting time to be living in Loudoun County. Entire industries are popping up, and many of the businesses are operated by hard working families. It’s an honor to be a part of it,” said Levinson. The company focuses on the creative and artistic approach to creating websites.

Levinson is also the artist-in-residence at North Gate Vineyard. He is featuring photography of Loudoun County, highlighting its natural beauty while

using preservation as a backdrop. His works of art will be on display thru August 31, in North Gate Vineyard’s tasting room. Levinson has been a resident of Loudoun County since 1997. “I’ve always had a passion for the outdoors. I love hiking and exploring, and Loudoun County serves as a perfect canvas for my photography,” said Levinson.

As a lifelong artist, Levinson’s work has been shown in galleries, museums, libraries and government offices. His photography can be found in businesses and homes across the county, and the state. Notable accomplishments include several photos appearing in the *Lure of Loudoun* hardcover book, the cover photo of the 2008-2009 Loudoun and Fauquier Verizon Yellow Pages phone book and a permanent photographic installation at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. To learn more go to Wickedesign.com.

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ARTIST'S PROFILE

JOLANDA PALI KESARI

BEAUTY IN THE MIND OF THE BEHOLDER

– By Andrea Gaines

Albanian-born jeweler Jolanda Pali Kesari takes inspiration for her work in everything she sees. Photos of infants in their fathers' arms and of couples bursting into tears as they exchange their vows. A favorite poem, painting or piece of sculpture. And buildings and gardens – a fern and amaryllis covered stairway leading to a stately old mansion, the floor of a seaside home painted to resemble the beach of an incoming tide, awash with waves and strewn with starfish and shells. And she finds inspiration in nature, including a close up of a tiny sea turtle emerging from its shell.

In a recent Facebook posting, Jolanda featured a photograph of the world's largest amethyst geode, an 11-foot high beauty known as "The Empress of Uruguay" – 2-1/2 tons of sparkling, deep purple, top quality gems in their natural state.

As a jeweler, you can see why Jolanda would use an image like this to tell her story. But, each of the other images she shares with people say something about her work and why she does it. As Jolanda describes it: "I have a beautiful world in my head. Everything I see – everything – inspires my jewelry."

I'd add to Yolanda's inspiration the concept of love, as she translates her love of beautiful things and her recognition for the importance of human kindness into the very technical craft of fine jewelry making.

Having been born in Albania and lived for a time in Greece, Yolanda has a special fondness for Byzantine designs and the jewelry of ancient Greece. She makes absolutely stunning Byzantine-style crosses and gold and silver stacked rings, and often works coins into her designs. But, look from one case to another in her Leesburg shop and you'll also see very, very modern designs using fascinating stones such as dendrite, an organic looking material that lays down minerals in patterns resembling free-flowing moss. She loves working with modern, fancy cut stones and diamonds, too – all in the most unusual colors, of course.

Some of Jolanda's pieces seem to be at once ancient and modern. One silvery soft pearl ring contrasts the smooth surface of the gem with a band that looks to show two roughly shaped hands presenting the pearl to its new owner. A beautiful gold and sapphire bee shows a very lifelike insect with charming honeycombed patterns on its wings.

Everything Yolanda designs is one of a kind. And, she says that with respect to some pieces, making jewelry is somewhat like having a baby. It's a very personal process, and, sometimes, she says, although it is rare, she keeps the piece rather than sell it ... just because she likes it that much.



Custom work is different, though. Custom work is personal to her customer, first.

When working with couples to design their wedding rings, for example, she will first talk to them about what they think they want, look at pictures and go through samples. She will then sketch out some options, hand carve several of the couples' favorites in wax, and then slowly make her way to the final product, sizing and setting stones as a last step. Wedding rings are, obviously, as Kesari says, a very meaningful object – and, hopefully a life-long one.

It was a wonderful experience to profile this beautiful soul and her work.

And, let me share the inspiration. Visit Jolanda Pali Kesari's Designer Goldsmiths Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Designer-Goldsmiths-at-Leesburg-VA. You'll see, as I came to understand, she does indeed have a very beautiful world in her head.

Designer Goldsmiths is located at 203-A Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg, VA 20175. (703) 777-7661. www.designergoldsmiths.com, www.facebook.com/pages/Designer-Goldsmiths-at-Leesburg-VA.



ONGOING

☉ **Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purcellville Town Market** outside the Purcellville Marketplace, 130 East Main St.

JUNE EVENTS

☉ **June 5, Friday, "Saving the Records Again"** from 6 to 8 p.m. as part of the Leesburg First Friday celebration, at the Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 East Market Street in Leesburg. Tour the Historic Records Department and view displays of historic court records and books.

☉ **June 6, Saturday, U.S. Navy Band Commodores** play on the Lovettsville Town Green at 7 p.m.

☉ **June 6, Saturday, reception for artist Rebeca Roman and ceramicist Steven Shiraishi** from 5-8 p.m. at Arts in the Village Gallery, 1601 Village Market Blvd SE, Suite 116, Leesburg.

☉ **June 7, Sunday, Hive Alive!** A Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy family program about honey bees from 1 to 3 p.m. at Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Ln, Leesburg. Space is limited. Children, ages 4 and older, with accompanying adult. Free. Sign up required through www.loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **June 12, Friday, Ghostbusters** is the movie on the Lovettsville Town Green starting at dusk. Free.

☉ **June 14, Sunday, Middleburg Concert Series** 4 p.m. at the Middleburg United Methodist Church, on the corner of Washington and Pendleton Streets featuring vocal chamber music. Admission is by free will offering.

☉ **June 19, Friday, dive-in movie** at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington St. Gates open at 8 pm; movie starts around 8:15 p.m. Free.

☉ **June 20, Saturday, Piedmont Pride Family Fun Run /Walk 5K and 10K** at 7:30 a.m. at Greystone Road in Upperville. Registration fee is \$20 per adult, \$15 per child ages 5-12, children 5 years and under are \$5.

☉ **June 22, Monday, preschool and elementary camps** start at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington St. Most camps are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Preregistration is required. Go to <http://webtrac.loudoun.gov/>

☉ **June 28, Sunday, Learn How to Raise and Release Monarch Butterflies** from 2 – 3:30 p.m. at Morven Park, 17263 Southern Planter Ln, Leesburg. Free. Sign up required through www.loudounwildlife.org.

☉ **Save The Date: July 18 Saturday – 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.** Princess for a day ice cream social at Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum. In honor of National Ice Cream Month, the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum in Sterling is celebrating. The court of the Virginia Dairy Princess Program will serve ice cream at an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. Your young princess can show off their princess finest in our Princess Parade at 1:00pm and receive princess "lessons" from the Virginia Dairy Princesses. The first 100 children through the doors will receive a Princess Star Wand in addition to a complimentary tiara. Event activities are free with the cost of regular admission. For more information call 571 258-3800.

CARVER CENTER JUNE EVENTS

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

Fathers' Day Celebration

June 19, Friday, from 12 to 3 p.m. Bus tickets are \$2. For ages 55 and older. Take the Carver bus for a tour of the Mad Horse Brewery in Lovettsville to celebrate Fathers' Day. After the tour you are invited to taste the beers for \$5.

Introduction to Watercolor Painting

June 3 to July 15 Wednesdays, 12:30 to 2 p.m. Class cost is \$20. For ages 55 and older. Participants will learn the basics of watercolor painting in a fun and supportive environment. All supplies will be provided.

Watercolor Phase Two

June 8 to July 13 Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Class cost is \$30. For ages 55 and older. A class for students who have a basic understanding of working with watercolors.

Senior Outreach Services

Appointments may be made for first or third Mondays between 12:30 and 5 p.m. For ages 55 and older. Get confidential assistance linking you to services and support in the community. Call 703-737-8741 to make your appointment or sign up at Carver.



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Two Kitchen Cousins Present ...

A Cool & Spicy Treat For Father's Day ... Andalusia Gazpacho

– By Lisa Wasson And Andrea Gaines

All Dads agree ... there is nothing like a chilled mug or shot glass of salty sweet, citrusy gazpacho on a warm summer evening. Originating in the Spanish region of Andalusia, our recipe for this chilled vegetable soup is perfect with Dad's a favorite thing from the grill ... or as a prelude to a hearty dish of pasta.

Gazpacho provides lots of nutrients, including Vitamin A, Vitamin K, Vitamin B6, Iron, Potassium, Copper and Selenium, Vitamin C and Manganese. It is also a good source of protein and is low in saturated fat. Healthy, not just for Dad, but for all.

Ingredients:

3 large vine-ripened tomatoes and 3/4 cup of tomato juice (a red and yellow cherry tomato combination is also a good choice)

- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 medium yellow onion
- 1 shallot
- 1 English cucumber (or buy local – just avoid the waxed, grocery store variety)
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp. lemon or lime juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup fresh dill, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
- Healthy pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Directions:

Give the tomatoes a good course chop and set aside, with their juices. Seed, score and coarsely chop the cucumbers (scoring vs. peeling leaves some outer green for taste, texture and color). Peel and coarsely chop the onions and shallots. Whisk together the vinegar, olive oil, lemon or lime juice and tomato juices. Blend the cucumber, onion, bell pepper and tomato in a food processor in small batches – adding the tomato juices for proper consistency. Don't over-blend – gazpacho should be both smooth and chunky. Final step is to fold in your dill, basil, garlic and salt and pepper and to chill your gazpacho for at least 4 hours. Serve in whatever portions fit your meal. Skip the commercial corn chips and serve with your own lightly salted oven or pan-toasted tortilla strips.

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.



Sink Achieves Eagle Scout

Harrison Tyler Sink has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor conducted at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Purcellville. Friends, family and troop leaders attended the celebration, including his parents, Randy and Kathryn.

Tyler is a member of Troop 163 of the Goose Creek District, National Capital Area Council, and Boy Scouts of America, which is sponsored by the Purcellville Rotary Club and led by Scoutmaster Robert Kellogg.

Tyler is a sophomore at Woodgrove High School where he is a member of the track team.

Tyler's eagle service project involved organizing and conducting a blood drive to support the American Red Cross.

Eagle scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program. The eagle rank involves earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating service and leadership over several years - culminating in an eagle service project. Less than 4 percent of all scouts attain the rank of eagle.

Wild Loudoun

Belted Kingfisher – Streamside Rock Star

– By Andrea Gaines

It's hard to say what you noticed first.

The cool blue streak of color. The piecing cry – a sharp rattle – here one second and gone the next. The splashy exit as a very spirited bird made off with a very unlucky fish.

These are the behaviors, sights and sounds of the belted kingfisher, one of our local waterways' most dramatic avian hunters.

Belted kingfishers are loud, colorful and fast, but their noisy, bandit-like disruptions don't last long. The bird spends most of its time perched above its watery kingdom scoping out the food sources in and around the streams, marshes, ponds, rivers and shorelines below – including small fish, crayfish and shellfish, salamanders, lizards and frogs.

Both males and females have a stout, top-heavy body with a prominent and pointy beak and a large head. Up to a foot or more in size from beak-tip to tail-tip, belted kingfishers are not particularly small birds. But, their speed and movements do leave that impression, sometimes.

Male belted kingfishers are a bluish-grey with one blue band across a white chest. Females are the same dreamy, bluish-grey – with bands of blue and chestnut brown across a white chest and chestnut streaks on their sides. Both male and female have a small white dot near each eye at the top of the bill – a beautiful little detail. And, both have a large crest of feathers on the top of the head that, when wet, has the spikey, disheveled look of a rock star.

Belted kingfishers are fierce, no-nonsense competitors when it comes to surviving day to day and raising their young.

Belted kingfishers will dive headfirst into



"Belted Kingfisher with prey" by Teddy Llovet - originally posted to Flickr as Kingfisher f. Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons – female belted kingfisher.

the water for protection when threatened. Upon securing a fish, the belted kingfisher will stun the prey on a branch, toss it in the air and swallow it whole. Males will defend their 1/2-mile long territory noisily during the April to July breeding season. Both sexes will use specially adapted feet with fused toes to excavate deep nesting sites along a bluff or the bank of a river or stream. Well-protected and well-hidden nesting sites are 3 to 4 inches wide and can be up to 6 feet long.

Belted kingfishers need these survival skills and techniques. Their predators include both mammals and other birds of prey – raccoons, foxes, snakes, owls and hawks, among them.

It's a beautiful sight to come upon a belted kingfisher while meandering along a streamside trail, taking a swim or laying in wait yourself to catch one zipping by or plunging into the water after a fish.

Long may this little streamside rock star rattle, splash and dive its way through life in this beautiful place we call *Wild Loudoun*.

Mosby Ranger Reunion On June 6

The Mosby Ranger Descendant Reunion will be on June 6 at 10 a.m. This gathering brings together not only descendants of soldiers who rode with Col. Mosby and his Rangers, but also people interested in the Civil War, local history, and heritage.

The program at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington St. in Middleburg, will feature Mosby historians and authors offering first-person interpretations, including David Goetz, Eric W. Buckland, Don Hakenson and Gary Carroll as Col. Mosby. A roll call will be read, allowing descendants a chance to stand and count on behalf of their ancestor's Company within the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry. Lunch is included.

Following the program, an open house at the Mosby Heritage Area Association's offices, the Rector House, will be held from 4-6 p.m. The Rector House, 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall, was host to many of the Rangers' rendezvous and was the site of



the June 10, 1863, formation of the 43rd Virginia. Refreshments will be served.

Concluding the day's events will be an evening tour of Middleburg's Mt. Sharon cemetery, where many Rangers are buried. The tour will be led by Eric W. Buckland, David Goetz and Don Hakenson who will share stories of the Rangers being visited. The tour will run from 7:30 p.m. to dusk.

Tickets are \$50 each and include all events. Tickets may be purchased at www.mosbyheritagearea.org or 540-687-6681, or at the event.

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Summer White Out

– By Sarah Nearis

Good fashion has a feeling. As we head into June and the warmer summer months, the feeling you want is one of being cool, easily put together, and comfortable.

White has a way of cultivating that cool, comfortable feeling. A crisp pair of white capris. A simple but special white dress. A favorite white blouse or top that can be worn with just about anything.

Here is how I like to wear and accessorize the perfect white pants, dress or blouse.



White Pants: I like to pair white pants – jeans, capris, silk palazzo, even leggings – with a classic Parisian-style striped shirt, or an over-the-top floral. If the pants are slim, I pair them with a more full top. If the pants are more full I wear a slimmer top, or one that is tight around the bodice and fuller at the bottom – a peasant blouse, for example. *(I also am quite comfortable going all white. I just make sure that the top and pants or skirt are the same white – I don't mix off-white with white, cream with off-white, etc.)*

The White Dress: Color-wise, I like to pair a white dress with camel or bright colors such as lime green. I like simple wedges or fun sandals for shoes, skinny belts, and heavier beaded necklaces. For hair, I like both romance and simplicity. A soft up-do or sock bun for longer hair, and a modern, polished almost wet-look for shorter hair.

The White Blouse: White blouses need to be set off with a very stylish or dramatic pant or shirt – something very tailored, or something with a bold pattern, check, or striped fabric. I love to wear a white blouse with a pencil skirt or a more casual paisley patterned short. This kind of outfit is great with

espadrilles, or preppy touches such as pink or green. Jewelry can be either simple or chunky/trendy ... just don't put too much in between your neckline and the top of your head. If wearing a chunky necklace, go lighter on the earrings. Or, wear a simple necklace and simple earrings to match.

Stay cool, easily put together and comfortable in white this summer.

Sarah Nearis is a fashion stylist, fashion blogger & style expert. A graduate of The School of Style, you can connect with Sarah on her All Things Beautiful blog: sarahnearis.blogspot.com.



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Isabela Lopes

Adam John

Allen Edzii

NOVA Students Named To Academic Team

Allan Edzii of Sterling, Amanuel Eshete of Alexandria (not pictured), Adam John of Reston and Isabela Lopes of Gainesville were named to the Phi Theta Kappa Top Ten All-Virginia Academic Team during a recognition ceremony in April in Richmond. The four students were nominated by Northern Virginia Community College.

Edzii, 21, graduated from NOVA in May 2015 with an associate degree in science. He was among the first cohort of students to enroll at NOVA with all expenses paid through the Honors Scholars Program. Eshete, 21, is also a May graduate. He

earned an associate degree in engineering and plans to continue his education in mechanical engineering at Cornell or the University of Texas at Austin.

John, 25, studied biology at NOVA's Loudoun Campus and served as president of the Alpha Zeta Rho chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He completed two research-based internships and will transfer in the fall to Columbia University to study neuroscience. Twenty-year-old Lopes graduated in May with an associate degree in social sciences and will continue her education in health administration at George Mason University.

Humane Society Of Loudoun Seeks Runners For Fun Run Team

The Humane Society of Loudoun County is seeking runners of all levels to join their Fun Run team- Running for Their Lives- now forming for the Twilight Festival 4-Miler on Saturday, June 13 in Ashburn. Each team member is asked to raise a minimum of \$500 in contributions in support of HSLC programs such as Foster Medical Care, Spay/Neuter, and the Loudoun Pet Pantry. The Twilight Festival 4-Miler is sponsored by Potomac River Running and includes a family friendly post-race party with moon bounce, carnival food, and beer garden. Find training schedules and register at www.humaneloudoun.org. Just click on the "Twilight 4 Miler Fun Run" tab.

They can be contacted at helpanimals@humaneloudoun.org

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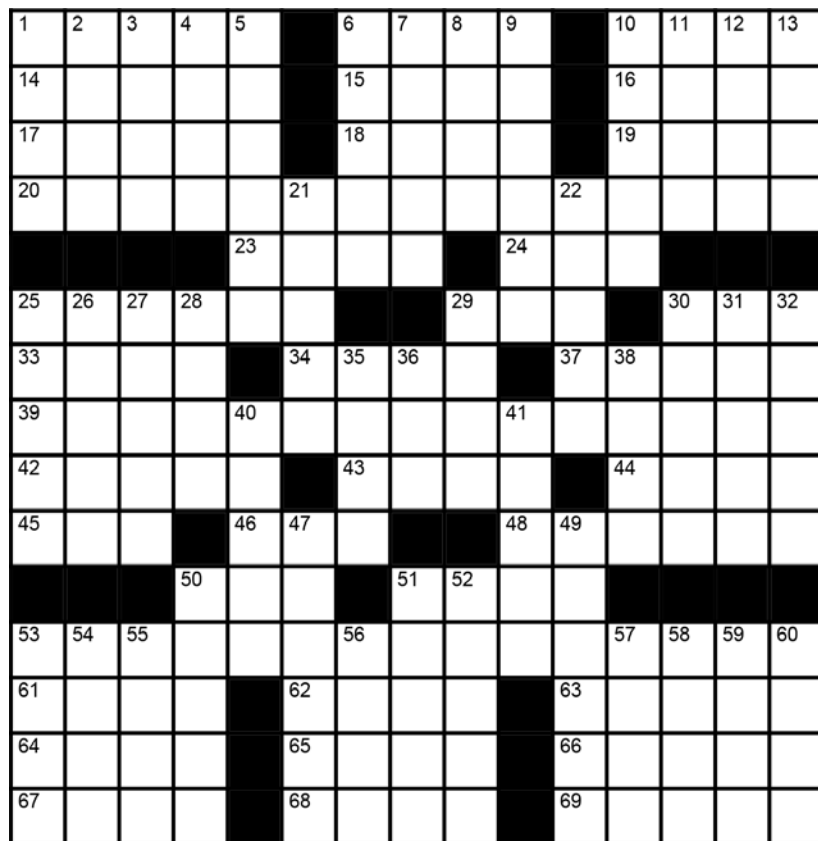
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Two-Timers

By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

1. Wet nurses, overseas
6. Auction actions
10. Agenda
14. Japanese-American
15. Brown family member
16. Comme ci, comme ca
17. ___ live one
18. Knock for a loop
19. Blood-related
20. Have many secrets
23. Arrives at
24. Belief
25. Whalebone
29. "___ show time!"
30. Baby carrier?
33. Favorite
34. Spot remover?
37. Colonel's insignia
39. Ambiguous expressions
42. Preserved, in a way
43. Wheedle
44. Chapter 11 issue
45. "May I help you?"
46. Symbol of strength
48. Social strata
50. Natl. Humor Month
51. Look
53. Looks twice
61. Fine things
62. Taro variety
63. Send on
64. Authority
65. Norse goddess of fate
66. Quibbles
67. Knock off
68. Cheese ___
69. Play too broadly

DOWN

1. Word with phase or retention
2. Entangle
3. Like some salts
4. Principal
5. Fodder
6. Stupefy
7. Sudden attack
8. Cudgel
9. Illuminated, in a way
10. Hymn
11. Trickster of myth
12. "Yeah, right!"
13. All alternative
21. Packed
22. City near Oberhausen
25. Fussbudget
26. Revere
27. Vuitton
28. Hamburg's river
29. Itty bit
30. Cousin of a bittern
31. Church property
32. Exploits
35. "Darn it!"
36. "Peace Piece" artist
38. Contributes
40. Antiparkinsonian agent
41. Surpass
47. Eager
49. Punish with an arbitrary penalty
50. Test, as ore
51. Indian caste
52. Key material
53. Blocks
54. Viva-voce
55. Vulcan's Chimney
56. Emanation
57. Bulls or Bears
58. Big top?
59. Set aside
60. Gael's tongue

Answers on page 38

McAuliffe Announces Movie To Film In Virginia

Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced that Virginia has been selected as the filming location for "Loving," a motion picture based on the true story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a Virginia married couple who, in 1958, were arrested for violating a state law at the time prohibiting interracial marriage. The couple sued, and their case was ultimately heard in 1967 by the United States Supreme Court, becoming a landmark civil rights case in defense of marriage equality that is still relevant today.

"Loving is a significant American story that should be told, and I am happy to announce it will be filmed in Virginia," McAuliffe said. "Attracting these projects to the commonwealth helps build the new Virginia economy by generating new revenues, creating good-paying jobs for our citizens and continuing to highlight Virginia's historical significance."

The film stars Ruth Negga ("World War Z" and "The Samaritan") and Joel Edgerton ("The Great Gatsby" and "Zero Dark Thirty"). It will be directed by Jeff Nichols ("Mud" and "Take Shelter") and was inspired by The Loving Story, a documentary that aired on HBO. The documentary was produced and directed by Nancy Buirski. She is also producing the feature film version with Sarah Green, who last worked in Virginia as a producer for the Terrence Malick film The New World.

"Mildred and Richard Loving were not political activists," said producer Buirski. "They considered themselves to be an ordinary couple who loved each other and were willing to fight for the right to live together and raise their children in peace in their home state. We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received in Virginia as we seek to do justice to the story of this courageous couple."

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

regret, dissatisfaction and unhappiness in both their work life and personal life. The phenomenon can occur for individuals roughly between 45 and 60 years of age.

There has been some very interesting recent research on the mid-life crisis phenomenon showing that happiness and contentment across the life span is experienced in a u shape curve. In these studies, younger individuals have been found to be satisfied with their lives, while middle age individuals showed a significant drop in happiness, and then individuals in their later years experience a renewed sense of life purpose and happiness.

There is also an emerging body of research in economics that is looking at job satisfaction across the lifespan. The results have shown a u shape curve – higher levels in early work and later work experiences, with dropping levels during the ages associated with the mid-life crisis. Interestingly, these results are not gender exclusive and do not discriminate across culture or socio-economic status.

Approximately 10 to 15 percent of individuals experience a midlife crisis and your husband may be in that group. Regardless of whether your husband is experiencing a mid-life crisis or not, based on what you have written, it is clear that he is not happy and probably has not been for some time.

In my opinion, improved and active communication is essential for improvements to occur. Thus, I think the first thing you need to do is talk to your husband openly about your concerns for him, for you as a couple and for you all as a family. Expressing your true feelings on the topic and without negativity or judgment is a good way to begin. I would then ask him what he believes would make him most happy and let him know that you love him and that you will do what you can

within your power as his wife to support him toward renewed happiness.

By inviting your husband to think proactively about his unhappiness, he can then begin to take steps on his own (and with you) to correct it. If he doesn't like your current date nights, then what would he like to do instead and plan that together? If the kids are upsetting him, then what can the two of you work on as parents to improve things? If he truly dislikes Loudoun County, then why not begin to work together to find a more desirable place to live as a family? Moreover, maybe the two of you could consider taking up some activities together - rock climbing, golfing, traveling, etc. - where you can rediscover a connection again as a couple.

I think you should also recommend that your husband consider entering therapy. Given your description of his heavy drinking, his excessive spending, his pursuit for pleasure in extreme forms and his tendency to withdraw from his role as husband and father, he may likely need to work on himself privately and more directly with a mental health professional. A well-trained and experienced therapist will be able to help your husband to both address his problems and to redefine his personal life goals and marital and family goals toward renewed happiness as he enters the second half of his life.

In the end, it is my hope that with improved communication, mutual respect and patience, you will both find the happiness you once had together again.

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.

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The Gullah Journey From Africa To America

They're back. After their first sold out performance in 2004, the Gullah Kinfolk return to Purcellville for a soulful evening of colorful drumming and singing. It will make you stand up and shout. This will be a night to remember.

The internationally known, foot-stomping, hand-clapping Gullah Kinfolk of Beaufort, S.C. in a musical stage spectacular is coming to Franklin Park on Saturday, June 13. This event is sponsored by Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center. There are two shows one at 3 and one at 8 p.m.

This vibrant, colorful show introduces the unique and dynamic Gullah culture and its ties to the historic roots of the southern Black church. Experience up-beat, exciting, and soul-stirring musical renditions based on actual historical accounts.



The Gullah Kinfolk have been featured on ABC's Good Morning America and in several PBS documentaries, including "Tales from the Land of Gullah." Founder and storyteller, Anita Singleton Prather, "Aunt Pearl Sue" appeared in the film "Forrest Gump." The Kinfolk have

also won numerous awards including the 1996 Aesop Fable Award, - Black National Storytellers Convention Award and the 1998 South Carolina Ambassadors of Tourism.

The Gullah people are direct descendants of our country's first slaves who arrived from Africa via the South Carolina and Georgia Sea Islands. Through the centuries, much of the Gullah culture survived intact, due to the isolative environment of the coastal low country and the ability for slaves to gather and commune in relative privacy. Today, the Gullah culture survives, thanks to a determined people committed to preserving their roots. A performance by the Gullah Kinfolk is a rare treat that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Tickets can be purchased at franklinparkartscenter.org.

Amateur Radio "Field Day" June 27 – 28

Members of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise from June 27 to 28 at 38668 Sierra Lane in Lovettsville. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

While not a contest, scores based on radio contacts are kept to measure operating efficiency and skill. Loudoun Amateur Radio Group has ranked top 10 (out of about 2600 participants) the last few years. This year we will also hold a Radio Merit Badge clinic for boy scouts at 1 p.m. on June 27, encourage education and further science and technology by providing radio and electronic related activities on an on demand basis through the event, and honor Norm Styer – a founding member of Loudoun Amateur Radio Group and strong advocate of the radio technology.

For over 100 years, Amateur Radio — sometimes called ham radio — has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet. Field Day demonstrates ham radio's



Gary Quinn at the helm.

ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network. Over 45,000 people from thousands of locations participated in Field Day in 2014.

"It's easy for anyone to pick up a computer or smartphone, connect to the Internet and communicate, with no knowledge of how the devices function or connect to each other," said Sean Kutzko of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio. "But if

there's an interruption of service or you're out of range of a cell tower, you have no way to communicate.

Ham radio functions completely independent of the Internet or cell phone infrastructure, can interface with tablets or smartphones, and can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. That's the beauty of Amateur Radio during a communications outage."

"Hams can literally throw a wire in a tree for an antenna, connect it to a battery-powered transmitter and communicate halfway around the world," Kutzko added. "Hams do this by using a layer of Earth's atmosphere as a sort of mirror for radio waves. In today's electronic do-it-yourself environment, ham radio remains one of the best ways for people to learn about electronics, physics, meteorology, and numerous other scientific disciplines, and is a huge asset to any community during disasters if the standard communication infrastructure goes down."

Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are over 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 5 and as old as 100. And with clubs such as Loudoun Amateur Radio Group, it's easy for anybody to get involved right here in Loudoun County.

For more information about Field Day, contact Ben Packard at bjpackard@yahoo.com.

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From left to right: Dominion High Art Teacher Shannon Freeman, student Alena Titova and Congresswoman Barbara Comstock.

Dominion Junior Wins 10th District Art Contest

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock announced that Dominion High School junior Alena Titova won the 2015 10th Congressional District Congressional Art Competition.

The competition, which was open to all high school students who reside in the 10th Congressional District, received 180 pieces of art. An independent, five-person panel judged each piece of art.

“It was such a privilege to view the great art produced by the many talented students

of Virginia’s 10th Congressional District last night,” said Comstock said. “Alena’s piece is just stunning and incorporates her brother in the piece. I will be bragging about it to my fellow colleagues when I pass it every day in the U.S. Capitol. Thank you to all of the students who participated, and I look forward to hanging their artwork in my Capitol Hill, Sterling, and Winchester offices. A special thank you to all of the art teachers and parents whose guidance and encouragement brought this competition to a new level.”

Kitchen Science Kids: Squish

Big and small, there are lots of muscles in the human body, and they all have different jobs to do. Smooth cardiac muscles keep your heart beating, while large leg muscles allow us to run, and kick a ball. If it weren’t for muscles, we couldn’t actually do many of the things we enjoy, and when they aren’t working the way they are meant to, the things we do aren’t as comfortable. Let’s take writing and drawing with a pencil, for example. Some kids like to write because they have lots of thoughts to share, but don’t enjoy the pencil to paper part-and that may be because tiny hand and wrist muscles are not as strong as they could be. Finding fun ways to make those muscles stronger and looser may just make your writing and drawing more pleasant.



ENRIGHT

Let’s try my favorite “Finger-Workout”:

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Now knead, squish and mix this crumbly clay until it sticks together. Every squeeze gives your muscles a treat-keeping them stretched, smooth and supple.

Hand muscles are small, but keeping them healthy means comfortable writing and drawing for you. So, break out the ingredients, and let’s squish.

Leah Enright is a hairdresser and kid’s science enthusiast in Round Hill. She welcomes thoughts and comments at mizbeytac@yahoo.com.

Art In The Burg – Middleburg’s Town-Wide Arts Celebration

On Saturday, June 20, the Middleburg Arts Council and the Town of Middleburg will host the third town-wide arts celebration, *Art in the Burg*. Artwork from over 30 local artists of different styles, forms and subject matter will be on display throughout the town from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrating Middleburg as an arts destination, *Art in the Burg*, will also feature plein air artists, music, and wine. During this celebration of the arts, visitors will have the opportunity to purchase art, talk with the artists and enjoy the many venues that will have art on display. The historic Town of Middleburg also offers a variety of shopping and dining options.

“The creative talent from area artists is amazing,” said *Art in the Burg* organizer Peter Wood. “Middleburg is the perfect venue to bring visitors and artists together with its history and charm. *Art in the Burg* will be an incredible day to experience this vibrant culture that is part of our community,” continued Wood.

For more information go to www.middleburgarts.org.

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Answers to puzzle from page 34

1	A	M	A	H	S	6	B	I	D	S	10	P	L	12	13																																
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