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## New Police Chief To Raise The Bar On Police Professionalism, Community Engagement

— By Andrea Gaines

Cynthia A. McAlister – accompanied by an enthusiastic crowd of family and supporters – was sworn in as Purcellville’s new chief of police in June, taking the oath of office before Loudoun Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens. Her first official day at work in Purcellville was June 15.

The Purcellville Police Department is among five departments serving the people of Purcellville – including Administration, Community Development, Finance and Public Works – and currently employs 16 sworn officers and one civilian. A group of local citizen volunteers known as the Purcellville Citizen Support Team, Inc. has been working with the police department since early 2000 to “aid and support ... in the prevention of crime and the promotion of safety.”

McAlister is now the top public official in charge of it all. In a phone interview with the Blue Ridge Leader,



Left to right: Mayor Kwasi Fraser, council members Doug McCollum and Ben Packard, Loudoun Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary Clemens, Police Chief Cynthia McAlister, council members Karen Jimmerson, Patrick McConville and Joan Lehr.

McAlister put a heavy emphasis on recommitting the town to the concept of community policing, noting, “People want to live in a safe community, and police officers are part of

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## Stage Is Set For Purcellville’s July 7, 8, 9 Zoning Debate

### No-Size-Limit Big Box Stores, By-Right Drive-Thrus And More On Developers’ Wish List

The Purcellville Planning Commission has finalized its agenda for the approximately 229 zoning regulations that will be the subject of three major public input sessions in early July.

The commission’s agenda ranges from uses that will remain unchanged in residential, commercial and industrial zones, to new uses that would now fall into the by-right category, eliminating requirements for public input before a particular project can proceed. These by-right uses include drive-thrus, no-size-limit big box stores, and high-density town center-style developments.

Developers seek a zoning map that has a distinctly suburban flavor to it. They also want an easier and cheaper

application and review process – one that drastically limits public input on their proposals and puts a much greater burden on taxpayers for the public infrastructure and other costs associated with development.

Proponents of Purcellville’s Comprehensive Plan see the proposed changes as putting the cart before the horse. They want the Comprehensive Plan to undergo its legally mandated, citizen-directed 5-year review prior to making any major zoning changes.

### Long And Laborious Process Coming To A Head

The zoning debate started at the Planning Commission

Continued on page 36

## Thanks For Keeping Us Safe!



Photo by Sarah Huntington

A big shout out to all the county lifeguards that keep us safe as we swim and splash our way through the season.

During the summer, they provide continuing support, education and training including Vigilance Awareness Testing (VATS) at Franklin Park. Supervisors manage staff rotations to avoid guards monitoring only one area. And, strict policies and procedures help ensure that lifeguards are knowledgeable and comfortable in emergency situations.

Featured here lifeguards from Franklin Park: Bottom, Jake Smith, left, Evan Goodman, right top, Michael Ciafre and top, Rebecca Ciafre.



Ancient Oaks, Wild Loudoun, page 31

## This Month In History



Loudoun’s Revolution Within A Revolution, page 16



# PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

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“I have been buying propane from Hunt Country for about a year now. My previous propane provider was much higher priced. The staff was rude and didn’t seem to care if you gave them business or not. When I was shopping around for a new company, thankfully I found Hunt Country. The staff is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and genuinely cared that you gave them your business. Hunt Country prices are consistently lower than their competitors. I highly recommend that you call Hunt Country Propane, if you don’t, you’re making a BIG(\$\$) mistake. Thanks Hunt Country!” —Ed, Leesburg



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Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition





# Ask Dr. Mike

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I are worried because our 14-year-old daughter thinks that “he” is transgendered. It’s true that she’s always been interested in more masculine activities, and this past year she announced to us that she should’ve been born a boy. She told us that we’re now supposed to call him by his new male name and use the pronoun “he” but we are not ready to do that. I guess it’s great for Caitlyn Jenner to come into her own, but Catlin’s story has bolstered my kid to think that she too will have some sort of glamorous coming out story one day. We’ve been very patient of our daughter’s masculine pursuits and attitude, but things are getting out of hand for us. She now wants to join an LGBT group this summer that we are against. We recently looked at her Internet history that showed that she is researching transgender topics. She is also reaching out to transgender teens about lifestyle changes. We’ve had horrible fights over the issue

because we won’t use her new name and she is usually angry with us these days. I know this probably isn’t politically correct for me to say this, but life is hard enough being normal. My husband and I can only imagine how much harder her life would be as a transgendered man and we don’t want that for her. We would be grateful for your guidance and feedback on how to fix this.

Concerned Parents

Concerned Parents,

The news of Caitlyn Jenner has created quite a stir. Certainly, her transformation from man to woman is a wonderful thing for transgendered individuals who are often misunderstood, or worse, marginalized and discriminated against societally. Since the Vanity Fair article, the topic is being discussed more openly and this will likely lead to greater acceptance for the transgendered way of life and community as whole.

I am not surprised to receive your letter, and as a child psychologist, I have mixed feelings about the increased media attention on transgenderism for children

Continued on page 34

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### Wine & Food Festival In Purcellville July 18



Purcellville's fourth annual Wine & Food Festival will be Saturday, July 18 from 3 – 8 p.m. at Fireman's Field, 250 S. Nursery Ave. This popular event was awarded the Visit Loudoun 2014 Tourism Event of the Year. To help offset some of the many fees associated with the event, Town Council set a \$5 general admission fee. Children under 21 years of age and designated drivers (non-drinking) are free, and will be issued a designated wrist band at the entrance gates.

Families and friends can reserve a VIP café table with seating for ten for \$250. Included is one bottle of wine, reserved seating for the entire event, early entrance at 2 p.m., and a keepsake wineglass. These tables offer exclusive seating for viewing the festival stage. Additionally, a limited group of four tables seating 6 each sells for \$750 and includes covered, reserved seating by the gazebo and music stage, two bottles of wine and keepsake wine-glasses. General admission and VIP tickets can be purchased through the website at

[www.purcellvillewineandfood.com](http://www.purcellvillewineandfood.com) or directly through Ticketfly at [www.ticketfly.com/event/869025](http://www.ticketfly.com/event/869025).

A new feature this year is the beer garden. Four Purcellville breweries have a collaboration brew debuting at the festival. The brew is called "4 Saisons" and is a farmhouse Saison – a French word meaning 'season' – and is a broadly defined pale ale, generally highly carbonated, fruity and spicy. Historically, Saison was traditionally brewed in the winter, to be consumed throughout the summer months. Not so long ago it was close to being an endangered style, but over recent years there has been a massive revival.

This event is open to the public and will showcase the amazing wines, foods and other fineries from purveyors located in and around the town. There will be live music from a variety of local musicians, wineries, craft breweries, gourmet foods and wine related art and accessories. Attendees may purchase food, wine by the glass or bottle and wine tastings.

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## How Did We Get Here And How Do We Get Out? A Summary Of Purcellville's Sewer Debt And Strategic Solutions

– By Kwasi Fraser,  
Mayor of Purcellville



Kwasi Fraser

Many of our fellow citizens are baffled by the proposed increase in our already high water and sewer rates, and not just about the increase that was proposed for the Fiscal Year 2016 but also about the proposed increases over the next nine years. This quote from one of our citizens to a council member sums up the shock and frustration of many, "You mean to tell me if I'm still living in Purcellville ten years from now I could have a water bill for over \$600 dollars." Well, if we continue with yearly compounded increases, a \$600 bill will become a reality, but there are alternative strategies. Before presenting alternative solutions to address our water and sewer rates, I owe it to our citizens to at least

Year	Purcellville Population	Actual Average Daily Treated Gallons	Average Daily Treated Gallons Which Will Require Upgrade Investment	Gallons Away From Upgrade Investment	Maximum Daily Treatment for the Year	Plant Treatment Capacity
2009	7,632	504,000	800,000	296,000	794,000	1,000,000
2010	7,727	528,000	1,200,000	672,000	888,000	1,500,000
2011	7,786	633,000	1,200,000	567,000	1,059,000	1,500,000
2012	7,820	582,000	1,200,000	618,000	960,000	1,500,000
2013	7,902	633,000	1,200,000	567,000	1,009,000	1,500,000
2014	7,975	601,000	1,200,000	599,000	825,500	1,500,000

explain the situation.

In 2008, the town council approved the upgrades and expansion of Purcellville's Basham Simms Wastewater Treatment Facility. The upgrades and expansion were to address the following:

Compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality 2005 Chesapeake Bay Clean Air and Water Act mandate on nutrient limits.

Future anticipated growth of Purcellville resulting in increasing demand for wastewater treatment.

The upgrades and expansion totaled an estimated \$30.5 million, with \$24.9 million from a Virginia Resources Authority Bond, \$5.2 million from a Water Quality Improvement Fund Grant, \$286,400 from a Bank of America Bond, and \$105,500 from cash.

As shown in Table I, prior to the upgrades and expansion to the Basham Simms Wastewater Treatment Facility in 2010, the treatment capacity was 1 million gallons per day (MGD) with average actual treatment of 504,000 gallons per day (GD) or 50 percent of the total treatment capacity at that time. At completion of the plant in 2010, the treatment capacity increased to 1.5 MGD with average actual treatment of 528,000 GD. In 2014, with an estimated population of 7,975 residents, the average actual treatment was 601,000 GD, which was just 40 percent of the total treatment capacity.

The fifth column on Table I shows how many more treated gallons per day the plant can support before requiring additional upgrade or expansion. This further illustrates how much population

growth the existing plant can support before needing an upgrade or expansion.

In 2014, with an estimated population of 7,975, along with business and institutional users generating 601,000 GD treatment, the plant could have treated an additional 500,000 GD before requiring an upgrade. This is the reason why some individuals estimate that our wastewater treatment plant can easily support all of the surrounding smaller towns whose combined population is less than 2,500 individuals with a smaller business and institutional base.

This brings us to our current state. With the combined water and sewer debt of \$41.6 million, as shown in Table 2, and not having enough users to consume the significant excess capacity at the wastewater facility, our estimated 2015

*Continued on page 7*

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(letters to the editor & press releases):  
editor@BRLeader.com

#### SPECIAL EDITORIAL

Andrea Gaines  
andrea@andregaines.com

#### HOT NEWS TIPS:

Valerie Cury, (703) 943-8806,  
tipline@BRLeader.com

#### WEBMASTER:

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### Independence Won – Much Left To Be Done

– By Delegate Dave LaRock

With graduations behind us and summer vacations ahead, we have much to look forward to. My summer will be full of events and opportunities to meet with people out in the community and on their doorsteps. My family and energetic team of volunteers are excited to be participating in three local parades



Delegate Dave LaRock

celebrating Independence Day, the day when our forefathers asserted in the Declaration of Independence that, "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" entitled them to cast off the oppressive rule of Britain and to fight for their belief that they were, "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The good guys won so here we are!

I wish all was bright and happy for patriotic Americans. There is a cloud, however, hanging over the weekend's festivities. This past week brought bad news for those of us who believe in the rule of law and respect for the United States Constitution. Obviously many leaders do not share a commitment to those principles which have made America great.

Obamacare remains a mess. Virginia families have seen firsthand the negative impacts of Obamacare: Cancelled plans, skyrocketing

premiums, higher out-of-pocket costs and stunted job markets as businesses are leery of hiring. The Court's decision provides no prescription for these ills.

The Supreme Court's decision does not have to be a lost opportunity. Congress can and should still act to replace this broken law with real health reform that puts patients and doctors back in charge, lowers costs and gives states more flexibility to care for our most vulnerable citizens without expanding entitlements.

Along with other Republicans in the House of Delegates, I remain committed to protecting Virginians from the side-effects of Obamacare by doing everything we can to keep costs under control and provide flexibility to families and businesses.

We also remain committed to strengthening our health care safety net without expanding our broken Medicaid system. Just this past week, I received a letter from the Loudoun Free Clinic's Executive Director thanking members of the General Assembly for helping them better serve the low-income families who rely on the clinic for help. The increased funding for the clinics came after local legislators toured the facility and conveyed the need for increased funding to lawmakers

in Richmond.

The legal gymnastics used by the Court do not change the fact that the Affordable Care Act is an unworkable and unaffordable disaster.

Along the same lines, the Court's 5-4 decision that ruled that the Constitution requires states to recognize same-sex marriages was another swing-and-a-miss. For the vast number of Virginians that hold to the belief that marriage is a union between one man and one woman, the ruling sends the simple message that their right to be represented by an elected legislature is subject to the personal preferences of five unelected individuals. Moving forward, it is of critical importance that the religious liberties of all Virginians be respected. We must also ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right to the free exercise of religion remains undiminished.

The court's rulings are not the final word. The patriotic spirit that we know exists in America remains active, and I for one will not sit idle while well-meaning advocates of social change persist in reducing the Constitution to a set of intangible and ever-morphing guidelines. Constitutional proponents are fighting for sound, uniform rule of law, and we will work to reclaim the ground that has been taken. We can start by renewing our resolve to respect the

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Fraser, continued from page 6

**Table 2: Summary Of Issuance Outstanding Debt**

Issue	Value of Original Issue	Outstanding Balance on July 1, 2015	FY 16 Debt Service	% of Retired Debt
<b>GENERAL</b>				
2003 Refunding – Carter Bank	835,133	196,930	68,944	76.4%
2012 General Obligation – Cardinal Bank	4,608,930	4,608,930	274,479	0.0%
2013 Refunding Bond	<u>10,840,000</u>	<u>10,305,000</u>	<u>905,781</u>	4.9%
	16,284,063	15,110,860	1,249,204	
<b>PARKS &amp; REC SPECIAL REVENUE FUND</b>				
2008 Notes Payable – Purcellville Vol. Fire Dept.	1,700,000	1,020,000	85,000	40.0%
2010 General Obligation – RBC	2,155,000	2,045,000	136,504	5.1%
2012 General Obligation – Cardinal Bank	446,070	446,070	27,265	0.0%
2013 Refunding Bond	<u>320,000</u>	<u>295,000</u>	<u>37,850</u>	7.8%
	4,621, 070	3,806,070	286,618	
<b>WATER</b>				
2010 General Obligation – RBC	2,245,000	1,965,000	183,120	12.5%
2010 Refunding – VRA	1,655,000	1,000,000	224,860	39.6%
2012 General Obligation – Cardinal Bank	815,000	815,000	47,069	0.0%
2013 Refunding Bond	<u>7,105,000</u>	<u>7,105,000</u>	<u>342,606</u>	0.0%
	11,820,000	10,885,000	797,655	
<b>WASTE WATER</b>				
2008 General Obligation – VRA	24,944,377	15,297,738	396,026	38.7%
2013 Refunding Bond	<u>15,425,000</u>	<u>15,425,000</u>	<u>729,779</u>	0.0%
	40,369,377	30,722,738	1,125,805	
<b>TOTAL BONDS ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>73,094,510</b>	<b>60,524,668</b>	<b>3,459,282</b>	<b>17.2%</b>

population of 8,200 residents, schools, and businesses are left to service that debt.

In our fiscal year 2016 budget workshops, two of our council members strongly advocated increasing the water rate by 3 percent and the sewer rate by 5 percent. Their reasoning was that the decreases that were made last year set us back and the increases will bring us back

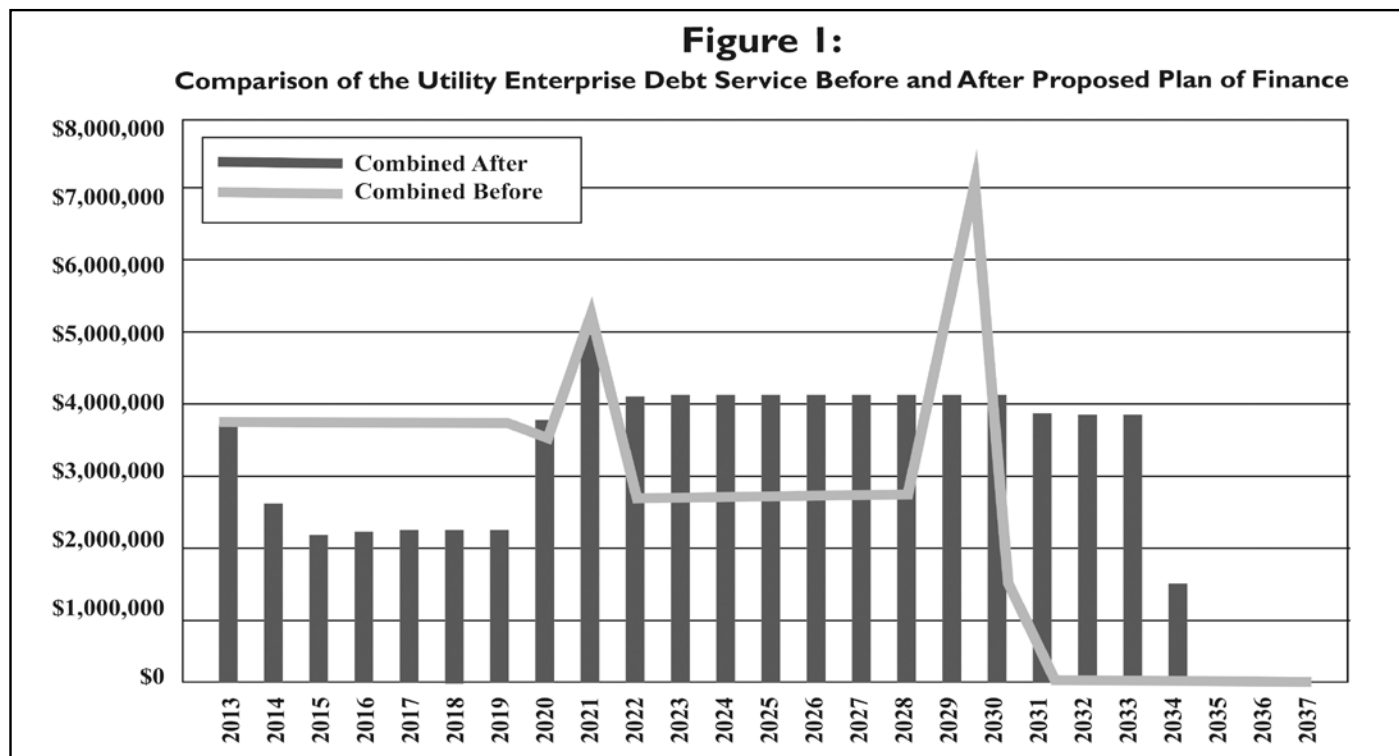
in line and enable us to ensure more funds will be available to address the future Utility Enterprise Debt Service including the balloon payment in 2021 as shown in Figure 1.

Our consultant, based on their water and sewer rate models, recommended that we make no increases in Fiscal Year 2016, but a 3 percent increase in water rates for each of the next nine years, a 5 percent increase

in sewer rates in the next three years and 4 percent in each of the subsequent six years. I agreed with our consultant not to increase the rate this year, to give our citizens and businesses a break from the prior years of significant increases in water and sewer, while implementing initiatives to bring in outside revenue to service the debt.

One such initiative is the pilot program to sell our excess water to out-of-town companies, which I anticipate will result in \$130,000 in revenue over the next 12 months. My goal was to use this additional revenue to go towards both water and sewer funds, but our accounting policy will not allow for any of that money to go towards the sewer fund since it is generated from just the sale of water. Due to that accounting restriction the revenue will be going towards the water debt alone and as such I voted for no increase in water and a 5 percent in sewer. I firmly believe we should not pursue any reduction if there is not a clear way to pay for it.

The 5 percent increase in sewer goes back to not being allowed to use any of the estimated \$130,000 of new water revenue towards the sewer fund and the significant debt burden from our sewer plant and its excess capacity. My commitment to the citizens of Purcellville is that we will pursue initiatives to generate new revenue sources to reduce our significant sewer debt. One such strategy that is being evaluated is the lease or sale of underperforming real estate assets in and around the vicinity of the waste water treatment plant. This initiative may result in significant revenue that will go a long way in reducing our debt and relieving our taxpayers from the burden of substantial rate increases.





## Purcellville Town Council Member McConville Takes Job With Bowman Consulting

At the June Purcellville Town Council meeting, council member Patrick McConville formally announced that he had started a new job with Bowman Consulting.

Founded in 1995, Bowman offers its clients a wide variety of services related to land development, transportation, mining, power and energy, structural design, wastewater, construction management and surveying. It also provides clients with zoning and regulatory expertise at the local, state, and federal levels. While its headquarters are in Chantilly, it has dozens of offices nationwide and operates in 11 other states, including Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas.

Bowman Consulting partners with many local developers and individuals with projects currently under consideration or recently considered by the Purcellville Town Council and planning commission. These projects include the Cottages at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, the 262-unit residential/plus 20 acres office/light industrial Autumn Hill/Mayfair development, Vineyard Square and multi-million dollar annexation efforts/development proposals connected with the Kline and Warner properties.

While not indicating that he saw any conflict of interest due to his new position at Bowman, McConville said he would meet and discuss the matter with Purcellville town attorney Sally Hankins, mentioning, specifically that he was excited about the Warner property development proposal, and was sure that the residents of Purcellville would be, too.



View of the untreated wooden hops poles and trellises on the Warthen property, looking southeast from Greggsville Road.

## “We Did Not Expect The Legal Firestorm” Farm Family Facing A Neighbor’s Lawsuit

– By Andrea Gaines

When they moved to their 10-acre Philomont farm 4 years ago, Alexa Warthen and her husband made sure the plans they had for their land were in compliance with each of the property’s covenants and zoning regulations. They got some chickens – “natural pest control,” said Warthen – and they put in gardens, new fruit trees, blueberries, raspberries and more – all to provide their family with a supply of fresh, healthy food. Everything changed when, with the help of Alexa’s mom, they

erected specialty hops trellises and poles and planted 2 of their 10 acres in the crop, intending to sell to local microbreweries. A short time later they received a letter of complaint about the hops from neighbor Sandra Dingus, followed by a cease and desist order demanding that the poles come down and the hops come out. “We did not expect the legal firestorm over the hops issue,” said Warthen. “We even made sure to use untreated wooden poles to help protect the environment.”

Continued on page 27



### Faraway Farm Middleburg, Virginia \$2,975,000

Solid stone home with copper roof on 70 acres • Original portions dating from the 1700’s • First floor bedroom & 3 additional suites • Original floors • 8 fireplaces • Formal living room • Gourmet kitchen • 2 ponds • Mountain views • Stone walls • Mature gardens • Pool • Primitive log cabin • Piedmont Hunt  
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### Liberty Hill Boyce, Virginia \$1,775,000

Mountain top retreat with 60 mile panoramic views of the Shenandoah Valley • 215 acres • 1/3 pasture • Main house circa 1787 • 3 BR, 1 BA • 2 fireplaces • Random width pine floors • 2 BR, 1 BA guest cottage • Stone & frame barn circa 1787 • Remnants of formal garden • Old cemetery • Spring fed pond • Gazebo  
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### Stonewood Middleburg, Virginia \$930,000

Charming stucco, log and frame home • 10 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright and sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room with 2 paddocks • 2 recorded lots  
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### Palmer’s Mill Bluemont, Virginia \$875,000

Circa 1860 Virginia Farmhouse • House updated & enlarged in 2004 • 3 to 4 bedrooms • 2 1/2 baths • Hardwood floors • 3 fireplaces • Exposed beams & gourmet kitchen • 10 acres • Fenced & cross fenced • 2 stall barn with tack & hay storage • Spring house & smoke house • Protected with mountain views • Piedmont Hunt Territory  
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### Cliffside Round Hill, Virginia \$498,000

7 acres and a bright unique home • overlooking Butcher’s Branch of Beaverdam Creek • Large deck off kitchen and family room • great for entertaining and grilling • 2/3 bedrooms and large basement • Nice value and well priced home in a great setting • Large windows bring the outdoors in • cute playhouse or potting shed  
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### Milltown Road Lovettsville, Virginia \$350,000

35.3 rolling and mostly open acres • Great vineyard site • Mountain views • Pond • House circa 1800, shed, barn, numerous outdoor buildings all sold “AS IS” • Scenic Easement  
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### Federal Hill Middleburg, Virginia \$350,000

Historic Civil War battle site • 2.01 acres • Improved by partially finished gate house which could be a home office or guest house • Potentially another building site on property • One large room with fireplace, corner cabinets, metal roof  
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The celebration features live music by the Franklin Park Big Band and a performance by the Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers. Food trucks include Cured, 3 Barrels 4 YNO and GK's BBQ. Free ice cream is being donated by the Hill Tom Market and Dot Shetterly. There will be games and prizes, treats and races. There will also be a chance to make a square that will be used by

Joshua's Hands to decorate a quilt for service men and women wounded while serving our country, face painting and glitter tattoos with Face Painting by Marion and more. At dark, there is a fireworks display. There is a charge for some activities.

The outdoor market before the event will give you a chance to shop for local food and goods before the festivities begin. To participate in the outdoor market, email [contact@HillsboroVa.com](mailto:contact@HillsboroVa.com).

Donations to cover the \$7,900 cost of the fireworks are needed and may be given before, during and after the event. Volunteers are also needed. To make a donation, to volunteer, or to get more information, visit [www.OldStoneSchool.com](http://www.OldStoneSchool.com).



Photo by Roger Vance

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## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Mount Zion Church

– By Tim Jon



So: You've never given the American Civil War a great deal of thought, much less walked the grounds of Gettysburg or some of the other, major battleground sites located in our region; you may not be one of those who get all excited and goosepimply when you're told that such and such happened here on such and such a day in history – it's the here and now that count for making our march forward in time and human progress. Well, I'm not sure that I can provide a definitive, mathematical proof to show the overwhelming merits of either side of this one; I do know, though, that I felt a renewed sense of self and my surrounding world after my morning photo shoot and stroll around the property at the Historic Mount Zion Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery in the southern part of our county.

No – there's no Hollywood movie about the events that occurred at this site just off Route 50 and Watson Road; tourists aren't going to argue about the exact spot where Brad Pitt, or Tom Cruise, or Johnny Depp saved the day from the bad guys in the film – because it was never made. And, on the day of my last visit (or on the first, for that matter), I'm not sure it would have added to my experience if the collective wisdom of our 21st Century American culture had somehow marked this specific geography's place in history with their digital cameras; I was happy just to be able to share the space with the birds and squirrels (didn't care too much for the insect population) and the whoosh of distant commuter traffic negotiating the new circles on Route 50.

Not that this place would make a bad movie: The church



building – erected in the decade leading up to the War Between the States – saw quite a bit of history unfold inside its walls, upon its acreage, and within eye and ear shot on the surrounding countryside. I'm told by those who know a lot more about factual (as opposed to my natural tendency – poetical) history, that this property served as a meeting place and shelter for soldiers, as well as an impromptu prison – and, like many other buildings in this section of our country – a hospital for the wounded.

And if these events fail to impress, your history guide will point out that on a spot close to this ground in the summer of 1864 the Confederate Colonel John Mosby and his men (guerilla innovators that they were) defeated the Union troops led by one Major William H Forbes. In fact, it's hard to spend any time in this part of Loudoun without noticing multiple references to the 'Gray Ghost' and his exploits in leading the 43rd Battalion of the First Virginia

Cavalry. Say: – isn't another name for Route 50 – just a few yards off the Mount Zion Church property – John Mosby Highway? Well, there ya go.

Returning to more general references to Mount Zion's role in the Civil War, we're told that a number of graves in the adjacent Cemetery contain the remains of soldiers who served in that conflict. Walking along the southern stone wall of the burial ground, I noted a few headstones outside the walled portion; my thoughts led to the easy conclusion: "These just predate the graves within the walls." Pretty simple figuring, right?

Well, later, as I actually conducted some research on the place, I learned that the final resting places for at least 64 African Americans lie in that portion of ground. Now, the Northern Virginia Park Authority states that these graves remained unmarked. Not sure whose headstones those were, then. In any case, as you walk this property, the knowledge of the relative identities of those interred within or without the wall may affect your experience in some way. And, if your kids should happen to ask why some headstones are over here, in the woods, outside the 'Cemetery,' you can take the opportunity to share a bit of our country's history. And its present – and how they connect. Or don't. And, when Brad Pitt, or Tom Cruise, or Johnny Depp (and the rest of the cast, for that matter) conduct their character research for the Hollywood Movie that may never exist on John Singleton Mosby, they will certainly have their hands full, and would bear a heavy responsibility, indeed.

So: Like I said at the top of the story – you've never given the American Civil War much thought? It's not Gettysburg, but a visit to the Historic Mount Zion Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery can yet yield substantial rewards.

## Freeing The Stories Of Loudoun's Enslaved Americans

– By Andrea Gaines

Pastor Michelle Thomas couldn't believe what she was seeing.

While doing research on land in Landsdowne where her church planned to build a new sanctuary, she came across county records of some 40 former slaves who had been buried on the property. The documents included bills of sale, repossession documents tied to specific individuals, and wills that mentioned the enslaved person's name. "I had driven by this spot," she said – near the corner of Belmont Ridge Road and busy Route 7 – "dozens and dozens of times ... but never did I imagine that I was driving by such a sacred, unknown place."

"It did not sit well with my spirit," she continued. "We call these people slaves, but they were not slaves, they were an enslaved people, taken by force from their homeland and sold as common property."

Believing that there was a reason why she had been provided with this information, Thomas launched an incredibly ambitious project called the Loudoun Freedom Center.

According to Thomas, the center will "use science and technology to explore

the rich cultural history of Loudoun County," including the thousands of enslaved African Americans who lived, worked, died and were buried on the plantations that drove the area's agricultural economy.

As the Loudoun Museum reports, in the year 1860, just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, there were approximately 5,500 slaves in Loudoun County – or 25 percent of the population.

Typically, a slave's burial plot was located on marginal parts of a slave owner's land, a place unlikely to be needed for other purposes. Markers were often used, but, over time, the plots themselves, along with the remains, were lost to history.

The Loudoun Freedom Center will include a visitor's center with an interactive map of the county's historic African American communities and efforts to identify and honor the remains of specific burial locations in Loudoun County – including those connected to the former Belmont and Coton plantations. It will offer genetic testing, DNA testing and genealogical research to help people with historic ties to these

*Continued on page 26*

## "Future Developers Must Follow The Rules Of Law Set Forth In Our Town"

Citizen Activist Challenges Vineyard Square Development

– By Andrea Gaines

Purcellville resident and businesswoman Mary Ellen Stover addressed citizens June 27, as she explained her legal challenge to Purcellville Zoning Administrator Patrick Sullivan's decision to let the historic downtown project known as Vineyard Square proceed, despite at least two expired Certificate of Design Approval permits.

Stover's antique shop, Mary Ellen Stover Antiques, is located in a part of historic downtown Purcellville that will be directly impacted by the 5-6 story, mixed-use Vineyard Square development. But, according to Stover, while she opposes the project on principle, believing that its size and scope is inappropriate for the spot and incompatible for historic downtown, the essence of her legal challenge centers on the special treatment being given to developers John Chapman and Mark Nelis.

Purcellville Zoning Administrator Patrick Sullivan had at first said that to proceed with the project Chapman and Nelis had to meet deadlines on each CDA issued. "The CDAs will expire and a new CDA will have to be applied for if the applicant does not commence construction on each CDA prior to its expiration date," said Sullivan. This position was supported by the Purcellville

Town Council, which voted in July of 2014 to deny CDA extensions to Vineyard Square.

However, Zoning Administrator Patrick Sullivan, who was instructed by town manager Rob Lohr to make a determination, reversed course in March of this year, when, using developer John Chapman's nearly identical argument, said that if diligently pursued the project would be considered commenced, regardless of the expiration dates.

Said Stover of the impending showdown: "John Chapman and Mark Nelis will have their attorney there, and I assume the attorney hired by the Town of Purcellville with our tax dollars for Zoning Administrator Patrick Sullivan – who started everything with his official determination to let the project proceed. This is such an important opportunity to fight to make sure current and future developers follow the rules of law set forth in our town. It is an opportunity to make a very strong statement to the current town council about where we stand. A citizen recently discovered that John Chapman even violated a Virginia state law when he demolished the buildings behind O Street, but failed to provide a certified asbestos inspection report at the time he submitted his permit application to the County."

*Continued on page 36*



# He Slipped The Surly Bonds Of Earth For Us ... Happy 4th Of July, Carl

– By Andrea Gaines

This aviator's poem is presented in memory of my uncle, Carl E. Alber – a veteran and celebrated test pilot – to mark all of the freedoms that became ours on July 4, 1776.

My uncle died on September 7, 1994, but would have turned 100 this year – on July 4, 2015.

The poem was written in 1941 by a young pilot named John Gillespie Magee, Jr. during a test flight of the Spitfire V aircraft. As Gillespie wrote to his parents at the time, "I am enclosing a verse I wrote the other day. It started at 30,000 feet, and was finished soon after I landed."



Left to right: Roy "Pappy" Seligman, Herb Crawford, Pat Gallo, Carl Alber, "Corky" Meyer and Fred Rowley.

## High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air ...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew –  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

## Loudoun Election Officials Release Names Of Candidates On November Ballot

The Loudoun County Electoral Board announces that the following candidates for local offices have filed all the required paperwork with the Office of Elections and Voter Registration to appear on the November 3 General Election ballot:

### Constitutional Officers

- Clerk of the Circuit Court – Gary M. Clemens, Eileen M. Tagg-Murdock
- Commonwealth's Attorney – Robert J. Ohneiser, James E. 'Jim' Plowman
- Sheriff – Brian P. Allman; Michael L. 'Mike' Chapman, Steve O. Simpson
- Commissioner of Revenue – Robert S. 'Bob' Wertz Jr.
- Treasurer – Evan D. Macbeth, H. Roger Zurn Jr.

### Soil and Water Conservation District

- Soil and Water Conservation Director, Loudoun (vote for 3) – John P. Flannery II, Marina R. Schumacher, L. Ali Shahriari, E. Burwell Wingfield, James K. Wiley

### Board of Supervisors

- Chairman, Board of Supervisors – Thomas E. Bellanca, Charlie L. King, Phyllis J. Randall, Scott K. York
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Algonkian District – Andrew D. Resnick, Suzanne M. Volpe
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Ashburn District – Ralph M. Buona, Mike R. Turner
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Blue Ridge District – Tony R. Buffington, Jr., Richard A. Jimmerson, Jr.
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Broad Run District – Ronald A. 'Ron' Meyer, Jr., Al R. Nevarez

- Member, Board of Supervisors: Catoclin District – Craig M. Green, Geary M. Higgins
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Dulles District – Anjan S. Chimaladinne, Matthew F. Letourneau
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Leesburg District – William A. 'Will' Estrada, Kristen C. Umstatted
- Member, Board of Supervisors: Sterling District – Eugene A. Delgaudio, Koran T. Saines

### School Board

- Member, School Board: At-Large – Beth A. Huck, Stephan F. Knobloch
- Member, School Board: Algonkian District – Ryan A. Myers, Debbie K. Rose
- Member, School Board: Ashburn District – Eric D. Hornberger
- Member, School Board: Blue Ridge District – Jill A. Turgeon
- Member, School Board: Broad Run District – Kevin J. Kuesters, Joy R. Maloney
- Member, School Board: Catoclin District – Eric J. DeKenipp, Dusty Sparrow Reed
- Member, School Board: Dulles District – Jeffrey E. Morse, Kenya Amira Savage
- Member, School Board: Leesburg District – William D. 'Bill' Fox, Tom C. Marshall, Nels A. Pearsall
- Member, School Board: Sterling District – Brenda L. Sheridan

To be eligible to vote in the November general election, voters have until October 13, to register to vote or update their address. More information is online at [www.loudoun.gov/vote](http://www.loudoun.gov/vote).

## Summer Movie And Skate Nights At Bush Tabernacle

The 4th Annual summer of free Movie and Skate Nights will be held every Wednesday evening throughout the summer at the historic Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink. These events are jointly sponsored by the Bush Tabernacle and the Town of Purcellville. All movies start at 7 p.m., and roller skating starts around 8:30 p.m. (immediately after the movie has ended) and ends at 10 p.m.

All movies are full-featured, family-friendly (rated G or PG), and include titles such as Maleficent, Into the Woods, and Toy Story 3. The full movie line-up is listed

below and can be found at <http://www.bushtabernacle.com/movies>. Admission is free and the concession stand will be open selling pizza, hot dogs, popcorn, and sodas at a nominal charge. The schedule is below:

- July 8: Earth to Echo
- July 15: The Boxtrolls
- July 22: Paddington
- July 29: Mulan
- Aug 5: Toy Story 3
- Aug 12: Monsters University
- Aug 19: Into the Woods
- Aug 26: Big Hero 6



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## This Month In History

July, 1776 – Loudoun's Revolution Within A Revolution



– By Andrea Gaines

Loudoun County was heavily invested in the fight for independence from Great Britain. Loudouner Francis Lightfoot Lee was one of 56 delegates to sign the Declaration of Independence. More Loudouners served in General George Washington's army than any other county in Virginia, and the county's enormous contributions of grain earned it the nickname "Breadbasket of the Revolution." But, the conduct of the war was controversial here. Said Lund Washington (General George Washington's cousin) at the time, "... the [first battle] we have in this part of the Country will be in Loudoun." He was referring to the Loudoun uprising, a rebellion pitting small farmers and semi-autonomous local militias – buckling under no export rules, rationing and the huge disparity in pay between officers and everyday soldiers – against the "gentleman" class. The spunk and determination of people within the lower classes – here and across the country – encouraged individual colonies and the Continental Congress to take a more revolutionary stance towards Great Britain, and contributed to a more egalitarian ethos in society, economics and government. A Loudoun County Revolutionary War monument – to be dedicated this fall – depicts, not a high-level officer, but a simple farmer, his wife and his child ... as he heads off to join Washington's army.



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## B&B Guild Helps History

The Loudoun County Bed and Breakfast Guild has announced that the guild has joined The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising national and international awareness of the history in the region from Gettysburg, Pa., to Charlottesville, Va. The JTHG has build a strong network of 350 local, regional and national partnering organizations to develop a common vision to brand and enhance the scenic, historic, recreational, cultural and natural resources of the region. The JTHG has collaboratively created a National Heritage Area as designated by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Bush in 2008.

Among its achievements, the JTHG has completed a Corridor Management Plan for the 280 mile long corridor generally following the Old Carolina Road and has gained recognition of the road as the 99th National Byway. It has created heritage tourism programs, award winning educational programs and the Living Legacy Project that commemorates the individual and combined sacrifices of the Civil War fallen by planting a tree for each of the 620,000 soldiers who died in that war.

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# Relaxation In Horse Country's Finest

– By Hannah Hager

When temperatures hit the top of the thermometer there's not much more to do than relax in the shade while sipping a cold glass of iced tea. This home is the perfect haven for escaping the humidity as it's covered by mature trees that create a private cocoon.

Before you start thinking that shade means no sunlight – reconsider. The thoughtful construction of this estate allows for every accommodation. Follow round the circular driveway with a centerpiece of a mature maple tree to the front porch that leads to a bright foyer. Beautiful hardwood floors are seen throughout and provide a brightness that gives a happy feel.

You'll find more of the same to the entry of the family room that is surrounded by windows, including lovely French-style double doors opening to a slate patio. Seamless transitions are executed between indoors and outdoors, but we don't want to go outside just yet. First we want to grab an afternoon snack in the kitchen with its white, custom cabinetry, recessed lighting and tiled countertops. Stand over the island or move the party to the formal dining room, which is elevated by two stairs and flanked by columns. You'll enjoy showing off the extra



finishes to friends, including the wood-burning fireplace.

If you're more of a casual person take them to the breakfast nook with built-in bookcases and views of your 10-acre property. You'll have ease of access between the kitchen and family room, but still maintain privacy away from the little rascals who have no doubt overtaken the great room where they're also sure to enjoy a wood-burning fireplace and cathedral ceilings.

The most enviable room of the home is arguably its most private – the master suite. You'll find no detail was overlooked in an effort to promote relaxation and rest. Crown



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molding, carpeting and another fireplace make for a slightly moodier ambience that promotes peacefulness. You won't be the only one to enjoy a bit of privacy – guests and kids alike will find their room assignments equally as appealing.

Now, it's time to return to the great outdoors where you'll be wont to never leave. The slated back patio with lattice work awnings

is perfect for entertaining. If you're childlike at heart why not take a dip in the pool? Or, if you're more of a worker bee take the short walk to your private multi-stable barn and start saddling up. Once you hop on the bandwagon of this home you'll never jump off.

## Shamrock Music Shoppe Unveiled In New Location

Shamrock Music Shoppe is celebrating its fifth year in business in July, but they'll do so from a new location. As of July 1, the Purcellville music store and school moved just steps from their current locations on 21st Street and Main Street; Shamrock will relocate to the old Post Office building located at 160 W. Main St., across from Gruto's Soft Serve.

Shamrock first opened its doors at 108 N 21st Street on July 18, 2010, offering music lessons, a large variety of musical instruments for purchase or lease and an abundance of Diary of a Wimpy Kid books and paraphernalia (the author Jeff Kinney is the owner's brother). To accommodate their growing student base, they opened Shamrock 2 on Main Street to add additional instruction rooms.

Their new location on Main Street offers plenty of room for instruction along with improved technology, an outdoor stage with lighting for rock camp and shows and a larger performance area for events and music showcases.

Shamrock's most popular summer offering is their ShamRock Camp, where students of all ages and levels experience the thrill of playing, perfecting and performing



rock and pop music. In addition to instruction on classic and contemporary songs, campers learn to write and record their own music. Bonds remain tight after camp and a number of camp bands go on to perform as ShamRockers at local events and festivals.

Regarding the move, owner Scott Kinney expressed "optimism and excitement. Shamrock has outgrown our beloved 21st Street and Main Street locations. We've enjoyed five wonderful years here, but it is time for our new chapter. Shamrock students and customers will experience a state of the art music shop at an historic town building

with lots of character, vibe and features of the original location." One huge improvement, says Kinney: "we will have plenty of parking, which will be very convenient for our 200+ students and several thousand customers. We'll miss our old building, but I guarantee you when you visit our new home, your experience will be unlike anything you've ever had at a music shop."

Shamrock Music Shoppe welcomes the public to their new space following the town of Purcellville's Fourth of July Parade on Saturday, July 4 with the promise of food, fun and of course, music. Shamrock is registering students of all ages for their two upcoming ShamRock Camps featuring popular local band and rock powerhouse, SwellDaze: July 20-24, July 27-31. They are also taking pre-orders on a limited number of exclusive autographed copies of the latest in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid book series, Old School. The book will be released on Nov. 3, 2015.

More information about Shamrock can be found on their website, [www.shamrockmusicshop.com](http://www.shamrockmusicshop.com), and on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/shamrockmusicshoppe](http://www.facebook.com/shamrockmusicshoppe).



Purcellville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Saturday July 4 – line up starts at 10 a.m. Emerick Elementary parking lot and the parade will start at 12:30 p.m.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writers Honored At Blue Ridge Middle School

Sixty-seven Blue Ridge Middle School eighth graders have been honored for their writing during the 2014-2015 school year. Many students had their writing selected for publication by Creative Communication, a program for student writers, while others won county-wide writing contests.

As part of the eighth grade writing curriculum at Blue Ridge, all students are required to seek out audiences beyond the classroom and teacher by submitting a piece of their writing to a contest or for publication. This year, students submitted writing to national contests, such as the Sejong Cultural Society Writing Competition; state competitions like the Virginia Poetry Society writing contest; and local contests such as the Harmony Writing Contest for Loudoun County students sponsored by Harmony Middle School. Eighth grade English teachers Shauna Korn, Eric Kursman, Virginia Walker, and Allyson White research and provide some options for students, but they also encourage students to independently seek out publication opportunities.

"Our 21<sup>st</sup> century instructional practices stress connecting beyond the classroom walls. Student publishing is a powerful way for kids to see their work as contemporary and relevant," said Blue Ridge principal Brion Bell. "I am so excited by this work – the teachers are blazing a publishing path that the kids are excited to follow."



# A Servant's Heart Scholarships

Joshua's Hands was established in 1999 in memory of Joshua Guthrie, who was an enthusiastic community volunteer. Joshua's years of service were cut short by his death at the age of 16. Joshua's Hands seeks to continue to be his hands of service in the community and to encourage others to serve.

In addition to an annual Fall Festival that is free to the community, American heritage education programs – which includes our Valiant Warrior Quilts, community service and teen safe driving education, the organization offers A Servant's Heart Scholarship. The scholarship is essay based and open to all seniors in Loudoun County. To date, the organization has awarded \$27,000 in scholarships.

The 2015 recipients are from varied backgrounds with diverse interests. Emma Appleton (Woodgrove High School) will pursue a degree in secondary education at JMU in the fall. In her essay she wrote about bringing lessons from foreign volunteer efforts back home to her family and community.

"One of the biggest lessons that I learned about serving was to bring my growing love for God home and serve my family," Emma said. "I have found that it is really hard to humble yourself before the family you live with all the time – the people whose faults you know well. In Bolivia, it was easy to help clean up after meals. Our 'fights' were over who got to serve and wash the dishes. It was easy to give up space to my teammates. But as I started to look at



Emma Appleton



Peyton Aspinwa



Henri Brown

my Bolivian 'family,' I realized that I was not as eager to serve my own family back home. God really challenged me to take the servant's heart I had in Bolivia back to Virginia with me."

The winning essay from Freedom High School was written by Peyton Aspinwal, who learned about service on a Nicaraguan soccer field. She wrote: "One of my favorite things about Nicaragua is the love the kids have for each other and the joy that radiates from each smile. It is a love that is geared towards serving, sharing, and doing. They are each so quick to give up what little they have for someone else who has less."

Loudoun Valley High School's Henri Brown learned about a servant's heart as he used his musical talents to

inspire others as he served in his community and as he built hurricane resistant walls in Belize. The message hit home when a poverty stricken child in Belize placed three of his cherished marbles in Henri's hand as a parting gift. In his essay he noted that a mission or volunteer effort might only make minor changes in an environment or slightly improve conditions for those in need, but it changes the volunteer forever.

Joshua's Hands Valiant Warrior Quilting Event is July 17-26 to make quilts for our wounded warriors. This event is free and open to the public. For more information about the organization, the Valiant Warrior Quilting Project or A Servant's Heart Scholarship visit the website: [www.JoshuasHands.org](http://www.JoshuasHands.org)

## Upper Loudoun Little League Pre-Game Ceremony

– By Carri Michon



Photos by Sarah Huntington  
Randy Kushner, Bill Roth, Mike Hylton and Elliott Rice



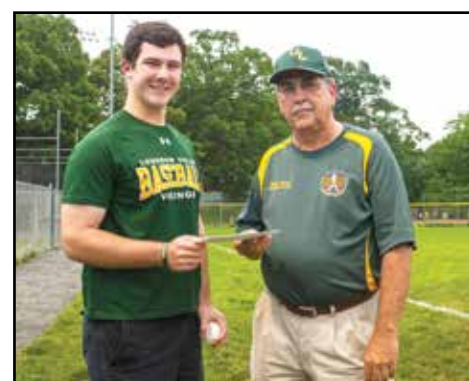
Norris Beavers



Beavers with Mario Valenti and Mike Alter



Dominion Four Barbershop Quartet



Scholarship award recipient Andrew Lohr  
with Norris Beavers

The Majors championship game for Upper Loudoun Little League dawned with prospects of stormy weather. Nonetheless, a nice crowd assembled for the pre-game ceremonies in the light rain. Following the announcement of the AL Royals and the NL Pirates teams, the ULLL Hometown Heroes scholarship given every year since 9/11 to a western Loudoun graduating senior, was presented. The 2015 recipient Andrew Lohr, is a graduating senior from Loudoun Valley who will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall. An excellent student, Lohr volunteered for his church and community as well as an umpire for ULLL for a number of years. Lohr threw out the first pitch for the game.

Norris Beavers, the Upper Loudoun Little League president, was then given a special recognition for his many volunteer service to our local youth. At the beginning of the spring Little League season Beavers announced his retirement at the end of the Little League year 2015. Beavers has served the youth of western Loudoun for the past 30 years as both a board member and president of ULLL. He has held the office of president for 15 of those years. A framed MLB Cubs pinstripe jersey with Beavers appliquéd on the back was presented, since he coached the Cubs during the years Beavers' three boys played baseball. An engraved Louisville Slugger bat was also presented. When asked for his thoughts on the changes he has witnessed along the years, Beavers said, "We have improved our playing fields with many fields having batting cages, bullpens and new fencing and new dugouts." Of course, lights at Haske Field, are a haul mark of Norris' tenure in the league. As for the countless hours Beavers has given to our local youth he said, "When I meet someone and they tell me when their sons played Little League baseball many years ago and they had the best time. When I hear that, I know it was worth all the effort."

Following the ceremonies, the Majors championship was then played between the AL Royals and the NL Pirates. The teams traded runs for most of the contest before Major Schollian jacked a three run homer to take the lead for good in the 5th inning for the Pirates. The final score showed 7-5 Pirates.



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That's why our pilot program for rising 8th graders is such a wonderful opportunity. For the upcoming fall term, we will be accepting students who will blend into the Middleburg Academy student population and participate in the STEAM courses. These pilot students will have the same advisory as other students, and their own faculty leader. They will also be eligible for all athletic teams, as well as music, art and drama classes.

Go to [MiddleburgAcademy.org](http://MiddleburgAcademy.org) or call 540-687-5581 for more information on this limited-space pilot program. It really could help your child take off.

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*Pictured: (back row, left to right) Conner Maroni, Bren Shea, Mike Levinson, Chris Focer, Ryan Rodriguez, Jake McGallicher, Scott Cote (front row, left to right) Cate Renner, and Robin Dezagottis (Volunteers not pictured: Linda Dezagottis, Mark Dezagottis, and the 1st Grade classes of Lovettsville Elementary School).*

## Monarch Waystation Senior Project Completed For Lovettsville Elementary

In May, Lovettsville Elementary School received a certified monarch waystation filled with asters, goldenrod, and three different types of milkweed. Planned by LVHS student Robin Dezagottis as a senior project, Robin worked with PTO board member Natalie Metzler and 1st Grade Teacher Dawn Snyder to designate a corner of the elementary school's eco garden for the waystation and receive a donation of milkweed plants from the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.

With the combined effort of college-

age volunteers and the 1st grade classes of Lovettsville Elementary, volunteers were able to work as a team to help weed, dig, and plant milkweed for the Monarch Waystation and erect an official monarch waystation sign certified by monarchwatch.org.

"I would like to thank all volunteers that participated, the first grade classes of Lovettsville Elementary School, Mrs. Natalie Metzler, Mrs. Dawn Snyder, Mrs. Amy Baker, the loaners of garden tools used in this project, and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy," said Dezagottis.



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# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2015

## Woodgrove High School Class of 2015



Chris Consaul, who gave the senior address, hugs Principal Sam Shipp after receiving his diploma Thursday at Woodgrove High School. Consaul's mortarboard was decorated with a tribute to "The Greatest Shipp of them all."



## Middleburg Academy Class of 2015



Congratulations to the Middleburg Academy Class of 2015. A wonderful group of talented students - they will be engineers, artists, accountants and more importantly life-long learners.

## Loudoun Country Day School Class of 2015



Top row, from left to right: First row: Mark Sogegian, Brian Wilmans, Michael Meglio, McKenna Martinez, Akur Thapa, Peyton Carter, Greyson Sequino, Lindsey Fouty, T.J. Donovan, Shiv Lamba, Colton Anderson; Second row: Sukhjot Bedi, Nadine Ahmed, Stephen Kallivokas, Taylor O'Brien, Ben Korkowski, Leila Marangella, Ryan Duncan, Cha-Cha Yacura, Drew Johnson; Third row: Lauren Rubino, Kurt McHenry, Elizabeth Wells, Trevor Miller, Arielle Bruecken, Chris Lusco, Gabrielle Latimer. The Headmaster's prize went to Mark Sogegian and the Philip E. DuPont Memorial Award went to McKenna Martinez and Lindsey Fouty. Congratulations to all.





Matt Merline

## Loudoun Valley High School Class Of 2015

“The Loudoun Valley Class of 2015 epitomizes the ideal of class and grace. While leading the school in high academic achievement and high athletic success, the Class of 2015 was always humble, gracious, and loyal to Valley. They, truly, were outstanding,” said Rodney Jones, Jr. Social Science and Global Studies Department Chair.

### Home School Class of 2015



*Pictured: (L to R back row) David Trejo, Caitlin Hammond, Samuel Trejo, Genevieve Pratt, Joel Eager, Emma Rolf, Peter Farris, Joshua Miller, Nathan Schell, Kenneth Reynolds, II, Mark Turner, Benjamin Saine, Thomas Garber, Cooper Millhouse, Matthew Steedly, Joel Monroe, Stephen Wormald, Andrew Sebeny (L to R middle row) Allura Hoover, Lindsey Rogan, Emma Lauderback, Corinne Brodowski, Emma Brodowski, Katherine Bode, Anne Sraders, Giovanna Grantham, Abigail Stocker, Melissa Jessberger (L to R front row) Jackalyn Fleming, Emily Peacock, Katya Clavelli.*

Blue Ridge Bible Church in Purcellville held graduation in June for homeschooled students. Thirty-nine students gathered with their family and friends to commemorate the occasion. Doug Domenech, from the Texas Public Policy Foundation, gave the commencement address. He challenged the graduates to make their unique marks on this world. The crowd of more than 500 well-wishers saw a slide show of each graduate’s lives, and many of the graduates gave speeches during the program.



### Heritage High School

Happy graduates from Heritage High School.



### Providence Academy Celebrates its Graduating Class of 2015

On June 15, Providence Academy, Loudoun County’s newest fully accredited private school, celebrated the graduation of its eighth grade students. The students will be attending a number of different high schools, both public and private, including Flint Hill, Middleburg Academy, Virginia Academy, Loudoun County High School, and Loudoun Valley High School. The students had a successful year, making it to the regionals in the Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, and in the top 10 percent of all participants in the Math Olympiad Competition. The students also had numerous service hours, and were exemplary models for their younger counterparts.



### Blue Ride Middle School Celebrates 8th Grade Students

Blue Ridge Middle school staff waved farewell to the buses on Tuesday, June 17, closing out another successful school year. This annual tradition is bittersweet as it represents the end of one year while looking forward to next. The BRMS eighth grade class walked out the doors of the middle school for one final time and looks forward to entering Loudoun Valley High School as the graduating Class of 2019. “The eighth grade class throughout the year demonstrated outstanding academic curiosity and great character. They will be greatly missed,” said Principal Brion Bell. “We look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.”



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## Ben Kellogg Achieves Eagle Scout

Benjamin Robert Kellogg achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor conducted at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Purcellville on March 29. Friends, family and troop leaders attended the celebration, including his parents, Robert and Deirdre Kellogg.

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

A senior at Loudoun Valley High School, Ben is an Honor Student, member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Loudoun Valley Varsity Lacrosse team.

Ben's Eagle service project involved designing, building and installing a set of permanent speaker stands for use at concerts and events at Fireman's Field in Purcellville.

Ben has served in a number of leadership positions within the troop, including, Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader.

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.

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## Blue Ridge Middle Places 11<sup>th</sup> In National Science League

### Blue Ridge National Science Day Declared



Tuesday, June 10 has been officially been declared Blue Ridge National Science Day. At a recent Purcellville Town Council Meeting, Mayor Kwasi Fraser and members of the town council signed a proclamation designating this holiday to honor a team of 13 BRMS seventh grade science students for placing 11<sup>th</sup> in the National Science League. The competition consisted of a rigorous test with 50 questions in the areas of earth science, physical science, and chemistry. Team member Justin Zhang had the highest score in the country. Blue Ridge

Middle competed against other seventh, eighth, and ninth graders across the nation and was the only public school in the State of Virginia to compete against two private schools in the rigorous National Science test that ranked the teams.

Team Members: Justin Zhang, Ronan Tegerdine, Alexis Eddinger, Lorien Kelso, Wyatt Marvil, Caitlin McCabe, Will Oppenheimer, Johnathan Grossi, Kelsey Blake, Alisa Geise, Elyse Ricafort, Emily Simpson, and Stone Zhang, pictured with sponsor Bonnie Kittrell and Principal Brion Bell.

## Court Is Back In Session July 10 At Union Cemetery Chapel

The Loudoun County Clerk of the Circuit Court is hosting a special program Friday, July 10 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening session of the Loudoun County Court after the Civil War.

In May 1861, the court justices ordered George K. Fox Jr., clerk of court, to remove all court records, some of which dated back to the county's founding in 1757. Fox removed the court records to Campbell County, Va., for safekeeping and they remained there until the summer of 1865. From February 1862 through June 1865, no court was held in Loudoun. To commemorate the July 10, 1865, court session, Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary M. Clemens and the Historic Records Division will offer an evening program July 10 to observing this historic event in Loudoun's court history.

Starting at 6:30 p.m., at Union Cemetery, 323 North King Street in Leesburg, the clerk's office historic records team and



George K. Fox Jr Gravestone

the Loudoun County Sesquicentennial Committee will sponsor a wreath laying and presentation on the life of George K. Fox to honor his legacy of saving the court records from destruction. Brenda S. Butler, chief deputy clerk for the clerk of the Circuit Court, will give a presentation on the life of George K. Fox Jr. Butler has conducted extensive research on the life and role Fox had in saving the court records. The court will also enter an order commemorating the July 10, 1865, court session and Fox.

The evening will conclude with a free 45 to-60-minute guided tour of Union Cemetery by Mary Fishback of the Thomas Balch Library. During the tour, Fishback will highlight the graves of many prominent Loudoun citizens and special monuments. The tour and wreath laying will be conducted by costume interpreters. Registration is required for the tour. Call 703-737-8775 to register.



## Franklin Park Arts Center Go Out Without Going Far!

36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132

### The Nashville Imposters: TRIBUTE TO NASHVILLE GREATS

Friday and Saturday July 10 & 11 8:00PM Both Shows

The Nashville Imposters pay homage to country music greats like Johnny Cash, George Jones, Buck Owens, Patsy Cline and many others. This tribute band performs hits like Folsom Prison Blues, Devil Went Down to Georgia, Cowboy Rides Away, Sweet Dreams and many more in this full 2 1/2 hour concert culminating in a salute to America's civic and military personnel. This year, country music impressionist and comedian "Johnny Counterfit" will be joining the group. Johnny has appeared on stage and TV with the world's most notable stars for the past 30 years as a crowd favorite.

Tickets: \$20 All Seats, Reserved Seating [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)



### Rainbow Puppets: Creatures Great & Small

Thursday, July 16 10:00AM

Tickets: \$5 All Seats, Call 540-338-7973 to Reserve

### Loudoun Centre Theater presents: Disney's The Little Mermaid, JR.

Friday and Saturday, July 24 & 25

2:30PM & 7:30PM

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at door  
Visit [www.thelct.org](http://www.thelct.org)



### Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv

Friday, July 17 8:00PM

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Child  
Visit [www.lastham.com](http://www.lastham.com)



### Main Street Theater presents: Seussical, Jr.

Wednesday, July 29 1:00PM

Thursday and Friday, July 30 & 31 7:00PM

Tickets: \$8.00 Call 540-751-9588  
or email [Karlalouis@aol.com](mailto:Karlalouis@aol.com)



### NEW! Gallery Coffeehouses

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

Alex Lassa, Acoustic Guitar  
Sunday, July 19 6:30PM

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

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



## Locks Of Hope Easy, Helpful

– By Mary Rose Lunde

I'm not the first one who has written about and done what I am about to describe, and I hope I'm not the last. It's not an action that seems heroic, but it does make a difference. The best part is that no one is excluded in this, because everyone can grow out their hair to 10 inches and donate it. In all honesty, I'm surprised that more people don't do it, it has no cost, and hair grows back fairly quickly.

I've donated my hair three times now: A week before I started fifth grade, two weeks before prom and in May. It took less than a year to grow my hair a full 10 inches in a ponytail with enough to keep it to just above my shoulders. It doesn't take that long for many females to grow out their hair, and it's not a long commitment. It takes longer to graduate high school than it does to grow out your hair long enough to donate.

If a minimal time commitment isn't an incentive the cause should be. Many organizations such as Pantene have programs to make wigs from real hair for cancer patients as opposed to synthetic hair. These wigs provide a happy ending and hope for those going through cancer treatment. The fact that someone cares enough to donate their hair instead of spending thousands of dollars annually to protect their precious locks is inspiring to all. Being selfless enough to donate hair and give another hope is true heroism at its best.

This isn't a female only thing either, men can do it too, and in my opinion will be quite heroic. I read an article about 8-year-



LUNDE

old Christian McPhilamy who endured countless insults from classmates and discouraging looks from adults all to donate his hair for someone he won't ever meet's benefit. If that isn't respectable, I don't know what is. He's just a kid and has gained my respect. I hope that

more people learn how to have as big of a heart as he does. Hopefully, Christian will get the respect he deserves and serve as an inspiration that will continue to encourage others to donate.

Personally, the feeling of sending your hair off to make a difference is the best feeling. Knowing that you have truly impacted someone's life and given them a hope and a feeling of normalcy even for only a moment is well worth it. Most people are motivated by this knowledge and usually aren't motivated by anything other than the feeling of love that is associated with this donation.

I hope to be a continual donator for this cause because I know in my heart that I am making a difference. I don't care how long each donation takes, it makes me feel good every time I brush my hair. I ask you to consider growing out your hair just once and making a difference. One donation can give someone the hope they need to continue fighting. Think about what you can do to make a difference.

*Mary Rose Lunde is a rising sophomore attending Virginia Tech and is enjoying her summer. She is currently growing her hair out to donate to Pantene where it will hopefully make a difference.*

## Lovettsville Co-op Attracts 450 Members

The Lovettsville Cooperative Market Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the co-op has recently surpassed last year's interim target of 450 members. The co-op continues its efforts to bring a full-service, member-owned grocery store to downtown Lovettsville to serve Loudoun County as well as surrounding communities in Maryland.

Building membership continues to be a key factor as member equity is one of the main ways to finance this project. Lovettsville Cooperative Market's next projected target is set at 600 members to successfully proceed with the subsequent phase of required financing. Community support and investment will help make the local grocery store a reality.

While customers do not need to be members to shop at the co-op, the advantages of membership include being a part-owner, voting in board elections, receiving owner rebates once the store is open and profitable, receiving discounts at special co-op events and workshops, as well as supporting local businesses, farmers, and other producers.

Individual memberships are available for a one-time fee of \$200. For details about the Lovettsville Cooperative Market, visit <http://www.lovettsville-grocery.com>.

## Amy & Dan Smith's Planning For Life: The Marital Agreement

– By Amy & Dan Smith



AMY & DAN SMITH

In Virginia, as in most states, a marital agreement can be entered into before or after marriage. It can cover a variety of topics but commonly addresses issues pertaining to the disposition of property upon separation, divorce or death of the parties, including spousal support. The agreement and any amendment thereto must be in writing and signed by both parties. Commonly, lawyers will require a list of assets and liabilities of the parties as an attachment to ensure that the agreement has been entered into with full disclosure. Each of the couple should have his/her own lawyer to avoid conflict of interest.

There is understandably a resistance to the idea of a marital agreement. To say the least, it would likely steal some joy after the marriage proposal for one to suggest to his/her betrothed that, while intending to live happily ever after, they should discuss terms of divorce. However, there is a place for the marital agreement even if divorce is not considered an option for the couple. It is important, especially with second marriages and blended families, that the rights and obligations of the parties upon death be addressed, even if separation and divorce are not included in the agreement.

Each state has statutes giving rights to a surviving spouse to elect a portion of the estate of his/her deceased spouse and to override provisions in a will. Such an election can disrupt a well-considered estate plan intended to benefit the children of the decedent. A marital agreement can specify the rights of the surviving spouse in the estate of the deceased spouse in return for a waiver of the statutory right of election. It can also contain provisions concerning who may serve as agent under a power of attorney and medical directive and as executor of the decedent's estate. These can be very divisive issues in blended families.

Often, parents want to preserve within their bloodline the inheritance that they intend to leave to their child. They may insist that their son or daughter enter into a

marital agreement as a condition to marriage in order to be sure that "grandma's silverware" doesn't eventually end up with the son/daughter-in-law either through death or divorce. If a marital agreement is not possible, an alternative is for the parents to leave the inheritance in a trust

for the child. Properly structured, the trust could provide the benefit of the assets to the child (and grandchildren) while withholding ownership so that the assets are not available to the son-in-law or daughter-in-law in case of divorce or death.

As uncomfortable as the topic of a marital agreement may be, the fact is that a discussion of sensitive topics before marriage can be a very healthy exercise. Attitudes may be revealed which had hitherto not been apparent in the bliss of infatuation, and thorny issues can be resolved before they are allowed to disrupt family harmony.

Children of a blended family are often comforted to know that issues pertaining to their potential inheritances have been addressed and are being protected by their parent. Sharing the existence of – and in many cases the details of – a marital agreement with children can help to dispel distrust of the stepparent.

*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](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com)) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Past performance may not be indicative of future results.*

*Loudoun's Enslaved, continued from page 14*

enslaved Americans a better understanding who they might be related to. A research library undertaken in partnership with Virginia schools and universities will house documents and artifacts related the center's work, and a Loudoun Freedom Chapel will be built to provide a place to reflect and meditate.

Pastor Thomas hopes to use the project to rediscover, preserve and restore endangered African American history while honoring these people, whom she refers to as "unsung heroes." She also hopes it will lead to new educational efforts in sciences so important

to in-depth historical research, including anthropology, archaeology, and biology.

And, Thomas seeks reconciliation and collaboration.

"We need engagement across the whole community to document, interpret, and free the stories of enslaved African American communities," Pastor Thomas said in a press release. "... share your gifts of time, talents, knowledge, and the wealth of your ideas ... build a bridge to a better Loudoun!"

For more information go to [www.holyandwhole.org](http://www.holyandwhole.org).



# Saving The Art Of Letter Writing

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

This year a woman in France received a letter in the mail. What made her experience unique was that the letter had been written on January 27, 1877, and was intended for her great-grandfather. Steve Insekeep, NPR host of Morning Edition, highlighted the unusual occurrence, making light of the delay in delivery. The letter was written 138 years ago asking for an order of yarn. This letter had miraculously survived two World Wars, and interestingly enough, was marked for “high-speed delivery.”

The French Postal Service is not the only one people make light of. Jokes about the United States Postal Service are epitomized by Newman in Seinfeld. Newman, America’s favorite mailman is often preaching about the importance of mail on the show. His constant rants are treated as a punchline. The inefficient delivery of the mail is chronicled on the show, and the writers continually turn to the USPS to provide a good laugh.

All jokes aside, there is undeniably something about receiving a letter in the mail. I remember opening the mailbox expectantly as a child, looking through the envelopes. How exciting it was to find your name scrawled on the front of an envelope. There was nothing like the feeling of getting a letter. The fact that someone would take the time to write you meant the world. Now that feeling has almost become obsolete.

Most of us can hardly remember the last time we received a letter in the mail. If it does happen it’s rare. Most of the time it’s junk mail that fills up the mailbox forcing us to shred the catalogs and advertisements each day in order to safeguard against identity theft. What happened to the practice of writing letters? In today’s world the internet has nearly eliminated the need for the mail. Everyone knows that an e-mail can be sent in half the time it takes to send a letter. Text messaging is even faster. While technology has brought us a world that is more interconnected, has something been lost along the way?

Simply Google “death of letter writing” and you will find plenty of articles that argue this very point. In “The Fading Art of Letter-Writing,” New York Times contributor Catherine Field makes the case that letter-writing is a “creative act,” which happens to be one of humankind’s most “ancient arts.” She also points out that letters are free of emoticons and abbreviations such as “lol.” One could argue technology has allowed us to dumb down our writing, filling texts and



MOORE-SOBEL

e-mails with abbreviations sans punctuation, trading in full sentences for simply pairing words together in an often illogical way.

Letter writing might also provide an added benefit. Mason Currey argues in “The Death of Letter-Writing,” (again found in the New York Times) that letter writing may have served writers in the past as a way to “ease into and out of a state of mind” that allowed them to write in a more in-depth manner. He argues that e-mail is not the same as letter writing because email is always “active.” E-mail is constantly updating, and each second brings more e-mails into the inbox. One could argue that letters are more static, allowing for readers to digest the words and craft a proper response.

If the art of letter-writing has been lost, what does that mean for the future? What about all of famous love letters that exist in the halls of history? In a particularly touching letter Winston Churchill wrote these poignant words to his wife Clementine. “My darling Clemmie, in your letter from Madras you wrote some words very dear to me, about having enriched your life. I cannot tell you what pleasure this gave me, because I always feel so overwhelmingly in your debt, if there can be accounts in love.” Words not likely to be captured quite the same way in an e-mail or a text message.

For my eighteenth birthday my parents gave me a gift that I will be forever grateful. They asked a list of important people in my life, people that I considered mentors and from whom I had sought much advice over the years to write letters offering advice for the future as I entered adulthood. My mother put them into a “wisdom book,” capturing those letters for me to have for the rest of my life. I re-read them often whenever I am feeling down, in need of advice or simply a moment of inspiration. This is a collection that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

It is startling to think that children born today may never experience the feeling of receiving a letter in the mail. Yet just because it’s easier to send an e-mail or a text message does not mean we have to. So the next time you want to tell someone you love them or remind them of how special they are, put your phone down and surprise them by writing a letter. Let’s save the art of letter writing one letter at a time and enrich lives. It starts with you.

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

*Police Chief, continued from page 1*

the fabric of that community. We have an enforcement role, but we are also here to educate and to engage. Our job is to create relationships before an emergency comes about.”

McAlister made it very clear that she intends to raise the bar on both professionalism and the level of community engagement exercised by the police department.

Over the next 30 days she will meet with each Purcellville police officer individually to learn more about their vision for the department – “What would you do if you were chief?” McAlister wants to know. She also plans what she called an “all-hands-on” staff meeting so she can draw upon the ideas of the people who know the department, its history and its role in the community the best. “I want everyone to share with me where they think we can do better,” said McAlister.

McAlister has started going door-to-door visiting individual storeowners, and will meet shortly with the Purcellville Business Association. She plans to increase the police department’s presence at key town events, including the 4th of July Parade, the Purcellville Wine & Food Festival, and the Town Wide Tag Sale – not in the role as enforcer, but as an integral part of the community.

McAlister is also very supportive of the law enforcement/community partnerships championed by outgoing police Chief Darryl C. Smith, including the Purcellville Police Homework Club, recognized by Volunteer Loudoun at its 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

McAlister and her family have lived in Purcellville for the last 10 years, and she herself made the long commute to her Fairfax County police department offices during that time. She knows what it is like to juggle the needs of family, including how to properly supervise and care for school aged children who often get home before their parents do. According to McAlister, the more people know about what the police department does and the variety of services it provides – including the homework club – the better they feel about the enforcement side of things, and the police generally. This is particularly important, said McAlister, given the negative climate and trust issues many police forces around the country face today.

Additional changes McAlister is considering include adopting a more “knock and talk” approach to policing, where individual officers proactively reach out to citizens they encounter while on duty. She is also a big supporter of foot patrols and may explore revamping and perhaps bringing back the bike patrol. “Officers aren’t really able to engage with citizens while cruising slowly through town in their police cars,” said McAlister.

According to McAlister, social media, too, can play an important role in the department’s community outreach, as this is how people, and in particular young people, communicate today. Because of that, she plans to take a hard look at Facebook and Twitter as vehicles for both keeping citizens informed of police department news and gathering community input on police work.

*LaRock, continued from page 8*

legislative process of our nation and our respective states and to move our great nation in the right direction by being well-informed and voting our values.

*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 29 years, building a successful family-owned general contracting business. The LaRock’s reside near Hamilton with Laura, Abby and John, the youngest of their seven children. Please call me for help anytime at 703 751-8043.*

*Legal Firestorm, continued from page 8*

The Warthen family farm is one of seven parcels that were once a part of President James Monroe’s Oak Hill estate – a property known as James Farm.

The land is zoned agricultural, and five of the seven properties in the subdivision include some kind of commercial agricultural activity, including the Dingus property, which leases itself out for cattle.

According to Dingus, however, the Warthen’s hops are in violation of property covenants which read: “Except as herein provided, land hereby conveyed shall be used for residential purposes only and no building shall be placed, erected or altered upon such land, other than one single-family dwelling on each parcel and such accessory buildings as are defined in the Loudoun County Zoning ordinance.”

Madeline Skinner, who owns the historic Philomont Store – and is co-owner of the Seven Oaks Vineyard on her own James Farm plot – is baffled by the Dingus complaint. “I hope that my neighbors will come to their senses and drop the lawsuit ... people here farm because they are

passionate about it. We have grape trellises on our land, and there have been no complaints about that. Farmers can’t take these challenges lying down.” According to Skinner, the covenants that form the basis for the lawsuit were put in place to prevent large-scale agricultural operations from moving in. “The covenants specifically ban poultry and swine operations,” said Skinner.

The lawyer for the Dingus family has indicated that they are not concerned with agricultural activities on other surrounding plots.

In recent years, the Commonwealth of Virginia has partnered with Loudoun County to, as Gov. Terry McAuliffe said in the fall of 2014, “increase Virginia’s position in the fast growing craft beer industry,” and support hops farmers. Last year, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that permits breweries and tasting rooms on plots that grow hops. The Virginia Beer Trail – which reports on the trends of Virginia’s craft and micro breweries reports that up to 66 breweries now operate in Northern Virginia, with as many as 16 in Loudoun County.



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## ARTIST'S PROFILE

# MICHELE SOMMERS, MURAL ARTIST

## THE BEAUTY OF LIFE, EVOLVING OVER TIME

– By Andrea Gaines

Two things defy reason when it comes to mural artist and painter Michele Sommers.

The first is her irrepressibly humble attitude towards her talent. The second is the absolute divinity of her work.

I knew that in writing about her in this way she would be thinking, Oh ... come on ... I'm not THAT good!

But, it really is hard to describe Sommers' work without using words like moving, spiritual, dreamy, captivating.

Sommers says that she grew up doodling. But, how she got from that to taking on well-paid commissions for huge, wall-sized murals is quite the story.

Michele's father was artistic, she says, but while very talented he never pursued art as a profession – something she seemed to regret on a personal level.

Michele has always loved to draw, but has only recently had any formal artistic training. When a good friend who owned a gourmet shop in Front Royal asked her if she would paint something pretty on the shop's counter, however, she said, yes.

Within a few years, by word of mouth the paid commissions were rolling in. Her work is now in private homes, professional offices, small businesses, churches and animal shelters, on the interior and exterior of barns and on cinderblock walls.

Murals, as Sommers describes it, are living things. And, they are. Michele's work seems to bloom and grow – to evolve – over time.

Says Sommers, "I ask my clients what they want in the mural. They give me a list of what should be in it, but we often add things along the way. When the mural is finished, I follow up with them every couple of weeks to make sure nothing more needs to be added. Murals evolve and age, just like living things."

This was the case with a large, almost mural-sized canvas that Sommers recently completed for a local farm. With every manner of animal and insect in it – from cattle, to



Michele at work.



Memorial to soldiers.



Mural for seafood restaurant.

sheep, goats, farm dogs, horses, pigs and bees – Sommers' reaction to the finished product was, "Might need another bird or two."

A dramatic mural for an Ashburn seafood restaurant begs the same question – does it need another seagull? A large Mediterranean-style canvas, awash in tropical trees and flowers, literally looks like it is getting ready to sprout another fern. A seascape mural in a child's bedroom shows a group of sea turtles, yearning to welcome, over time, a just-hatched baby turtle.

Then there is a very touching mural entitled, "Freedom Isn't Free." The personal story behind Sommers' Freedom Isn't Free says it all about this lovely and devoted artist and her client.

Her client, the manager of a large factory in Winchester said he wanted to dedicate a wall space to the sacrifices of the nation's soldiers, including those he had served with in Iraq. He knew he wanted particular elements in the image, but provided her with few other details. He did, however, give her many of his own personal photos and contribute his military expertise. With that, she dove deep into herself ... producing a dramatic, floor-to-ceiling image that shows an American eagle swooping in with a dramatic Freedom Isn't Free banner, empty boots topped off with an old helmet, a POW/MIA flag, helicopters patrolling in the distance and two soldiers – one of whom is stepping out of the mural to greet those looking at it. A simple idea rendered in very



Large canvas for local farm.

personal and engaging way, the two soldiers are based on old wartime photos of Michele's father and a newer one of her brother, both of which served as marines. Generations of soldiers seem to be waiting to be added to the moment.

This is Michele Sommers in a nutshell. Quietly humble. Aware of her talent. But, always focused on showcasing the beauty of life, and how it evolves over time.

See more of Michele Sommers' work at [www.facebook.com/sommersend](http://www.facebook.com/sommersend).

## LOUDOUN COUNTY FAIR JULY 27 TO AUGUST 1



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



## ONGOING EVENTS

☉ **Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lovettsville Cooperative Market's outdoor farm market.** On the green space behind Andy's restaurant in downtown Lovettsville. The farm market features locally grown and sourced fresh fruits, vegetables, lamb, chicken, eggs, baked goods, coffee, maple syrup, elderberry products and other products.

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

☉ **Wednesdays, fourth annual summer of free movie and skate nights** at Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink. Movies start at 7 p.m., and roller skating starts around 8:30 p.m. (after the movie has ended) and ends at 10 p.m. Go to <http://www.bushtabernacle.com/movies> for more information. July movies: July 8 Earth to Echo, July 15 The Boxtrolls, July 22 Paddington and July 29 Mulan.

## JULY EVENTS

☉ **July 3, Friday, Lovettsville Community Center's annual Independence Day Celebration** beginning at 6 p.m. with a parade through town. From 6:45-8:30 p.m. enjoy pool party, register ahead. Fireworks start about 9:15 p.m.

☉ **July 4, Saturday, Salamander Resort & Spa Fourth of July celebration** including a dinner buffet, live music, family activities and fireworks. Go to [www.salamanderresort.com](http://www.salamanderresort.com).

☉ **July 4, Saturday, Middleburg Community Center July 4 celebration.** Children's parade at 6 p.m. Live music with Pan Masters at 7 p.m. Fireworks at dark.

☉ **July 5, Sunday, "Apartheid USA: An African-American Experience Unmasked by Stories from Ferguson to Baltimore,"** at St. James United Church of Christ in Lovettsville at 9:30 a.m. Presented by artist-activist David Howard Sawyer. Event includes a potluck picnic brunch.

☉ **July 10, Friday, Lovettsville Movies on the Green series.** The Princess Bride is the free movie. It starts at dusk on the Town Green.

☉ **July 12, Sunday, Butterflies of Loudoun Identification Class** at 10:30 a.m. to noon, Morven Park. Cost: \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Registration required at [www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm](http://www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm).

☉ **July 19, Sunday, "We're Going Wild" Family Nature Walk Series** from 1 – 3 p.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Designed for ages 7 and older, with accompanying adult. Registration required at [www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm](http://www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm).

☉ **July 25 and 26, Saturday and Sunday, Butterflies and Blackberries at Great Country Farms** from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is teaming up with Great Country Farms in Bluemont for Monarch education along with blackberry picking. Monarch Education Program Talks on the half hour from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Entrance fees apply. Go to [www.greatcountryfarms.com](http://www.greatcountryfarms.com) for details.

☉ **July 25, Saturday, Lovettsville Music on the Green** at 7 p.m. See The Immortals play on the Town Green.

☉ **July 27, Monday-Aug. 1, Saturday, Loudoun County Fair,** 17558 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg. <https://loudouncountyfair.com/>

☉ **July 31, Friday-Aug. 2, Sunday, Middleburg's ninth annual Summer Sidewalk Sale** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

☉ **July 29, Wednesday, Chapman DeMary Trail Weed and Waste Warriors** from 5-7 p.m. Sign up online at [www.NatGen.org](http://www.NatGen.org). Trail is located behind the building at 205 Hirst Road in Purcellville.

## CARVER CENTER JULY EVENTS

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



Zoo Day at Carver

### July 2, Thursday

Independence Day Celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all ages. The theme of this year's celebration is Zoo Day. Animals will abound both in the center and outside. Donations to the Loudoun Animal Shelter are optional but appreciated. Lunch costs \$4 for those under 60 years old, and is by donation for those age 60 and over.

### July 30, Thursday

County Fair Senior Day from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for ages 55 and older. The bus will take you to the Loudoun County Fair.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Tai Chi for 55 & Up

Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Non-members pay \$2. For ages 55 and older. Slow-motion routines practiced in a group to promote strength, balance and flexibility. New students welcome.

### Qigong

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## Two Kitchen Cousins Present ... Plate To Tempt, Plate To Tease

— By Lisa Wasson And Andrea Gaines

Plating pulls a dish together, using color for visual appeal, showcasing ingredients and revealing the flavors and textures to be enjoyed. It isn't so much about making something look pretty as it is about making it look appetizing. Here are the basics of good plating, along with some great examples.

### Good plating ...

- **Is more than a garnish.** Everything on the plate should be edible and compliment the flavors in the dish.
- **Is simple.** Even if the presentation is a bit unstructured and scattered, it has a limited number of features and a decided theme — whether casual or 5-Star.
- **Showcases the food.** Placing a smaller portion of food on a larger plate or platter, and otherwise allowing the food to be the focus of attention can achieve this.
- **Balances color.** The dark and neutral colors of meat, bread and pasta for example, are offset by bright greens, reds, pink, yellow and orange.
- **Structures the dish.** Sometime this means clustering items in threes — with starch at 10 o'clock, proteins at 6 o'clock and vegetables at 2 o'clock; sometimes this means creating a stack or pyramid; sometimes it means using geometric patterns to emphasize contrasts in flavor and color.

• **Shows creativity.** Food stylists say nothing says good plating more than something that surprises — a chilled shrimp accenting a fish dish, a vertical sprig of fresh herb, a beautiful edible flower resting atop a hearty steak.

**Fancy Grilled Steak:** Make a signature piece of meat, fish or pork the focus of your plate. Here, a filet mignon is dressed with a small pool of gravy, a dried red pepper, julienned fried onion and a spring of thyme.

**Rustic Brochette:** French or Italian toast rounds — topped with your favorite brochette mixture and garnished with freshly ground black pepper and cherry tomatoes — is simple, rustic and beautiful.

**Spaghetti With Mushrooms & Orange:** Plate your pasta to reveal its flavors. Here, creamy mushrooms are presented as a topping with strips of orange zest. A spray of savory orange sauce finishes off the dish.

**Blue Cheese Burger:** For burgers — and any kind of sandwich, really — put the ingredients together in a loose way that lets all of them show ... much more appetizing than a regular old closed face sandwich plate.

**Sliced Meats & Cheeses:** Arranged on a cutting board with some fresh greens and herbs, sliced meats and cheeses look delicious and ready to snack on — on their own or with a cracker or slice of bread.

**Pizza:** Fresh out of the oven pizza benefits from an added something — a sprinkling of arugula, a drizzle of oil, a chiffonade of basil, a sprinkling of fresh parsley or thyme or a grind or two of fresh pepper.

**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.





# Wild Loudoun

## Ancient Oaks – The Great Providers



The “Old John” white oak on Phillips Farm in Waterford dates back to the 1700s, and may be pre-Revolutionary War. The magnificent luna moth is a species highly dependent on the mighty oak.

– By Andrea Gaines

She feeds the birds. She shelters the mammal. She cools the air, provides us with shade and conserves the water and soil.

She is the mighty old oak, an ecosystem unto herself.

All except the smallest living things function as an ecosystem of sorts – whether harboring the bacteria and microscopic plants that break down organic matter, or sustaining the mammals, birds and other living things that draw nutrition and safety from them.

In the case of trees, and old oak trees in particular, the variety of life that they help sustain is enormous. The sturdy, slow-growing oak is an ecological champion – the great provider.

More than 100 vertebrate species, including deer, chipmunk, porcupine, rabbits, beavers, mice, black bear, squirrels, jays, ducks, pheasants, wild turkey and more browse on and cache – saving for future use – the oak’s leathery leaves, fatty, sugar- and vitamin-rich acorns, mineral-rich twigs, and nutritious young shoots. In the case of blue jays, the bird’s tendency to cache acorns in open fields gives the oak seedling a superior chance for survival, free of competition from neighboring trees.

Dozens of bird species, including chickadees, wrens, woodpeckers, flickers, owls, bluebirds and the jay use the mature oak’s branches, nesting holes, crown and crevices for shelter and to raise their young.

The oak’s acorns sustain whole

populations of animals through the hardest of winters. For, while oaks are slow growing, they are long-lived and extremely productive. In a good year, a mature oak might produce 5,000 or more acorns.

Insects depend upon her, too. Mature oaks are used by more moth and butterfly species than any other tree. For example, eastern oaks support 20 species of dagger moths, 18 species of underwings, eight species of hairstreaks, 44 species of inchworms and 15 species of giant silk moths. The caterpillars of the emerald-green wonder known as the luna moth – one of the giant silk moths – are highly dependent on oak trees for nourishment.

Native Americans prized and revered the oak for its leaves, flowers, and bark, which they used for medicinal purposes. Tribes from the east coast to the west coast also used acorn flour in breads and stews, while tannins from oak bark were used for dyeing and tanning.

Many of America’s most enduring buildings are framed with the dense, durable wood of the oak tree.

And, a mature oak presides with great dignity over the spot in which it sits. The roots of an oak reach out to three times the height of the tree itself, stabilizing slopes, limiting soil and stream bank erosion, and providing for groundwater recharge. Mature oaks also trap carbon and other air pollutants, and cool the air around them by transpiring up to 100 gallons of water per day.

Food, shelter, water and soil conservator, the mighty oak is indeed the great provider.

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# Go Pink ... As Pink As You Like

– By Sarah Nearis

Look at these sweet and summery pink blouses and tops. Don't you want to try one on?

Some women are afraid to wear pink, thinking it's a bit too feminine.

But, pink comes in such a wide variety of shades – from soft mauves to fuchsias to tones with a little more blue in them.

Even women who tend to shy away from color – and that's me – can find a pink that complements their skin tone, and sets off their best features.

I love these five blouses because they show different shades, styles, details and fabrics – showcasing pink's power and versatility.

**All Out Feminine:** This pink cap sleeve blouse is perfect for summer because of its lovely rose tone. Its smooth texture and ruffles make it a great blank canvas for pearls or another feminine touch, and the wrap detail is very figure flattering. I like this pink for a fair-skinned woman.



**The Hawaiian:** With a crisp cotton texture, gathers at the sleeves and bottom, a tie at the top and a loose shape, this kind of blouse would be great with bright white jeans or a bright white skirt. The shade is very complimentary for a woman with darker or sun-kissed skin tones.



**The Edwardian:** While long summer days are amazing, summer nights can be even more fun. I like this fancy, button up blouse for its nighttime drama, and because the elastic bottom and flowing shape make it comfortable and fashionable at the same time. Pair a blouse like this with layers of understated gold jewelry and another pop of color from shoes or a bag.

**The Simplified Peasant:** While dressing up for a much anticipated summer evening is always exciting, it's the denim shorts and airy top days that showcase the carefree nature of the time. This super-easy-to-wear peasant-style top calls out for ice cream, and iced-tea and putting your feet up. I love the almost neon tone of the color and the roomy, open style of the sleeves.



**The Wanda:** My grandmother would have loved this timeless polka dot blouse. It has an easy, elegant, almost vintage feel. I think it calls for a skirt ... or really simple pants. The waistline is flattering to all manner of figures. This shade of pink will compliment a variety of skin tones.

Try it. Experiment. Go pink. Go as pink as you like.  
**Beauty Tip:** Next time you are looking for a great neutral nail – tired of your classic French manicure or clear polish – consider light pink. Light pink is perfectly soft, perfectly beautiful ... and quiet, giving your nails a simple, well-kept look.

*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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## Lightning Strike Damages Waterford Home



The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office has confirmed that a lightning strike is responsible for a fire that damaged a Waterford home.

At 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, fire and rescue units from Hamilton, Lucketts, Leesburg, Purcellville, Round Hill, and Lansdowne were dispatched for a house fire at 15555 Second Street in Waterford. The first fire and rescue crews to arrive on the scene found smoke showing from the eaves of a large, two-story home. Firefighters made entry and located a fire in the attic of the home. Faced with zero visibility and high heat in the attic, firefighters worked quickly to extinguish the fire.

Once the fire was out, firefighters closed the ventilation hole in the roof and covered the resident's belongings to minimize water damage. Two occupants and their pets were home at the time of the fire and escaped unharmed. The occupants were not displaced and able to remain in an unaffected portion of the house. No firefighter injuries resulted from this incident.

The Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene and has determined the cause of the fire to be natural, resulting from a lightning strike. Damages to the home are estimated at \$150,000.

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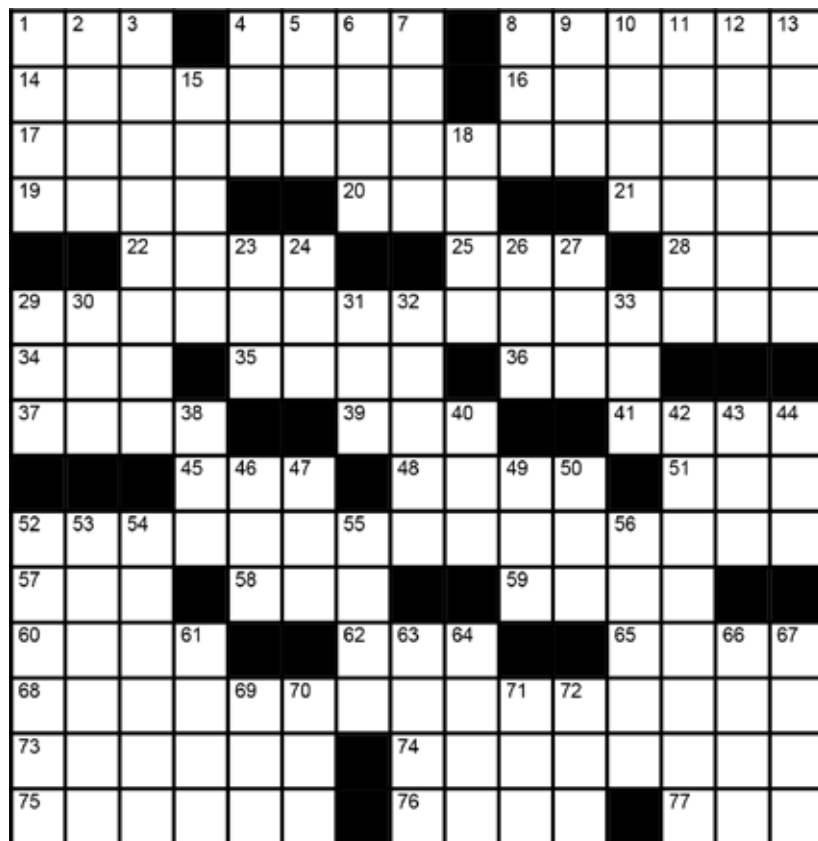
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## Home, Sweet Home By Myles Mellor and Sally York

**ACROSS**

1. "\_\_\_ be my pleasure!"
4. Enthralled
8. Quickly, in music
14. Medieval lord
16. Squares things
17. Rental papers
19. Exec's note
20. Unfamiliar
21. Circular opening?
22. That certain something
25. Carbonium, e.g.
28. Call
29. Home business
34. Singer DiFranco
35. Doorpost
36. Ending of the Bible
37. Houston \_\_\_
39. BET alternative
41. Cork's place
45. "\_\_\_-Hoo," 1959 rockabilly song
48. Colossal
51. '60s hot spot
52. Vacation spots
57. Fertility clinic stock
58. Half a score
59. Shed
60. Race's end
62. "\_\_\_ Me," Withers hit
65. Kind of store
68. Don McLean song
73. Hit
74. Pitcher feat
75. Renter
76. Hardly haute cuisine
77. Some dashes

**DOWN**

1. Prayer leader
2. Cash register part
3. Sea rescue adjective
4. Carney or Monk
5. School of whales

6. Beehive, e.g.
7. Tierney
8. "Dog Day Afternoon" character
9. Adaptable truck, for short
10. Drag queen's collection
11. Supplement
12. Swarming one
13. Make rigid
15. Crack filler
18. \_\_\_ Towers
23. Rule opposed by Gandhi
24. Palindromic title
26. Dedicated lines
27. Mongongo
29. Blackguard
30. Wallet find
31. Low-fat meat
32. "Ghosts" writer
33. Wolf or devil preceder
38. Have chiis out
40. Clever
42. Get going
43. Tore
44. German river
46. Many a time
47. It needs refinement
49. Diamonds
50. Engine part
52. Diet
53. Do the Wright thing
54. Certain topographies
55. Cross
56. Bathroom cleaner?
61. Greek consonants
63. Be a rat
64. Chemical compound
66. Appearance
67. Stumbles
69. Fabrication
70. Chemical ending
71. Even if, briefly
72. Not square

Answers on page 38

*Dr. Mike, continued from page 3*

in recent years. And now with the Caitlyn Jenner story, I am concerned that certain children will be over encouraged or rushed to see themselves as being transgendered when they ultimately may not be.

You should know that recent transgender research supports the position that gender identity may be more biologically hard-wired than previously believed - genes, chromosomes and one's endocrinology appear to be the main determinants that form and solidify adult gender identity. Other recent research has shown that gender identity in children can be deeply rooted at a young age and that these children are not confused at all about who they are.

However, there is also research to findings showing that children can be confused about their gender identity, but then their gender identity matches up with their biological sex later in life as adults. Moreover, from my experience as a child psychologist, I have worked with a number of children who have experienced themselves as being transgendered at a young age but then grew up to not be.

I understand your concern for your daughter, but you and your husband will need to continue to be patient with her as she continues to mature and discover who she is. Right now you have competing needs with your daughter around her gender identity; the topic is a very sensitive and charged one for you all with multiple layers of thoughts, emotions and meaning. Your daughter likely becomes upset with you because in her mind you are not accepting her for who she believes she is or wants to be. Your daughter needs your support and love, and if you continue to fight with her she could start to feel badly about herself or even unloved by you both.

I think you need to move away from having competing needs to having more complimentary ones in parenting your daughter. I recommend that you start with a talk where you respectfully and lovingly let your daughter know how you feel about her gender identity and what your concerns are for her. You can also let her know what you are comfortable doing in support of her and what you are not. Be careful not to express disappointment or judgment; the conversation should be a positive and proactive one, so be careful not to come off as being sad or defeated in finding compromises or collaborative solutions with your daughter regarding her gender identity.

The following are few points to consider with your daughter:

Support your daughter's developing gender choices and interests. As parents, you want to create a diverse environment with various opportunities. Allow your daughter to make choices and to explore who she is without judgment. If she shows or expresses an interest in cross-gender activities, be as supportive as possible. Thus, I think you should allow her to join the LGBT group, but at the same time, you can expose her to a variety of other activities this summer. We are currently running

a therapy group at our practice for teens that believe they are transgendered. The purpose of the group is not to influence or direct the gender identity of any individual, rather, the group is safe place for teens to openly discuss and make sense of their thoughts, feelings and wishes with others who are going through the same thing. The group has also helped to connect parents who are working to understand their teens' needs.

Support your daughter's gender style. Some children are more masculine or feminine in style, so be respectful of who your daughter is and do not try to change her. I encourage you and your husband to support her clothing choices, hairstyle, and even her gestures and mannerisms. Of course, offer parental guidance and direction when appropriate, but do not challenge her simply because what she is wearing or how she is presenting herself to the world makes you uncomfortable.

Be cautious when considering life-changing interventions or treatments for your daughter before adulthood. In my experience as a child psychologist, transgendered children are excited to match-up or complete their gender identity to their biological sex as quickly as they can. While still controversial, hormonal treatments and certain interventions are becoming more acceptable. And many transgendered female teens elect to get bilateral mastectomies ('top surgery') prior to turning 18, with some surgeons conducting the surgery on minors with parental consent. If your daughter begins to discuss hormone treatment or top surgery with you, I recommend that you weigh all of the possible advantages and problems that could occur with a specialist. Given the seriousness of these sorts of treatments and interventions, I also think that it is always wise to get a second or even third opinion from respected specialists in the field before making possible life changing and/or permanent changes for your daughter.

To your point, there is also no doubt that a transgendered life is much harder than a "normal" life. Transgendered individuals experience all sorts of discrimination, and they have higher rates of mental health problems and suicides. As parents, we always want the best for our children, but it is possible that being transgendered, as difficult as that seems to you, may be what's best for your daughter.

Your daughter needs to explore who she is, and she needs your understanding, acceptance and love to be able to do that. With time, it is my hope that your daughter will mature through adolescence and into adulthood with a solid sense of self for who she is truly meant to be.

*Michael Oberschneider "Dr. Mike" is the founder and director of Ashburn Psychological Services, a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinicians. Go to [www.Ashburnpsych.com](http://www.Ashburnpsych.com) or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.*



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### Zoning, continued from page 1

level, and was instigated by developers in large part due to the very public defeat of the proposed Catoctin Creek Town Center and other high-profile zoning fights.

Catoctin Creek included high-density residential, retail, outdoor entertainment – including bumper boats and bumper cars – and more.

Because of the zoning in place on the properties at the time, to proceed, the Catoctin Creek project would have required a comprehensive plan amendment, a zoning amendment and several special use permits. The public's outcry over the very large project – located next to a well-established residential neighborhood and incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan – forced the developer to withdraw the proposal.

After the project was withdrawn, attorney representative Mark Nelis went back to the Purcellville Planning Commission and ramped up his call for major changes to Purcellville's zoning map. Said Nelis at the

time, "My clients do not want to have to get a special use permit ... a comprehensive plan amendment ... zoning amendments. They want uses by-right."

By-right zoning eliminates the requirement for public input and public hearings, and greatly reduces a developer's costs by forcing taxpayers to fund the new roads and other public infrastructure elements needed to service the development. Typically, at least some of these costs are paid for with proffers put up by the developer.

#### The Remapping Of Purcellville

Within the Added Uses and Converted Uses categories, 142 of the 184 proposed zoning changes, if implemented, would allow a particular use by-right, with no public hearing and no public input. Fewer than 20 percent of the changes supported by developers – and also on the planning commission's wish list – would require a developer to, for example, get a special use permit.

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

#### Public Input Schedule Town Hall

- **Tuesday, July 7 – 7 p.m.:** Residential Districts and Planned Development and Housing Districts (PDH)
- **Wednesday, July 8 – 7 p.m.:** Commercial and Mixed-Use Commercial Districts: C-1, MC, C-4 and AC
- **Thursday, July 9, 2015 – 7 p.m.:** Commercial, Industrial and other Districts: CM-, M-1, X and IP

#### The Decisionmakers: Contact Information, Planning Commission, Mayor & Purcellville Town Council

**Purcellville Mayor & Town Council**  
purcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov

**Planning Commission**  
planningcommission@purcellvilleva.gov

#### Proposed zoning changes include:

- **Adding 54 new by-right uses to the Planned Development and Housing Zoning District and allowing these high-density residential/commercial developments on as little as 10 acres.** Similar in scope to the original Reston Town Center, these complexes will give developers the 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, drive-thru facilities, convenience stores, hotels and other uses. Under new proposals these would be "floating" zoning districts that could be located anywhere. Currently the PDH district is strictly residential and does not float. The land in question must be zoned PDH.

- **Eliminating restrictions on where commuter bus shelters can be located.** Currently, bus shelters require a special use permit, allowing neighbors and others input on where they are located. A homeowner, for example, might not want a busy commuter bus shelter right in front of their house. Under the new proposed rules, commuter bus shelters would become a by-right use throughout the town, with no public input requirement as to their location.

- **Eliminating the size limitations on restaurants.** Currently, any structure over 4,000 square feet requires a Special Use Permit and public input. No more.

- **Eliminating SUPs for drive-thrus.** Proposed zoning changes convert this to a by-right use, preventing even a project's immediate neighbors from commenting. Drive-

thrus, due to their late hours, noise and traffic are now subject to special public scrutiny. No more.

- **Eliminating all limits on big box store size in the office/light industrial areas.** Currently limited to 10,000 square feet – unless the developer had taken public input and successfully secured a Special Use Permit – under new proposals a developer could build a big box store of any size in these areas, with no public input required. This applies to select properties along Hirst Road, and land annexed last year for the 262 residential-units Autumn Hill/Mayfair development. That project includes 20 acres of office/light industrial. Under the proposed zoning changes a developer could put a big box store of any size on those 20 acres – with no requirement for input from Autumn Hill/Mayfair's homeowners or the public.

### Future Developers, continued from page 14

Stover attorney Frank Bredimus has said he is also challenging what he sees as at least two serious conflicts of interest involving the Vineyard Square matter. In a June 4-2-1 vote – with Mayor Kwasi Fraser and town council member Karen Jimmerson voting

no, council members Doug McCollum, Ben Packard, Joan Lehr and Patrick McConville voting yes, and John Nave abstaining – the town council appointed former Purcellville Mayor Eric Zimmerman to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Zimmerman

currently represents a note holder for the Vineyard Square project. Bredimus has requested that Zimmerman and a second BZA member – planning commissioner Chip Paciulli – recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest. Paciulli has been a client of Nelis's, a principal investor in

the Vineyard Square project, and Nelis currently acts as counsel for Paciulli on other real estate matters.

The July 1 Stover challenge to Vineyard Square was heard as the July 2015 Blue Ridge Leader was going to press. For updates, see our website.



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## Answers to puzzle from page 34



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# Kicking Off Farm To Fork With Music

Kicking off this year's Farm-to-Fork Loudoun project is the second annual Farm, Fork & Art, with music added: a special concert from home grown, award winning folk and Americana singer-songwriter Andrew McKnight. Farm, Fork, Art & Music begins at 6 p.m. sharp at the unique Trinity House Cafe located at 101 E. Market St. in Leesburg on Wednesday, July 22, the night before the fourth annual Farm-to-Fork Loudoun kicks-off. The event is free and open to the public.



Doors open at 5 p.m. for first come first serve seating in the Cafe's back yard area. Appetizers, entrees and desserts from their regular menu, as well as a preview of their Farm-to-Fork Loudoun menu, will be available to purchase and enjoy, along with various soft drinks, wine and beer.

Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, Lincoln resident Andrew McKnight has traveled nearly a million miles of blue highways, and earned a wealth of critical acclaim and enthusiastic fans nationwide for his perfor-

mances and seven recordings.

Farm-to-Fork Loudoun is an 11-day countywide event highlighting locally sourced foods and celebrating the true bounty of Loudoun from July 23 through Aug. 2. Farm fresh food is incorporated into special menus prepared by each of the participating restaurant chefs and offered to guests. This year features 23 special and diverse spots and one food truck from which to choose throughout the entire county. For details go to [www.FarmToForkLoudoun.com](http://www.FarmToForkLoudoun.com).

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## Kitchen Science Kids: EEEW, Mucus

- By Leah Enright



All kids, especially Kitchen Science Kids, have a right to the very finest scientific education possible, right? And they should never be denied the opportunity for high quality, hands-on activities, wouldn't you agree? Sounds like the perfect way to persuade an adult to help you do something a little gross, but very fun-making mucus.

Here's what you'll need:

An adult to approve and supervise this entire activity, there is boiling water involved, so I had to make that clear.

- A cup
- Gelatin
- Corn Syrup
- A Tablespoon
- A fork

What to do:

- Ask an adult to mix the mucus.
- Fill ½ of a glass measuring cup with boiling water.
- Add a tablespoon of gelatin to the boiling water.
- Let it sit for a minute to soften, then stir with a fork.
- Add a quarter cup of corn syrup.
- Stir with a fork, admiring the long strings that form. (You may add

more water as you go, if the mixture is too thick).

- Play with, and marvel at, your amazing creation, even adding a drop of green or yellow food coloring, if desired.

Mucus may be unappealing, but this stringy stuff serves a very important purpose in our bodies. Like a wet blanket, it lines our mouth, nose, throat and lungs and keeps these parts from drying out. It also acts like a trap, catching bacteria and dust before those things enter our bodies, and destroying invaders with special, natural chemicals called antibodies. You make a lot of this stuff-about a liter a day, though you may not notice it unless you are sick, or allergic to something, and your body helps itself by producing even more.

So the next time you have a cold and have to blow your nose often, you may feel differently about it. You might remember that this mucus is keeping your insides moist, and trapping bacteria and other things before they can get into your body and make trouble-and you can always pass the day away making more mucus. But this one will be in a bowl.

*Leah Enright is a hairdresser who enjoys science. She likes to share her ideas with little people, hoping they will discover the joys of science as a hobby. She welcomes feedback, and can be reached at [mizbeytac@yahoo.com](mailto:mizbeytac@yahoo.com).*



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