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American Legion Post 34 Hosting Mid-Atlantic Regional Baseball Tournament – August 4-9, Fireman’s Field



J.J. York

– By Andrea Gaines

Batter up!
Chartered in 1919 by an act of Congress, the American Legion is one of our country’s oldest, largest and most prestigious veteran’s organizations – dedicated to mentoring youth, sponsoring community programs, promoting national security and supporting veterans and members of the armed forces.
Specific programs include scholarships, scouting, radio clubs, emergency funds, and much more. But, locally ... in June, July and the dog days of August ... it’s all about baseball.
Nationally, more than 5,400 baseball teams and

approximately 100,000 youth – representing all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico – compete under the American Legion banner. Two divisions, ages 13 to 17, and ages 19 and under are represented. From the southeast to western part of the country there are 8 divisions, with Virginia teams competing in what is known as the Southeast Division. Tournaments are held regionally among the 8 divisions, on a statewide basis and on a national basis as part of an American Legion world series. 73 teams compete from the state of Virginia.

With what is described as a “winning culture built over 8 years now,” one local team – the American Legion Post 34 Leesburg Rangers – is fighting as hard as any to make

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PDH Districts Go Down, More Big Box Stores And Restaurants

– By Andrea Gaines

You win some you lose some. But, citizens participating in three days of Purcellville Planning Commission public input sessions held their own in expressing concerns about the large number of town zoning use changes being proposed by the commission.

With more than 200 zoning regulations up for debate – covering everything from alterations to the purpose of the Planned Development Housing Districts (PDH) to additional permitted uses in the Commercial, Mixed-Use Commercial, Industrial and other designations – the tenor of the three public input sessions – held July 7, 8 and 9 – reflected the polarized zoning debate taking place in Purcellville, pitting the preferences of most citizens against the special interests of a few.

The majority of the citizens attending the sessions continued to push for greater Planning Commission accountability, pressing for a thorough review of the town’s Comprehensive Plan prior to putting any major zoning changes into effect. Mayor Kwasi Fraser and town council

member Karen Jimmerson used the opportunity to express their continued support for the citizens’ point of view – placing them squarely on the side of an immediate and thorough comp plan review.

Each public input session was followed by a work session where the commission considered the public’s comments. Recordings of the work sessions reveal both policy and procedural tensions as well as frustration with the public’s challenge to the proposed zoning use changes.

During the July 8 work session Planning Commissioner Chip Paciulli reminded the commissioners that they said they would listen to what citizens say they want during the public input meetings. Planning Commissioner Nedim Ogelman pointed out that the dominant sentiment expressed by citizens in the public sessions was to pursue a comp plan review before considering zoning use changes.

Daniel Galindo, senior town planner, questioned whether citizens that showed up to voice their opinions were representative of the town, and dismissed the public input in favor of the Planning Commission’s proposals, saying that

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Dog Days of August

See How I “Beat the Heat” During The Dog Days Of August ... Page 19

Dragonflies, Wild Loudoun, page 30

This Month In History

This Month In History August, 1878 – Temperance Movement Lights A Fire In Purcellville

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Ask Dr. Mike

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike,

My sister's son is autistic, but she is in complete denial. I've done my research and he fits a diagnosis of autism. He is 3 years old and doesn't talk or socialize. He has meltdowns that are out of this world and noises overwhelm him and leaving to go someplace upsets him. He also shakes his arms and hands when he gets overwhelmed, which I read about is "stimming," and is a symptom of autism. My sister says her son has "ADHD" but he is not ADHD, he is autistic. As far as I can tell, my nephew doesn't get any services or medicine for his "ADHD." We just returned from a large family beach week vacation and his problems are getting worse. This year my own children got upset with their cousin a few times when he acted out. He also became aggressive a couple times with my children. I don't know if another year at the beach together is a good idea for us if things don't change. I guess I would feel a lot better if we all just addressed the white elephant in the

room. How do I get my sister to admit that her son has autism so that she can finally get him the help he needs? How do I talk to my children about their cousin? I love my sister but am at my wits end.

Concerned Parent

Your nephew may indeed have autism, but I caution you to stay in the role of loving sister and aunt and not diagnostician or therapist since that could make things worse. Yes, you have described behaviors and symptoms consistent with autism, but an autism diagnosis is determined via an evaluation by a trained pediatric specialist - usually a pediatrician or child psychiatrist or child psychologist. Your nephew could also certainly have speech and language delays, or sensory processing struggles, or other sorts of struggles, without meeting criteria for an autistic spectrum disorder.

It may also be the case that a pediatric specialist has spoken to your sister about the possibility of autism for your nephew, but that doctor may have advised a wait and see approach since development is not always perfectly linear; a child may be developmentally delayed in certain

Continued on page 34



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Angie's list

The Revered "Mr. Charlie" To Turn 108



Charles P. Clark, left, with Martinsburg VAMC Director Timothy Cooke, during a Certificate of Appreciation presentation on March 16, 2015 at the medical center. Photo courtesy of the VAMC.

– By Andrea Gaines

In the Blue Ridge Leader's August 2014 issue we celebrated the upcoming birthday of Mr. Charlie Clark. We are grateful to be able to do that again, as are all of the family, friends and even brief acquaintances of this lovely man. Clarke will turn 108 on August 23.

Born in 1907, Clark is perhaps the oldest – and certainly among the oldest – living WWII veterans. He is also the only surviving officer of the original Loudoun County Emancipation Association.

Born in nearby Hamilton, Clark was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944 and graduated from basic training in Fort

Lee, Virginia. His army unit was the 3238 Quartermaster Service Company, an all-black group within the 9th Armored Division. He made his life in Purcellville after the war, working in an apple orchard, as a neighborhood barber and as a school bus driver. Mr. Charlie moved to the Martinsburg, Virginia Medical Center (VAMC) Community Living Center in November of 2014.

At a VAMC ceremony honoring Clark for his service in March of this year daughter-in-law Della Clarke attributed "Pop's" longevity to the fact that "he never gets angry and he loves to graze all day long ... I've never seen him raise his voice nor get upset."

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Congress And MWAA VS Loudoun Taxpayers

– By Delegate Dave LaRock

It's no secret that population growth and business development have left Loudoun County, especially busy areas to the east, with some pretty challenging traffic. The process of expanding the local network of roads and transit always seems to be playing catch-up, usually tied to availability of funding. Part of winning the battle to keep traffic moving is making sure our limited funds go to projects that are most needed by evaluating, rating, and spending in such a way to get the most bang for the buck. Likewise, as a matter of fairness, when planning and zoning changes are made to allow the new development which fuels growth and adds more cars to the roads, developers are usually required to ante up with payments or actual road improvements to ease the effects of growth (proffers). All in all, that is a broad-brush summary of what shapes the roads in our region and determines whether we're home in time for dinner with the family, or



Delegate Dave LaRock

long after the kids went to bed.

The next time you're sitting in Loudoun traffic wondering why you pay so much in taxes and tolls but are still stuck in gridlock, you should know that Congress is working on laws that could have a huge impact on Loudoun County. While projects like building planned interchanges on Route 606 and Route 50 are underfunded, remember that Congress and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) have stuck it to the commuters and taxpayers of Loudoun County in a way that is not widely known. Congress, in 2012, gave MWAA the authority to compete with private developers by lifting a prohibition on non-aviation development on Dulles Airport property. This will allow MWAA to compete with private developers by developing airport property for non-aviation purposes without paying a fair share of county taxes, and paying nothing in the way of proffers.

To understand what Dulles' free ride looks like, let's use a Home Owners Association (HOA) as an analogy. Imagine that your family owns a home in Loudoun Valley Estates in Loudoun County and pays property taxes to Loudoun County and a monthly HOA fee to cover your share of community-owned facility expenses. How would you like it if you received a notice from your HOA one day saying 100 new homes were going to be added to your community, but, due to an act of Congress, those homeowners would have access to all your community's amenities; add traffic to your roads, swim in your pools, etc., (paid for by you and other residents) but the new homeowners would pay a fraction

of the fair property tax rate and no HOA fee? That is pretty much what Congress has done to the people of Loudoun County. To make it even worse, all this took place with no community input or notice from elected leaders. For example, MWAA is considering and can now build a convention center on airport property, which, of course, would add thousands of cars to already congested roads, but because Dulles Airport is on federal property, that convention center would be exempt from paying its full share of property taxes to Loudoun County, and would pay nothing toward upgrading the roads we all use to accommodate the increased traffic. For the record, MWAA does take some of the tolls commuters are obligated to pay and passes that money off as its contribution to improve local roads.

To begin to understand how the people of Loudoun County end up taking the hit for airport activity without much resistance, you need to understand what I'll refer to as the 'Too Big to Fail' point of view. Some elected leaders have bought into the thinking that when it comes to any decision that impacts Dulles Airport's bottom line, Loudoun should subordinate its interests to Dulles Airport. I'm glad to say at least a few folks don't buy into that nonsense. Loudoun's Commissioner of the Revenue, Bob Wertz, is all too familiar with the fact that commercial development on Dulles Airport property gets a huge tax break. Bob Wertz, along with Sen. Dick Black, and Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio signed onto a letter seeking to set things straight and block the renewal of Dulles' Congressionally-authorized ability to compete with private development in Loudoun County.

What happens when development

moves from private property onto Dulles property? This commercial development on airport property will generate a fraction of the normal property tax revenue, pay no proffers and compete with regular taxable development. That is a losing proposition for Loudoun County.

What can be done to protect Loudoun taxpayers and drivers? Delegate Randy Minchew pointed out to me that the law Congress amended in 2012 which enabled MWAA to compete with private development on Dulles Airport property is up for renewal by Congress in September of 2015. Congress could condition renewal on MWAA voluntarily agreeing to pay a full share of real property tax, along with transportation proffers equivalent to what a private developer would pay if developing an agricultural-zoned property. If Congress refuses to protect Loudoun, I'll look for means by which the state legislature can.

Uniformity must be the basis for fair taxation. If MWAA wants to compete with private developers, MWAA should pay a fair share to Loudoun County. Anything less should be deemed unacceptable.

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.

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*We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.
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each month, or, online any time.*

Letter To The Editor

Thank You Purcellville

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the outpouring of support by the local business owners and residents in relationship to my challenge to the Vineyard Square development. Your kind words, visits, and support of my efforts have been overwhelming. The final decision will affect everyone.

It was a very difficult decision for me to make when I filed the original appeal. I had no doubt it was the right thing to do, and I knew if this was not addressed now I was not the only business that would be critically impacted and suffer irreparable harm.

But, the process has been frustrating, as I understood it would be when I filed the appeal with my attorney arguing my case against the actions of Purcellville's zoning administrator. I was most shocked and disappointed that Board of Zoning Appeals member Eric Zimmerman – who represented one of the note holders on the Vineyard Square project – refused to recuse himself from the proceedings despite that obvious conflict of interest. It was a bad judgment, and destroys the public trust in appointed members of the community on so many levels.

I am holding out hope that the mayor and

town council will not remain silent. The stage is now set and critical development precedents will be established for the developer of Vineyard Square and all future developers if these issues are not addressed now. So, I must move forward and defend and protect my business from devastating consequences, and stand up for the rule of law in our beautiful town no matter what the cost. My "Save Old Town Pville" Go Fund Me campaign will be the way I am able to keep moving forward. Thank you for your support, Purcellville!

– Mary Ellen Stover, Purcellville

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Getting Purcellville Out Of The Conflicts Of Interest Trap

– By Andrea Gaines

Three Virginia laws address openness in government: the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA), The Virginia Public Records Act (VPRA) and The Virginia State & Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (VCOIA).

VFOIA guides how public bodies conduct their meetings and regulates access to government records. VPRA establishes basic rules about what constitutes a public record and what the government's responsibility towards that record is. VCOIA regulates how involved a government official may be in an item being considered in their official duties if he or she has a financial interest in that item.

Locally, Virginia's conflict of interest law has garnered much attention in recent months as weeks as Purcellville grapples with major zoning change proposals. It's time to make these conflicts transparent to

the public, and get Purcellville out of the conflicts of interest trap.

Is The BZA Compromised?

On June 9, the Purcellville Town Council appointed former Purcellville mayor and attorney Eric Zimmerman to the town's Board of Zoning Appeals. The 4-2-1 vote saw Mayor Kwasi Fraser and town council member Karen Jimmerson voting against Zimmerman's appointment, with council members Doug McCollum, Ben Packard, Joan Lehr and Patrick McConville voting yes, and John Nave abstaining.

Fraser and Jimmerson's no votes focused on Zimmerman's potential conflict of interest regarding local businesswoman Mary Ellen Stover's challenge to the Vineyard Square project.

A week after his appointment, it was disclosed that Zimmerman is the attorney

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To Make Your Voice Heard

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Purcellville Crossroads Developers Seek 50+-Acre Annexation Residential Neighbors See Project As "Abhorrent"

– By Andrea Gaines

Developers are requesting that some 50 acres at the intersection of Route 287 and St. Francis Court be annexed into the Town of Purcellville for the purpose of developing an intensive residential and commercial project known as Purcellville Crossroads. Proposed in conjunction with the Tilly's Entertainment Company, the development would bring in dense commercial and residential uses – including national chain restaurants, a hotel, go-carts, commuter parking and other uses. The area is now predominated by 3-acre residential properties, and farms and wineries consistent with distinctly rural uses. As such, Purcellville Crossroads is drawing the ire of the homeowners and rural businesses in the area.

Per a June 2015 memorandum to Purcellville Director of Community Development Patrick Sullivan from the

Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning, the annexation proposal "contemplates a development scenario that could contain single-family detached homes, mixed commercial uses including retail, indoor/outdoor recreation facilities, lodging, and civic and public uses including an arts center and a park and ride lot." The same memo encourages the town to "apply land use policies and zoning districts that are compatible with the surrounding development pattern," adding that, "County comprehensive plan policies support commercial areas within the towns being located within their downtown areas as the preferred, principal [sic] location for retail and service businesses, office development, and major civic uses." County concerns also include: "Compatibility with existing large lot residential and institutional development ...Additional traffic directed to Route 7 [as]

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Do Purcellville's C1 & C4 Commercial Districts Currently Restrict Big Box Store Size? I Say, Yes.

– By Kwasi Fraser, Mayor of Purcellville

There is a great deal of discussion in Purcellville today as to whether or not the town's current zoning ordinances restrict the size of big box stores. At this very moment, this issue is a particularly critical one as Purcellville considers hundreds of sweeping zoning changes – changes many see as not only the most significant in the town's 150+ year history but also taking place in a vacuum, outside the confines of the citizen-directed Comprehensive Plan.

Two areas of town, both of which are zoned commercial, figure prominently in the big box debate: the C1 district along Hirst Road and 21st Street (zoned C4).

Several members of the Purcellville Planning Commission and Town Council believe that our current zoning ordinance does not restrict the building of a big box store – a freestanding commercial structure of 10,000 feet or greater – in the C1 and C4 districts. They argue, for example, that since a pharmacy without drive-thru facilities is an allowed use in the C1 district, and retail sales establishments are an allowed use in the C4 district without limitation as to size, these uses don't restrict big box size in these two districts.

"The sweeping zoning changes being proposed – including on the big box store issue – appear to put the cart before the horse; or, as one of our citizens aptly expressed it, 'Throwing ingredients together and hoping they will turn into a cake.'"

My concerns with this argument are as follows:

1. Relative To The C1 District:

Regardless of its size, a pharmacy is not considered a big box store. As we all know, a big box store is defined as a large retail establishment usually part of a chain such as Walmart, Costco, Target, and BJ's – which are clearly not a stand-alone pharmacy.

2. Also Pertaining To The C1 District:

When reviewing the purpose statement of the C1 district below, one can quickly see that the pharmacy use the authors of the zoning code had in mind was nothing close to a 10,000 square feet building:

a. The purpose of this district is to provide for planned office parks or for offices and similar business buildings and limited office support uses, in attractive surroundings with types of uses, structures, plantings, and signs so controlled as to be generally compatible with medium density or low density residential surroundings. The district can be applied to large or small areas if development standards are complied with. (Revised 4/9/91 and 8-12-08) (Reference Source: www.municode.com/library/va/purcellville/codes/zoning_ordinance?nodeId=ZONING_ORDINANCETOPUVI_ART4DIRE_S6OFCODI.)

It's clear to me from the above statement that it was never intended to have planners, developers or council members interpret the pharmacies without drive-thru facilities use without considering the district's overall purpose. If one considers this purpose, it's relatively easy to conclude that any pharmacy with 10,000 or more square feet was not envisioned for our office /commercial C1 district.

3. Relative to C4:

Yes, the word "retail" could be considered to be a freestanding commercial structure of 10,000 feet or greater, making it a "big box" facility by definition. However, when reviewing the purpose statement of the C4 district below, one can also quickly see that the retail use the authors of the zoning code had in mind was nothing close to a 10,000 square feet building:

a. The purpose of this district is to provide for an appropriate variety of uses in the historic center for commercial, financial, professional, governmental, recreation, entertainment, and cultural activities, in accord with the purposes and goals of the comprehensive plan. It is intended to promote a convenient and relatively compact arrangement of uses and buildings that enhance the sense of place and pedestrian orientation of the downtown area, and to this end required yards are minimal and permitted building bulk and coverage is relatively high. Medium density residential development is permitted to encourage housing convenient to places of shopping and work. Signing and outdoor storage are restricted in order to promote an attractive and stable urban environment. (Reference Source: www.municode.com/library/va/purcellville/codes/zoning_ordinance?nodeId=ZONING_ORDINANCETOPUVI_ART4DIRE_S9CECODI)

It's clear from the statement above that it was never intended to have planners, developers or council members interpret the retail sales establishment use without consideration of the purpose of the C4 district. If one considers this purpose, it's relatively easy to conclude that a big box store was not envisioned for our historic downtown C4 district.

Continued on page 22

Local Resident Honored In Scenic Virginia Photo Contest

– By Andrea Gaines

Scenic Virginia has announced the winners of its annual Virginia Vistas photo contest, celebrating the magnificent scenes that make the state one of the most beautiful in the country. Purcellville resident Charles Powell – who received an Honorable Mention for his captivating western Loudoun County image “Red Fox” – is among those recognized for their exceptional photography in 2015.

In its eight year, the photo contest is designed to support Scenic Virginia’s mission to preserve, protect, and enhance Virginia’s scenic beauty. Noted executive director Leighton Powell, “Scenic Virginia’s 2015 Virginia Vistas Photo Contest generated 500+ beautiful images of our Commonwealth. These Winners and Honorable Mentions truly represent the best of what Virginia has to offer.”

Notecard sets of the winning photos are available for purchase. To place an order, contact Scenic Virginia at (804) 643-VIEW (643-8439) or send an email to email@scenicvirginia.org.



“Red Fox” by Charles Powell, Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

“My interest in photography stems from a love of wildlife. Nothing pleases me more than the sight of an animal in its natural habitat. The fox, whose image I submitted, is a prime example.

I like to ride on the remote roads of western Loudoun County to photograph wildlife and beautiful scenery. On this day, I was driving slowly on a gravel road and the fox ran across the road in front of me and into the field on my left. I was disappointed, thinking I had missed the picture. Then, the fox stopped on a big rock and sat, almost posing. A great opportunity for me for a photo. It is my hope that opportunities such as this will continue.” – Charles Powell



“Pinnacles Overlook, Winter” by Jeffrey Urban, Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

“One December I took my dear friend from Armenia to the Shenandoah National Park’s Skyline Drive during her first visit to Virginia. I was worried about the experience: It was too late in the season to see the colorful autumn foliage, and too cold and too late in the day to hike the trails. Once we arrived, however, all those negatives became positives: We found bare trees with ice in place of leaves, vegetation colored tan and burnt orange, and shadows cast among the mountains by the setting sun. We stopped and braved the icy winds long enough for me to capture the perfect photo of a scenic Virginia vista with enough beauty to impress even a native of the Armenian Caucasus Mountains.”

– Jeffrey Urban



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Trough Hill Farm
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Palmer’s Mill
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Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Stonewood
Middleburg, Virginia
\$795,000

Charming stucco, log & frame home on 6.38 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright & sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room • More land available

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Copper Hill Farm
Haymarket, Virginia
\$695,000

Private horse property • Brick home w/first floor master BR • 4 BR • 2 1/2 BA • Bright, freshly painted, new carpeting, refinished hardwood floors & high ceilings • Open floor plan • Screened in porch off kitchen • Living room w/FP • 5 stall barn • Paddocks • Dressage ring • Large storage building

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Loudoun B&B Guild Welcomes Two New Members

Two new establishments have joined the Loudoun County Bed & Breakfast Guild, Airwell Bed and Breakfast – newly opened in Purcellville, and The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards in Hamilton.

The Airwell B&B – featuring two cottages with one bedroom each – includes the former art studio of Lucien Powell, one of the 20th Century’s most renowned landscape painters. The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards, located just off of Route 7 in the historic town of Hamilton is one of the guild’s new fun partners. It features 10 acres surrounding a restored hundred and five-year-old stone and wood dairy barn, which has been transformed into a tasting room.

The new additions bring the guild to 23 full members, and 21 fun partners.



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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Morven Park

– By Tim Jon

I think what strikes me most about this place – as over the top as it is in many ways – is how understated it really is; I know that'll take some explaining.

I've been to Morven Park hundreds of times (for radio interviews and news stories, and I even directed a couple of Shakespeare productions on the grounds), so it's hard to approach the site without some (or a lot of) preconceptions; that said, a quiet, overcast, weekday morning visit allowed me to walk through the gardens and grounds in complete solitude – as if I were sole owner and proprietor of the castle-like mansion and the surrounding thousand-plus acres.

See, on that day I wasn't a spectator at one of the many events held throughout the calendar within the park boundaries, I wasn't witnessing a wedding under the magnolias – although you could hardly pick a better spot – and I wasn't even part of a family tour to entertain visiting relatives: I had the opportunity to spend as long as I pleased at the garden reflecting pool, to stop and pay respects at the final resting place of Governor Westmoreland Davis and his wife, Marguerite – and to take a brisk walk around the “front yard” of the massive, Greek revival manor whose façade's become a familiar image to many of us “locals.” I even got some personal time with those two lions guarding the pillared entrance to the estate, that – just about anywhere else – would look ostentatious in the extreme. Not here, though: the sheer scale of the place seems to accommodate the sublime, and allow us to move through its elusive presence.

Pretty lofty praise for a brooding, historic mansion on a



big, old hunk of land, right?

You got me there – guilty as charged; but, on the other hand, I've come to know the place over a span of more than 15 years and countless hours enjoying its sights, sounds and smells. Just coming up the driveway affords you enough views of the countryside to let you know that you're in a separate world now; there's enough acreage to let you feel like you're in a whole 'nother universe: even the mansion itself gets nestled into the rolling hillside, covered with mature timber where few axes have gone. If a structure this size – this close to the bustle of downtown Leesburg can enjoy quiet, sequestered meditation – hundreds of years after its construction – imagine the dwarfishness and humility engendered into – and onto – the lone visitor; the scale here is vast enough to render a sensation of – not only traveling back in time – but the license of anonymity and invisibility.

I was reminded of other visits to this expansive facility; in scouting possible locations on which to stage some

Shakespeare, lots of dramatic backdrops emerged: one that we never used still awaits some enterprising Belasco to place a level slab, a few Greek pillars (remember the style utilized at the front of the mansion?) and an unobtrusive ring of seating – to encourage some truly classic, outdoor, theatrical experience – for as many years to come as Morven Park has days. And, even if this collaborative possibility exists only in my imagination, it's a testament to the inspiration offered to just about any visitor to the place: it allows one to dream outside the boundaries of sleep.

If you want to put these outlandish claims to the test, drive out there some cool, weekday morning, park your car in the lot at the end of Southern Planter Lane and approach the reflecting pool from the east; stop and take your bearings under the magnolias, walk along the water's edge to the path heading to the north and the manicured gardens – you'll pass the aforementioned mausoleum – then cross over to the open expanse of the great lawn (yes, the one flanked by that line of majestic trees), take a moment to note the quaint old greenhouse on the western slope, then continue until the mansion takes full shape on your right. Anyone who's ever approached the structure with a camera has faced the same dilemma: if you get close enough to feel its presence, your shots are swallowed up by its sheer size; you'll need to reconsider your perspective in order to capture its entire length. Then you'll notice the paved roadway cutting across the lawn – a few hundred yards away to the east – and make a note to save your batteries for a walk to those vantage points.

And all this is found only on one 'side' of Morven Park: the Equestrian facilities lie on the north side of the property – accessed by Tutt Lane off Route 15: but that's another story.

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Amy & Dan Smith's Planning For Life: A Social Security Strategy Could Enhance Your Retirement Income Plan

– By Amy & Dan Smith



AMY & DAN SMITH

What do you think of when someone mentions Social Security? Many people consider Social Security and retirement as one and the same. More than 90% of working Americans plan for Social Security to replace part of their current incomes when they leave the workforce. Sadly, what really happens is that, because of timing decisions, 75% of those already receiving benefits are drawing a reduced amount.*

Your benefits can be greatly affected by your specific circumstances during retirement. Your monthly payment amounts as well as your tax status can change if you decide to work part time or start a second career. There is also your and your spouse's beneficiary eligibility to consider.

Baby boomers – on average – are living longer than any previous generation. While that's good news, it also presents several new challenges. A longer life increases the likelihood that you'll have increased medical and long-term care expenses. The value of your nest egg will be more significantly impacted by increases in the cost of living over a longer term. And, quite simply, you could outlive your money.

One important aspect of planning for your

later years is factoring in the benefits you will be entitled to once you reach retirement age. The Social Security Administration website (<http://ssa.gov/myaccount/>) provides you with a useful online tool to determine your likely benefit amount as well as your earnings statement. Registration is required. But, once you establish an

account you can check your earnings record and benefits estimate at any time, day or night. No more waiting for your quarterly statement to arrive in the mail!

It's important to check your earnings once a year to make sure the SSA is recording your income accurately. If your income is being under-reported, it could reduce the amount of benefits you receive.

When you consider all these factors, it's more important than ever to make calculated decisions about when to begin drawing Social Security benefits within the context of your overall retirement plan. Alongside other sources of income, Social Security is a critical asset to plan for in retirement, so it's important to develop a strategy to maximize the value of it. Evaluating a number of decision factors can help you maximize your Social Security retirement benefits and even your survivor benefits.

Over the coming months, I'd like to present an overview of the critical factors

that relate to your benefits including:

Your age: When should you draw benefits?

Your job: How do earnings impact benefits?

Your taxes: How are benefits taxed when combined with other retirement?

Your marriage: How do spousal benefits work?

*Source: Social Security Administration

mation only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent firm, CFP, CIMA offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176 (Tel.703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com). Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Past performance may not be indicative of future results.

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Remembering Esther Burk Kilgour, 86

Esther Burke Kilgour, age 86, died peacefully on July 31 at her home in Purcellville after a long struggle with cancer.

Esther was born January 21, 1929, in Hamilton, the daughter of Harry and Nellie May Burke.



stayed home to raise her children and later worked at the Loudoun Valley High School library. She and Brad were avid Virginia Tech fans and attended many football games and traveled to many of the bowls.

She was an active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, serving on the Vestry, Alter Guild and Bell Tower Committees. She was a lifelong member of the Ladies Board of Loudoun Memorial Hospital, and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, the hospital thrift shop, and numerous other non-profit causes. She enjoyed gardening, spending time at Chincoteague, and spending time with her family – which meant the world to her. Esther attended Lincoln High School and later, business school in Leesburg.

In 1951, Esther married the love of her life, H. Bradley Kilgour, Jr. The couple lived in Purcellville for all of the 64 years they were married. Esther worked at the White House as a secretary during the Truman and Eisenhower eras. In 1955, after starting a family, Esther

Esther is survived by her husband, H. Bradley Kilgour Jr., daughter Mary Brad Lambertson and her husband Wayne (of Pocomoke, MD), daughter Judy Romano and husband Mike of Virginia Beach, son HB Kilgour III and wife Lisa of Purcellville, five grandchildren – including Patrick Kelley, Megan Kelley, Susan MacClary, Taylor and Cameron Kilgour – and a number of other relatives and close friends. Esther loved her family and she was surrounded by them at the time of her death.

A visitation was held on Sunday, August 2, at St Peter's Episcopal Church with services following. Ester was laid to rest at Hillsboro Cemetery. Memorial donations may be sent in her name to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Purcellville, or to the American Cancer Society.

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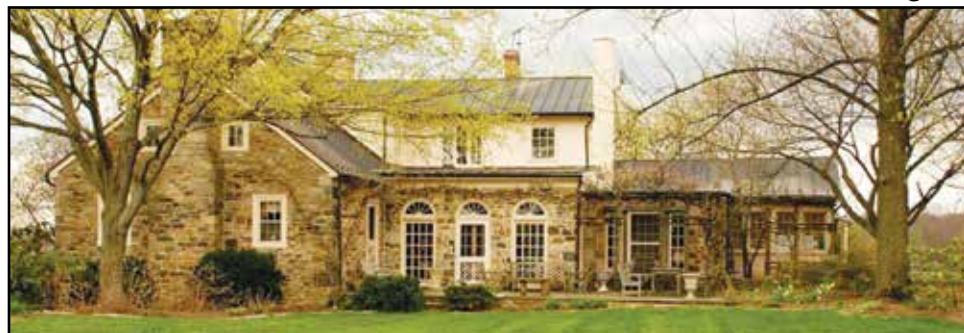
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On A Farm, Far, Far Away



– By Hannah Hager

On a farm, far, far away, you'll find yourself in a private, tucked away and secluded area. Such is the case of Faraway Farm in Round Hill, which also happens to be built during a time long past – its impeccable solid stone structure with copper roof date from the early 1700s, but the home has since been expanded to include a first floor bedroom and three additional suites.

Erected during a much simpler time when necessity took precedent over personal luxury, this estate has stood the test of time. Not only is it grandiose in its presence, but it's also soft-spoken in its beauty. Its materials and craftsmanship do most of the talking and the landscape and grounds back it up in chorus. The front lawn boasts a serene pond that is hugged by lush green grass and mature trees. You might believe you're living in the century in which Loudoun was founded until you step through the threshold to find every modern requirement taken care of and attended to.

In the past, rooms were kept small and quaint in order to preserve energy and temperature. Such is the case here with a staircase in a cozy foyer that leads off in either direction to the study and receiving room. Built-in bookshelves of rich mahogany in the library balance off the wood-burning fireplace of the sitting room across the hall.

Rich, wood tones are a theme you'll find in most of the rooms as accented in the exposed roof beams, the chair rails and the eight fireplaces. You'll also find beautiful,



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wide-paneled wood walls in the dining room. Such design treatments harken back to a time when craftsmanship abounded, which is certainly a rarity these days. The home has been expanded to include a first floor bedroom with three additional suites. The owners expanded the home again to include a spacious and light-filled living room and a modern, gourmet kitchen with built-in China cabinet, butler's serving station and granite-topped island.

But, don't spend all of your time indoors, make sure to walk or ride around your 70 acres, which is a dream-like setting with an additional pond, mountain and pastoral views, extensive mature gardens with stone walls, a swimming pool and primitive log cabin and fencing for horses. This home isn't so faraway after all.

Dulles Area Realtors Candidate Endorsements

The Dulles Area Realtors Association (DAAR) released their endorsements for the 2015 Board of Supervisor candidates in Loudoun County.

Candidates completed a questionnaire and were interviewed by area DAAR members. Of the nine candidates chosen, six are Republican, two Democrat, and one is currently an elected Republican running as an Independent.

Lars Henriksen, Chairman of DARPAC Trustees, said, "Our endorsements are aimed at supporting individuals who understand the importance of strong neighborhoods and vibrant businesses in our communities."

DAAR is an association with over one thousand realtors. Their 2015 legislative agenda highlighted opposition to increases in proffer levels required by Loudoun County, overlay districts, and conditions in the Chesapeake Bay Act that create "no build" protection areas that restrict development. With regards to affordable housing, DAAR believes the county should do more to help promote policies for down-payment assistance and other private assistance programs rather than pursue developmental restriction policies.

The endorsed candidates include: Ralph Buona (R), Asbburn; Kristen Umstadd (D), Leesburg; Suzanne Volpe (R), Algonkian; Tony Buffington (R), Blue Ridge; Koran Saines (D), Sterling; Ronald A. Meyer, Jr. (R), Broad Run; Geary Higgins (R), Catocin; Matt Letourneau (R), Dulles; Scott York (I), At-Large Chairman; and Gary Clemens (R), Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Art Exhibit Features “Gifts From The Sea”



Lis Zdravec won Best In Show for her colored pencil work, “The Conversion.”

Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center has announced the opening of “Gifts From The Sea,” an art show and sale featuring works in a variety of media. Local and regional artists submitted pieces matching the cool, watery theme ... a remarkable mix of over 40 works in paint, color pencil, mixed media, photography, pottery, felted fiber, quilting and more ... unusual and amazing things from very creative people.

The gallery reception on July 26 was well attended by artists and patrons alike. Lis Zdravec won the award for Best in Show for her colored pencil on paper work, “The Conversion.” The Friends Choice award went to Karen Colman for her colored pencil piece, “Caught! (Atlantic Blue

Crab).” The “Most Sea-worthy” prize went to Philip Hodges for his mixed media creation, “Barnacle Phil” and Rick Conway for his ceramic tile, “Blue Octopus.”

“Gifts From The Sea” will be on display in the Gallery at Franklin Park Arts Center now through August 23. The annual Summer Show sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park challenges the community with a new theme every year. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Franklin Park Arts Center is located at 36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132. The Gallery is open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and during evening and weekend performances. For information call 540-338-7973, or go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

This Month In History August, 1878 – Temperance Movement Lights A Fire In Purcellville



– By Andrea Gaines

In August of 1878, the Good Templars of Loudoun County began a series of annual religious temperance rallies. Originally held in an area known as Dillon’s Woods, speakers railed against the evils of alcohol – popular throughout the region, devotees streamed into Purcellville, arriving by train, horseback, buggies and stagecoach. In 1903, an amphitheater was built. Later named the Bush Tabernacle, it hosted temperance groups, politicians such as Williams Jennings Bryan and evangelists such as Billy Sunday, who spoke there in 1931. In later years the Bush Tabernacle featured country western stars such as Patsy Cline. The building was added to The National Register of Historic Places in 2010 and today hosts all manner of community events, shows and fairs.

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"My name is Router. I beat the heat by slipping into my slinky bikini."



"My name is Onyx. I beat the heat by doing nothing."



"My name is Stella Luna. I beat the heat by hitting the beach!"



"My name is Kai. I beat the heat by ignoring it. Endless tennis ball toss anyone?"



"My name is Ecco. I beat the heat by hanging out with a cool cat named Creamsicle."



"My name is Moon. I beat the heat by panting while I look out the window for the UPS man! Can't wait to see that brown truck!"

Dogs By The Numbers - 10 Fun Facts

1. According to the Human Society of the United States, there are 70 to 80 million dogs in the U.S. Nearly 50 percent of American households have one.
2. Genetic studies show all that dog breeds evolved from a single canid species in Eurasia –approximately 40,000 years ago.
3. There are 339 individual breeds of dogs, dozens of which originated in the United States ... including ... tada! ... the Teddy Roosevelt Terrier.
4. Dogs have three eyelids. A top lid, a bottom lid and an inside lid that keeps the eye lubricated and protected.
5. The world's smallest dog – a Chihuahua named Milly – was just 3.8 inches "tall." Zeus, a Great Dane, is the world's tallest recorded dog – 7 feet 4 inches when standing on his hind legs.
6. It varies between age and breed, but dogs sleep, on average, 12 to 14 hours a day; puppies 18 to 20 hours.
7. The average dog can run up to 19 mph. Greyhounds, the fastest dogs on earth can run up to 45 mph.
8. The largest number of puppies ever recorded in one litter is 24, born to a Mastiff. The average number of puppies in a litter is 8.
9. The oldest dog ever was an Australian Cattle Dog named Bluey who lived to be 29 years and 5 months old. Most dogs live to be 8 to 15 years old.
10. A dog's power of scent is 10,000 times greater than a human's, and a dog's hearing, four times greater. Dogs don't see as many colors as we do. But, they are much better at sensing motion.

Keeping Your Pooch Cool

Cool enough for you does not mean cool enough for your dog.

Dogs don't perspire and are otherwise very susceptible to heat-related illnesses. If they can't remove excess moisture from their lungs by panting – which is how they cool off – they can get into real trouble.

That trouble is called heatstroke, and fewer than 50 percent of dogs suffering from it survive.

When your dog's body temperature rises above their normal 101 to 102.5 degrees, and they start exhibiting warning signs such as fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, drooling – or worse, confusion or seizures – things can quickly get out of control. And, because of their physiology, a dog's body can get too hot in weather as temperate as 80 degrees.

Consult with your veterinarian immediately if you see any warning signs of heatstroke in your dog, and consider these tips from the experts:

1. NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET ALONE IN A PARKED CAR. IT'S NOT SAFE. With even only moderately warm temperatures outside, inside temperatures quickly rise to potentially deadly levels. This applies whether you left the AC on in your vehicle, or the windows open, or both.
2. Fatigue is the number one sign that the temperature is getting to your dog. If your dog is resisting walking or playing – let them. Restrict exercise to the early morning hours or late at night, always bring water with you, and don't be afraid to reduce the intensity of your dog's exercise during the hotter months. Better yet, take them for a swim rather than a walk.
3. Dogs absorb and release heat from their feet, so keep them off hot surfaces such as cement and pavement.
4. If your dog seems to need a cooling off, use room temperature water rather than super cold water or ice. These cause a dog's blood vessels to contract, interfering with their ability to cool off. Also, shaving a dog during the hot months is not necessarily a good idea. A dog's coat can help them regulate their body temperature. Again, consult with your veterinarian.

5. Make sure your dog always has a cool place to enjoy the hotter months – put a kiddie pool in a shady place in the yard, let them lie on a cool wet towel or tile floor. An outdoor doghouse will not provide relief for your dog – and can actually be hotter than the temperature outside. Bring your dog inside the house and let them find a cool spot on hot days.



Help your dog beat the heat!

FOCUS ON: Dr. Jonathan Reiss, Mobile Vet



Dr. Reiss, of Mobile Vet, treats all kinds of pets and serves families within a 25-mile radius of Purcellville. In 2008, Dr. Reiss graduated from Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine. He moved to Round Hill not long after. He and his wife Virginia live with their son and daughter – along with dogs, cats, a horse, donkey, sheep and chickens – at their “ranch.” He volunteers with local animal rescue groups, shelters and spay/neuter organizations. His professional interests include soft tissue surgery, preventative medicine, and shelter medicine. Said Dr. Reiss, “I enjoy working in western Loudoun County, because I like working where I live. I get satisfaction from being a part of this wonderful community – participating in a local parade, sponsoring my children's school event or sporting team, and just bumping into my clients at a local grocery store.”

Photo by Sarah Huntington

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Photo Of The Month

Luna moth (*Actias luna*) on Old Glory at the home of Drew Baab and Sarah Huntington. Photo by Sarah Huntington.



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—THE BUSINESS CORNER—

Your Non-Mobile Website Is Costing You

— By B. Brandon Barker

The stats are real: 67 percent of people are viewing your website for the first time on a mobile device. For some potential customers, it's a huge inconvenience (and sometimes a deal breaker) when they can't find your products or location from a few taps on their phone. Almost 50 percent of e-commerce activity is mobile, and an increasing number of shoppers exclusively shop on mobile devices.

What makes a website mobile-friendly? In a nutshell, it needs to be readable and clickable from a small, handheld screen — a mobile phone or a tablet.

According to the Google Blog, a page is eligible for the "mobile-friendly" label if it meets the following criteria as detected by Googlebot:

Avoids software that is not common on mobile devices, like Flash;

Uses text that is readable without zooming;

Sizes content to the screen so users don't have to scroll horizontally or zoom; and

Places links far enough apart so that the correct one can be easily tapped.

Many websites built even just a few years ago were not built using "responsive design," i.e. a design feature that automatically adjusts your website to fit smaller screens. Some sites have a

mobile version, but this is not the same as responsive design, and is often a lesser experience for the user. A mobile version of your website is exactly that — a different version of your website that captures some, but usually not all, of your content. Often, it is hosted or owned by the website builder or hosting company that provided it, and the website owners don't have as much creative control over the design or features. A large percentage of existing websites are not mobile-ready at all. On a smaller device, they look downright frightening.

This is why Google plans to start labeling sites as "mobile-friendly" in search results. This will give a little boost to those who have gone to the trouble of updating their sites, and on the flipside, demoting non-mobile sites in search engine rankings.

How do you know if your site fits the bill? Test it out on Google's Mobile-Friendly Tester at www.google.com/webmasters/tools/mobile-friendly. If your site did not pass the test, contact us at Mammoth Mobile, 540.272.1806, www.mammothundertakings.com, info@mammothundertakings.com — and we'll get your site mobile-ready.

B. Brandon Barker is a digital marketer based in Upperville, Virginia. His company, Mammoth Undertakings, services clients locally and around the country.



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Virginia Schools Earn Top Federal Rating For Special Education

Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced that Virginia’s public schools earned the U.S. Department of Education’s highest overall rating and achieved the second-highest score for serving students with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

“In every school division in the commonwealth, there are special educators who are committed to preparing all students to succeed,” Governor McAuliffe said. “These accomplishments are the result of their efforts, as well as successful partnerships between the state and localities in developing innovative programs to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.”

The federal education department scores and rates states annually on the participation and performance of students with disabilities in state and national assessment programs and on states’ progress in narrowing achievement gaps and improving graduation rates. Virginia earned the maximum number of possible points on 13 of the 14 indicators, achieving a total score of 95.83.

Virginia is one of 21 states and territories earning a “Meets Requirements” designation, the highest overall rating on the 2015 IDEA report card.

Virginia fell short on an indicator that rates states on the percentage of students with disabilities who graduate with

what the federal education department considers a “regular” diploma, which, in Virginia, includes the Standard Diploma and the Advanced Studies Diploma.

“The state Board of Education’s rigorous diploma standards put the commonwealth at a disadvantage compared with states that do not set as high a bar,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples said. “We will address this challenge by maintaining high standards for all students while making sure that students with disabilities are able to take advantage of appropriate alternative assessments and accommodations as they work toward meeting their diploma requirements.”

Zoning, continued from page 7

The Ultimate Restriction Is Not To Allow

Again, my fellow citizens, several members of the Planning Commission and Town Council believe that our current zoning ordinance does not restrict the building of a big box store – a freestanding commercial use of 10,000 feet or greater – in the C1 and C4 districts. As such, their proposal is to allow this use in the C1 and C4 districts, but with the added requirement of a Special Use Permit. My issue with this is that if the Planning Commission is genuinely seeking to restrict big box use in the C1 and C4 districts, it should keep them as a not allowed use – not an allowed use with the SUP requirement. The ultimate restriction is not to allow – in accordance with the citizens’ wishes and our Comprehensive Plan. To clarify my point, I present in Figure 1 below two charts showing which districts currently and might in the future allow for a big box store:

EXISTING	PROPOSED
DISTRICT WHERE ALLOWED	DISTRICT WHERE ALLOWED
DISTRICT WHERE ALLOWED BUT RESTRICTED BY SUP MC	DISTRICT WHERE ALLOWED BUT RESTRICTED BY SUP C1 C4 MC
DISTRICT WHERE NOT ALLOWED C1 C4 X IP AC R2 R3 R3A RT R8 R15 PDH	DISTRICT WHERE NOT ALLOWED X IP AC R2 R3 R3A RT R8 R15 PDH

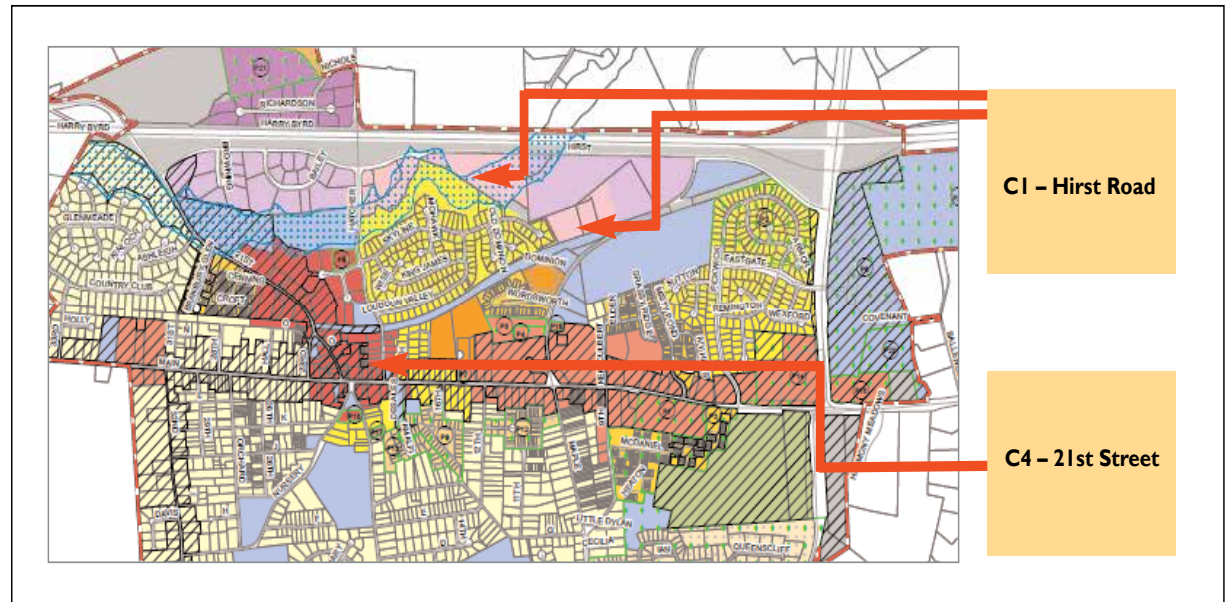
Existing Use Language: Any other permitted or permissible freestanding, commercial use listed in section 7.2 of 10,000 square feet or greater.

Proposed Use Language: Commercial uses > 10 square feet.

Figure 1

The two charts in Figure 1 clearly show that the proposed actions of the Planning Commission call for allowing commercial use greater than 10,000 square feet in the two districts where such a use was not permitted before. This prompts me to ask the following questions:

1. Why is this action being proposed by the Planning Commission?
2. What is the economic value of this proposal to Purcellville?
3. Do citizens want “big box” use on 21st Street and Hirst Road?
4. Will the proposed arrangement favor developers to the detriment of citizens?
5. Will the citizens lose the ability to negotiate with developers from a position of strength, being that the use will be allowed and restricted by a Special Use Permit?
6. Will the Planning Commission’s proposed actions result in significant value to the owners of the below



properties (Figure 2), but of little value to Purcellville, since the property can be sold at a higher premium when it is zoned for commercial use of greater than 10,000 square feet?

My Assessment of the Recent Zoning Use Changes Citizen Input Sessions

The 3-day zoning use sessions held on July 7, 8 & 9 were successful in that the Planning Commission really enabled our citizens to connect with what was being proposed, in order to dissect and evaluate each of the suggested zoning changes and provide substantive feedback in real time and/or via email. My challenge is to gain a clear understanding of how the actual zoning changes being proposed are connected to Purcellville’s current economic and community goals, if indeed it is all being done in response to the Comprehensive Plan review of four years ago.

I do understand the confusion that the current format, definitions, and verbose presentation of the zoning ordinance generate from a citizen and business engagement perspective. And, I believe that the substantial work the Planning Commission has done in clarifying the definitions – and presenting the districts and their uses in a matrix format – addresses that confusion to a significant degree. But, taking an almost evolutionary leap to change actual uses leaves me baffled. I need to know why we took that leap, and, again, its connection to the community’s goals and business climate. The sweeping zoning changes being proposed – including on the big box store issue – appear to put the cart before the horse, or, as one of our citizens aptly expressed it, “Throwing ingredients together and hoping they will turn into a cake.”

To be specific and as an example, commercial uses of more than 10,000 square feet were only allowed – and via a SUP – in the MC district prior to the changes being proposed. With the proposed changes, this use would now be allowed in two additional districts via SUP – C1

and C4. The Planning Commission argument for this proposed change is that the pharmacy use in C1 and the retail use in C4 – with no stated limitation on square footage – are tantamount to allowing big box use. I disagree with that position for the simple reason that if we ultimately want to restrict a use, we should not allow it. Allowing it but with the SUP restriction defeats the purpose. Even with the SUP restriction, this is a significant change, and I remain unclear about why this is being proposed.

Is there a strategic plan to change the face of Hirst Road, and is there a lucrative economic opportunity driving this change? Will allowing that use even with an SUP in these two additional districts weaken our power to negotiate the best terms for our community and its environs in those two districts, as one of those districts is adjacent to residential districts and areas while the other is in the historic downtown section? Hopefully, this further illustrates my continued concerns, and the Planning Commission’s answers to the following four questions will help me to better understand the underlying purpose of the proposed use changes:

1. Do you believe that our current Comprehensive Plan is an accurate expression of this community’s goals?
2. Do you believe the zoning changes being proposed will enable us to execute those goals?
3. Do you have any quantitative or qualitative evidence of the negative impacts the current 315 uses have had on Purcellville’s citizens, businesses, town staff, and overall economy, and if so, where is that data?
4. Was there any research conducted on the economic and environmental impact of the proposed use changes on Purcellville? If not, how would you respond to the citizens who view these changes as solutions looking for problems – or throwing ingredients together and hoping they will turn into a cake?

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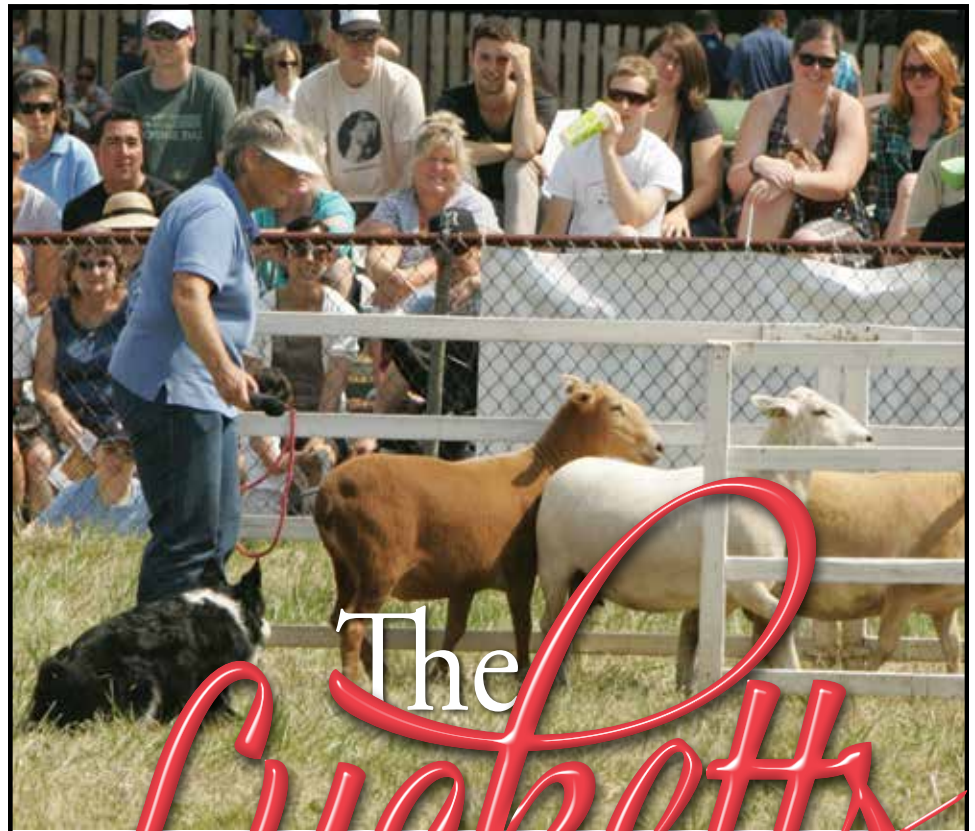


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Remembering Mabel

Mabel, a chocolate Labrador, died today, Monday August 3 at the age of 14.

The cause of death was severe degenerative discs across much of her back. Her vet told us she'd obviously been in pain for months but didn't let us know.

She lived with Sarah Huntington and Drew Babb in the village of Lincoln. Her owner and best friend was Andrew (Andy) Babb of Brooklyn, New York.

She was predeceased by boon companions Rebel (a yellow Lab) and Basset Hounds Albert and Bruno.

Sarah maintained that Mabel was Eliza Doolittle to Albert's Henry Higgins and Rebel's Colonel Pickering. (Indeed we had all grown accustomed to her beautifully graying face.)

Her life was characterized by great zeal, an abundance of affection, halitosis, and an appealing brand of canine naughtiness.



Photo by Sarah Huntington

Her favorite things were taking long walks, eviscerating an oddball collection of stuffed animals, and playing keep-away with putrefied deer legs in the Quaker cemetery in Lincoln.

Misadventures? She had a few. It is probably indelicate to mention several chickens in the neighborhood that Mabel "found." Less felonious was scoring an uncooked steak

Continued on page 36

Student Earns Honors At National History Day Contest

After months of intensive research and success at the regional and the Virginia state competitions, Barrett Harrington, a rising eighth grade student at Loudoun Country Day School in Leesburg, presented her project at the annual Kenneth E. Behring National History Day contest. The international gathering was held at the



Barrett Harrington

University of Maryland's College Park Campus from June 14-18. Her hard work and dedication in creating the website entry "Sir Nicholas Winton: Humble Hero" earned Barrett second place in the nation for the Junior Individual Website Category. "I first learned about Sir Nicholas Winton and his remarkable acts after watching a "60 Minutes" segment about him last Fall...when my history teacher assigned us to create website entries for the annual National History Day competition with a theme of "Leadership and Legacy in History" I immediately knew who I wanted to create a website about - the person who saved six hundred

and sixty-nine children from the Holocaust," said Harrington.

"We are ecstatic for Barrett and her remarkable achievement in the National History Day competition," said Randy Hollister, headmaster of Loudoun Country Day School. "She deserves tremendous credit for her imagination, initiative and the exceptional quality of her documentary on Sir Nicholas Winton. I also credit Mrs. Megan Deneu, our seventh grade World History teacher, for her guidance for Barrett in the process. And I commend Mr. Tim Beauchemin, assistant headmaster and eighth grade Civics teacher, for adding the National History Day program and experience to our middle school social studies program 15 years ago."

The theme for this year's contest was "Leadership and Legacy in History." Within her website entry Barrett summarized her motivation for researching Sir Winton as follows: Sir Nicholas Winton has inspired people around the world with the leadership

he demonstrated by saving children during the Holocaust. He was a regular person who had no special resources or authority and yet he did not look the other way when he saw people in need. His legacy lives on through this example he set for all of us. It also lives on through the children he saved and their descendants - an estimated six thousand lives were affected by his decision to take action. Sir Nicholas Winton once said, "if something isn't blatantly impossible, there must be a way of doing it." And he did.

While conducting her research Barrett's interviews with three of "Nicky's Children" - as the survivors are known - further motivated Barrett to produce a website that would inspire others as well as make her interviewees proud. She said she was excited and surprised to be recognized at the awards ceremony as the competition in her category included 97 other projects representing the top entries from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and international schools in Central America, China, Korea and South Asia.

Barrett's website entry may be viewed at: <http://www.17359276.com>

Middleburg Fire Department Transitions From Volunteers To Career Personnel

Chaplain Charles Wallace, president of the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department, announced that the department has officially restructured its protocol for first responders and has transitioned from a volunteer force to career (paid) personnel, to be owned and run by Loudoun County.

"We are very sad to have to make this transition, but I believe that this is a sign of our times," Wallace said. "We have struggled for the past two years to find and retain volunteers and, unlike years past, people have very busy lives and are no longer able to commit to the many hours that are necessary to be a volunteer. After careful consideration, and trying unsuccessfully to recruit volunteers, we realize that we are not able to fulfill county and state requirements to continue as a volunteer company. The transition has been seamless and the community will continue to receive the exceptional service and response that has always been given."

For more than 79 years, Middleburg has operated a volunteer fire department with a roster of more than 35 volunteers, sometimes as many as 60. "The volunteer fire department was a significant part of living in a small town," said Wallace, who has served as a volunteer for the past 18 years.

"Working as a volunteer for the community, we knew a lot about many of the residents and could respond to a call with some knowledge as to what conditions might be when we arrived. I think it was comforting for residents to see people they knew," added Edward "Snooks" Swain, past president and fire chief with more than 60 years of volunteer service. "I am very disappointed to have to give up our volunteer status after having been involved with this fire department for more than 60 years. It has been an honor to have been able to serve the community."

Wallace recounts many missed meals, family birthdays, anniversaries and holidays due to his volunteering. "That volunteer call could go out at any moment and the volunteers had to be ready," Wallace said. He also mentioned times when he ran or drove somewhere to catch up with the fire truck or ambulance - including once when he was shopping at Safeway in downtown Middleburg when the volunteer siren suddenly went off. He managed to pay for his groceries and run out of the store to hail the ambulance as it was passing through town. "There were many times when we would pick up firefighters or EMTs (emergency medical technicians) along the way."

"Over the years, the dedication of our fire and rescue volunteers has been amazing," said Mayor Betsy Davis, who has also served as a volunteer. "I remember many years of volunteers serving our community and going above-and-beyond the call of duty, sometimes risking their lives. It saddens me that we won't have volunteer fire and rescue services anymore but this is happening in small towns all across the country." Loudoun County Fire Chief Keith Brower, Jr. has been very understanding and accommodating to the few remaining volunteers. "He understands that this is emotional for us," Wallace said.

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Zach Vogt Joins USA Pavilion – Milan Expo As Student Ambassador

As part of the United States' presence at the in the Milan Expo 2015, the U.S. Department of State is proud to announce that Zach Vogt of Purcellville is representing the United States at the USA Pavilion in Milan, Italy this summer.

Vogt is one of 120 multilingual Student Ambassadors chosen from 1,000 applicants to serve as on-the-ground representatives for the USA Pavilion at the world's fair in Milan. After completing an intensive training program, he has been based at our pavilion, greeting and interacting with visitors, including First Lady Michelle Obama as well as top government officials, corporate executives, and other guests from around the globe.

With the theme "American Food 2.0: United to Feed the Planet," the USA Pavilion showcases American leadership in finding solutions to the challenge of feeding a growing population sustainably and nutritiously. Twenty million visitors from around the world are expected at Expo Milan during its six-month run. Student Ambassadors, from 35 states and 96 universities and speaking a total of 28 languages, help put a living face on the experience visitors receive at the USA Pavilion.

Vogt is one of 60 Student Ambassadors in the first wave of the program, participating in the May 1 opening and working through July 31 at the USA Pavilion. A second group of 60 students will serve from August 1 through the end of the Expo October 31.

Two Kitchen Cousins Present ...

What's For Dinner? ... A Turkey Casserole For You And Your Pooch

– By Lisa Wasson And Andrea Gaines

As we celebrate the dog days of August, we look to foods that are as tasty and nutritious for us humans as they are for the family dog.

Here's a fun one – turkey casserole with rice and veggies. Save it for a special occasion ... like your dog's birthday, or any time you want to remind your dog how much you love them.

You'll notice here that we skipped the onions – and the salt – both ingredients of which are a no-no for dogs. We also went light on the dairy. Feel free to add some onion powder, a dash of salt and/or a little more cheese to your portion of the dish ...

Ingredients:

- 1 cup ground turkey – browned and thoroughly cooked
- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 1/3 cup cooked green beans
- 1/4 cup shredded carrots
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon plain greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon mozzarella cheese

Directions:

Combine all ingredients together and transfer to two small baking dishes ... or one larger one if you are sharing. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.



Remove from the oven and let cool completely before serving to your dog.

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



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THE MUSIC OF SIMON & GARFUNKEL Saturday, August 29 8:00PM

Swearingen & Kelli recreate the music of the most famous folk-rock duo of our time, Simon and Garfunkel. Two voices in perfect harmony balanced against one acoustic guitar delivers a true tribute to the sound of the 1960's.

Tickets: \$20 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Mucho Gusto in Concert Saturday, August 8, 2015 8:00PM

These accomplished local legends perform festive dance music from cultures near and far, old and new, with zest and gusto. Their repertoire ranges from Cajun to Quebecois, Galician to Venezuelan, Irish to Appalachian, and includes vocals by WAMMIE winner Pat Egan and originals by fiddler Sam Morgan.

Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors/Students, Free to kids under 10. Call to Reserve 540-338-7973



**TANABATA: A Japanese Celebration
8/7 6:00 – 8:30PM**

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463700-01 \$10 per person, ages 2+
463700-02 \$35, family groups of 4 or more people

**Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv
8/14 8:00PM**

Tickets: \$12 Adult, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Child
Visit www.lasthan.com

**Beale Street Puppets: Out of Orbit
8/12 10:00AM**

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



**Piedmont Arts presents: Bring It On!
8/20 & 21 7:30PM,
8/22 2:30PM & 7:30PM**

Tickets: \$12 All Seats
Visit www.piearts.org



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- An Impromptu Evening with Ike
8/2 6:30PM
- Readers Theater:
Over the River and Through the Woods
8/9 6:30PM
- Alie Campbell
8/16 6:30PM
- Poetry, Prose & Prompts
8/30 6:30PM
- Tickets: \$8 per person
Purchase tickets at the door



A.J. Bourscheid



15 - G. Buscavage

Baseball, continued from page 1

their mark. Over the weekend of August 4-9 they will host and participate in the American Legion's Mid-Atlantic Regional Baseball Tournament at Fireman's Field in Purcellville.

In the 2013 season, Post 34 claimed second place in a District Tournament.

In the 2014 season, they grabbed two games in the state tournament – playing three extra inning games of 12, 10, and 11 – and placed in the final four of the eight best teams in Virginia.

The American Legion Post 34 team manager is James Grenier. Post 34's coaching team includes Daniel Gershen, Ian Roberts, Andrew Creamer, Josh Martin, and Brady Kaplan, with Matt Irish returning.

The team's roster includes P. Carty (3rd base), A.J. Bourscheid (center field), C. Eberhart (left field), Z. Costello (catcher),

J.J. York (pitcher), J. Degroat (pitcher), G. Buscavage (1st base), J. Cunningham (shortstop), C. Eck (pitcher), T. Holdredge (pitcher), J. Howard (shortstop), N. Leming (pitcher),

K. Meyer (2nd base), M. Robst (left field), S. Urban (center field), K. Wallenstrom (3rd base), C. McDowell (pitcher) and K. Bowles (center field).

More than one-half of Major League Baseball's American-born players played American Legion baseball. American Legion is the who's who of the major leagues – including Sparky Anderson, Dusty Baker, Johnny Bench, Ted Williams and more.

Good luck to the American Legion Post 34 Leesburg Rangers – hit it out of the park!

For more information and an up-to-date game schedule go to www.leaguelineup.com/post34leesburg.

More Than A GPA

– By Mary Rose Lunde



LUNDE

In school we are measured in every way based on a number system from a point scale resulting in grades then translated into a GPA that can't be easily fixed in just one semester. Students are forced to think that all they have to achieve is just an A in one class that could influence their future job. School is getting harder and harder with each passing year. The pressure to get straight A's is at its upmost high with an emphasis that if you aren't at the top you won't be successful. This could not be more false. If anything, it is a complete misconception of the truth; anyone can be successful no matter what grades.

High school students have a high competition since they have to follow specific guidelines to what classes they have to take and what is an acceptable grade for their classes. It is indeed frustrating because you are expected to be the best of the best in any non-advanced classes which are known as GPA boosting classes. These are most commonly known as the "non-academic" classes which can actually require more work from the student than some advanced classes.

It is frustrating because of the weighted classes that students take. With AP classes requiring countless hours of work and the idea that C's are acceptable since they're supposed to be college level classes (actually they can be worse than college classes), it is hard to maintain grades. With grades ultimately leading up to the big GPA for college admittance and valedictorian definition it's a wonder how students feel about their classes and acceptable grades. The A is no longer attainable and a B+ isn't acceptable, so what

are students supposed to do?

Getting into college seems to be the biggest importance to most high school students, whether they acknowledge it or not. With GPA at the biggest point it's a wonder that most students get into college since GPA is a big indicator. But what students don't realize is that

they are more than a GPA. In high school it seems that GPA and sports are the biggest thing. It seems to me that there are three things colleges look at when students apply: GPA and SAT/ACT score, extracurricular activities, and general personality. Unfortunately, most high school students only follow through on one or two of these factors rather than creating a balance between the three.

Personally, it seems that most students won't realize that they are more than just a GPA until they reach college. It is frustrating to think about this because people are complex and should not be considered just a number. In college students get the freedom to balance their schedules with whatever they want in respect to their classes. They have freedom to find themselves and discover for themselves that they are indeed more than just their GPA. The reality is that most of the time GPA doesn't determine a person's job in the future. Yes, it helps get into graduate and professional programs, but it does not guarantee a job in the foreseeable future. Understanding this is key to a happy future. GPA's may be important but always remember that you are more than just your GPA.

Mary Rose Lunde is a rising sophomore at Virginia Tech who values happiness over her GPA. She is looking forward to the beginning of the semester.

Dinosaurs, Jurassic World, And Liberalism

– By Nicholas Reid



REID

If there was anything that you might have thought was immune from the ever-increasing aggressiveness of the American left, you might think of the dinosaurs. Unfortunately this is not the case. Liberalism has stained dinosaurs just as it has stained so many other aspects of American life.

One recent example of this was the attacks on the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum for accepting money from David H. Koch in order to fund a much needed renovation of the Smithsonian's dinosaur hall in turn for the new hall being named after him. Koch's money (about \$35 million) will transform the fossil wing of the museum from a poorly lighted space with mopey-looking dinosaurs dragging their tails around the floor to

a much more vibrant, well-lit space. Despite this, a group of scientists developed a petition to the museum, urging them to retract their support from Koch, describing him and his brother as "those who profit from fossil fuels or fund lobby groups that misrepresent climate science."

Now, what exists here in this petition is a disconnect from reality. Without Koch's money, the renovation of the Dinosaur Hall would never have happened, nor would the construction of the Human Origins hall at the Smithsonian. In fact, no science can happen without a wealthy financial backer providing support to the scientists. Lab equipment and field expeditions cost money.

Additionally, the writers of the petition perpetuate the myth of global warming (yes, it is a myth). It is almost predictable

that, when trying to destroy a conservative who happens to be in the energy business, the specter of climate change emerges from the shadows. What is absurd is that people like Koch and others who doubt global warming are derided as being "anti-science" by the left. Anti-science. I smell the sour smell of hypocrisy in this. The left calls conservatives "anti-science" for justly doubting global warming and the policies the left desires to enact because of it and then turns around and denies the science of human pregnancy, claiming that a baby is not alive until it leaves the womb (in order to justify abortion). In fact, the science now supports the conservatives on climate change, with a team of British scientists, quoted in the UK Daily Mail, claim that the earth will enter a mini Ice Age because of decreased sunspot activity from 2020 to 2030. And, all of this nonsense just because a Koch brother wanted to support dinosaur science.

On another front, the dinosaur themed movie Jurassic World was decried by reviewers across the nation as being sexist because of the character played by Bryce Dallas Howard. If that is true, then we are all horrible sexists. Jurassic World has become the quickest movie to earn \$1 billion globally. This is largely because the general public saw the movie as it really was, an innocuous dinosaur-fest, not a deliberately sexist film designed to oppress women. Thankfully, people still have common sense.

Nicholas Reid recently graduated from high school in Loudoun County and is planning to study geology at the South Dakota School of Mines in the fall. In high school he was a ranking member of the Debate Club and selected to the National Honor Society. He is the grandson of writer Dr. Johanna LaFiandra and conservative columnist Joe LaFiandra.

What It Means To Be A Man

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

As I have gotten older I have noticed that there are more and more young men who ask me for advice. To me it seems silly – I am often not much older than the person asking, so what impactful words can I impart? Yet this year I have begun a tradition that I hope will continue for years to come. With the recent batch of graduations and birthdays, I found myself writing letters. In last month's column I detailed how my parents had asked mentors to write letters to me that were compiled into a wisdom book on my behalf when I turned 18. This year I decided it was time to give back to those who ask for advice, and start writing letters filled with humble yet heartfelt words.

There is a crisis facing masculinity that exists in this country. Maria Shriver and Jennifer Siebel Newsom shed light on this very crisis. According to an article they wrote in *Time*, boys have a higher expulsion rate from school than girls. In addition, young men make up only 43 percent of students pursuing higher education. Shriver and Newsom continue by saying that, "violent crime, binge drinking, and drugs are all activities that men are more likely to engage in than women. Male campus sexual assault is commonplace, and mass shootings involving boys and men have become an epidemic. Jails are packed to the rafters with men. And, men commit 79 percent of all suicides in the United States."

After reading these sobering facts, it forced me to reexamine the most important qualities for a man to possess. Some of these ideas made it into the letters I have written over the last few months. There are a few overarching qualities that I think every man should possess based on my own opinions shaped by insights gained along my journey. I offer advice with the caveat that it is based largely off of my own experience, as there are certain qualities that have sustained me during my brief foray into adulthood. Keep in my mind that these themes are not absolutes, and there are many other important qualities that I do not have room to share in this small space.

The bedrock of a man's character rests on his ability to remain humble. Humility can be very hard to come by in our world today. Pride is undoubtedly celebrated in our culture. We are taught to post all of our successes on Facebook, build our brand on LinkedIn, and constantly brag about our accomplishments in our texts. Yet in my mind being a man means putting others first, and approaching life with a certain and necessary dose of humility. Instead of flaunting success, listening to others and helping out when needed. It means putting the needs of family and friends before his own, and realizing that there are far more impressive people who exist in this world than himself. This is a bit of advice that I admittedly struggle with, and I try my best to live a life of authenticity instead of trying to appear better than I really am.

Being a man also requires a certain level of strength. I am not talking about physical strength, although that is important too. I mean being strong enough to stand firm in the face of the storm. There are times in life that are filled with great adversity, and there will be moments when everyone wonders whether or not they will come out the other side. It is important to have that strength so that in times of great struggle one remembers who they are.

Shriver and Newsom also make the case that boys are taught "sex over love." I have spent enough time in locker rooms to know that teenagers and young adults (especially men) are encouraged to get as many notches on their bedpost as they can in order to prove their manhood.

Yet this does not prove you are a man. Being a man is having the courage to love someone else so completely that you are willing to do anything for them. Being a true man is putting the needs of his partner first and appreciating her for more than just what she can do for him. There is a crisis of love and commitment in today's world, especially among millennials. Being a true man is having the courage to love instead of fleeing at the first feeling of discomfort or the first sign of adversity.

I am not a perfect man. I have plenty of failings just like anyone else. Yet failings can serve as important lessons for others to learn from. My hope is that men everywhere will choose to use both their successes and failures in mentoring those around them. My mother has always said that "men become men in the presence of men." Everyone has a story and everyone has something to offer. So help stem the tide of the crisis brewing on the horizon and choose to make an impact in the lives of young men around you.

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



MOORE-SOBEL

50th LVHS Combined Reunion Sept. 18, 19 & 20

– By Andrea Gaines

"We'll be catching up, reminiscing, and going back to a more simple time. A time when we were a little more carefree."

So promises event organizer Judy Arbogast Fisher in describing the upcoming 50th Loudoun Valley High School Combined Reunion, to be held over three days in September.

The Friday, Saturday and Sunday event will celebrate the high school's three original classes of 1964, 1965 and 1966. Highlights of the three-day extravaganza include a golf outing on Friday morning at the Loudoun Golf & Country Club in Purcellville, a Friday night break-the-ice mixer at the Beautiful South restaurant in Hamilton, a Saturday night dinner dance and a catered BBQ picnic on Sunday at Franklin Park. A tour of today's Loudoun Valley High School is another of the festivities planned for Sunday. "Loudoun Valley has doubled in size in the years since we attended the school," said Fisher. "When I attended we had no cafeteria – we'd bring brown bag lunches to school. We had no auditorium and the gym was not yet completed. People will love to tour the current high school and see how far it has come."

Conflict of Interest, continued from page 7 for one of the parties that has a substantial financial interest in Vineyard Square, meaning that, Zimmerman would, in effect, serve as the attorney for a Vineyard Square investor and a member of the BZA as it heard Stover's legal challenge.

During his interview for the post, in responding to a question from town council member Karen Jimmerson about "Having close relationships with developers, people in land use" while Zimmerman noted at the time that "obviously if I've represented that party any time in the recent time, I would recuse myself..." he did not mention the Vineyard Square connection and his representation of one of the note holders, accepting the BZA post anyway.

Zimmerman went on to remove himself as representative of one of the Vineyard Square note holders – but only after the attorney confirmed it was a conflict of interest.

In another appeal to the BZA, Rogan, Miller, Zimmerman, PLLC is the legal representative of James Alfred and Barbara T. Mason for a commercial occupancy permit on behalf of Green Acres. Zimmerman was required to recuse himself on this appeal as well.

Serving Two Masters

As reported in a recent Blue Ridge Leader, Town Council member Patrick McConville has served the town of Purcellville for many years. However, McConville recently accepted a position at Bowman Consulting, a company with several major development projects/proposals under consideration by the Purcellville Planning Commission and Town Council, including the Purcellville Crossroads annexation, Vineyard Square, the Cottages at 32nd Street, and the 262-unit residential Autumn Hill Mayfair development to name a few.

We reprint Mr. McConville's recent financial disclosure letter in full:

"On tonight's agenda is a report from the Town's Community Development Department regarding the Purcellville Crossroads Annexation application, for which the applicant is Pleasants

It is estimated that approximately 200 alumni will be present at each major event. Organizers are also hard at work putting finishing touches on a mini year book that will provide updates on the individuals who made up each class – a keepsake that all attendees will be able to take home with them.

Previous reunions were held every five years, and later, every 10 years. The combined 50th reunion will be the last for the high school's original three classes. Said Fisher, "In our earlier reunions we talked about getting married and having babies, about our careers and growing families. Then the topics switched to our health and our grand children, our grey hair and the pounds we'd put on. This combined 50th reunion promises to be just as – if not more special – for everyone."

Key LVHS reunion organizers and contributors include Fisher, Currell Piggott, Sunny Hoetzel, Nancy Hummer, Hank Legner, Diana Taplin, Margaret Yowell and Sheila Gould.

Individuals seeking more information about the 50th LVHS Combined Reunion can contact Fisher at mommyfisher@aol.com (703-777-3156), or go to www.dftaplin.wix.com/lvhs-class-reunion.com.

Kline, LLC, and an item concerning approval of the Meter Size and Availability Fees for the Vineyard Square project, for which the applicant is Chapman Group LC.

As I announced at our Council meeting on June 9, 2015, I have accepted full-time employment as a Land Survey Technician with Bowman Consulting Group. Bowman provides engineering and consulting services, which may include survey work, to Pleasants Kline LLC concerning the Purcellville Crossroads Annexation application, and to Chapman Group LC, concerning the Vineyard Square Project.

Because of my position as a Member of Town Council, I do not, and will not, personally work on the Purcellville Crossroads Annexation application or the Vineyard Square application, nor will I work for Bowman on any project within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Purcellville.

I am fully committed first and foremost to serving the interests of the citizens of Purcellville. I am confident in my ability to participate fairly, objectively, and in the public interest in the

Purcellville Crossroads Annexation application and the Vineyard Square application, as well as in other land development applications for which Bowman provides its consulting services. For these reasons, I plan to participate as a Council Member in those discussions and decisions.

Thank you."

Who Is Representing The Citizens?

Small town politics is bound to involve elected officials, neighbors and business owners who know each other, work together, and do their part to weigh in on the big-picture issues facing the community's future.

But, at some point, the process needs to be opened up. At some point the playing field needs to be leveled so that everyone's interests are defended.

Purcellville is at a crossroads with respect to how get out of the special interests trap. Citizens need to be given the power to take their community back.

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ARTIST'S PROFILE

WHITE POST RESTORATIONS – THE ART OF BRINGING SPECTACULAR AUTOMOBILES BACK TO LIFE

– By Andrea Gaines

“I feel a little sadness when I finish a restoration job,” says Billy Thompson, “and I notice that the car’s owners often feel it, too. We have the finished car we wanted, but an interesting and enjoyable experience – the process of getting to that stage – is over.”

Thompson and his father W.R., are the third and fourth generation owners of White Post Restorations, a classic car restoration company in White Post, Virginia, a small community near the intersection of Rt. 50 heading west from Upperville, and Rt. 340 heading south from Berryville.

In talking to Thompson you come to realize that car restoration is an art, with as much love and reverence invested in the vehicle, as a master painter would invest in his canvas. As the White Post Restorations website notes – and it is simply impossible to say it better – “A properly restored, classic automobile is a feast for the senses. The lustrous glow of hand-buffed finishes, gleaming chrome detailing, the hum of finely tuned machinery, the rich blend of fragrances ... oiled leather and waxed hardwoods, a symphony of perfection ..”

Thompson’s restoration business serves people from all over the country and, indeed, all over the world. But, this is not just a rich guy’s paradise. As their website notes, automobiles arrive at White Post Restorations from money moguls, movie stars, diplomats, dignitaries and “the guy next door.” In other words, the common denominator here is not the amount of money you have, but an abiding love of old cars.

The artistry of old car restoration is not just about tuning the engine and doing a little detail work. These are precious, finely engineered, handcrafted machines we are talking about.

In a total restoration, the car is completely disassembled. Pieces of the body – hoods, fenders, doors, windshields,



1918 Buick



1952 Cunningham C-3

trunks – are brought back to their original state through de-rusting, sanding, painting and polishing. Seats get new springs and new and/or restored upholstery – with everything painstakingly cared for. Engines and wheels and dashboards get the royal treatment, as do all manner of little things ... including door handles, gear shifts, rugs, mirrors, buttons, switches, trim – and yes, the glove box. Thompson has recruited many members of his staff from McPherson College

in McPherson, Kansas, the only school in the country to provide a bachelor’s degree in Restoration Technology.

White Post Restorations’ original business was a feed store and farm machinery repair shop started by Thompson’s great grandfather. But, the love of old cars – cultivated by generation after generation in the family – stuck a cord and stuck. And, so White Post Restorations was born and endures to this day.

Just about every kind of car has come through here: a 1930 Willy Whippet, a 1922 Buick, a 1967 Jaguar, a 1934 Jaguar, a 1960 Chrysler, a 1962 Dodge and Rolls-Royces, Packards and Duesenbergs – just to name a few.

As Thompson describes it, restoring old cars is a generational kind of thing, with today’s car lover restoring their parents’ fleet of cars, just like that generation had done before them.

Thompson owns many classic cars of his own, including the 1963 Corvette his parents “got married in,” a 1970 Trans Am and a 1950 Ford pickup. He is also busy tracking down an old Model A that he rode in as a kid; the vehicle that was used to cart things around at the family business. “I used to ride in it every day,” said Thompson, “I’ve traced it through about 6 different bills of sale and may have found it in Michigan. I hope to buy it back one day.”

On August 29, in partnership with the Clarke County Historical Association, White Post Restorations will host White Post Celebrates 75 – a community-based event featuring hot air balloon rides, a car show, scavenger hunts, great food and tours of the facility with a hands-on look at car restoration. A similar event was kicked-off by Thompson’s grandfather in the 1980’s and attracted thousands of people. It’s big!

Don’t miss the event, or the chance to spend a great afternoon in the quaint village of White Post and see the beautiful artistry of White Post restorations. Drink in the smells and gleaming finishes and romance of it all. Go!



A 1961 Mercedes Benz 190B named “Sadie”



Thompson in his 1963 Corvette Stingray with his dog, Wyatt. The Stingray belonged to Thompson’s father.



This 1934 Jaguar SS-1 Saloon its class, Sports Cars (1930-1939) at the 2012 Amelia Island Concours d’Elegance, one of the most highly respected car shows in the nation.

NEWS

2015 Whitehouse Christmas Ornament

The Lovettsville Lions Club, the only source for all of the Whitehouse Ornaments in Loudoun County, now has the 2015 ornament as well as a supply of all the past ornaments available for purchase now. Email royrsumner@hotmail.com.

Lovettsville Food Bank

Donations are accepted year-round at Town Hall, 6 E. Pennsylvania Ave., during normal business hours and before town meetings. The following items are always needed: Pancake mix and syrup. Canned vegetables (particularly potatoes, beets, carrots, peas, carrots and greens). Canned chicken, tuna and Spam (low sodium/lite). Rice, pasta and spaghetti sauce. Canned fruit, granola breakfast bars, peanut butter and jelly and child friendly juices. Pet food, especially dog food. Paper goods.

Humane Society of Loudoun County

The Humane Society of Loudoun County seeks barns and stables for healthy, sterilized barn cats. The cats are semi-wild ferals. They need to live at a farm, horse stable, warehouse, or other suitable outdoor location. Veterinarian care has been given (sterilization, rabies, and exam, etc.) No adoption fee will be assessed. After a short period of secure confinement, the cats will accept their new home. They will help keep rodents away from grain and food storage areas. Contact helpanimals@humaneloudoun.org.

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. August movies: Aug. 5 Toy Story 3, Aug. 12 Monsters University, Aug. 19 Into the Woods, Aug. 26 Big Hero 6

AUGUST EVENTS

Aug. 6, Thursday, Loudoun County Master Gardeners monthly lecture series, "Who Invited You? Dealing with Stink Bugs and Other Invasive Pests" from 7-8 p.m. At the Wells Fargo Bank Building/VCE Office, 30 Catocin Circle SE in Leesburg.

Aug. 8, Saturday, Ronnie Milsap performs at Hollywood Casino at 8 p.m. www.hollywoodcasinoharlestown.com

Aug. 14, Friday, Lovettsville Movies on the Green series. Cinderella is the free movie. It starts at dusk on the Town Green.

Aug. 8, Saturday, join the Lovettsville Co-op Market at 2 p.m. and learn to can your own organic chicken broth. Workshop Cost: \$12.50 members/\$15 non-members. Preregistration/payment is required. Limit 10 per class. Go to <http://www.lovettsville-grocery.com>.

Aug. 9, Sunday, traditional afternoon tea at Oatlands. In the historic Carriage House from 1-3 p.m. at 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane in Leesburg. Cost is \$28.95. Call 703-777-3174 to make a reservation.

Aug. 21, Friday, Creedence Clearwater Revisited performs at Hollywood Casino at 9 p.m. www.hollywoodcasinoharlestown.com



Seussical at Franklin Park Arts Center

Hannah Allison, left, and Jena McDonald, right, are two of the performers in *Seussical*, directed by Karlah Louis of Mail Street Theater Productions, Inc. in Purcellville. Hannah helped run crew for Karlah's summer Camp Aristocrats, and Jena is Mrs. Mayor in *Seussical*. The performance was July 29 – July 31 at Franklin Park Arts Center. Stay tuned for Main Street's performance in October, *The Wizard of Oz*, also at the Franklin Park Arts Center



2015 CSA Memberships Still Available

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Visit loudounfarms.org/csa

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.

- Aug. 6, Thursday**
Annual Spelling Bee - Preliminary Round from 12:30-2 p.m. For ages 55 and older.
- Aug. 12, Wednesday**
Fall Class and Activity Registration for Seniors from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Registration Day for all PRCS fall trips, classes and activities.
- Aug. 12, Wednesday**
Excursion with Ken - Wilson's Wild Animal Park from 12-2:30 p.m. Non-members pay a \$2 drop-in fee. For ages 55 and older.



- Aug. 13, Thursday from 4-8 p.m.**
Summer Supper Club goes to Alexander's in Buckeystown, Md. Transportation costs \$6. Call 571-258-3400 to register.
- Aug. 19, Wednesday**
Big Bad Drama Company Presents A Simple Task by Alan Haehnel from 12:30-2 p.m. Free, but school supply donations accepted. For all ages.
- Aug. 19, Wednesday**
Lunch Bunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to the Cheesecake Factory in Sterling. Transportation cost is \$4. For ages 55 and older. Call 571-258-3400 to register.

Autumn Vegetable Gardening

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Wild Loudoun

Dragonflies – To See Is To Believe

– By Andrea Gaines

Shadow Darner. Unicorn Clubtail. Black Shouldered Spinyleg. Blue Dasher. Ebony Jewelwing. Calico Pennant. Sanddragon.

Their names conger up some magical place inhabited by devils and demons, elegant queens, daring lovers – creatures you would need to see with your own eyes to believe really existed.

But, each of these, including the Calico Pennant, is actually one of the most common and numerous insects with which we share our Wild Loudoun world. Dragonflies.

The dragonflies of Loudoun County, some 80 or so in all, are grouped under seven categories – including Darners, Clubtails, Spiketails, Cruisers, Emeralds, Skimmers and the related Damselflies.

As these terms suggest, each group has some special characteristics. Clubtails, for example, have a club-like widening at the end of the abdomen, and females in the Skimmer category, which includes the Calico Pennant, can be seen dipping the end of their abdomen into the water while they release their eggs.

Dragonflies are different from the related insect group known as damselflies. Dragonflies are zippy, agile fliers and have a heftier build. And, in most, the wings are held flat and away from the body. Damselflies have a weaker, flutterier pattern to their flight, are smaller, and hold their wings folded atop or alongside their body when at rest.

Dragonflies, while small in the natural scheme of things, are true predators with



specific territories and keen hunting instincts. They are found on every continent except Antarctica, a sign of the success of the individual species that make up this insect group. Fossil records of a dragonfly ancestor that lived some 325 million years ago show one with a wingspan of 30 inches – some 2-1/2 feet.

Masters at flight, dragonflies can propel themselves in any direction – upward, downward, forward, back, to the left and to the right – with the forewings and hindwings working seamlessly together to get the insect where it needs to go, to catch what it wants to eat, and, in the case of the males, to catch up to the female with which it wants to mate.

The key to conservation success with dragonflies lies in the protection of their habitat, including the wet and watery habitats upon which so many dragonflies in Loudoun County depend. Pollution control relative to water quality is of also a concern, as is pesticide and fertilizer use. Most dragonflies spend the majority of their lives of months or even years underwater in an egg or larval (nymph) stage, eating aquatic insects such as mosquito larvae and other aquatic life, such as tadpoles.

To see a dragonfly up close is to see the absolute wonder, impossibility, and charm of nature. Shadow Darner. Unicorn Clubtail. Black Shouldered Spinyleg. Blue Dasher. Ebony Jewelwing. Calico Pennant. Sanddragon.

Dragonflies – nature's most gentle devils, demons, queens and lovers ... in tiny form.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Opposes Pipelines In National Parks

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy opposes legislation that would expedite pipeline construction in national parks, including the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, over 500 miles of which passes through or borders the state of Virginia. Bills in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate would accelerate review of natural gas pipeline approvals and would allow the secretary of the interior to issue natural gas pipeline rights of way on National Park Service lands.

“National Park Service land – including major portions of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail – is set aside for the preservation and enjoyment of the American people. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy believes the current requirement that only Congress can approve these pipelines across national park units such as the A.T. should continue to be the law of the land,” said Ron Tipton, the ATC's executive director/CEO.

The proposed legislation would authorize the secretary to issue a right of way on NPS lands, reversing the longstanding prohibition on allowing such pipelines in national parks.

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is concerned about the cumulative impacts that multiple pipelines, and associated infrastructure, could have on the Appalachian Trail, its recreational value, and surrounding public lands,” said Laura Belleville, the ATC's director of conservation. “Although the ATC recognizes that the demand for energy resources is increasing, we also believe this demand should be met first with increased energy conservation and a renewable energy supply. Expediting new pipelines on public lands without a thorough analysis of impacts is not the answer.”

For more information about the ATC's stance on pipelines, visit www.appalachiantrail.org/pipelines.

Drew Hunter Heading To Pan American Games



Loudoun Valley's Drew Hunter placed second in the United States Track and Field 1500-meter run Junior National Championship. That earned him a spot on the United States Junior Team going to the Pan American Games in Edmonton, Canada in late July. Drew lost to college freshman Blake Haney of the University of Oregon.

"Because everyone in the race was trying to win I knew the last lap was going to be fast," Drew said. "I was pleased with how hard I closed and I am content with second to a great runner in Blake Haney who placed third at the NCAA meet for now."

Prior to the USTF National

Championship Meet which was held in Eugene, Oregon, Drew competed in two other prestigious post-season meets. On June 13, he ran in the Adidas Dream Mile in New York City. Drew finished second to returning champion Grant Fisher running 4:02.36, the third fastest time in Virginia history and the fifth fastest U.S. high school junior ever.

On June 20, Drew ran and won the Brooks PR meet in Seattle. Drew competed in the 2-mile run and avenged his loss to Fisher by beating him in a new Virginia state record, 8:42.48. The time was also the fastest ever run by a U.S. high school junior.

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Taking Your Sleeveless Dress From High Summer To Early Fall

– By Sarah Nearis

There is nothing easier to wear than a simple – short or long – sleeveless dress. A casual number with spaghetti straps, a linen shift that takes you from a workday into evening, a cool, belted shirtdress. Add the right sandals, flats or pumps, a dash of jewelry, and you're set.

With temperatures soaring and the dog days of August upon us, it's hard to imagine adding anything more to that simple hot-weather mix.

But, the sleeveless dress is extremely

versatile, even as cooler temperatures arrive. Here's how to make that great little dress work for you as summer transitions into fall.

Add A Jewel Tone ... Or Toasty Brown To The Mix: The color pallet for the sleeveless summer dress typically focuses on whites, brights, pinks, greens, yellows, pastels and neutrals, such as beige. As you move into fall, add fringed neck scarf or belt to the dress – a pretty floral, stripe or solid featuring deep pink, teal green or metallic that coordinates with the tones in the dress. Keep it simple, but have fun.



versatile, even as cooler temperatures arrive. Here's how to make that great little dress work for you as summer transitions into fall.

But, the sleeveless dress is extremely versatile, even as cooler temperatures arrive. Here's how to make that great little dress work for you as summer transitions into fall.

the light side, avoiding suede and bulkier materials and styles until the real cold sets in.

Same dress. Totally different accessories and look for a totally different season.

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.

Shown: stock photo dress; Simon Sebbag necklace; Halogen scarf; Magnanni loafers and belt.

Valley Graduate Wins FBRM Award

Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains has presented the Jane Pratt Blue Ridge Mountains Education Award to LVHS senior Samantha Iliff at Loudoun Valley High School's "Evening of Honors."

The award, established in 2014 in memory of founding FBRM member Dr. Jane Pratt, is bestowed upon a graduating senior who is currently enrolled in or has completed



Samantha Iliff

an environmental studies/biological sciences program with a B grade average or better; demonstrates a clear commitment to environmental stewardship through participation in school projects, internships and community activities; has performed a minimum of eight hours of volunteer service during their senior year working directly on projects on the Blue Ridge Mountains sponsored by FBRM or like-minded environmental organizations; and receives unanimous endorsement to receive the award from representatives of the high school and FBRM.

Samantha's commitment to environmental issues includes working to improve the ecosystem on the Chapman DeMary trail and volunteering on the Nature Generation Trail. Additionally, she won Science Fair awards for her project, "The effects of coliphage T4+ on decontamination of streams infected with Escherichia coli." Her senior environmental project included hiking several days on the Appalachian Trail with her mother (who is currently through-hiking the AT) and assisting others on the trail. Samantha will continue her studies at Florida Atlantic University Honors College this fall and looks forward to studying issues that will support her strong interest in the environment.

Jed Shilling – husband of the late Dr. Pratt and FBRM Board member – presented the award to Samantha. This year FBRM also presented the Jane Pratt Blue Ridge Mountains Education Award to Jefferson County High School (West Virginia) senior, Michael Long. For more information please visit: www.FriendsofBlueRidge.org.

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PDH, continued from page 1

the commissioners are better informed and trained to make the right decisions. "With all due respect," said Galindo, "just because 30 people come to a public meeting doesn't mean their views are representative," to which Ogelman (referring to the seven members of the Planning Commission) responded, "Neither is seven people's opinion on what is best for the town." Not satisfied, said Galindo, "But you all are more informed than citizens. This is not just a popular vote. You all have special training and a mandate to propose zoning use changes."

• PDH Floating Districts And Data Centers Go Down ... For Now

So far, the specific votes and decisions made by Paciulli and others on the commission are a mixed bag for the citizens pushing for an immediate comp plan review and greater citizen control of Purcellville's potentially vulnerable zoning map.

One of the most dramatic zoning map changes sought by developers was to add 54 new uses and alter the purpose of what are known as Planned Development Housing Zoning Districts, and to allow these high-density residential/commercial developments on as little as 10 acres.

Similar in scope to the original Reston Town Center, these complexes give developers the opportunity to propose the building of 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. New proposals would also make these into "floating" zones that could be located anywhere. Currently the PDH district is primarily residential.

Based on opposition from citizens, in a close, 4-3 vote the commission rejected the proposed changes to the PDH districts, with Planning Commission Vice Chairman and Purcellville town council member Doug McCollum, Chairman Gill Paist and Commissioner E. J. Van Istendal voting for the changes, and commissioners Theresa Stein, Nedim Ogelman, Chris Bledsoe and Chip Paciulli voting no.

Data centers were also rejected, for now, as a new use.

• Box Stores And Other National Chains Get A Huge Boost ...

Developers and their champions on the Planning Commission might not have gotten the PDH districts and data centers they wanted, but they made significant gains in terms of the size of commercial and retail structures that will now be allowed, the number of uses allowed in various zoning districts, how close intensive commercial activity can be to residential areas, and more.

• Purcellville's "Big Box" restrictions have been virtually eliminated. Large retail establishments such as a Costco, a Target, a Walmart, etc. will now be permitted by right in the C1, C4 and MC office/commercial districts, and by Special Use Permit should a developer want to build a structure larger than 10,000 square feet. No restrictions and no public input on

their location unless the developer wants to build something larger than 10,000 square feet. *(These kinds of uses had previously been limited to select commercial areas only – so as to not infringe on the medium or low-density residential neighborhoods and more rural/environmentally sensitive areas that might surround/be adjacent to them.)*

• Size and location restrictions on large eating establishments – including national chain restaurants – have been significantly loosened. Previously restricted to 4,000 square feet, the size limit has been increased to 6,000 square feet. Restaurants are allowed in the C1, MC and C4 districts. In the CM1 and M1 districts, restaurants were allowed by Special Use Permit. They are now allowed by-right in these two districts.

• Indoor firing ranges will now be allowed – under various permitting processes – in three districts: MC, CM1, M1.

• Bus shelters will now be allowed in all zoning districts – including residential areas. No restrictions and no public input on their location.

The next step in the Planning Commission's process will be to forward its specific zoning change proposals to outside attorneys for review. At the conclusion of the review the public will have a final opportunity to comment. That Planning Commission public hearing will be held in September, at which point the proposed changes will go to the Purcellville Town Council for a final vote.

Details on the proposed changes can be found at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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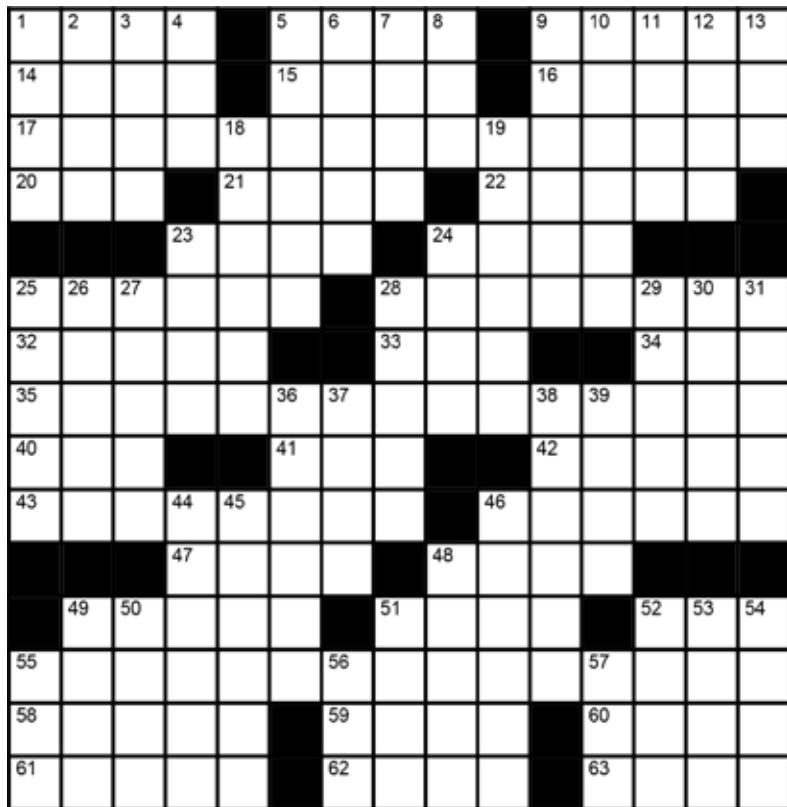
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Read All About It! By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

1. 60's do
5. Hand-warmer
9. Guitar stroke
14. Surf sound
15. Polo grounds?
16. Anatomical fold
17. Beyond the regular schedule
20. Village in Belgium
21. Spark
22. Fingers
23. Frightening: var.
24. Recipe abbr.
25. Engenders
28. Feet, slangily
32. Entertained, in a way
33. Be human
34. Omitted
35. In a remarkable manner
40. Tune
41. It can be flipped
42. Tangle
43. Oolong holder
46. Don Juans
47. Till fill
48. King or queen, e.g.
49. Nigerian city
51. ___ lily
52. Drench
55. Go over
58. Rial spender
59. Trollope's "Lady ___"
60. Guitarist Lofgren
61. Gozo Island is part of it
62. Drink garnish
63. Keep in

DOWN

1. It can be gray
2. "___ Brown" (1974 film)
3. Have status
4. "Catch-22" pilot
5. Functionaries
6. Bad loan
7. Concern
8. Word with cry or side
9. Directed skyward
10. Fluffs up
11. Venom
12. Wood sorrels
13. Card game
18. Menu
19. Natural
23. It has a big mouth
24. Donut-shaped surfaces
25. ___ suit
26. Mischief-maker
27. Bone cavities
28. Pendergrass
29. With gelidity
30. Noted blind mathematician
31. Eye sores
36. Heir, sometimes
37. Purges
38. Bookseller
39. Certain network
44. Penetrating
45. Lack of oxygen
46. "All clear!" is one
48. Saint-Germain's river
49. Myrtle family plant
50. Stage of development
51. Compos mentis
52. Hissy fit
53. Look like a creep
54. Call to attention
55. Neighbor of Bulg.
56. Bad-mouth
57. Pulls

Answers on page 38

Remembering Sara Welsh

Sara Elizabeth Pierpoint Welsh, 97, died July 17, 2015. She was born on May 26, 1918, in Paeonian Springs, Va., in the last days of World War I, the daughter of Elizabeth Brown Pierpoint and Hugh Webb Pierpoint.

As a member of the "Greatest Generation," she weathered such events as the Great Depression, World War II, and September 11, and witnessed the immense social changes of the 20th century. She was proud to have voted for a woman in the 2008 presidential primary and the nation's first African-American president that same year. She was married for 45 years to Gordon Welsh, until his death in 1987, and lived on the Welsh family farm, Rock Hill, outside of Purcellville, until her death.

She was a member of Goose Creek Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and was active in the Penn Study Group, the Home Interest Club, the Home Demonstration Club, the Stitch and Chatter Club. In addition, she delivered Meals on Wheels and was an active volunteer in the PTA, the Pink Ladies (Loudoun Memorial Hospital) and the American Association for the Blind. She was a 4-H leader for many years and a volunteer at the 4-H Fair. At home, she enjoyed reading, baking, feeding birds and tending her flowers.

She is survived by two daughters, Beth Welsh of Purcellville and Eleanor Welsh of Denton, Md.; seven grandchildren, Tracy Graham Sachs, Elizabeth Graham Walker, Mary Graham, Polly Pierpoint Ahalt, Luke Gordon Parris, Samuel Jacob Parris and Kelsey Welsh Parris; seven great-grandchildren and more loving neighbors and friends than you can shake a stick at.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the American Lung Association and the Alzheimer's Association. Please visit www.hallfh.com to express online condolences to the family. Arrangements made by Hall Funeral Home, Purcellville.

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

ways or in certain areas and those delays can correct over time and with maturation.

If your nephew does indeed have autism, you are correct in thinking that the sooner your sister accepts the diagnosis and the sooner your nephew gets services (e.g., speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and/or behavioral therapy), the better off he will be. Early intervention is the key to success for young children on the autistic spectrum.

But, is it more important to be right in this moment or is it more important to be there for your sister with compassion, empathy and patience? Assuming you are correct that your sister is in denial about the seriousness of her son's problems, she is very likely not in denial because she is an unloving or bad mother. Rather, she is probably having difficulty coming to terms with her son's reality and her own.

Your sister needs to know that you are there for her more than she needs you to educate her on autism or instruct her on strategies or treatments. I also think you run the risk of coming off pushy and judgmental if you call out the white elephant too loudly - and besides it is not your elephant to name.

If you discuss your concerns at all with your sister, I think that you should do it in the context of your nephew's "ADHD" since your sister seems most comfortable with that public label. You could also buy your sister parenting books on ADHD, which could serve to open up a dialogue on the topic of your nephew's struggles. In a loving and caring way, you could also talk

about some of the struggles your nephew seemed to have on your most recent trip together and discuss the ways in which you and your sister could manage those moments better for all of the children moving forward.

In regard to your children, I think it is fine for you to tell them that that their cousin does sometimes get upset and that he has trouble managing his feelings and behaviors when that happens. You could also make the point to your children that everyone has strengths and challenges and that it is a good thing for them to help their cousin with his challenges when they can. The best advice for them when they get upset with their cousin is to simply ask for help from an adult.

Remember, your most important role is to be a loving sister and to demonstrate compassion, empathy and patience in that role. No one is right or wrong in this moment, so there is no need to point things out or to be at your wits end. Even if you are right about your nephew having autism, that is not what your sister needs to hear from you right now.

"You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around."

Harper Lee, To Kill A Mockingbird

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

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Loudoun Medical Group Celebrates 15 Years

Loudoun Medical Group celebrated its 15th anniversary on June 2. As the area's largest multispecialty medical group, LMG provides care to more than half a million patients each year and employs more than 1,000 people.

Founded by 13 original physician groups – including Ashburn Pediatrics; Dr. Linda Coleman's practice; Corporate Health Center; Dr. G. Neil Foster's practice; Dr. Virginia Hackenberg's practice; Leesburg Sterling Family Practice; Sterling Family Practice; Loudoun Dermatology; Loudoun Internal Medicine Associates; Loudoun Pediatric Associates; Potomac Family Practice and The Urology Group – LMG has expanded to include 67 practices in 95 locations. LMG spans a region of 70 miles west to east from Berryville to Old Town Alexandria and 60 miles north to south from Lovettsville to Manassas.

"The overwhelming growth and success of our organization is the result of our

clinical and administrative staff's expertise and dedication to providing top-quality medical care and personalized service," said Mary Beth Tamasy, chief executive officer of Loudoun Medical Group. "We are extremely grateful for their service and appreciate them helping us reach this milestone."

LMG is dedicated to giving back to the community. The LMG Charitable and Philanthropic Foundation has donated to many local organizations such as the Loudoun Free Clinic; Loudoun Interfaith Relief; Loudoun County Fire and Rescue; the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter; Loudoun Habitat for Humanity and Loudoun Therapeutic Riding. In addition, LMG has provided charitable care for the communities served for over a decade.

"Providing quality patient care is at the heart of what we do," said Kevin O'Connor, MD, chair of the Loudoun

Medical Group Board of Directors. "Our continued success is a testament to the solid reputation we have built with our patients and the community; we look forward to further strengthening those relationships as we move forward."

In May 2015, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the renowned health care quality improvement organization, recognized 22 LMG primary care practices as level-3 Patient-Centered Medical Home with distinction, NCQA's highest designation in the PCMH Recognition Program. PCMH recognition affirms that a primary care practice provides an exceptionally high level of quality, team-based, patient-focused care.

Anthony Crowley, MD, medical director of Loudoun Medical Group and long-time, senior physician with Leesburg Sterling Family Practice notes, "By committing to quality standards like those set by the NCQA,

providers are aligned with the triple aim of increasing quality, while also decreasing costs – both which serve the patient's overall care and satisfaction."

In addition, LMG is proud of the 87 primary care providers that achieved recognition for excellence in diabetes care from NCQA through the diabetes recognition program in December 2014.

In November 2014, LMG launched Scrubs Plus at Dulles Town Center. Scrubs Plus by LMG carries designer, high-end fashion scrubs as well as uniform scrubs for the various hospital and medical practices in the area. In addition, the store features a kiosk allowing shoppers to find a LMG physician by name, location, specialty or condition, as well as an extensive patient education section complete with printed materials addressing most major chronic conditions, substance abuse and behavioral health issues.

Purcellville Crossroads, continued from page 7

No improvements are programmed for Route 7/287 Interchange."

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser has also expressed concern that the town's work on the annexation application was neither complete nor balanced and did not show the full impact on this rural/residential area. But, Purcellville officials continue in their attempts to simply move the project forward.

The traffic that would be generated by the mini town center of sorts is just one of the concerns voiced by neighbors, as is the seemingly inadequate research of the Purcellville's Community Development Department. The county's June memo indicates that the applicant says that the project would generate [an additional] 3,054 average daily trips per day. However, VDOT puts the current average annual daily trips for this Route 287 vicinity – even without the new project – in the neighborhood of 6,500 vehicles per day.

Said Wright Farm resident Lydia Clark in recent Purcellville Town Council proceedings: "Let's look at some of the proposed uses: [a] 200 spot commuter lot which could easily be located at the Virginia Regional Transit location ... [a]

60-80 room hotel [that] should be closer to downtown to promote and stimulate businesses [and give] pedestrian access for shopping, dining and entertainment ... Can the town really afford to take on an arts center? What happens to Franklin Park Arts Center? 75,000 [square feet] of retail will significantly reduce foot traffic within the Town of Purcellville and more small businesses, those same businesses that the Town rests its laurels on in promoting tourism and small town charm ..."

Matthew Parse, who owns a property near Wright Farm asked who in the room had a zoning degree, noting that development on the outskirts of a town produces zero revenue for that town, imploring the town council to use "common sense," noting that, if they did, there's no way they would approve Purcellville Crossroads.

Town Council member John Nave asked how the town council could possibly consider anything on the project given, in particular, the differences between the staff's traffic numbers and VDOT's, asking that more work be done before continuing discussions with the county. Sullivan responded by saying, "we have

a pretty good idea what they [VDOT] are going to say," with town Manager Rob Lohr jumping in to indicate that the town should move forward to discuss the project with the county, with the town's work, essentially, as is.

Entered into the record were also the comments of Wright Farm residents Kecia and Owen Brown who said: "As residents of Wright Farm, we are growing increasingly disappointed with the evolution of the Purcellville Crossroads annexation and development request. As proposed ... this development will turn the Route 7 and 287 interchange into a twin of the not-so-idyllic Route 7 and Route 81 intersection in Winchester. In the last month we have conducted a survey of over 115 Wright Farm residents and the opinions are clear: all aspects of the current proposed land use are found to be 'abhorrent' by the vast majority. We respect the personal property rights of the Purcellville Crossroads landowners; but, they need to respect ours and those of our neighbors."

As a next step, two town council members – Doug McCollum and Karen Jimmerson – will to meet with two members of the Planning Commission (yet to be decided) to discuss the issue.

Mabel, continued from page 24

and the dessert cheese plate on a trip to South Carolina a few years back.

Mabel was justifiably known for being a serial escape artist. Starting as an adolescent she jumped over and dug under any number of fences. Once she snapped through a securely hooked screen door. Despite efforts to add multiple layers of wire mesh, and even two rows of almost Maginot Line-like fence redundancy, Mabel could and would get out. Every time. A memorable incident involved trying to bite her way through a glass-and-wood French door. (Nobody was hurt).

In later years, as the fence aged like her, she would just chew up a couple of ancient pickets and pop out. Her last escape was several months ago. Probably for old time's sake.

She was hanging out with Drew as he did yard walk. She just slipped away on painfully wobbly back legs to take a dip in Phil and Ellie's creek or Mary Owen's pond.

As always, she came back dripping. And slept for two days.

Note: Mabel made a last request of Sarah and Drew. In lieu of flowers or contributions to charities or even well-meaning email replies, she asked that you all hug your pet today in an extra special way.

It is impossible to sum up the soul and spirit of a beloved animal. Especially one who has given so many goofy years. Our friend Harry Titus perhaps said it best when he said, "That Mabel. She's ready."

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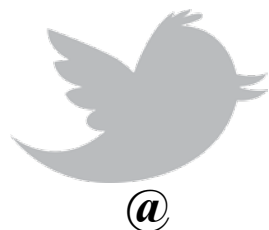
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Answers to puzzle from page 34



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Kitchen Science Kids: The Scientific Method

- By Leah Enright



ENRIGHT

The Scientific Method is simple-and it is a great way to make good choices and solve problems. In fact, many ideas that we believe to be true today, are the result of people asking questions, taking a reasonable guess, testing it out, and seeing what happens.

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Check each daily, being sure the paper towel stays moist, and look for differences in the way they grow.

Evaluate:

After one week, what do you see? Would you say that seeds can sprout in the dark? If they did sprout, why might that have happened? If they didn't, can you figure out why?

Teachers, doctors and people who design cars and computers use the scientific method every day, and I'll bet you do too, even if you don't realize it. Every time we think through a problem, come up with an idea for a solution, try it out, and consider whether or not it worked, we have used a system to help us make good choices and solve problems.

When Leah Enright isn't playing with food in her kitchen, she can be found writing about subjects that interest her, and coloring hair in Purcellville. She welcomes comments on her column in the online version of this newspaper.

Hey-what about the seeds?

Oh, yes . . . seeds can sprout in the dark. It's true that plants need sun to make food, and grow, but seeds have all of their food right there with them. Plants need leaves to make food, and seeds don't have leaves. You can read more about *Photosynthesis*, the way plants make food, at your local library.

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