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NOVEMBER 2015

Soaring Ambulance Fees Hit County Residents

— By Patrick J. Sloyan

Once the siren rattles this village, citizens flock to the Fighting Fifth, the nickname for Hamilton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company 5. An ambulance call means a team of three scrambles into the white and green van. They are as trained in life-saving skills as any big city ambulance crew. Heart attacks, choking babies, grisly highway wrecks—they have been doing without charge for 70 years.

All that changed this summer when the Fighting Fifth's ambulance crews were forced to charge hapless patients as much as \$770 to get to Loudoun hospitals. Unhappy was Jamil Scott, the Rescue Company's ambulance chief saw the fees as a blow to Hamilton's volunteer spirit. "Community service and dedication," said Scott, proudly.

He is an ex-Marine and an accountant with deep misgivings with the new cash and carry policy.

On July 6, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors imposed the largest single user fee in county history. Rescued patients placed on a stretcher must sign an electronic pad promising to pay for ambulance service. The basic charge went from zero to \$467. Additional medication or treatment on the way to the hospital costs as much as \$770. In addition, there is a new \$11-a-mile fee to cover the distance to the hospital.

"It's a tax increase," said Chief Scott, bitterly. "That's what user fees are."

Big increases may undercut traditional volunteer fire and rescue appeals for public contributions. Scott worries about a Nov. 4 soup sale and a Dec. 3 pancake breakfast

Continued on page 11

Purcellville Crossroads Proposal Moves Forward

— By Valerie Cury

In early October, Vice Mayor Ben Packard proposed to put the Purcellville Crossroads Application on the Oct. 27 Town Council Work Session Agenda for discussion. His reason for doing so was to have any additional questions answered so council could make a decision on whether or not to annex the property. Typically, it is the applicant that requests this process.

Background

Pleasants Kline, along with two other property owners, is requesting that Purcellville annex and bring into town approximately 50.4 acres of farmland rezoned for

residential use. The property is currently within the Purcellville/County Joint Land Management area and zoned JLMA-3 (one house per 3 acres). It is located at the north-west corner of the intersection of Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) and Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and along St. Francis Court.

Current Proposal

The proposal is to annex the property into the Town of Purcellville to "enable the development of a mixed use neighborhood." The plan proposes three zoning districts for the properties: Mixed Commercial (MC), Residential (R-3) and Institutional (IP). The developers are proposing 74 single family

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Dominion Power Poland Road Transmission Lines Alignments Draw Public Ire

— By Andrea Gaines

The Virginia State Corporation Commission held a series of local hearings in late October for Dominion Power's proposed Poland Road transmission line project in Loudoun County. The 230kV double-circuit transmission line is designed to serve a large new data center, and is comprised of a single pole structure approximately 4 miles long with a 100 feet wide right of way. The line would be located along Route 50 near the intersection of Route 50 and Route 606, bordering Washington Dulles International Airport.

Opponents of the proposed alignment in-

clude the Stone Springs Hospital Center and John Edgewood of Greenworks Landscaping, whose retail business would lose some of its facilities due to power line easement requirements. The project is also opposed by South Riding Proprietary president Kevin Turner, who has argued that the Route 50 corridor should be protected as a gateway to Loudoun's wine country, and "... is not to meant to be the New Jersey Turnpike of Loudoun County."

Thousands of people attended the hearings, including a session on Oct. 29. At that hearing a spokesperson for the citizen's

Continued on page 18

Com' On Let's Turkey Trot



Photos from Turkey Trots past ... join in the fun!

The 11th Annual 5K and Fun Run Turkey Trot will take place Sunday, Nov. 8 at 8 a.m. at the Loudoun Valley Community Center in Purcellville. The proceeds of this event support the LVCC advisory board's programming, including financial assistance to families in need and LVCC programming. For more information go to pvilleturkeytrot.shutterfly.com. To volunteer call 540 338-4122.



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The Psychology Of Your Child's Halloween Costume

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

since the recent recession and during a time that the U.S. economy is struggling again?

Even though Halloween has passed it is one of the most fun times of the year for children. The meaning of Halloween runs deep in our culture - it's a time to celebrate, a time for treats, a time for being spooky, a time for costumes, and it's a time to enjoy family and friends. When we think back to some of our fondest childhood memories, most of us have at least one or two Halloween moments.



Dr. Mike

And what costume your child selects, can say a lot about who he or she is or where they are developmentally.

Gore And The Macabre: Many young children are fascinated by monster costumes, but what is the message behind the mask? Perhaps Frankstein's monster symbolizes science gone bad. Others have posited that zombies symbolize excesses of consumer capitalism and dissatisfaction with conformity and a loss of individuality. Is it a coincidence that zombies were first introduced in film after The Great Depression, and they have gained in popularity in the media

Of course children who are drawn to monsters are likely unaware of any of their unconscious motivations, but they are certainly there. In my opinion, for example, children are drawn to zombies because

as far as scary creatures go, zombies are a relatively safe choice; zombies are slow, they are stupid and one could easily get away from a groaning pack of them if needed. Children are sensitive, and I think they empathize and identify with the plight of zombies; zombies were once human, and they roam about blindly just wanting to get back to being who they were.

Princesses: Children tend to pick costumes that personify their gender roles, and this is certainly the case for many little girls who are fascinated with princesses. What little girl does not want to be beautiful and special and to get a lot of attention for being both? It's even in our colloquial vernacular for girls to be

Continued on page 32

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Girl Scouts Earn Silver



Left to right: Amanda Imthurn, Olivia Reed and Lorallye Partlow.

Amanda Imthurn, Olivia Reed and Lorallye Partlow, senior Girl Scouts in Troop 6878 from Woodgrove High School, have earned their Girl Scout Silver Award. These young ladies took over the management, planning, planting and harvesting of the GrOwen Garden at Round Hill United Methodist Church for the last 10 months. The GrOwen team worked with hundreds of teen serve campers out of Leesburg, Girl Scouts in western.

Loudoun and the Kids Care Camp of RHUMC to educate children on organic gardening, using non GMO plants and "planting to serve." In turn the kids provided much needed labor to sustain GrOwen through the harvesting season. This GrOwen garden provided over 2,000 vegetables to a local food pantry and their Silver program has created the beginnings of a continued youth led garden movement at Round Hill United Methodist Church.

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Copeland Homestead Farm Celebrates 250 Years Of Same-Family Ownership

The Copeland Homestead Farm is celebrating its Sestercentennial Anniversary — the farm has been owned by the same family for 250 years. The farm is currently owned by seventh generation family member, Patric Copeland. Patric and his wife, Maura Walsh-Copeland's children, Sean, Jameson and Caitlin Copeland, are the quintuple great grandchildren of David and Deborah Copeland, who built the original portion of the Homestead in 1765.

The Copeland Homestead, located on the northeast side of Short Hill Mountain just south of the Town of Hillsboro corporate limits, is one of the oldest dwellings in the area. According to Loudoun County and Copeland family records, George Washington surveyed "The Grand Line" between Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax's Piedmont and Shannondale Manors, from the mouth of the Rappahannock, running through the Town of Hillsboro to Harper's Ferry and the Potomac River. This Grand Line still serves as the western boundary of the Copeland Farm.

James Copeland was a Revolutionary War soldier who served with General Daniel Morgan. For many years after the Revolutionary War, James and his brothers John and William Copeland along with other soldiers gathered each Fourth of July at Barbeque Spring, a site on the Copeland Farm near the current location of the Hillsboro Road/Rte 690

Bridge over Catoclin Creek just south of the Hillsboro Cemetery. The annual barbeques continued until shortly after the War of 1812, and the depression of the old pit may still be seen.

During the War Between the States the Federals camped on the Copeland farm. It was reported that one chicken, one cow, and one old rooster were all that remained after their departure. During the Burning Raids of 1864 the hay in the barn was set on fire, but family lore says James's granddaughter, Melissa Copeland, then only 17 years old, got a bucket of water and put the blaze out, otherwise the barn would not be standing today.

After James died in 1838 the farm then went by will to his wife, Sarah Akers Copeland, for her lifetime then to their son, Craven Akers Copeland. At some point Craven Akers Copeland fell on hard times. He borrowed money from two Copeland brothers with furniture in the farm as collateral. According to great grandson, Edward Virgil, Craven Akers had to sell a 25 acre portion of the farm around the 1850's to save losing it as a whole.

After Craven Akers and his wife, Cynthia Copeland's death in 1900, the Copeland Farm was willed one quarter each to their children: Craven Presley, Luther Lee, Melissa Catherine, and Dr. James Edward Copeland. Although he was the oldest son, Dr. James Edward Copeland had no interest




in farming. He received his medical degree in 1876 from the Washington University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md. and became a well-respected doctor in Western Loudoun. He first practiced medicine in Fauquier County then moved to a large house on Main Street in Round Hill, where he practiced medicine in the adjacent building, now known as Copeland House Antiques. At the time of his death in 1937 at age 92, Dr. James E. Copeland

was one of Loudoun's oldest residents, and was believed to be the last surviving Confederate soldier in the county.

Maria Copeland, a niece, was responsible for making the farm owned as a whole again when she purchased the remaining shares from her cousins. Edward Virgil Copeland, Jr. was her sole heir. Virgil and his son Patric Edward co-owned the farm and chose to preserve the property which is now in conservation easement.

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Paist Abruptly Resigns Purcellville Planning Commission Position Again Filled By Council Member Doug McCollum

At the beginning of the Oct. 15 Purcellville Planning Commission meeting, Chairman Gil Paist made a motion to put a vote for the election of a new chair and vice chair on the agenda for the evening.

Typically new appointments/changes to those serving on the commission are made on an annual basis at the body's first meeting in the month of November.

Paist gave as a reason for the sudden action that he was not going to be

able to attend that upcoming meeting. Commissioner Theresa Stein also said she would not be able to attend the November meeting, and this point was echoed by Planning Commission and town council liaison Doug McCollum, who said he would also probably not be able to attend.

The motion to set the vote for that evening passed 4-2-1 – with Commissioners Chip Paciulli, Paist, McCollum and Stein voting yes, commissioners Nedim Ogelman and EJ

Van Istandal voting no, and commissioner Chris Bledsoe absent for the vote (due to a delayed flight).

Commissioner Ogelman was on record as saying that the vote for the election of a new chair and vice chair for the Planning Commission should take place at the regularly scheduled time in November.

At the end of the meeting Paist made a motion to nominate his predecessor, Town Council member and Council Liaison Doug

McCollum, once again to the position of chair. Ogelman made a motion to nominate Commissioner Stein. She declined. A motion was then made by Commissioner Paciulli to make Stein Vice Chair, which she accepted. There was no vote as there were no other nominations.

At the end of the meeting Paist announced that he is resigning from the Planning Commission due to work and family obligations.

Lights Up At Franklin Park

Over two decades ago Loudoun County purchased 203 acres of farmland now known as Franklin Park. After meetings with the surrounding neighbors the county promised to keep the upper fields as passive recreation fields to protect the existing neighbors. This meant no lighted fields on the upper plateau of Franklin Park.

This promise was part of the Master Plan and Conditions of Approval. The lighted ball fields were kept on the lower fields. Supervisor Janet Clarke requested a Special Exception for lights on the upper fields early in her term and in late Oct., 16 poles went up at a cost of \$1.75 million.



Denstock Real Estate Investments

Eying Property In Purcellville

In October, Purcellville Vice Mayor Ben Packard disclosed that he and town council member Joan Lehr had met with Denstock Real Estate Investments of Charlottesville to discuss a potential new development near the western entrance to town.

The company is interested in the O'Toole property, located on Main Street across from Crooked Run Orchard. The company is looking into putting luxury apartments on the parcel, which also borders the Southern Collector Road.

Denstock Real Estate Investments describes their focus as "primarily [on] multifamily development," building "Class A luxury communities." Per its website, the company claims to have "created significant value for both our investors and our residents," focusing on establishing apartments near medical facilities.

Other Denstock developments include the 170-unit Meadow Branch Apartments complex in Winchester, VA (under construction), the 155-unit Stonegate Apartments at Zion Crossroads, VA, the 204-unit Apartments at Goose Creek in Fishersville, VA (under construction) and the 348-unit Lakeside Apartments in Charlottesville.

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Letter To The Editor

Thank You For Another Successful Halloween Block Party

Dear Editor:

The 5th annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party was the best attended to date with an estimated 6,000 descending on 21st street in Old Town this past Friday evening. Costume contest were held in 5 categories ranging from infants to adults. Prizes and trophies totaling over \$2,000 were awarded to some of the most awesome and creative costumes we have had at the block party. The Judges, Geno Stampora, Karen Jimmerson, Scott Harris and Police Chief Cynthia McAlister had some tough decisions to determine the winners. Thanks judges for a job well done!

We must give a big thanks to all the sponsors, without their support there would be no Halloween Block Party. Purcellville Pediatric Dentistry, Kianoush Tari Orthodontics, Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates, All American Ice Cream and Sertinos Coffee, Bank of Clarke County, Casa Tequila, It's Bazaar, Hunt Country Jewelers, Dulles Greenway, Magnolia's, Anytime Fitness, Blue Ridge Eagles, Mr. Print, Appalachian Outdoor Readiness & Essentials, Butterfly Gourmet, I.J. Canns, Mountain View Medical, Joy's Dream Bakery, Valley Energy, Matthew Bowe Design / Build, Tony Hudimac, CPA, John Chapman & Mark Nelis, Loco Joe, Mary Ellen Stover Antiques, M. Roundtree Estate Jewelry, Raven's Revenge, Purcellville Motors, Loudoun Veterinary Service, Western Loudoun

Chiropractic, Dilzer Eye Care, Middleburg Bank and a special thanks to Purcellville Council Members Karen Jimmerson, John Nave and Benjamin Packard, Jeff and Cathy Darby of OHM Productions for donating all the sound and light equipment. We cannot give enough thanks to all the support we get from the Town of Purcellville including Rob Lohr, Melanie Scoggins, Mitch Krippner and Mayor Kwasi Fraser. Whatever we needed or asked for the town provided. Thank you Police Chief McAlister and the Police Dept. along with Fire and Rescue for being on site. Last but not least thanks Purcellville Business Association and Tony Hudimac for accounting services.

What great entertainment we had this year. Improve comedy show by Last Ham Standing, Magic by Ryan, Face Painting with Party Pals, Balloon Art created by James Creel and all the volunteers who helped run all the games. Thanks, the crowd loved all of you.

Now we saved the best for last. What a can we say about the job Dave Wright did as the MC, professional, funny or just plain perfect. Kudos Dave.

As we have said before and it's more true today than ever, Kim and I absolutely, positively love living here in Purcellville, our home, the best small town in America. We love giving back to our community and its impeccable citizens who make Purcellville what it is!

Michael Oaks and Kim Patterson
Purcellville Halloween Block Party
Re-Love It a Consignment Shoppe

Your Voice Is Your Influence ... Use It!!

– By Kwasi Fraser, Mayor of Purcellville

Over the past months, I have advocated completion of the revision to our existing Comprehensive Plan prior to pursuing and enacting any of the Planning Commission's recommended zoning use changes. This would enable us to better align our zoning ordinance with the needs of our citizens, current and future. Indeed, the Planning Commission has committed significant time and effort to the zoning use change exercise. I realized my position would face strong opposition, and it has – as it should – since we are a democracy.

We are reminded, however, that the voices of the citizens should always prevail. This was especially evident in our citizens' and businesses' participation at last week's public hearing, and from emails and letters to this council conveying their concerns with the proposed zoning use changes.

As a result of your voices, there has

been significant reconsideration of the proposed zoning use changes and more to come. When I raised the concern about our churches becoming non-conforming, our town manager took swift action to alert each impacted church which voiced their concerns to the Planning Commission, and that recommendation was removed. Likewise, the proposed changes that would have negatively impact our two funeral homes were also removed. Recently, I also alerted the owner of Magnolia's that the Planning Commission had recommended changes to eating establishments that would result in his landlord needing a Special Use Permit to make any expansion to the existing building. As a result of Magnolia's owner voicing his concern, some members of this council are considering not pursuing the Planning Commission's recommendation about eating establishments and the addition of big box related zoning use changes in other districts.

This all goes to show that your voice counts, and it's your ultimate tool of influence so use it. I remain just one vote on council and will continue to represent you and remain encouraged that when I call upon you to further support your cause you will be there.

The response of the former Chairman of the Planning Commission to my question about the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the zoning use changes being recommended by the commission was that the town did not have the resources to complete such an analysis. He even cited an industry expert as saying it was almost impossible. As such, the vetting and analysis of each of the changes was left to the citizens and businesses, and I am proud to say you all rose to the task by giving clear voice and volume to your concerns.

The volume of changes to the recommendations made thus far, however, leads me to question the overall integrity

and credibility of the process. Specifically, I liken the effort to being asked to focus on spackling, painting, and fixing windows while there is a major crack in the foundation of the home.

I am convinced that the needed due diligence and analysis was not performed on these recommended zoning use changes, and perhaps, as suggested by the former chairman, this is owing to the enormity of the task and lack of resources and experience of the newly appointed Planning Commissioners. If this is the case, we should leverage the positives of this effort – such as the newly created matrix format – to outline our zoning district and uses and clarification of terminologies and to suspend adoption of all proposed zoning use changes until after the Comprehensive Plan's revision. Please let me know your thoughts on this as I am constantly reminded that I am but one voice.

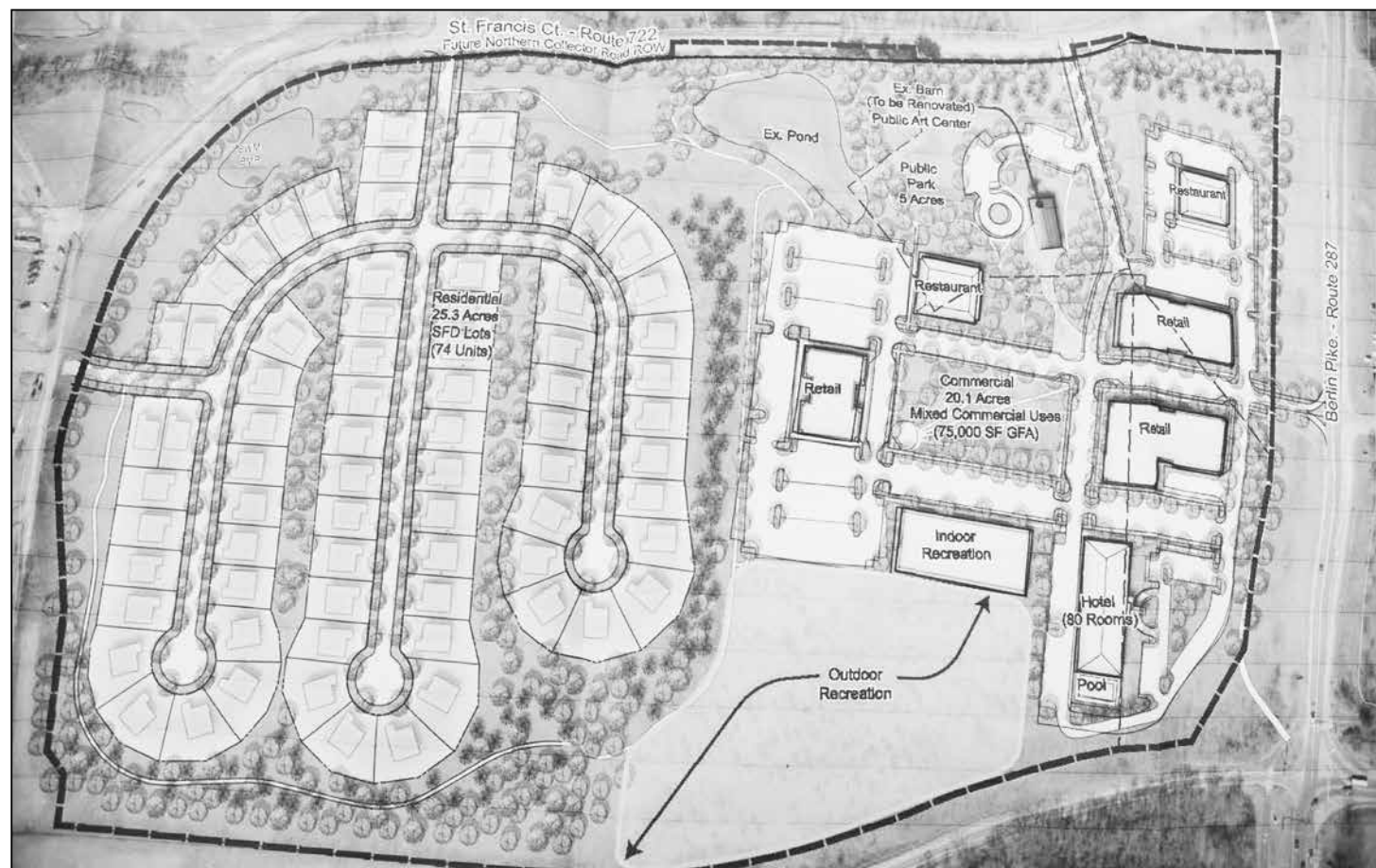
Crossroads, continued from page 1

dwelling, 75,000 square feet of mixed commercial to include restaurants and retail, an 80 room hotel, a proposed arts building, children's splash pad and a performer's park. There are still plans for Tilley's (entertainment), as well, which will include miniature golf with a hilly themed nature design, according to Bill Tilley. "We want to bring something unique and special to the area," he said. "It will help satisfy the need for family entertainment." He said he will consider go-karts indoors but if so they would be electric as well as the bumper boats. The indoor entertainment would also have bowling, laser tag, arcade games and restaurants. There will be an outdoor area tented for parties or events when necessary. The hours of operation would be until 10 p.m. weekdays and midnight on the weekends – opening at 9 or 10 a.m.

What Does The Staff Say

Town staff recommends the mixed use to provide for a "significant driver of customer visitation." Staff also notes that "An increase in the tax base would help maintain a lower tax rate." The town staff and some council members, when discussing potential growth or zoning, often compares Purcellville to Leesburg and Manassas. However, critics note that the increased development in Purcellville has yet to lower the tax rate as demand for services increases.

"More taxes do lower tax rates. The problem with the Purcellville Crossroad proposal development is that the entire premise is incorrect. New development outside of the Central Business District will not generate any new taxes. The tax base from the CBD will be eroded as it will take away clients from the other existing shopping centers in the core of the town. Further, residential development has proven to be a major tax burn for decades. One has only to look at Loudoun



County," said town resident Kelli Grim. "There are plenty of in town properties that have not yet been developed."

Staff also states that, if annexed, the potential for significant increases in density in the proposal "will be mismatched with the adjoining land uses in the Wright Farm development."

County comments on the proposal urged the Town to "apply land use policies and zoning districts that are compatible with the surrounding development pattern." The proposed development would bring roughly 5,200 vehicle trips daily, an increase of approximately 50 percent in the number of daily trips.

Town Council Comments: "You Annex A Property To Control It"

What does this mean? This sound bite has been used often – "if a property is annexed into town then we can control it." Recently Council members Doug McCollum, Patrick McConville, Ben Packard and Joan Lehr have repeated this.

Currently the property is zoned for one house per three acres. Consequently, if the property were to be developed that would mean approximately 16 homes – consistent with the surrounding areas. Brad Kline has said that he has no interest in developing the property by right (16 homes) because he couldn't make enough money. Once

in town he would have access to town utilities, which would open the door for more density and plan changes.

The Mayfair development is a good example. When this parcel was zoned as county land, the assessment on the property was approximately 1 million. Once annexed by the Town of Purcellville the property value jumped to \$8.5 million. One lot in the industrial zoned area in Mayfair, for example, sells for approximately \$600,000 – not even one full acre of land.

If annexed, the Purcellville Crossroads parcel/development would significantly increase the town's borders – all the way across Route 7 up Route 287.



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Remembrance Day Service For Veterans To Be Held Nov. 8

The Church of Our Saviour at Oatlands will hold a Remembrance Day service on Sunday, Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m. to honor military veterans and their service. Two former parishioners who were killed in combat— Capt. Charles Carter Riticor in World War I and Lt. Morton Corcoran Eustis in World War II—will be specially honored. The public is invited.

Riticor, a Loudoun native, was educated at the old Mountain Gap School at Oatlands and Washington & Lee University. He died on September 29, 1918 as a result of a gas attack in the second Battle of the Marne. Eustis, a Harvard graduate whose family owned Oatlands plantation, was killed in combat on August 12, 1943, after the allies' break-out from Normandy, when his tank was hit by enemy fire. Both Riticor and Eustis are buried in France.



Morton Corcoran Eustis (in military uniform) and Capt. Charles Carter Riticor (in graduation cap)

Following the service, a reception will be held at Oatlands plantation which will feature a display of Lt. Eustis' memorabilia. Refreshments will be served.

Church of Our Saviour is located south of Leesburg on Route 15, at its intersection with Oatlands Mill Road. The public is invited. For more information, please contact Stephen Price, Senior Warden at 703-314-2440.

Ambulance, continued from page 1

with Santa. In the past, families have made these fund raisers a vital success. Hamilton is one of 16 Loudoun fire and rescue companies with 1,500 volunteers and a growing number of full-time professional fire fighters.

Also upset was former Blue Ridge Supervisor, Jim Burton of Aldie. "This will sever the relationship between the community and its fire company," Burton said. "Why should I send annual contributions to my local company if they are going to charge me for their services? Are fees for putting out fires next?"

Additional user fees are in the works. In its new budget, the Supervisors emphasized the need for more. "The County, where possible, will institute user fees and charges for specialized programs and services," the board said in listing its revenue policy. "Rates will be established to recover operational as well as overhead or indirect costs and capital or debt service costs." All board seats are up for election this fall.

There was little debate among GOP board members over the ambulance fee. Only Supervisor Janet Clarke of Blue Ridge voted against the increase. "With medical costs rising, I didn't think it was appropriate," Clarke said. In the coming fiscal year, the County has budgeted \$65 million in tax dollars to purchase fire and rescue equipment and cover other operations. The new fees may slow the increase future tax-paid costs for these items.

Based on 13,460 ambulance hospital transports in the last fiscal year, the new fees could produce a minimum of \$6.2 million. But only \$4.5 million was projected in the new budget for the fees. Some of the money will go to a new agency to administer the fee program with an initial budget of \$385,000.

Board Chairman Scott York and Fire Chief W. Keith Brower Jr., stressed that no one will be denied ambulance service if they refuse to pay. Still, those who cannot afford the fees will be pressed to pay. According to Danielle Brosan who oversees the new ambulance fee program, patients unable or unwilling to pay will be sent three bills before efforts to collect are ended. There will be no resort to collection agencies.

Hamilton ambulance chief Scott worries about another policy change. "This is a soft fee increase now but in could become a hard requirement in the future," Scott said.

Instead of keeping ambulance service a top public health priority by using tax dollars, the Board shifted the burden to individuals felled by auto accidents, job mishaps, old age and sudden life-threatening illness.

To Burton, Loudoun supervisors abandoned a basic government principle.

"There are fundamental services that government should provide and I believe this is one," Burton said. "Ambulance service has (been) provided for decades without patient reimbursement."

Many economists view user fees and sale taxes as regressive revenue policy-insignificant for the wealthy but a burden for low-wage earners.

For the wealthy in Loudoun—median annual income was \$122,000 — health insurance will cover a portion of the new charges. Medicare and private health insurance pay part of the fee but most will be stuck with copays and hefty balances. There is still a sizable community in Loudoun without insurance that will be staggered by the hike. "There are a lot of people in the county who don't have insurance," said Supervisor Clarke citing another reason for her opposition.

Loudoun government statistics show residents living in poverty more than tripled since 1999, going from 4,637 to 14,000 today. Latino and Afro-Americans residents account for 18 per cent of the county population now at 412,538. Loudoun has doubled in size since 2000 and is one of the fastest growing in the United States.

The philosophical change was caused in part by rising costs. As Loudoun shifts from rural with handy volunteers to a more suburban setting, demand increased for some full-time professional emergency medical crews. Professionals now number 633. "Most are fire fighters," said Mary Maguire, who speaks for the Fire Department.

Even in Hamilton, Scott concedes there are fewer volunteers to form an ambulance crew. "It use to be that too many would show up when the tone was sounded," Scott said. "Today it is getting harder to fill out a crew of three." Even so, Scott said the new charges are unwarranted.

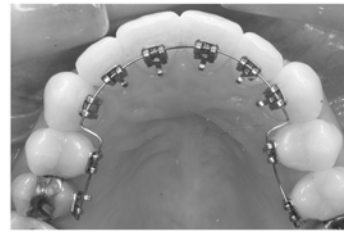
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Purcellville Halloween 2015 Bash A Huge Success



Pet winner

Photos by Samantha Hagan



Kid winners getting trophy from Kim Patterson-Oaks of Re-Love It



Teen and Adult Costume Contest



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"The costumes this year were so unbelievably creative and clever. People are finding out that the top prize is \$500 cash and a trophy ... so it seems like they are going all out!"

That – according to Halloween 2015 sponsor Michael Oaks of the Re-Love It consignment store – just about sums up the fantastic happenings surrounding Purcellville's 5th Annual Halloween Block Party.

MC'd by Dave Wright, founder and moderator of the Improv Comedy Troup Last Ham Standing, Halloween 2015 was attended by thousands of people this year – a crowd that greatly surpassed last year's bash.

The cash was flowing as was the creativity, enthusiasm and energy of the crowd.

And who won? Well, that's the important part, noted Michael and his wife and business partner, Kim. "Our favorite part of the event ... besides seeing the winners' faces light up ... is seeing the joy on the kids' faces through out the evening. The adults really enjoyed themselves, too!"



Teen and Adult Costume Contest

Contest winners included:
Infants 0 to 5 years –1st Place, Isabella Nosner as Nemo, 2nd Place, Aria Cushnie as Indian Girl; 3rd Place, Olivia DeMarco as Space Shuttle Pilot.

6 to 12 year olds – 1st Place, Wren Griner as Popcorn, 2nd Place, Angos Vinay as the Mummy; 3rd Place, Alexandre Saxton as Zombie.

Pets – 1st Place, Shannon Bowe, Jockey with Horse Dog, 2nd Place, Brandy Holzman, Ninja Turtles (4 Dogs); 3rd Place, Chris Lafferty, Nurse Dogs.

Teens 13 - 17 year olds –1st Place, Declan Redmond as Dalek, 2nd Place, Alyssa Myers as Scarecrow; 3rd Place, Angelique Lane as Centar.

Adults 18 plus – 1st Place (Tie!) Vida Nelson as Swamp Creature and Kayla Beauregare as Swamp Creature (smaller); 2nd Place, Ron Lickey as the Mummy; 3rd Place, Carlos Nichols as Ice Queen.

Best of the Block Party – Emma & Henry Curtis, Emmet from the Lego Movie.

Thank You Re-Love It!



Infant winner




Submitted photo




Screamers contest who had the scariest scream. All photos by Samantha Hagan.

Kelley Partlow at It's Bazarre had her entire shop filled with games and scavenger hunts. A shout out goes to Beth Pretre of Shave And A Haircut for Kelley's coiffure.

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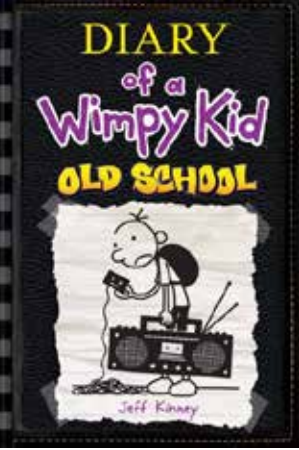
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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Phil Bolen Memorial Park

– By Tim Jon

I never knew Phil Bolen as the Loudoun County Government Administrator; I never even got to know him as Director of Parks and Recreation, and I certainly never knew Phil Bolen the teacher and coach at Loudoun Valley High School. No – the summer I moved to Loudoun County – July of 1997 – Phil Bolen was the beloved sportscaster at Wage Radio – formerly at 1200 on your AM dial. It was as if – to me – Phil had had only one occupation his entire life: that of scholastic sports announcing on our little, local radio station; if you ever heard one of his sportscasts, I'm gauging you know what I'm talking about.

I can still replay the sound of his voice in my head as he intoned the names of some of the local high school sports stars of the day; Phil's reassuring baritone had the effect of a spoonful of molasses – it just made you feel good to sit and listen. My first thought was, "This guy reads sports like a Dylan Thomas from Northern Virginia." It was almost beyond poetic: It was symphonic. Now – if you're one of the many newcomers to Loudoun County in fairly recent times, you never got to hear the wonderful drawl of Phil, as he shared the latest scholastic sports results; you might even wonder if ol'



Tim Jon isn't stretching the truth just a little bit, as he's been known to at least approach the line in the past. I wouldn't blame you for the suspicion, but this time, anyway, I stand by the objective viewpoint I've lain down: Phil Bolen's vocal powers of near hypnotization were the real deal, and I'm pretty sure I know why.

See, if you talked to Phil just one time, you knew that he absolutely loved people, and his favorite group of us humans was kids, and his genuine enthusiasm rose up and bubbled over when it came to youth athletics. I guess all that passion had previously made him a great choice for Loudoun County Administrator, and Director of Parks and Recreation, and a teacher and coach. So, I guess you could say that, as the incoming News Director for

Wage Radio, back in the summer of 1997, I developed a very healthy appreciation, and deep affection, for Phil's sportscasts and the emotional connections he formed with his various subjects.

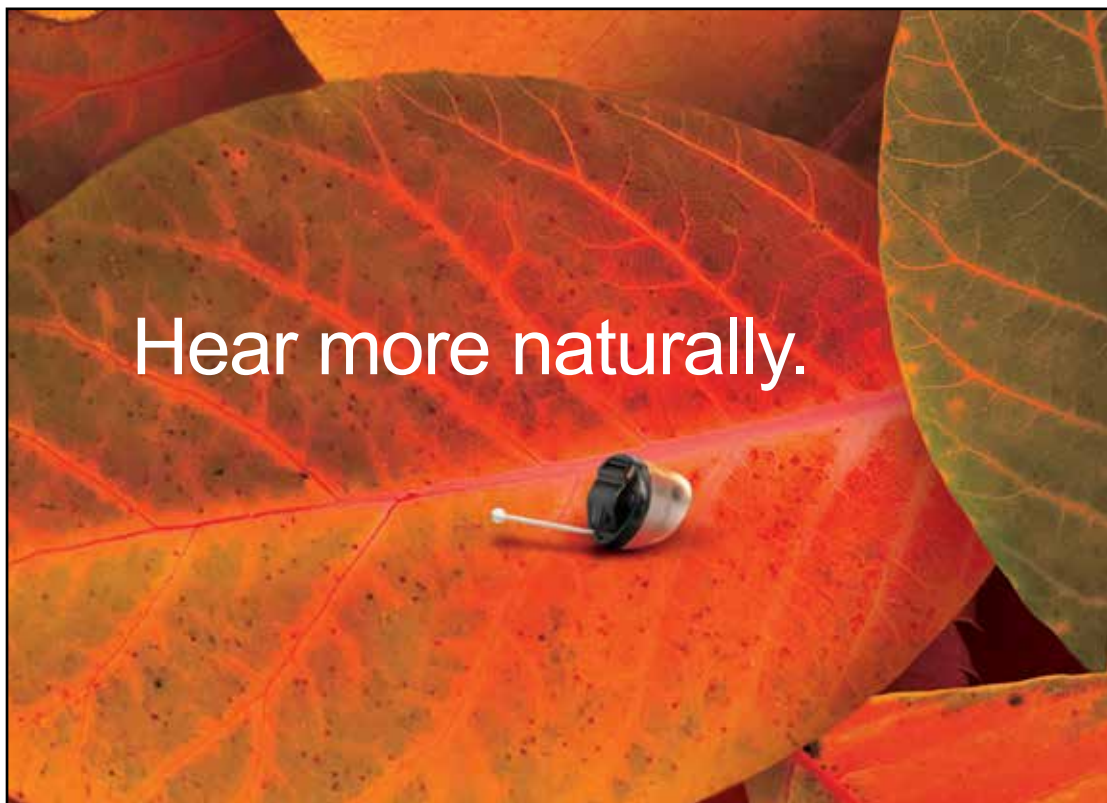
So: Fast-forward to 2015, and: This is just the tip of the iceberg of personal history that I carried with me as I made my first visit to Phil Bolen Memorial Park – just south of Leesburg. It was a warm, muggy morning – during summer ball season – and members of some of the local teams were already showing up for the day's events. Now, it's one thing to read on the County's Webpage that you'll find something like 17 fully furnished athletic fields among the 400-plus acres at this local complex; it was quite another experience entirely – for me, anyway – to

take a slow drive through the place, and get a close view of every one of those massive shrines to sporting activity; one could almost get lost in trying to find a specific field for baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, soccer, field hockey or what have you.

The entire facility is just far enough off Sycolin Road to enjoy a sensation of seclusion from 'highway traffic' and the distraction of constantly-passing vehicles. Seeing the whole package of Phil Bolen Memorial Park for the first time was a most impressive experience: It really is a lot of fields! And since this is a Loudoun County Park facility, they were all in immaculate condition.

And, if I knew Phil Bolen in the least, I can safely say that he would be very happy. Now, I hope my first visit to Phil's Park isn't my last; I want to get out there sometime during the middle of a Saturday afternoon during the height of the summer ball season. I can pull my car over just close enough to one of those fields to hear the cheers of the crowd, the yells of some of the players, the crack of the bat and ball, the birds and the breeze; and in the background, somewhere in the filing system of the past years, I'll again hear the reassuring baritone of Phil Bolen, intoning his rendition of local, youth athletic activities.

If Heaven is any better than this, I'm sure Phil is in a very good place. I miss him, but at the same time, I'm very happy for him.



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Leesburg Ladies Tennis Team Wins State Tournament

Ida Lee Park Tennis Center's Ladies Singles 2.5 Team, Simply Smashing, won the USTA Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship tournament, held October 16-18, at the Virginia Beach Tennis and Country Club.

Simply Smashing members include team captain Beth Cioni, Debbie DeLadurantaye, Jennifer Fox, Robin Haast, Holly McMullen and Deja O'Malley. They train out of Ida Lee Park Tennis Center, under the coaching of tennis professional Mark Elliot.

USTA League is the country's largest recreational tennis league, organized as competitive team match play. Teams and matches are set up according National Tennis Rating Program rating categories so that teammates and their opponents have similar skill levels. The ratings are based on a scale from 1.0 (player is just starting to play tennis) to 7.0 (player makes his/her living from tournament prize money).

For more information about Ida Lee's tennis programs, visit www.idalee.org.



Left to right: Deja O'Malley, Jennifer Fox, Debbie DeLadurantaye, Robin Haast, Beth Cioni and Holly McMullen.

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Mayor Kwasi Fraser planting a tree.



Boy Scout Johnny Robic



Hail To The Trail

Fall Day At Chapman DeMary Nature Trail

More than 100 people came to Hail to the Trail in Purcellville at the Chapman DeMary Nature Trail on Oct. 25 to enjoy a day in the woods and to learn about nature. This event included nature walks, demonstrations of youth projects at the trail, a rain barrel workshop, live animals, food, and live music. More than 20 local organizations and businesses had displays and activities for kids to help them understand more about nature and our environment.

During the event, environmental nonprofit The Nature Generation gave volunteer Nancy Reaves the 2015 McGranaghan Stewardship Award for her efforts to teach youth who visit the Chapman DeMary Trail how to care for nature and how to be responsible environmental stewards.

Johnny Robic of Boy Scout Troop 961 in Hillsboro was also recognized for building four picnic tables placed in the outdoor

classroom area. This project helped him achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Nature Generation Board Member Jessica Kent asked the 2015 Chapman DeMary Nature Trail sponsors who were present to come forward for the unveiling of the new welcome sign that recognizes each of them for their support and generosity. The individuals and businesses that support the trail include Dominion Bank, Middleburg Bank, Purcellville Gazette (Leader level); AllState Insurance (Naturalist level); The Cabinet Showcase, Environmental Termite & Pest Control, Fieldstone Farm Bed & Breakfast, Magnolias, Maid Brigade, Purcellville Copy, Rotary Club of Purcellville, Wholesale Screening Solutions (Steward level); and Appalachian Outdoor Readiness & Essentials, Bank of Clarke County, Browning Equipment, Inc., Designing



Mcgranaghan Award, Nancy and Amie

Flowers, LLC, Hudimac & Company, Jimmerson Family, Magnolias at the Mill, Linda Perry and Family, Purcellville Lion's Club, Zicht & Associates, PLC (Pollinator

level).

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser read an Arbor Day Proclamation, declaring Oct. 25 as the official Arbor Day of the Town of Purcellville for 2015. In honor of this proclamation, he planted two serviceberry trees with help from the Loudoun County Tree Stewards and trail volunteers.

Hail to the Trail was co-hosted at the Chapman DeMary Nature Trail by The Nature Generation—a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring environmental stewards, and Painting Purcellville Green—an initiative of the Town of Purcellville's Committee on the Environment. This nature trail is part of a partnership among The Nature Generation, Loudoun Valley High School, the Piedmont Environmental Council, and the Town of Purcellville. To learn more about the trail go to www.NatGen.org.

Power Lines, continued from page 1

group Dulles South Alliance asked that everyone opposed to the power lines raise their hands, at which time the SCC commissioner noted for the record that everyone in the room had done so. No decision was made at the hearing, moving the issue to additional hearings that will take place in Richmond in early 2016.

At a summer 2015 business meeting, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors – seeking “alternative alignments for the transmission lines that better correspond with existing and planned land uses [and] require the same or less right-of-way and cross properties that would be less impacted by the lines and associated easements” — passed a resolution opposing the routes being requested by Dominion.

The resolution stated, in part: “Whereas ... County utility policy seeks to separate major transition lines from residential communities ... and ... each of the three DVP-

proposed Route 50 alignments has serious implications for the continued economic viability of small business and planned development of properties ... and ... DVP did not provide adequate public outreach and discussion with the County and affected property owners ... [the BOS] strongly opposes the three Route 50 alignments proposed ...”

The BOS has suggested three alternative alignments – maps for each can be found at www.loudoun.gov. According to the county website:

Alternative 1 would run “from Poland Road north across Route 50 heading west, around the quarry on the Dulles Airport property, turning west across Loudoun County Parkway avoiding the planned Route 50/Loudoun County Parkway interchange and then north following the west side of Loudoun County Parkway to an existing 230 kV transmission line at the North Fork of Broad Run.”

Alternative 1b would run “from Poland

Road north across Route 50 heading west, north of Route 50 and avoiding the quarry, turning west across Loudoun County Parkway avoiding the planned Route 50/Loudoun County Parkway interchange and then north following the west side of Loudoun County Parkway to an existing 230 kV transmission line at the North Fork of Broad Run.”

Alternative 2 would run “from Poland Road north across Route 50 heading west, around the quarry on the Dulles Airport property, turning west crossing Loudoun County Parkway avoiding the planned Route 50/Loudoun County Parkway interchange, then west onto Dulles West Boulevard (previously called Dulles South Parkway), and then following the Dulles West Boulevard alignment/ROW to tie into the 500 kV transmission line.”

Alternative 2b would run “from Poland Road north across Route 50 heading west, north of Route 50 and avoiding the quarry,

turning west crossing Loudoun County Parkway avoiding the planned Route 50/Loudoun County Parkway interchange, then west onto Dulles West Boulevard (previously called Dulles South Parkway) and then following the Dulles West Boulevard alignment/ROW to tie into the 500 kV transmission line ... “and,

Alternative 3 would run “from Poland Road across Route 50 north to the quarry and then east along Route 50 as far north of the road as reasonable to the west side of the Cub Run stream valley then south adjacent to the existing business parks, crossing Route 50 to Willard Drive and then east to an existing 230 kV transmission line and an existing substation.

The Board of Supervisors also advises citizens that additional written comments on the proposal must be submitted by January 6, 2016, by writing to the SCC at P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118 or by going to the SCC's website: www.scc.virginia.gov (case number PUE-2015-00053).

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The Death Of American Education

– By Nicholas Reid



REID

The American education system that used to promote the free exchange of differing opinions is dead. Political Correctness has killed it.

Take, for example, the anti-Israel BDS movements occurring on many major universities across the United States. The BDS movement, which stands for Boycott, Divest, and Sanction, seeks to end the wars between Israel and Palestine by isolating Israel from the world. However, part of the BDS movement on American college campuses is to delegitimize and attempt to shut down the pro-Israel voice. This is joined by greater anti-Semitism, including the vandalization of areas on campus before a pro-Israel speaker is to speak there and the interruption of pro-Israel rallies by BDS and affiliated groups, to name a few. This creates a general culture of hostility towards anyone who supports Israel, causing them to be less vocal about their opinions. Debate is shut down through intimidation.

Throughout primary and secondary education, students are exposed to heavy doses of left-wing causes by teachers acting either on their own or following a lesson plan. As a personal experience, in my 7th grade year, my PE/Health teacher took time out of Health class to show us Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth. This was in Health class, mind you. How does global warming, a scientific issue, apply to Health class, which is about staying personally healthy? It doesn't (unless one is looking at how global warming might affect public health). It was just a blatantly political move. No documentary doubting the apocalyptic predictions or Gore's film was ever shown in that class. We heard one side of the issue.

But the area of American education that

is by far the most affected by the one sided push of the liberal worldview is definitely history class. History curriculums all over the country, including Loudoun County, display a one-sided, liberal view of history. This leads to many important people and events being neglected or even outright attacked. American schoolchildren who do not seek to expand their base of knowledge on history will often come out of the school system with a bent understanding of history that emphasizes America's faults and glosses over "the good" of America.

America's schoolchildren should learn about the Battle of the Bulge and the exceptional bravery of those who kept on fighting the Nazis after their units were destroyed, alone or in small groups. Instead, the AP US History textbook devotes half a page to the persecution of gay people in the military during the war. There is not even a reference to the Battle of the Bulge, which happens to be the largest American battle (more US soldiers fought in the Bulge at once than in anywhere else in history). Instead of learning about how necessary it was to stop the Soviets, the AP curriculum emphasizes how awful the CIA's actions were abroad and devotes more coverage to the My Lai Massacre than to any of the civilian murders committed by the Viet Cong and, after the fall of Saigon, the North Vietnamese in general. In fact, it's not even covered at all.

It is truly a tragedy that this political bent in history classes could go on for quite a bit longer.

Nicholas Reid recently graduated from high school in Loudoun County and is currently studying geology at the South Dakota School of Mines. He plans to be a paleontologist. He is the grandson of teacher and writer Dr. Johanna LaFiandra and conservative columnist Joe LaFiandra.

New Facebook Page For The Town Of Purcellville



The Town of Purcellville has announced the formal launching of its new Facebook page.

Said Mayor Kwasi Fraser: "We have an obligation to educate and inform our citizens and other stakeholders about our town. The town's new Facebook page presents another avenue enabling us to engage our audience and other communities of interest – often and consistently via social media. We hope all will 'like' our page and become engaged and informed."

The page is designed to keep citizens and interested parties informed about community events and news, governmental

activities, zoning appeals and other development-related activities being considered by various town departments and advisory councils, school and local sports activities and announcements, and more.

A sampling of recent postings includes updates on the "Purcellville Crossroads" property at the corner of the Route 7 Bypass and Route 287, which was discussed at the Oct. 27 town council meeting, happenings around the annual town Halloween block party, activities at the Chapman DeMary Nature Trail, town drug prevention and reduction efforts, and an update on streetscape improvements along 21st Street.

All are free to visit the page and get involved at www.facebook.com/pucellvilleva.

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– By Hannah Hager

Altogether luminous and light, this estate on Lime Kiln Road in Middleburg lives up to its name with a natural, ashen stone front façade, which also boasts a front veranda off the sunroom and a four-car courtyard garage.

The interior is no less elegant thanks to a reception area of softly treated hardwood floors and a sweeping spiral staircase that leads to a spacious balcony overlook on the second level. A significant portion of the

home features whitewashed walls, which adds to the airy feel. Crown molding and chair rail detailing are seen throughout, as are arched windows and recessed lighting.

A beautifully appointed fireplace stands as the centerpiece of the formal sitting room, which also avowals two large, four-paned windows. The formal dining room has French doors leading to a private section of the five-acre acreage. The library has a bit more of an intimate feel with built-in mahogany bookcases.

The intimacy is still felt within the two-

story family room, despite its largesse. Perhaps this is due to the floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace with wood mantel. The great room is just off the gourmet kitchen that is well positioned to be the hub of activity as it features an oversized island with breakfast bar, a fully-equipped, five-burner Thermador gas cooktop, double wall ovens, two porcelain sinks and 42” cabinets. A smaller seating area, including a secondary gas fireplace, is found in the breakfast nook. The seating area further adds to the family-oriented atmosphere.

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Behind Closed Doors

– By Mary Rose Lunde



LUNDE

It's sad to say that the norm now is to wonder about the next school shooting. For a student it is the most terrifying thing, the next shooter could come at any moment, and any day could be the day that you die. It could be your classroom. What's stopping someone from coming in and killing everyone? As sad as it is, this is the fear that students go through, enough sometimes preventing students from even attending classes.

It breaks people's hearts to hear about another shooting nearly every day. On Google the list of school shootings goes on and on. Why does this happen? No one is entirely certain. Hopefully things are changing with the adoption of anti-bullying and anti-gun laws. It seems things are on the mend, hopefully to a shooting-free school environment. Or so people assume.

The truth is that students are terrified to go to classes. Some have panic attacks because of it and refuse to attend a class on the risk of something bad happening. This is happening far more often, especially for college students. It is a scary thought to think about, and many don't understand that the likelihood is steadily increasing because of all the shootings. Although the majority do not acknowledge this fear, and if they do, they shake it off as unlikely.

A student sits down in a windowless room; she sees the emergency poster on the wall. The professor walks in and closes the door without locking it. It's one of those doors that is plaster white and does nothing to contrast the white concrete walls that surround the room. The teacher starts talking but she can't focus, her eyes are fixated on the door. It is supposed to be locked, but it isn't. Late students trickle in, opening the door. She realizes how easy it is for anyone to come into her classroom. This is the panic that a student can feel in each class.

As a Hokie who has to pass the 2007 memorial in front of Burruss each day, the fear of a school shooting is still real for me. I know that Virginia Tech is considered one of the safest campuses since we have already faced tragedy once and that our response system and security has increased dramatically; however, the system is still generally limited. It is easy to walk into any classroom at any point in time. Students are always out and about no matter the time.

My point is not about being prepared or not going to classes because of the danger; in fact, it is the opposite. Students go to classes despite fear. Yes, there is danger in attending a school, but it is a danger that is omnipresent, one that is inescapable. Living despite fear is the key. Yes, there is much policy that needs to be changed, but in general, each student should not have to hide in fear.

Mary Rose is a sophomore at Virginia Tech who enjoys living life despite fear.

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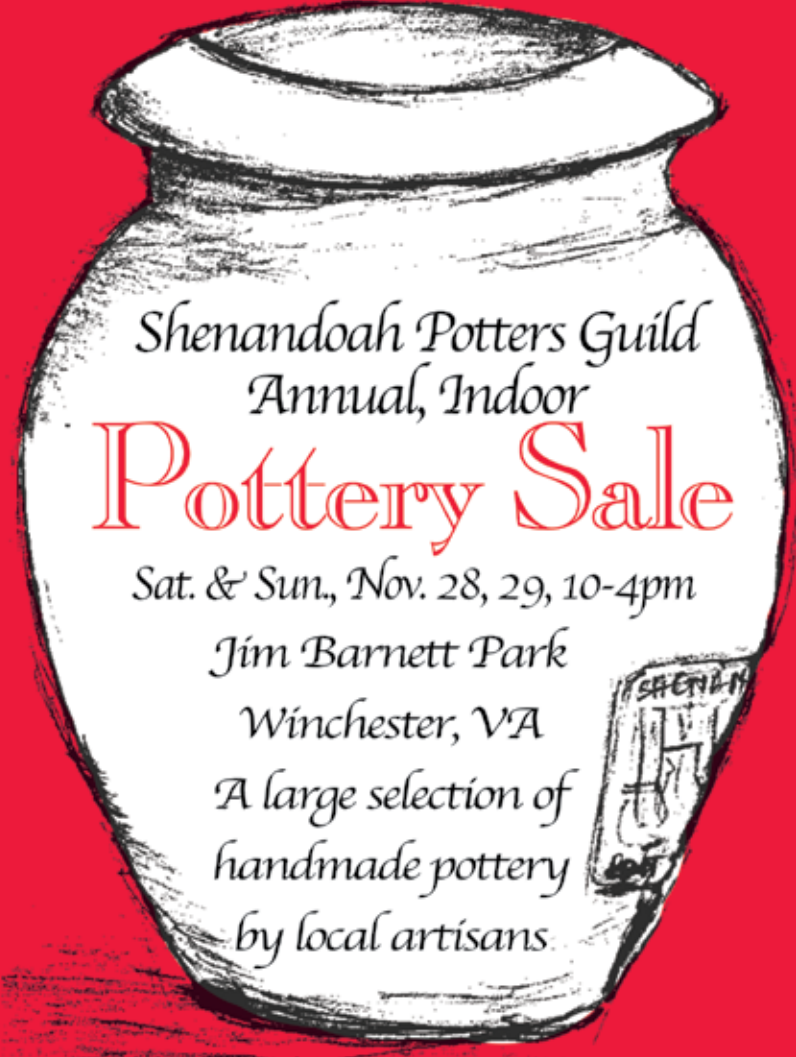
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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life: Trusts

A common estate planning device is the trust. A trust is simply an agreement between two people: the person who establishes the trust, who may be called the Settlor, the Grantor or the Trustor, and the person or institution who agrees to fulfill the terms of the trust, called the Trustee. There can be multiple Settlers, as, for example, a married couple; and there can be more than one Trustee. Quite often in estate planning the Settlor(s) and the Trustee(s) are the same person(s), as when a married couple creates a joint trust.

There are many different types of trust, too many to describe in the space of this article. In estate planning a "Revocable Living Trust" (RLT) is very common. This is a trust established during lifetime which the Settlor(s) can continue to change during lifetime. Usually the Settlor(s) and the Trustee(s) are the same person(s).

The RLT has several advantages. First, the RLT avoids probate for the assets



AMY & DAN SMITH

with which it is properly funded during lifetime (for an explanation of probate, refer to our prior article on "Probate"). It is easier to change than a will. It provides a measure of privacy after death because, unlike a will, it is not recorded in the public records. (Beneficiaries, however, are entitled to a copy of the trust after the death of the Settlor.) It can provide lifetime management of assets for a Settlor who wants to turn that responsibility over to another person.

Contrary to popular belief, the RLT does not avoid estate tax. The RLT does avoid probate tax, but that tax is minimal. However, estate tax is not an issue for most Virginia residents. Unlike D.C. and Maryland, Virginia has no state estate tax. The federal government imposes an estate tax, but the current exemption is \$5,430,000 per person.

Attorney fees are generally higher when an RLT is part of an estate plan because the trust is an additional document. Wills are still needed, although they are simple wills that "pour over" assets into the RLT at death. Do-it-yourself will and trust kits quite often lead to significant problems

after death and are not recommended.

In order for an RLT to be effective in avoiding probate, it must be properly funded. This means that assets which would otherwise pass under the will (and thus go through probate) must be transferred to the trust during lifetime. It is common and most unfortunate for a Settlor to spend money to create a well-drafted trust but fail to fund it properly.

The RLT can provide for on-going trusts after the death of the Settlor. For example, a married couple may include a provision in their joint RLT that, if they are both deceased, a separate trust will be created for each child. A Trustee will be named for the trust, and the terms of the trust will be set forth. For example, the Trustee may be authorized to disburse for "health, education, support and maintenance" of the child and to disburse, say, half the balance of the child's trust at 25 and the remaining balance at 30.

While the RLT can be very helpful in an estate plan, the need for an RLT can be overstated by advisors. There are many situations in which a simple will is quite sufficient. Each situation is different and

should be reviewed with a competent advisor.

The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer. The foregoing contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent firm, CFP, CIMA, offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel.703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Please note changes in tax laws may occur at any time and could have a substantial impact upon each person's situation. While we are familiar with the tax provisions of the issues presented herein, as Financial Advisors of RJFS, we are not qualified to render advice on tax or legal matters. You should discuss tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.



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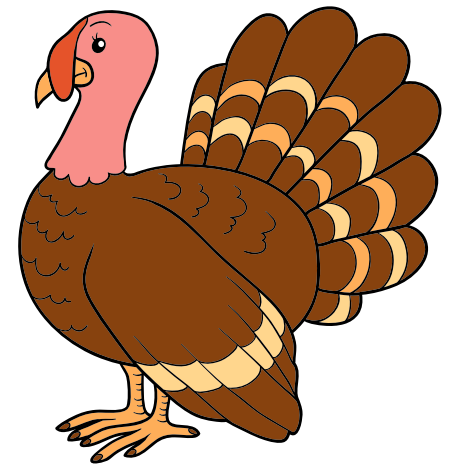
Get Your Turkey On!

10 Fun Games for Thanksgiving Day

– By Andrea Gaines

Engaging games are the perfect partner for the great Thanksgiving food you're preparing. Here are some ideas:

- 1. Best Ideas For Leftovers:** While eating your meal, have someone go around the table (taking notes) asking guests to give the group an idea for creative uses of Thanksgiving leftovers. Take a table vote for who made the weirdest suggestion, the most delicious selection and the most creative suggestion. (Pumpkin pie quesadillas, anyone? ...)
- 2. Pumpkin Tag:** With a small pumpkin serving as the pigskin ... play a little tag football! Anyone holding or throwing the ball needs to yell "gobble, gobble, gobble" ... to tag someone, you need mark them with a piece of orange tape or paper ... and members of the losing team are required to walk down the street like a turkey – knees bent, rear end swinging side to side yelling "waddle, waddle, waddle!"
- 3. I Helped!:** It's fun to get everyone involved in turkey day, so hand out some tasks. Get someone to peel the carrots, mash the potatoes, welcome guests at the door, and bang a pan when the meal is ready.
- 4. Drumstick Artist:** Give game participants a blank piece of paper. Blindfold them and ask them to draw a Thanksgiving item to draw – a turkey, peas, a pumpkin, a pilgrim, etc.). Best two artists – or maybe the funniest ones – get first dibs at the drumsticks!
- 5. "Leaf" The Table.** Send everyone outside to pick up the best fall leaves they can find. Just before you sit down to your meal, scatter the table with the leaves to add some color to the day.
- 6. Forehead Food:** Have a game organizer write 20 Thanksgiving foods on small pieces of paper –



turkey, mashed potatoes, candy corn, cranberry sauce, pie, etc. Tape a square to each person's forehead and have them ask people questions about the food to try and guess what it is.

- 7. Pumpkin Speed Puzzle:** Find an image of a pumpkin and print it out so it fills up an 8-1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. Cut the sheet into six equal pieces and scatter the pieces on a big table. Time your guests to see who can put the image back together the fastest.
- 8. Pin The Feathers On The Turkey:** Hang up an old sheet and draw a turkey on it, leaving out the tail feathers. Make those out of brightly brown, orange and yellow paper and have people play pin-the-feathers-on-the-turkey.
- 9. Hand Me A Turkey:** Have the kids in the group do an outline of their hand on the bottom half of some construction paper – the thumb becomes the turkey's head and the four fingers are the tail. Write a name to each sheet in the center of the palm, fold over and use as a seating chart.
- 10. You're Nuts:** Blindfold one of your guests. Put a nut in their hand (with or without the shell) and have them guess what kind it is. If they guess right everyone yells: "I always knew you were nuts!"

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Mom's Delicious Turkey Stuffing



Ingredients:

- 2 whole cornbreads from recipe (see below), coarsely broken into 2-inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small pieces, plus more for dish
- 8 slices nitrate free bacon, chopped into small pieces
- 1 ½ cups pecans or chestnuts
- 4 celery stalks, chopped into ¼ inch pieces
- 4 leeks (white and pale-green parts), chopped into 1/4inch pieces, make sure you clean well
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread pecans on a baking sheet. Toast in oven for 10 minutes. Let cool and chop coarsely. Mix together pecans and cornbread in a large bowl.

Butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Cook bacon until almost crisp. Reduce heat to medium; add celery and leeks. Cook until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Stir in thyme and salt; season with pepper. Let cool.

Return skillet to medium-high heat, and add stock; bring to a simmer, scraping up brown bits and stirring constantly. Let cool a bit then add to bowl with bacon-

Cornbread Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal stone ground and 1 cup all-purpose flour or gluten free flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder and ½ baking soda
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- 2 large eggs
- 2/3 cup buttermilk
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled

Directions:

Turn Oven to 425 and grease a 9-inch square metal pan

Wisk commeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar and salt together

Crack eggs and beat with fork. Then add buttermilk and milk and stir. Blend in the dry ingredients and stir until mixed. Pour batter into pan and cook for about 25 minutes making sure top of cornbread is golden brown and let cool.

vegetable mixture and butter pieces. Stir in eggs. Gently mix in cornbread mixture and do not overmix. Transfer to baking dish. Dot top with butter. Bake until golden brown, about 35 minutes.

Funding Sought For Scholarship For Loudon Students Participating In Youth Sports

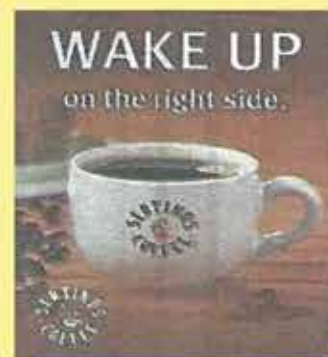
The Don Rose, Sr. Youth Scholarship Fund is seeking financial support to provide scholarships at college, technical or trade school. Applicants from public, private, and home schools are eligible to receive the scholarship, provided they participated in youth sports within Loudoun County.

The fund aims to award two \$500 scholarships (one to a male student and one to a female student) to each of the four oldest high schools in Loudoun County for the 2015-2016 school year. The long-term goal is to award two scholarships to every high school in Loudoun County. The scholarship is named after Don Rose Sr, who served as a coach and mentor to hundreds of Loudoun County athletes over a 47-year time-period.

Please visit <http://www.donroseyouthfund.com/> for more information.



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The Loudoun Sketch Club – Documenting Our County’s Beauty Since 1944



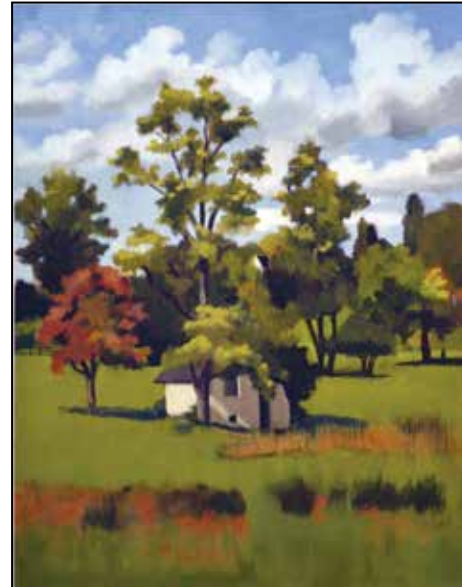
Artist with farm animal



Betty Wiley at Meadow Grove Farm 2012



Loudoun Sketch Club artists at work



“Welsh’s Springhouse” by Jessica Wilson

– By Andrea Gaines

In October of 1944, three Loudoun County artists displayed their works at the historic Waterford Fair.

Over the years, the three ladies – Evelyn Marshall, Vinton Pickens, and Betty Tiffany – had gathered at historic farms and properties to sketch, paint and celebrate their friendship, all the while quietly and purposefully looking forward to the day when Loudoun would be seen as a destination for artists and art lovers alike. Their mission? Document the beauty, history and rare elements of nature unique to western Loudoun County, as seen through the eyes of the artists who so love the place.

At one sketch session at Pickens’ historic Janelia Farm, Vinton’s husband Robert remarked, “You’re a bunch of hot sketchers,

aren’t you?” ... and he was right.

Over time the ladies began to regularly display their art at the Waterford Fair and elsewhere under the banner of the “Hot Sketchers.” And, now, flash forward to the quiet scene just weeks ago when a group of artists from The Loudoun Sketch Club – the artistic descendants of Evelyn, Vinton and Betty – gathered again at a local property to document the rare beauty and incredible history of our area.

True to the mission of the original Hot Sketchers, the Loudoun sketch Club has celebrated and documented for all of us some of our county’s most rare jewels, including Trick Farm in Purcellville, East Lynn Farm in Bluemont, Dresden Farm in Middleburg, Talbot Farm in Waterford and Weatherlea Farm in Lovettsville. What a gift.

Members of the Loudoun Sketch Club work in various media, including oils, wa-

tercolor, pastel, pen & ink, pencil, acrylic, photography, clay, printmaking, gouache and charcoal. They paint together every week in the spring and fall at various scenic locations around Loudoun County, learn from each other and display and sell their art. Club membership (limited at this time due to its popularity!) is open to all residents of Loudoun County and the surrounding areas working in painting, sculpture, photography and related fine visual arts.

The club also contributes greatly to the pulse of art in Loudoun County, displaying, selling and promoting artistic works at some of the county’s and the region’s most vibrant artist venues and events, including the Franklin Park Art Center, the “Paint the Town” Labor Day Show in Kensington, MD, Loudoun’s Arts In The Village Gallery, VisArts in Rockville, MD, the Cooley and Gateway galleries,

the Round Hill Art Center, The Waterford Fair, the Manassass Plein Air Competition, the Torpedo Factory, ArtSpace Herndon, the Western Loudoun Artist’s Studio Tour and the Aldie Mill Art Show, as well as local wineries, county facilities and more.

Thank you, Evelyn, Vinton, Betty and all past and present Loudoun Sketch Club members for your wonderful contribution to our local world and art scene. For more information visit www.loudounsketchclub.com.

Where Do I Begin? Tips On Fall Home Improvement Projects

– By Andrea Gaines

Lawn care, storm windows, roof and gutter repair, chimney sweep, painting touch ups, furnace check, green upgrades – the fall home improvement list can seem endless, can’t it?

While the weather is still pretty warm out, prioritize the outdoor tasks you need to do yourself. For the inside tasks, consider organizing them now, and making up a list that holiday guests or neighbors might be able to help you complete. If you need professional help for certain tasks ... make those appointments, if you haven’t already.

Here are some seasonal tips:

- **Caulking and weather stripping of windows** are two pretty easy projects and will pay dividends not only this



winter, but in the warm summer months, too. Make this a priority.

- **Consider at least one “green” upgrade.** A real no-brainer is to install and set a programmable thermostat, which can save you up to 10 percent a year in heating and cooling costs. A good place for information on that and other energy-saving ideas is www.energy.gov.

- **Check your gutters.** Water ... where it’s not supposed to be ... can add up to expensive home repairs. Cleaning out the twigs and leaves in your gutters is your number one defense against the cracked foundations, rotting wood and leaky roofs just waiting to happen.
- **Rake and compost those leaves!** Raking leaves will aerate your lawn and help put it to sleep for the winter. Composting those leaves – along with the cleanup materials from your garden beds – will give you a ready supply of fresh mulch for your spring planting.
- **Touch up your home’s outdoor paint.** This will help extend the life of your trim and siding when the

snow and sleet falls and the ice starts to form.

- **Consider a professional power wash** prior to doing your painting touchups and look for cracks and damage to concrete, stones or walkways that might worsen over the winter.
- **Fix the roof.** Roof repairs should be done prior to the first snowfall. Consider hiring a professional – it’s safer and will ensure the repair is done right.
- **Have your furnace and fireplaces checked ...** these two things are a must for both safety and a warm and comfortable winter inside.

Again, don’t underestimate the power of neighborly assistance and help from guests that might be on their way!

Paintings At NOVA

Paintings by Brian Burgess will be on display in Waddell Gallery at the Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College from Nov. 2 to Dec. 4.

Burgess is a multimedia artist from Fredericksburg. He likes to paint, illustrate and sculpt epic subject matter.

His pursuit of art began under the guidance of NOVA-Loudoun art faculty Jay Orbeck, Bill Shirley and Bill Whipple in 1986-1987.

After serving in the Marines, Burgess earned a master of fine arts degree at Hartford Art School. His show will feature his graduate thesis paintings that are based on Greek mythology.



Brian Burgess *The Fall of Bellerophon* oil on panel 18x24

ONGOING

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

☉ **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., 1st Preschool** for 1.5 to 3 years old at Middleburg Community Center. Please call 540-687-6375.

☉ **Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m., Gentle Yoga** at Middleburg Community Center. Please call 540-687-6375.

☉ **The Waterford Foundation, which runs the Waterford Fair**, is asking those who can help to contribute the price of a ticket at its "Virtual Fair" site to cover the operating losses suffered when the fair was cancelled due to Hurricane Joaquin. Please visit <https://www.razoo.com/story/Virtual-Waterford-Fair>.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

☉ **Nov. 6, Friday at 7:00 p.m., PJs and a Movie** at Middleburg Community Center. Call Jenn Sweigart at 540-687-6375 to RSVP by Nov. 2.

☉ **Nov. 7, Saturday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Free Spaghetti Dinner** — Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Unison Methodist Church, 21148 Unison Road, Middleburg. Donations of unwrapped toys and canned goods appreciated. All donations are given to local families. Call 540-336-3943 with questions.

☉ **Nov. 7, Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at the Lucketts Community Center**, 42361 Lucketts Road in Leesburg. The Lucketts Bluegrass Concert Series features The Hillbilly Gypsies. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Doors open at 6:00 PM. For more information, please go to www.luckettsbluegrass.org.

☉ **Nov. 9, Monday at 7:00 p.m., Astronomy Bingo** and a discussion of "Our Stars" at the Lovettsville Library. After-wards, visitors will move to the Lovettsville Town Green for celestial viewing led by Patricia Rostkowski of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club (weather permitting). For more information go to library.loudoun.gov.

☉ **Nov. 14, Saturday from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m., Neersville Country Breakfast**. Enjoy scrapple, grits, sausage gravy and biscuits as well as the traditional fare of eggs, coffee cake, pancakes, sausage and fruit. Between the Hills Community Association at 11762 Harpers Ferry Rd, Purcellville (Neersville).

☉ **Nov. 15, Sunday at 4 p.m. 40183 Main Street, Waterford. Three Notch'd Road**, a Baroque ensemble from Charlottesville, will be joined by Jessica Petrus and bass and bagpipe specialist Peter Walker in a program called "Bach Comes to America: Virginia's Baroque Heritage." This is the last concert of the 2015 Waterford Concert Series, now celebrating its 21st season. Tickets may be ordered online at www.waterfordfoundation.org or by calling 540-882-3018 (extension 3), Tuesday to Friday, 9-5. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for students. Directions available at the web site.

☉ **Nov. 19, Thursday at 6:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner** at Middleburg Community Center. Please call Jenn Sweigart at 540-687-6375 to RSVP by Nov. 13.

DECEMBER EVENTS

☉ **Dec. 4-6, Friday at 7:00 p.m., A Christmas Carol** presented at Loudoun Valley High School. Change of \$10 at the door.

Friends of Blue Ridge Mountains

Nov. 7, Saturday 10 to 3 p.m. join Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains for an autumn clean-up as we continue our work to remove invasive species from Blue Ridge Regional Park. Blue Ridge Regional Park is located off of Rte 601. Go to www.friendsofblueridge.org.



Irish Session At Corcoran Brewing

Nov. 8 Sunday 1- 4 p.m. Irish session at Corcoran Brewing Company, 205 E Hirst Rd, Purcellville. Enjoy traditional Irish jigs reels and hornpipes played on fiddles, whistles, banjos and guitars and bodhran.



Battle of the Bands Open To Loudon Teens

Loudon's YouthFest, an annual celebration of youth featuring live music, exhibits and activities, will be held May 21, 2016, at The Barn at One Loudon, Ashburn. Festival performers are selected through a Battle of the Bands competition. Middle and high school students residing in Loudon County are eligible to compete. Interested bands and soloists must submit an application by Dec. 1. Applications are available at www.loudounteens.org.

Battles will be held Jan. 8, Feb. 5 and March 4, 2016, at The Studio, 45449 Severn Way, Dulles. Winners will advance to a final competition on April 8, 2016, at Tally Ho, 19 W. Market Street, Leesburg, as well as perform at YouthFest. The winner of the final battle opens for the festival's nationally known headliner.

For more information, please e-mail yac@loudoun.gov or call 703-737-8335.

Carver Center November Events

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

Call 571-258-3400 to sign up for the following programs.

Nov. 6, Friday Lunch and movie Still Alice 12-2 p.m. (ages 55 and up). To sign up call 571-258-3459.

Nov. 9, Monday AARP Driver Safety Class 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (ages 50 and up). Pre-registration required. AARP members \$15, non-members \$20. Please call 571-258-3400.

Nov. 9, Monday Veterans Day Display 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Photographs and background information on African-American veterans. No fee.

Nov. 10, Tuesday Veterans Day Display 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Photographs and background information on African-American veterans. No fee.

Tuesdays Nov. 10 through Dec. 15, Computers for Advanced Beginners Class, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (ages 55 and up).

Tuesdays Nov. 10 through Dec. 15, Computer Tools and Social Media Class,

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (ages 55 and up).

Tuesdays Nov. 10 through Dec. 15, Using Exel at Home Class, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (ages 18 and up).

Nov. 20, Friday 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., Holiday Bazaar. Gifts items. Get a head start on your holiday shopping. All ages. No fee.

Nov. 21, Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Holiday Bazaar. Gift items. All ages. No fee.

Nov. 23, Monday Grief Support Services Workshop 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Shaileen Backman, Loudoun County Social Worker and Bereavement Counselor from Blue Ridge Hospice will present various grief support services available to the public. (Ages 18 and up).

Home-Delivered Meals Program Volunteers Needed. Please pick up packet at Carver Center even if you can only contribute one hour per month.

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Middleburg Film Festival Featured *Brooklyn, Ithaca* And *Son of Saul*



– By Andrea Gaines

The Middleburg Film festival, held Oct. 22-25, is the perfect combination of horse country scents, hot cider and world class American and international films. It's always a great way for locals to share the beautiful western Loudoun countryside with renowned film makers, actors and composers – as well as a chance for everyone to enjoy the distinct social and cultural scene of the historic village of Middleburg.



The film *Brooklyn*, with Oscar contender Saoirse Ronan.



Actress Meg Ryan makes her directorial review in the film *Ithaca*.



Geza Rohrig (left) in the film *Son of Saul*.

Launched in 2013, the festival has featured such acclaimed films as *Nebraska*, directed by Alexander Payne, and director Lee Daniels' *The Butler*. It has also given audiences the opportunity to enjoy new artistic works and chat with their creators in a wide variety of intimate to grand venues, from the Salamander Resort & Spa to the quietly historic Buchanan Hall in Upperville.

This year's Middleburg Film Festival features included: *Brooklyn* – a screenplay adapted by Nick Hornby from the acclaimed novel by Colm Toibin, starring Oscar contender Saoirse Ronan; *Ithaca*, based on Pulitzer Prize winner William Saroyan's 1943 novel *The Human Comedy* (the screening marks the film's world premiere and the directorial debut of actress Meg Ryan); and *Son of Saul* – a Hungarian picture and Grand Prix winner at the Cannes Film Festival, *Son of Saul* features Oscar contender Geza Rohrig.

The festival also featured Q&A sessions with director Daniels, and performances by

the 75-piece Loudoun Symphony Orchestra, which treated audiences to a series of scores from film composer Carter Burwell. Burwell's film credits include *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Bourne Identity* and *Miller's Crossing*, among others. Festival participants enjoyed farm-to-table dinners featuring local produce and wine, and lots of wonderful parties.

For more information about the 2016 festival, go to www.middleburgfilmfestival.com. As in past years, many of the festival's most popular screenings and ticket packages – including the Film Lovers Pass, the Festival Weekend For Two, the Saturday Date Night Special and the Future Filmmakers Pass – sold out quickly ... so check in with them early next year!



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November Screenings Schedule For Inova Loudoun Mobile

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will be providing blood pressure screenings during the month of November:

- Thursday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m. – noon, Lovettsville Community Center E. Broad Way, Lovettsville
- Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. – noon, Carver Center 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville
- Thursday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. – noon Lovettsville Community Center E. Broad Way, Lovettsville
- Monday, Nov. 30, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Levis Hill House 1000 West Washington Street, Middleburg

Wild Loudoun Of Chipmunks And Chestnuts



– By Andrea Gaines

Chipmunks are small, beautifully elegant little creatures, with large glossy eyes, a sleek brown body, a short, pointy head, dainty white stripes above and below the eye, and a series of black and white lines down their sturdy little backs.

They have a very sweet posture – sitting upright and holding food with their two perfectly formed front feet, while balancing contentedly on nimble back legs.

Like raccoons, possum and other forest dwellers, chipmunks are quite at home in and around barns and other farm structures, as well as suburban homes.

Their home range can be up to 1/2 of an acre, but the animal's main focus – besides finding and storing food – is on defending their all-important burrow entrance, often located in an area dominated by stone walls, wood piles and heavy ground cover. Their predatory foes include hawks, foxes, coyotes, weasels, and snakes. Burrow entrances are inconspicuous and well concealed.

Chipmunks are generally inactive from late fall through the winter months – tucked away in their burrow with a cache of food. Biologists describe this time as a “restless” versus a “deep” hibernation, as chipmunks do not store fats, but, rather, dip into their food stores over the winter, emerging from their half-sleep in early March.

Chipmunks mate and raise young twice a year, in early spring and again during the summer or early fall. Their babies are called pups, or cubs, or sometimes, kits – like baby foxes.

When disturbed – or trying to attract a mate – chipmunks produce a shrill, birdlike chirp, another special feature of this beautifully elegant creature.

A Note About One Of The Chipmunk's Favorite Foods – Chestnuts

Just 100 years ago, up to 25 percent of the trees in Virginia's forests were American chestnuts. The tree was so dominant that

whole plant and animal ecosystems grew up around them – including the chipmunk.

The fast-growing tree often attained huge size, sought as a building material for its strength and rot-resistance. Chipmunks, turkeys, deer, bears, and other animals relied on the tree as a steady supply of protein and fat-rich nuts, and farmers used the nuts as a cash crop and to feed their livestock.

A devastating blight known as the chestnut fungus – common in China and Japan – blazed south and west from trees growing at the Bronx Zoo, reaching Virginia in 1914. In 40 short years the blight had killed between three and four billion chestnut trees, destroying 33 million acres of southern Appalachian forest. By 1950, nearly every mature chestnut across the Eastern United States had died.

American Chestnut conservation and restoration efforts continue to this day. According to the American Chestnut Research And Restoration Project, the species has survived by “sending up stump sprouts that grow vigorously in logged or otherwise disturbed sites ... “ While this new growth will eventually succumb to the blight, recent USDA Forest Service surveys indicate that tens of millions of these sprout clumps exist in New York State and elsewhere, providing scientists with a rich gene pool for saving the species.

Filling In For Those Scarce Chestnuts

Chipmunks are omnivorous, with a diet consisting primarily of grains, nuts, berries, seeds, mushrooms, insects, salamanders, and young birds and their eggs.

There are lots of ways to fatten up a chipmunk. Keep them around by treating them to sunflower seeds, wheat, rye, oats, canary seed, buckwheat, millet, melons, apples, pears, cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines, apricots, dried banana slices, raisins, lettuce, tomatoes, peapods, corn, cucumbers, rose petals, dandelion leaves and flowers, chickweed, walnuts, hazelnuts and pine nuts. Also consider supplying them with a source of water.



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Choosing To Live In The Present

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

I love a good story. I love telling stories and hearing other people's stories. Our experiences bring meaning to our lives, and help shape us into the people we are today. Yet inherent in storytelling is the idea that one must go back into the past in order to partake in the experience. What is it that is so seemingly alluring about the past? Why is it sometimes easy to perceive the past as better than the present?



MOORE-SOBEL

For Columbus Day weekend my family decided it was time to get away so we traveled to the quiet island of Chincoteague in Southern Virginia. Made famous by the book, *Misty of Chincoteague*, it is now best known for the Pony swim that happens at the end of July every year when thousands of tourists come to witness a 90 year old tradition. We went on a boat tour with a crusty old sailor named "Barnacle Bill." Born and raised on the island, now living only four blocks from where he grew up, he fondly regaled us with stories about Chincoteague. A particular favorite was about his ability as a boy to swim in his birthday suit from Chincoteague to the island of Assateague where he and his friends roamed the island with the ponies and played in the 150 year old lighthouse. All of this is now a National Park Service site that is strictly regulated. He joked that such behavior today would quickly get the attention of the Coast Guard and other local authorities. He spoke fondly of those days, ending his story with the phrase, "That's when Chincoteague was Chincoteague." In other words, the good old days!

This particular line stuck with me, possibly because it is a common theme within my own life. I love to hear stories from the past, wondering what it was like to live in a time dissimilar from mine own. Every time I talk to my Aunt Jackie I ask her to tell me a story about her father, the man for whom I was named. I wonder what it would be like to meet this man and to share in some of the experiences that he had. It is easy to believe that the time he lived in was better, far simpler than our own.

I often hear other people's stories and long for elements of the past. When I listen to my parents

talk about coming of age in the 1980's, I long for the days of Reagan, when there were pay phones instead of cell phones, and the job market looked more promising than it does now. Best of all no one was forced to take off their shoes in order to go through airport security. People frequently tell stories as if their best days have already passed them by. It is easy to get swept up into the memories of the past, especially when you are dissatisfied in the present.

I wonder though if people knew that they were living their supposed best days when they were actually in that moment. Do people in their twenties realize that they will be memorializing this time in their lives by the time they reach 35? Or are our best days really only best in retrospect? It's easy to censor out the negative aspects of the past. The pain and hardship can easily be washed away with the passage of time. Maybe that pain and discomforts seem smaller from a distance.

The danger in extolling the virtues of the past is missing out on the adventure in the present. Every time has its challenges. A world without cell phones introduces both positive and negative elements. Our time might have gifted us with an unsteady job market, but fifty years ago racism was much more rampant, and opportunities for minorities were more limited. We live in a world today with increased access to life-saving medicine, with a world more interconnected than ever before. Is the present really all that bad when compared to the past?

It seems to me that the experiences of today have the potential to be much more exciting than re-telling the past. If we spend too much time focused on the past, we might miss out on crafting the stories to be told in the future. While it is important to recount good memories, it is equally important to cultivate experiences in the present. Stories can and should still be told, and a good laugh will be had by all. Yet while the lessons of the past and optimism for the future will not be forgotten, neither will the gift of the present. My goal is to live every day as if it were the best of times, no matter my age, believing that the best moments are now, not behind.

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

10K Race To Be Held In Middleburg On Nov. 8 To Benefit Veterans

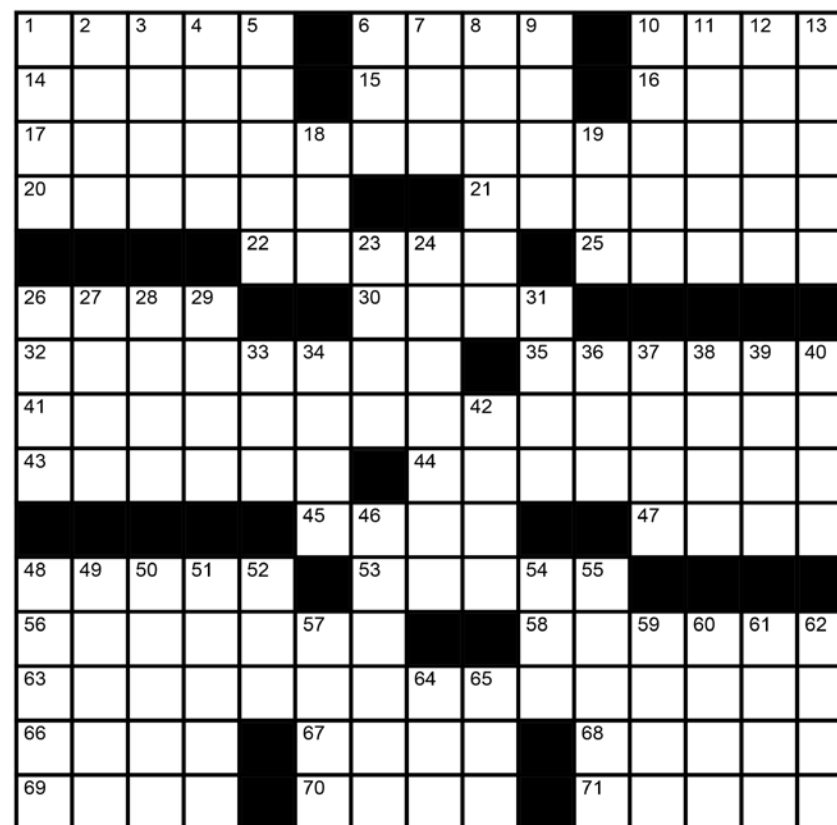
On November 8, the Loudoun Road Runners Club will once again conduct the Annual Loudoun 10K Trail Run to raise funds for Boulder Crest Retreat, a privately funded, rural wellness center dedicated to improving the physical, emotional, and economic wellbeing of our nation's recovering military heroes.

The race will take place at 9 a.m. at Camp Highroad, a 600-acre retreat located at 21164 Steptoe Hill Road in Middleburg. Registration is \$50.00 (a long-sleeve technical shirt is provided to all runners), and 100 percent of race proceeds go directly to Boulder Crest Retreat. Veterans are heartily invited to attend this event, and an opening ceremony honoring their service will be conducted prior to the race. Friends and family members of service personnel are also encouraged to join in the celebration and to register in honor of a loved one. The race has annually raised more than \$25,000 to support Boulder Crest.

To learn more about the race or to register go to: www.trailrun.loudounroadrunners.org. A course map, photos and more details are available on the website.

Fairy Tales

By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

1. Founder of PLF
6. Time out?
10. Morrison and Cramer
14. It was founded in 1909
15. Burgeon
16. Berry touted as medicinal
17. Home-builders association?
20. Skeleton parts
21. Laurels
22. Asportation, e.g.
25. Marshal
26. Aggregation
30. To boot
32. Succulent plant
35. Benign tumor
41. Extortionist?
43. Ranges
44. 1992 Christopher Reid movie
45. Bibliographic abbr.
47. Kid
48. Group of eight
53. Rice
56. Involuntary response
58. Entry
63. Grimm duo?
66. Bladed weapon
67. Descendant of Hezekiah
68. Harden
69. 1990 World Series champs
70. Mug variety
71. In a pen

DOWN

1. Hill dwellers
2. Thai currency
3. Plain
4. Maple genus
5. Done for
6. Special effects: Abbr.

7. Food scrap
8. Sacred songs
9. Some punches
10. Quipster
11. Less cordial
12. Fruit residue
13. Cream puff
18. ___-di-dah
19. Pilot's announcement, for short
23. All ___
24. Train part
26. Normal prefix
27. Astringent
28. ___ jellies
29. Cap
31. Guisado cooker
33. Chow checker
34. It may follow something
36. "___ De-Lovely"
37. Head-turner
38. Thumbs-up
39. Jagger
40. Penny, perhaps
42. In a bad way
46. Plant native to South America
48. Catchall category
49. ___ myrtle
50. Shaded
51. Vaulted recesses
52. Expire
54. Make a sharp turn
55. Large amounts
57. Blind segment
59. Copper
60. Case
61. Dehydrated
62. Winter toy
64. Kan. neighbor
65. Like some humor

Answers on page 34

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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

“daddy’s little princess.”

Some parents are concerned that our culture is overly obsessed with body image and appearance, and encouraging little girls to dress up like princesses only feeds the problem. In my opinion, girls will grow up to be strong and confident because of the lessons we teach them and the values we instill in them as parents, but if your daughter wants to pretend to be a Disney Princess for Halloween, let her. Your daughter will also likely run into many other Frozen Elsa’s, Anna’s, or Disney Belle’s, and thus her costume will help with her peer socialization. On the other hand, if your daughter wants to dress in a more gender neutral or masculine costume, that is perfectly fine too.

Heroes And Villains: Batman, Wonder

Woman, Superman, and other superhero’s are always very popular Halloween costumes. Developmentally, children like superheroes because they can identify with the simple and concrete message that there is good and bad in the world. Up until about 10 years, children are black-and-white in their thinking and they cannot yet process or understand abstract aspects to people or behavior. For example, older children and adults can appreciate the assorted complexities of Batman’s psyche (i.e. the impact of his parents’ death on his later motivations to fight crime), and his vigilante approach to justice, but your 5 year old just wants to see Batman throw the joker in jail because Batman is good and the Joker is bad.

Being a villain gives a child freedom in their imagination to be playful with the idea of being good or bad. Children are curious

about villains and bad guys; they know that people are not supposed to be mean or bad, so they wonder what makes them that way. This is perhaps why Darth Vader is always around on Halloween. Children who like Star Wars know that Vader is a bad guy to be feared, but they also know his back-story and this makes him somewhat of a sympathetic character. Ask any young Star Wars fan if Anakin is good or bad, and the child will most likely say that he is good. Ask that same child if Darth Vader is good or bad, and he or she will most likely say that Vader is bad. But when you ask a young child to elaborate on why Anakin became Vader, he or she will have trouble explaining things. That is because younger children do not possess the intellectual resources to fully comprehend Anakin’s catastrophic emotional conflicts.

Costumes With Weapons: Given the numerous mass shooting tragedies in the United States in recent years, more and more parents are concerned about the presence of guns in their children’s play and at Halloween. So, why are children, especially boys, so into guns, swords and other sorts of weapons and should we restrict them at Halloween? Evolutionary psychologists have argued that our children’s fascination with weapons may be deep seated in the human experience and psyche. Humans were once hunters and gatherers, and children are just playing out what is now in the fabric of their DNA; their survival instinct as primitive man.

I think children’s costumes with weapons are fine as long as there is not an over emphasis on or preoccupation with the

weapon. Sure Jake and the Never Land Pirate costume has a sword, the Woody costume from Toy Story has a gun and several other costumes have weapons - ninjas, Star Wars characters, policemen etc. But there are also so many other fun accessories to get your child excited about.

Going Sexy: As human beings, we are sexual beings, and the expression of sexuality can even show up in our children’s costume requests. But what do fishnet stockings, high heels and tons of make-up have to do with a child’s Halloween costume, you might ask? A lot if you’re a tween or teen who is pretending to be Lady Gaga or Miley Cyrus.

While it is normal for children to want to assert themselves in different ways as they mature into their teen years, publically adorning sexually suggestive costumes for Halloween is inappropriate. Wanting to dress up like Taylor Swift as a girl is one thing, but wanting to dress up like a sexy Taylor Swift should be an important teaching moment for parents.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D, NCCE, NCPC, is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological and Psychiatric Services. Dr. Oberschneider is also a licensed clinical psychologist and a nationally certified custody evaluator and parenting coordinator. He is a Washingtonian Magazine “Top Psychologist” who has appeared as a mental health expert on Good Morning America, CNN, WTOG, NPR and other popular news agencies. He can be reached at 703 723-2999 or www.ashburnpsych.com.

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Answers to puzzle from page 30

1	A	B	B	A	S	6	C	O	M	A	10	J	I	M	S			
14	N	A	A	C	P	15	G	R	O	W	16	A	C	A	I			
17	T	H	R	E	E	18	L	I	T	T	L	E	19	P	I	G	S	
20	S	T	E	R	N	A	21	E	S	T	E	E	M	S				
							22	T	H	E	F	T	23	A	R	R	A	Y
26	P	A	C	K	27	H	E	F	T	28	A	R	R	A	Y			
32	A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A	33	L	I	P	O	M	A			
41	R	U	M	P	E	L	S	T	42	L	I	T	S	K	I	N		
43	A	M	B	I	T	S	44	C	L	A	S	S	A	C	T			
							45	E	T	A	L	46	T	Y	K	E		
48	O	C	T	A	D	49	O	R	Y	50	Z	A						
56	T	R	O	P	I	S	M	57	A	C	C	E	S	58	A			
63	H	A	N	S	E	L	A	N	D	64	G	R	E	T	E	L		
66	E	P	E	E	67	A	T	E	R	68	E	N	U	R	E			
69	R	E	D	S	70	T	O	B	Y	71	S	T	I	E	D			

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Kitchen Science Kids: DNA

- By Leah Enright



ENRIGHT

Deoxyribonucleic Acid, or DNA, is very special. It is incredibly small, but without it, we wouldn't have the eyes and ears and other body parts necessary to read this article . . . and if those parts become damaged, DNA inside of our bodies provide the instructions to fix them. It all happens inside of our cells-tiny packages that hold lots of important stuff, and work hard to keep us healthy. Of course, it is too small to see-or is it?

With an adult helper, gather these:

- Three strawberries
- 1 small zip-style freezer bag
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons dish soap
- 2 clear plastic cups
- 1 coffee filter
- 1/4 Cup Rubbing Alcohol. (Place the bottle of alcohol in the freezer a few hours before using it, being sure it is clearly labeled). 91 percent alcohol is best, but 70 percent works, too.
- 1 toothpick or skewer

What to do:

Ask an adult to read through and approve this activity for you.

Place the strawberries in the zip style bag, and seal it. (Remove the green tops first).

Gently smash the berries in the bag, until they are mostly liquid, then set the bag aside.

In one of the plastic cups, mix 2 teaspoons detergent, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 cup of water.

Add two teaspoons of this liquid to the bag with the crushed berries.

Reseal the bag and gently mash again for a minute, then set the bag aside.

Tape the coffee filter onto the top of the other cup, so that you will be able to strain the berry mixture. Let the liquid flow through the filter until you have as much liquid as you can in the cup.

Throw the filter away, and add alcohol to your cup, by tilting the cup and letting alcohol dribble down the inside of the cup. Stop when you have about an inch of alcohol.

In a few minutes, you will see a white cloudy substance floating in the top of your cup. That is DNA! Use your toothpick to pick it up and examine the strands.

When you are finished, it is safe to wash this mixture down the drain.

When scientists look at DNA, they notice how it is put together. Like a set of Legos, the same pieces can be assembled in different ways, to build different things. Your DNA is special and unique to you - that's why you don't look exactly like anyone else.

There is plenty to learn about Science, and the ways in which it helps us see why and how things work the way they do. Check out the library for many great books on this subject.

Leah Enright is a hairdresser and science enthusiast who also loves kids, and writing. She lives in Round Hill.

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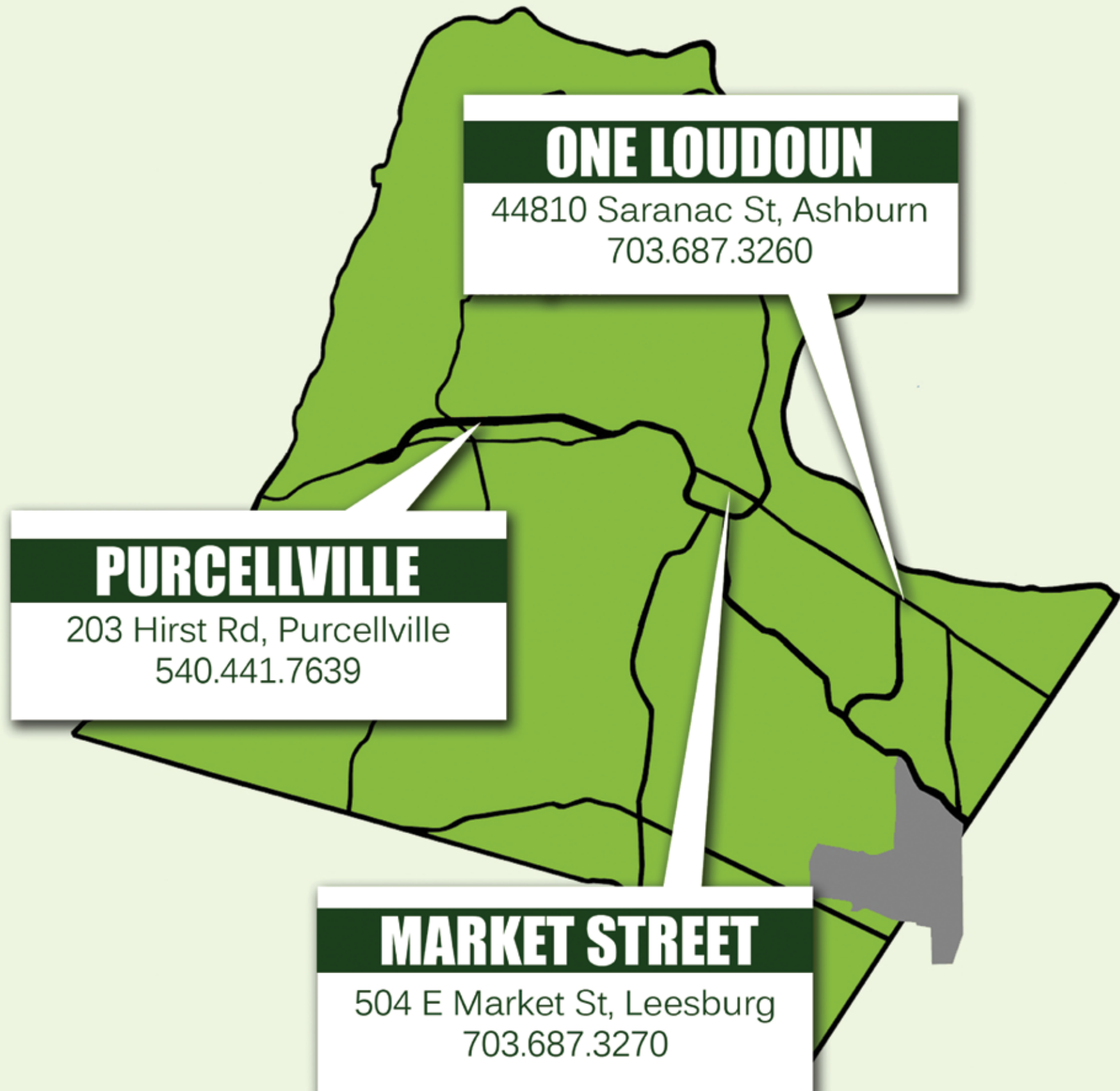
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