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We Are One Board

Newly-Elected BOS Chair Takes Direct Aim At “Hyper” Partisanship

– By Andrea Gaines

With over 25,000 voters standing behind her, Phyllis Randall appears poised to open the door to a new era of by-partisanship as Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

In an interview with the Blue Ridge Leader newspaper, Randall announced that one of her first acts as chair will be to hold a ceremonial swearing in for all eight members of the newly-elected board, including Democrats Koran Saines and Kristen Umstadd, and Republicans Suzanne Volpe, Matthew Letourneau, Tony Buffington, Geary Higgins, Ron Meyer and Ralph Buona. The swearing in will be held at Lansdowne Resort on Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 10 a.m. and will be free and open to the public. Randall also plans to go out of her way to make sure that all Loudoun County officeholders are represented.

In years past swearing-in ceremonies have been conducted by the political parties themselves. But, Randall, who campaigned on the mantra that “We Are One Board,” is intent on positively impacting what she sees as the very partisan, argumentative tone of recent boards.



Phyllis Randall

Said Randall, “I think there is a way for colleagues to disagree without being disagreeable.” Solving problems is what elected office is all about, according to Randall. Campaigning and advocating for a particular position on a particular issue just to get elected, “was never my goal,” she continued. “When I sit in traffic, I’m not a Democrat or a Republican. I’m a Loudouner frustrated with our transportation system.”

An experienced mental health professional by trade, Randall says she never actually planned to run for elected office. But, she says, she has always been interested in participating in her community and working with others to solve the community’s problems – from the ground up.

In addition to her special focus on freeing local government from the constraints of partisanship, Randall wants to address what she sees as the key issues facing Loudoun County. These include:

- **Taking advantage of the natural economic opportunities present in western Loudoun.** “Western

Continued on page 19

Leesburg To Host Hiring Event For Residents Of The Leesburg HUBZone

The Leesburg Economic Development Office will host a HUBZone Hiring Event on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ida Lee Recreation Center, located at 60 Ida Lee Drive in Leesburg.

“This is the perfect opportunity for people who live in the HUBZone and are looking for jobs to meet over 20 great HUBZone companies that are hiring,” said Kindra Jackson, Leesburg’s Business Development Manager.

The wages for these positions range from \$10.00 per hour to \$18.00 per hour. No previous experience or degree is required and most companies are willing to train. Available

jobs include entry level office assistant, entry level finance, various computer related positions, construction, labor, and other trades.

HUBZone companies must hire 35 percent of their employees from a HUBZone as part of the program requirements. Companies that earn the HUBZone certification get competitive advantages in bidding for federal contracts.

Job seekers and HUBZone businesses wanting more information on the event can contact Kindra Jackson at 703-771-6530 or kindra.jackson@leesburgva.gov or visit www.leesburgva.gov/hubzone for more information.

Hillsboro’s Elegant Solution To Traffic

Mayor Vance Sets Sights High



Sign welcoming people to Hillsboro, urging them to “Drive Gently.”

– By Andrea Gaines

Hillsboro’s Mayor Roger Vance is nothing if not incredibly enthusiastic about his town’s future. How can you not be excited about the possibilities for a town that, among other things, is the birthplace of Susan Koerner Wright, mother of airplane inventors Wilbur and Orville Wright?

Continued on page 13



Photo by Sarah Huntington

Mr. & Mrs. Claus at the Purcellville Christmas Parade.



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How To Talk About ISIS And Terrorism With Your Children

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris have shaken the hearts and heads of many around the world. And since the Paris attacks, upsetting event after upsetting event has occurred, compounding the effect on our collective psyche as a nation. And while we are all upset by what his happening right now, our children as a group are the most at risk emotionally as a group.

As a child psychologist, I have been dealing with the emotional impact of terrorism this past week with a number of my child and teen patients. While I am perforce in the role of treating children with emotional and behavioral struggles, there are times when larger societal issues can enter the therapy space - and this is one of those times. Many of my child and teen clients have broached the topic of terrorism with me and with a heightened sense of anxiety.

Children have asked, “Do you think ISIS will attack the United States?” And, “How do you win a war with people who will just blow themselves up right in front

of you?” And, “Do you think this will lead to World War III?” It is my hope that the problem of ISIS and global terrorism will be solved by our world leaders sooner rather than later, and I offer the following recommendations to parents on how to talk to your children about ISIS and terrorism now.



Dr. Mike

Check your anxiety level before talking to your children about ISIS or terrorism. Children can be very perceptive to how their parents are feeling, so make sure you are calm, reassuring and confident if and when you choose to discuss the topic of ISIS and terrorism.

Consider your audience when determining what you share or do not share on the topic of ISIS and terrorism with your children. Regardless of the concerning or upsetting information we receive as parents via the media, we must always be mindful of what our children are capable of handling before discussing things. Thus, your child’s age, maturity level, and threshold for worry/anxiety are all things to consider before discussing ISIS. Just as you would not discuss natural disasters or

Continued on page 14

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Award-Winning Valley Players Bring "A Christmas Carol" To Purcellville

Nothing quite makes the Christmas season feel complete more than watching "A Christmas Carol." And this year, the award-winning Loudon Valley High School Players will be performing this timeless holiday classic on December 4, 5 and 6.

"A Christmas Carol is one of my favorite stories," said Valley's drama director, Russ Staggs. "Its message is universal, its characters relatable, and it is relevant even today."

Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol" as a novella in 1843, and since then it's been made into numerous movies, performed on countless stages, and has created iconic characters like Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, as well as memorable lines like, "God bless us, every one!"

Like any classic, it's always a joy to see it performed again, and actors continue to find new ways to portray the story's memorable characters.

"Each student came in daily with new ideas," Staggs said, adding that the enthusiasm for the production among the students was infectious.

Darius Fraser, a junior who plays the Ghost of Christmas Present, commented that he's "well beyond excited to share another fun-filled story with the public," and praised the "talented and energized cast, along with our outstanding director, Mr. Staggs!"



"I have loved being in the cast of such an iconic show," said Abby McDonough, a senior at Valley who plays the narrator. "This is such a family-friendly show I can't wait to show the public how it turned out!"

Charlie Trochlil, a junior who plays Jacob Marley, said that the play gave him the opportunity to stretch as an actor. "It's always great to try on a character you've never played before. And this is my first appearance as an old ghost from torturous hell, so I'm really excited."

The students are quick to point out that technical aspects of the play are just as important as what's on stage.

Valley junior Noah Wade noted that "working on A Christmas Carol has allowed me to delve into another facet of theater and stage managing, providing me with a wonderful experience in which to learn and grow as both an actor and technician."

Showtimes for A Christmas Carol are: Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be sold at the door.

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Another Annexation Proposal In For Purcellville

– By Valerie Cury

The Warner Brook Annexation proposal has been submitted to the Town of Purcellville, bringing the current annexation proposals to two.

The Warner Brook annexation proposal is for 131.29 acres. It is located across from Brookfield Mayfair (formerly Autumn Hill) and the address of the property is 17100 Purcellville Road. The property is currently in the county and is zoned JLMA-3 - one house per three acres. If developed at its current zoning it would allow for approximately 43 homes on the property.

The owners of the property are requesting an annexation into the Town of Purcellville for the available utilities which would allow the property to be developed at a much greater density. When community residents asked Jim Herbert, who is representing the owners, to develop the property by-right, he said that the owners want more money and are interested in more density on the property. This is the same answer that the representatives of the Kline property are giving.

The proposed high density development is calling for the following if annexed into the town:

- 160 residential units on 65 acres
- Light industrial on 24 acres with an MI proposed zoning
- Commercial on 11 acres – 70,000 square feet of MC/Mixed Use Commercial zoning proposed
- Recreational on 31 acres with 130,000 square feet of recreation also with an MC/ Mixed Use Commercial zoning. There is also a mention of 3 or 4 soccer fields that would be used until there is a need to develop more commercial on the property, as stated in prior meetings.

Using VDOT data from 2014 Route 611/Purcellville Road carries 3,800 daily vehicle trips. This does not include the newly annexed Mayfair community of 262 residences and 20 acres of industrial. The current Purcellville Town Council members who voted for the Mayfair annexation in 2014 are: Patrick McConville, Joan Lehr and John Nave.

Council Member Patrick McConville is currently employed full time by Bowman Consulting, the consulting group for the Warner Property, Purcellville Crossroads, Catoctin Corner, Vineyard Square and the

Cottages at 32nd Street to name a few.

If the Warner Brook property were to be annexed into town this would add an additional 7,665 potential daily trips. The traffic impact at the Route 7 and Route 287/Berlin Turnpike intersection has yet to be determined and will also need to factor in the proposed Purcellville Crossroads development, see below.

Purcellville Crossroads Proposal

The other annexation proposal moving forward is Purcellville Crossroads. This is for 50.4 acres of farmland which is also zoned JLMA-3 (one house per three acres) and is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) and Harry Byrd Highway (Route 7) and along St. Francis Court.

The annexation proposal calls for the development of a mixed use neighborhood. The developers are calling for MC/ Mixed Use Commercial, Residential and Institutional zoning to include 74 residential units, 75,000 square feet of mixed use commercial to include restaurants and retail, an 80 room hotel and Tilley's (entertainment) – miniature golf and bumper boats and more.

Brad Kline is also on record saying that he is not interested in developing the property at its current zoning because he would not make enough money.

Two More High Density Developments In The Works

RSR Gateway is comprised of 67 acres and located on the northeast corner of

Route 7 and 287/Berlin Turnpike. James "Ron" Roncaglione is working with Joe Bane on this proposal. The application included another parcel of 84 acres on the west side of town, across from Tranquility Road, called Purcellville West in which Purcellville West LLC is the owner. An incomplete application for the two properties was filed with the Town in June 2015.

The incomplete joint application for 151 acres included:

- 30 acres for Data Centers (3 on RSR Gateway, 2 at Purcellville West, each 100,000 square feet)
- 20 acres for Commercial (Mixed Use – Office, Bank, Retail, Auction Facility, Storage Facility, Cell Tower)
- 101 acres for Residential made up of 150 Single Family Homes, 200 Single Family Attached (Townhomes) and 150 Other Residential Living (such as Nursing Home, Hospice, Independent Living)

Expanding Purcellville's Borders

Should all four proposals happen, the borders of Purcellville would increase by approximately 333 acres and include massive amounts of commercial, retail and residential development. The impact on traffic, student enrollment, survival of the small town businesses in the Downtown area and survival of Purcellville's small town are constant concerns raised by residents at Town meetings and echoed in the Town's recent survey.

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Purcellville Mayor Stage Side Chat – Carver Center, Dec. 16, 7-8 p.m.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser will be hosting another stage side chat at the Carver Center on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 7-8 p.m. The purpose of this discussion forum, to which all residents and neighboring residents are invited, is to hear from the citizens on all matters concerning Purcellville. It's an opportunity to openly voice issues, concerns, ideas, and solutions. Save the date.

Letter To The Editor

One-Sided Education
Dear Editor:

Thank you, Nicholas Reid, recent graduate of a Loudoun County high school, for warning us about one-sided environmental teaching in Loudoun ("The Death of American Education," Nov. 2015). He watched Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth" (2006) in his 7th grade PE/Health class. John Stossel calls the film mostly "nonsense" that makes "so many odd claims."

I urge our School Board to mandate that if a teacher shows Al Gore's movie about global warming, then that teacher must also

show the documentary, "An Inconsistent Truth," released in 2012. The film shreds Al Gore's claims. E.g., students will learn that there is no consensus in human-caused global warming; thousands of scientists believe that the sun, not human activity, causes temperature change.

An education must include both sides of an issue, especially this one that will greatly affect our lives. Otherwise, dubious laws will cause our cost of living to soar while barely changing the global temperature, if at all.

Rose Ellen Ray
Leesburg

Purcellville's First Chick-fil-A Restaurant Opens



Owner/Operator Scott Payne



Mayor Kwasi Fraser



Members of the Purcellville Town Council, members of the Payne family and the Chamber at the ribbon cutting.

The Chick-fil-A restaurant chain has opened its first restaurant in Purcellville. The new restaurant is located at 165 Purcellville Gateway Drive. The restaurant is open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., serving a full breakfast menu until 10:30 a.m.

The Chick-fil-A sandwich remains the centerpiece of the menu as the chain has grown to more than 1,948 restaurants in 42 states and Washington D.C.

Showcasing the chain's newest interior and kitchen design, the restaurant can seat 132 in the dining room with additional outside patio seating. The restaurant features an upgraded, Heritage-designed look that includes subway tile and metals in a variety of finishes and patinas, all complimented

by an abundance of windows allowing in plenty of natural light.

The restaurant includes dual drive-thru ordering lanes that enable motorists to place their orders at separate screens and then merge into a single lane to pay for and pick up their orders. With a majority of Chick-fil-A customers choosing to drive thru, the ability for two drivers to simultaneously order will mean quicker service.

A 23 year veteran of the Marine Corps, Owner/Operator Scott Payne served as a marine pilot, a budget analyst at the Pentagon and, most recently, the chief operating officer for Naval Training Air Wing Five. Payne is a graduate of West Point with a degree in military history and recently retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.



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 <p>BLUEMONT \$215,000 <i>New paint, new carpet & new appliances. Home also offers a fenced back yard, full walk-out basement w/BA (finish as you see fit), and DEEDED RIVER ACCESS. Shows great!</i></p>	 <p>MIDDLEBURG \$2,800,000 <i>Bright, open stone home on 40+ ac. Goose Creek runs through property. Exquisite 8-stall stone horse barn. This property is lovely in every respect and perfect for entertaining.</i></p>

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**Save Old Town Purcellville
Organizer Goes To Court Dec. 4**

Purcellville resident and 21st Street business owner Mary Ellen Stover is ready for the big day. Her attorney Frank Bredimus of Hamilton will be in Loudoun County Circuit Court Friday to argue her August 2015 appeal challenging the decisions of Purcellville's Board of Zoning Appeals.

The BZA ruled that Town of Purcellville Zoning Administrator, Patrick Sullivan, was correct in his determination that the proposed Vineyard Square project had "commenced" when the developer tore down 2 small brick historic structures connected to the project. But, Stover's attorney says the BZA failed to determine whether or not Patrick Sullivan had the authority and jurisdiction to administer and enforce Chapter 54 of the Town Code, which controls such issues. Bredimus will also argue the BZA failed to provide written notice to adjacent property owners, including Mary Ellen Stover as is required, as well as a number of other illegalities.

Bredimus contends in the appeal that the BZA lacks "subject matter jurisdiction and legal authority to determine three of the issues it considered regarding the multiple Certificate of Design Approvals issued by the Board of Architectural Review." According to the Stover appeal, only two governmental authorities have jurisdiction

into the matter of Certificate of Design Approvals: The Purcellville Town Council and the Board of Architectural Review.

Stover said she is very hopeful the Loudoun County Circuit Court will rule in her favor. She believes the rules the town has in place should be administered to everyone uniformly. The developers must go back to the Board of Architectural Review, follow all the zoning codes, and do it without special favors. Per Stover, "It is quite injudicious for the town to allow a town employee to spend so much money to fight me, and yet the Town Council has not made any formal statement as to their position on any of these matters."

Winning this case would require the developers of the proposed Vineyard Square to begin anew and submit new applications to the Board of Architectural Review. Said Stover, "I could not sit back and do nothing. It is evident this project will have a devastating effect on my business along with all 21st St. property owners and businesses and the whole town itself. Our town is at risk of losing our valuable and precious designation on the National Historic Register and we cannot let that happen."

According to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources website, "Generally,

Continued on page 14

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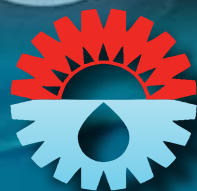
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Beautiful scenic pasture and mountain views with over 34 acres for horses and enjoyment. All brick home, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, 4 bedrooms, guest cottage. \$925,000



LOVELLA, PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA

Beautiful setting on cul-de-sac with mature treed 3 acre lot with plenty of yard space. Hdwd floors & gourmet kitchen. Stone FPL family room. Huge master suite. Fin LL with extra BR/BA & 2nd kitchen. \$649,000



RED BUD RUN FARM, WINCHESTER VIRGINIA

1830's era home on nearly 69 acres. Restored & expanded combining old charm & modern convenience. Stream flows through property. \$1,400,000



HILLSBORO, VIRGINIA

Lovely custom built home with main level BRs/BAs. Beautiful new hardwood floors. Family room with fireplace. Open floor plan with lots of light. LL fin walkout basement. 2 car gar. Mountain Views! \$574,900



ROUND HILL, VIRGINIA

NEW PRICE! Ideal horse property & home on 13 acres. Redone kitchen, new hdwd flooring in formal dining, family & 2nd bedrooms, wood burning fpl. 2 barns. 2 car garage. \$525,000



WHITETAIL RIDGE, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

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JOHN HARDY: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, a one man performance *

Friday, December 18 8:00 PM

The Albuquerque Journal writes "John Hardy's one-man version of A Christmas Carol... a stunning work of theatrical virtuosity. Run to see this; take the whole family. You will be transfixed from the first moment... This play brings the story to life... I've seen this story many times but never like this... it will be as if you are seeing it for the first time". *A Member of The Virginia Commission for the Arts
Tickets: \$20 All Seats, Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

Fiddler on the Roof

Main Street Theater Productions:
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
Fri, Sat, Dec 4 & 5 7:30 PM,
Sun, Dec 6 2:00 PM
Fri, Sat, Dec 11 & 12 7:30 PM,
Sun, Dec 13 2:00 PM

In this heartwarming story, Tevye the milkman tries to protect his daughters and his way of life from a changing world. Touching audiences worldwide, this universal show is a staple of musical theatre - fun for the entire family.

Tickets: \$20 General Seating, \$15 Seniors/Students, \$10 Group of 20+ www.mainstreettheaterproductions.org

GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE: John DuRant

Sun, December 6 6:30 PM

A featured Musician from the Motion Picture "GETTYSBURG," John DuRant will perform in authentic Civil War attire, sing, recite poetry, and perform Civil War period ballads and story songs, using an original 1850's French Parlor Guitar. This will be a unique opportunity to learn more about the music that sustained the folks back home while the cruel Civil War raged on.
Coffee included, in a real mug.

Tickets: \$8/person Pay at Door

THE WHITE HOUSE BAND

Thurs, Dec 17 8:00 PM

Arrangements from rock to swing, latin and jazz, this music will liven your Christmas Spirit.

Tickets: \$10 All Seats, Reserved Seating
www.franklinparkartscenter.org

THE CHORUS OF THE OLD DOMINION

Sat, Dec 19 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

A Family-Friendly Holiday Sing-a-long! Hot chocolate and Apple cider will be served at intermission.

Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors/Students/Military, Kids 10 and under Free
Reserved Seating
www.franklinparkartscenter.org

LAST HAM STANDING

Sat, Dec 26 8:00 PM

Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway? you'll love Last Ham Standing.

Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Kids
www.lastham.com

FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Thurs, Dec 31 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Ring in the New Year with a family-friendly celebration featuring entertainment by LVHS Comedy Cult and The Great Zucchini, refreshments and more! Then countdown to "midnight" at the end of our party!

263714-01 \$10/person
263714-02 \$35 Family of Four +



Coming In January

ELVIS: FROM MEMPHIS TO VEGAS

Friday, Jan 8 8:00 PM

Take a journey back to July 5, 1954 in Memphis, Tennessee when three kids and a record producer changed the music scene forever. It's a hip swiveling, leg shaking great time.

Tickets: \$15 All Seats Reserved Seating
www.franklinparkartscenter.org for tickets.

BRUCE BLAYLOCK AND THE BEAT HOTEL

Saturday, Jan 16 8:00 PM

The Beat Hotel captures the Crescent City's unique musical hybrid of R&B, funk, soul and blues with a wonderful groove sensibility that is both creative and fresh.

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

Tickets Make A GREAT Stocking Stuffer!



Ugly Christmas Sweaters Abound At "Re-Love It" In Purcellville



Store owners, Michael Oaks and Kimberly Patterson, of Purcellville's "Re-Love It" have amassed possibly the largest selection of Ugly Christmas sweaters for sale in one location for the entire Greater Washington D.C. area. You know, the ones your grandmother wore in the day!

"I began buying ugly Christmas sweaters the day after Christmas last year because the demand was so high. Last year people from all over Virginia, D.C. and Maryland came here to get sweaters for the ugly Christmas sweater parties being held in their offices and homes. They want them and we've got them. It is the hottest fad for holiday parties right now," said Oaks.

Re-Love It has already sold hundreds of approximately 2,300 sweaters since the first week of November. There are "Ugly Christmas Sweater Runs" across the nation and this year December 18 is national "Ugly Christmas Sweater Day."

Oaks said, "We have every size from small to XXXL to fit the entire family. When you look through the racks of sweaters each one is uglier than the last one."

Oaks and Patterson, husband and wife, opened their used, vintage and consignment store in Purcellville in 2010. Re-Love It was just named Loudoun County Chamber Retail business of 2014. It is located at 138 N. 21st Street in Old Town

Purcellville and has grown to over 10,000 square feet of retail space since opening. The hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Re-Love It is also seeking participants for the 1st annual March of the Ugly Christmas Sweaters to be held during the Purcellville Christmas parade Dec 12. The Ugliest Sweater will win a \$100 Re-Love It gift card. Call Michael before Dec. 10 at 540 751-0707. Oaks and Patterson will be featured on a segment on Fox 5 "Good Day D.C." on Dec. 9 at approximately 9:45 a.m. demonstrating how to make your ugly Christmas sweater even uglier.

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Amazing Kitchen

\$450,000

This beautiful home was completely remodeled and added on to in 05. Large .80 acre lot w/trees & English garden. A cooks delight, custom kitchen, 2 sinks, center island and FP. Main lvl master w/sep jetted tub & shower. Large porch facing west for fantastic sunsets. One of a kind custom home.



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AVAILABLE LOTS

OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD IN LOUDOUN \$50,000

Fantastic opportunity to build on .42 acre lot at end of cul-de-sac backing to stream. Community offers interest in the environment and energy efficient building. Enjoy the night sky with no city lights. Convenient to commuter train and Leesburg. Well installed.

GREAT VALUE IN LOUDOUN COUNTY \$37,500

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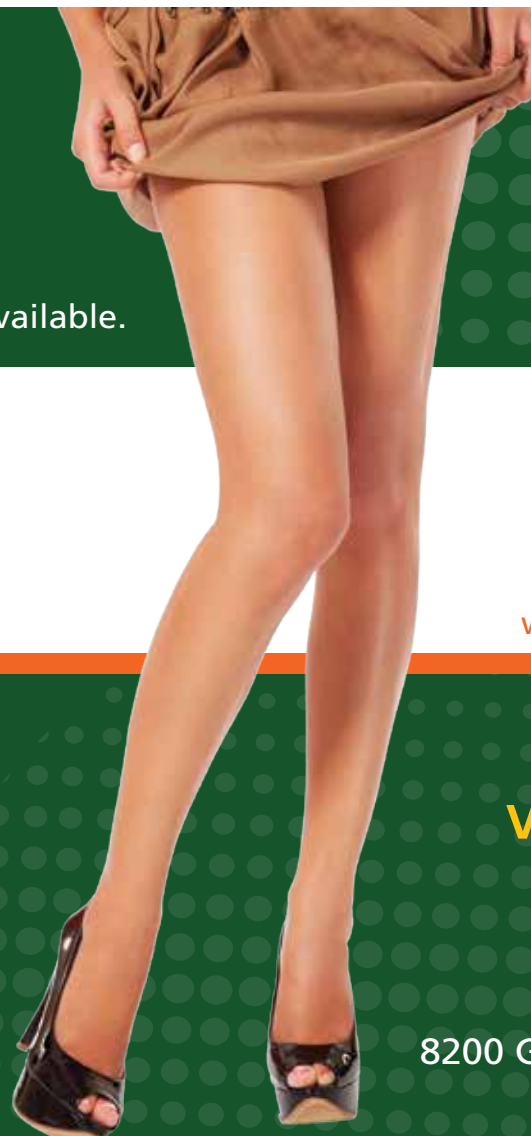
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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Lovettsville

– By Tim Jon

Historically quaint architecture, quiet side streets, grown-over vacant lots, views of the Blue Ridge – and entire neighborhoods of new homes planted into the mix; if Loudoun County is rapidly changing, the little Town of Lovettsville is experiencing its own building boom up in the northern section of the locality. The modest population level – approaching, at best estimate, the 2,000 mark – fails to rival that of Sterling or Broadlands or South Riding, but you get the feeling that it's no longer a 'sleepy little place,' tucked far away from the rapid development in the busier South and East.

And, I guess that's a large part of the attraction to live in this unique place: It's still a very small Town by 21st Century Northern Virginia standards, it is far and away from the traffic on Route Seven or 28 or the Greenway – or the Leesburg Bypass – and that long line of mountains offers a constant – and consistent – visual backdrop as a geographic reminder of your place in the world. On these merits alone, I can understand why folks would choose



Lovettsville as a place to raise a family.

Now, having seen this charming little place essentially double in size since my arrival in Loudoun, and noting all the continued development and signs of burgeoning utility capacity about the Town – one can only wonder: how much bigger can Lovettsville get? Well, for an answer to that question, I simply look to some other nearby examples – namely Purcellville and Round Hill – which are each in the midst of their own virtual gold rushes of growth.

And, just as I hope that what once was the small Town of Purcellville always maintains those lovable traits of character that I associate with its name, and like my similar wishes for those hallmark images in my mind (and still in reality) of Round Hill's iconoclastic features – I'd like to think (and I do) that I could return to Lovettsville after a 50 or 100 year absence and still see my favorite landmarks: historic

homes in the older sections of Town, the Lovettsville Game Protective Association building just off 287 coming in from the South, Saint James United Church of Christ on East Broad Way, the Lovettsville Historical Society headquarters on East Pennsylvania Avenue, some of the long-time business establishments (like Bonnie's Country Kitchen), as well as some of the newer, welcome additions (the Mad Horse brew pub, for one) – and, yes – even the squared-circle 'Squirkle' bordering the Town Square.

Yeah, I'm a bit of a softy for character – whether it be found in people, animals, natural features, vehicles, food and beverage, or familiar landmarks in a favorite small Town. Without some of these lovable little wonders, our world would be a much blander place.

And, yet, I fully understand the inevitability of change and the laws of

supply and demand that dictate the growth patterns in this part of our nation; for the foreseeable future, we're gonna be welcoming in new neighbors – whether in Washington DC, Sterling, Leesburg – or little, old Lovettsville. You can ignore it, fight it, capitalize on it, simply try to maintain your own equilibrium in the midst of it, or attempt to accommodate it; I've seen a good deal of all of the above in my 17 years in Loudoun County, with no single answer serving as the perfect solution. I hope that the current projects up around Lovettsville add to the charm of that long-time community, and I would ask local leaders to weigh their options with care, judgment and a great deal of love for their jurisdiction.

I'd hate to make a return to this place in the Year 2115 – or 3115, even – to find a sprawling, urban – or even suburban – 'environment' – networked across a flattened plain – once known as the Blue Ridge – and over a sterilized, cement-channeled corridor of liquid, called – at one time – the Potomac River. I don't raise these images to alarm you; I'm thankful that these pictures stand in stark contrast to present-day Lovettsville – and its current changes. May that always be.

Tips To "Put A Freeze On Winter Fires"

Loudoun County Fire and Safety is encouraging residents to "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" by following nine safety tips:

- Ensure that smoke alarms in your home are correctly installed and functioning properly. To schedule a free home safety assessment, please call 703-737-8093 or visit www.loudoun.gov/smokealarms.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Before going to sleep, ensure the fire in your fireplace is completely extinguished. Never close the fireplace damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.
- Always let ashes cool before putting them in a closed metal container. Keep the container outside, a safe distance away from your home.
- If you use an electric heater, do not overload the circuit. If you must use an extension cord, choose one that has a built in surge protector and an appropriately rated cord.
- Always remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Keep children and combustibles at least three feet away from all heating equipment, stoves and fireplaces.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas that is created when fossil fuels like gasoline, natural gas, propane, and wood burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking appliances, vehicles and generators can be potential sources of this "silent killer".

Hillsboro, continued from page 1

An epicenter for the Loudoun Valley's agricultural economy in the 1800s, Hillsboro declined in the years leading up to the Civil War. Over the course of the 20th Century it then settled into itself – surviving as a quaint and dusty, little known place.

The town's huge multi-story mills – agricultural machines churning out woolens, grain and cider – were gone. Gone too, were the long lines of wagons ferrying goods to places near and far. Its two department stores were shuttered and its professionals and tradesmen – including several doctors, blacksmiths and tanners – had moved on. Hillsboro was also largely passed by via the railroad routes springing up around Bluemont, Purcellville and other destinations.

The town's decidedly historic character however, persisted, benefitting – preservation-wise – from the centuries-long lull in the economic action. Until the year 2000 there were – literally – no street addresses for the buildings in town; homes and other structures were simply referred to by their owners' names or for their purposes. Said Mayor Vance, "If you took someone who lived in Hillsboro 150 years ago and plopped them down in the center of town today, they'd look around and say that not much has changed. We have 14,000 commuter trips coming through town today, heading east in the morning and west in the evening. But, we're still the same place."

This place and its 100 or so residents have what Vance describes as "a very elegant solution" to the notorious commuter traffic that takes over Hillsboro twice a day, and the lack

of economic activity in its .6-mile downtown.

Hillsboro is on the National Register of Historic Places and is also recognized by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Nearly every one of the 60 or so buildings in town have been identified as contributing to Hillsboro's status as a place with distinct 18th and 19th Century features, including beautiful local stonework. The town also has the magnificent western Loudoun County countryside that surrounds it, is home to several well-known bed and breakfasts, restaurants and markets, and is located within five minutes of a dozen wineries. A new state park is opening nearby and the town is very close to the 2,000 plus-mile Appalachian Trail. Most importantly, Hillsboro has a very unique attitude; fiercely protective of its history and character, but forward looking ... seeming to understand that you can't protect what you don't promote, and that being defined as nothing but "a commuter route" never helped any town.

In recent decades the name of the game in transportation was to move cars as quickly as possible from point A to point B; roads were straightened and widened, and sidewalks were lost – all in the name of speed. But, places like Hillsboro have smartened up.

About 10 years ago the town embarked on a campaign to turn Hillsboro's traffic volume into the best friend this little known place could ever have.

With help from the state, a traffic calming effort similar to those that have realized great success in Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville is now in the shovel ready stage. With help from Loudoun's Rural Economic Development Council, VDOT and other entities, Vance hopes to

combine that traffic calming effort with a modest new town water and sewer line system, modernizing key parts of town infrastructure – including the sidewalk, parking and stoplight systems – saving tax money along the way. A town kiosk and walking tour is also in the works.

Traffic calming sets off a sort of chain reaction, says Vance. When traffic slows down, traffic congestion is relieved. When that happens, towns are a safer, more pleasant place to live, work and shop. When that happens – and you add some convenient parking options to the mix – commuters and townsfolk have a place to stop, spend and sit a while. And, when that happens, new businesses are encouraged to set up shop and offer more goods and services to those people; a cup of coffee, local meats and produce, a list of local wineries, information on a local driving tour.

That's the elegant solution Hillsboro has in mind for its future; to slow the traffic down and make Hillsboro more of a destination – even if it is for the commuter hoping to pick up a breakfast sandwich on her way to work, the family looking for a weekend getaway or the hiker looking to pick up provisions for the next leg of an Appalachian Trail hike.

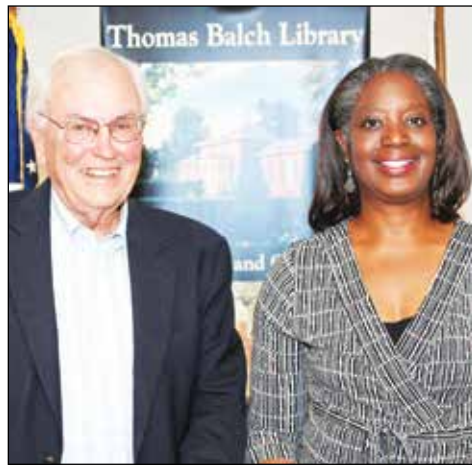
Mayor Vance tells the story this way. "There's been a saying around here that when the old mills were either burned or came down, it was the first time people 'felt the wind blow through town.'" Mills and other intensive agricultural activities dominated Hillsboro for several hundred years. But, that doesn't mean the new, quieter Hillsboro cannot be a vibrant place again, and that the town's infamous traffic sink can't be turned into an economic waterfall.

Bohanon And Van Huyck Honored At Annual Loudoun History Awards

Donna Bohannon and Al Van Huyck were honored at the 23rd annual Loudoun History Awards on Sunday, Nov. 9 for their contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing, and long-time commitment to local history organizations.

The first honoree, Donna Bohannon, has been a member of the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library since 2000, when it was founded. Over the years, Ms. Bohannon has made many contributions to documenting, preserving and promoting Loudoun County's African American history. She worked with Loudoun County Public Schools on the remembrance event for the former Douglass Elementary School prior to its demolition and the permanent exhibit on school desegregation in the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School. She has represented Loudoun County and the Black History Committee at numerous conference and seminars, most recently speaking on the topic of "Activating Interest in African American History" at the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's annual conference earlier this year. Through her efforts, Loudoun County's African American history is a recognized and celebrated part of the County's heritage.

The second honoree was long-time historic preservation activist Al Van Huyck. Mr. Van Huyck served on the Loudoun County Planning Commission from 1996



Al Van Huyck and Donna Bohannon

to 2003, as Board Member and Vice President of the Preservation Society of Loudoun County, and was a co-founder of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition. Over the years, he has helped to create the policy framework that exists today in Loudoun County that protects Loudoun's great historic places. Through the Coalition, Mr. Van Huyck was instrumental in the creation of the County's Heritage Commission and amending the County's Heritage Preservation Plan to preserve and protect Loudoun's network of rural roads. As a member of the Coalition's Rural Roads Committee, he has worked to increase the public and official appreciation of Loudoun's extensive network of historic roads and old bridges, and encourage better care of the old roads by VDOT. In 2013, the Loudoun Preservation Society named Mr. Van Huyck Preservationist of the Year.

Save Old Town, continued from page 6

delisting [or the removal] of properties from the National Register of Historic Places [21st Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places] and the Virginia Landmarks Register results when the historic qualities that justified listing a resource have been significantly altered or entirely destroyed." It goes on to state, "any person or organization may petition in writing for the removal of a property." The DHR website shows 42 properties have been delisted or removed, including one property in Loudoun County.

A Similar BZA Appeal Case In Fairfax County

The BZA appeal case in Fairfax County that was spearheaded by a grassroots citizen group called Rescue Reston has won their case. On Friday, Nov. 6, the Fairfax County Circuit Court granted the motion for summary judgment filed by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and a number of adjacent property owners that are all active members of the Rescue Reston group. In light of its ruling, the court vacated the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals from earlier this year and dismissed other motions of the various parties as moot.

Mary Ellen Stover has a legal defense fund set up at www.GoFundMe.com/SaveOldTownPville to help pay for her legal costs.

Middleburg Academy Names New Board Of Trustee Members



Mary Looney

Rachel Kahler

Middleburg Academy has named Mary Looney and Rachel Kahler to its Board of Trustees.

Mary Looney was raised over the mountain near Boyce where she attended Powhatan School 1st through 8th grade and attended Notre Dame Academy from 1979-1980 as a five day boarder. She finished high school at Garrison Forest, an all-girls school in Maryland. She then went on to graduate from Keene State, NH with a BS Degree in Business Management with a minor in Communications and Political Science. She has worked as a special events coordinator at both a hotel and on political campaigns. In 1990 she worked for Marymount High School, a small catholic high school in Richmond.

Rachel Kahler has been an advocate of small independent schools since experiencing their unique benefit first hand at the Woodward School for girls in Quincy, MA as an eighth grader. She moved to Virginia in high school and graduated from the University of South Carolina.

Her daughter Tori is credited with finding Middleburg Academy and the family has been all in since their first visit in June of 2013.

Purcellville Named One Of Top Ten Safest Cities

SafeWise has named Purcellville one of the top ten safest cities in Virginia. This ranking recognizes the town's concerted effort to integrate community-based policing into everyday law enforcement and public safety activities. SafeWise is a community-focused safety organization committed to increasing home and community safety, education, awareness, and preparedness.

SafeWise analysts considered the most recent FBI crime data from 2013 to rank these cities, which all have a minimum population of 5,000 people.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser commented: "In the latest Citizen Survey, residents expressed an overwhelming sense of safety and security in our Town, and I am happy to see this borne out with third-party recognition. Continued advancement in our community policing efforts coupled with a vigilant and engaged citizen and business community will ensure Purcellville remains a safe, inviting, and attractive place for individuals and businesses."

The Police Department also is using this recognition to introduce the community to its new "Bike Patrol Unit," in which officers will be spending time on bicycles developing community relationships and patrolling streets more directly. Initiated by Chief Cynthia McAlister, the effort uses bicycles donated by Fairfax County; three officers have already received certification from Bicycle Patrol School.

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

school shootings in the same way with 4, 8, or 16 year old children due to developmental differences, you would not do the same for the topic of ISIS with your children of varying age.

Teach your children about ISIS and terrorism. By educating your children about ISIS, they will understand things better, which in turn will serve to decrease their anxiety. It is important to be clear and accurate with the information you share, and keep your points and message simple. What does the abbreviation ISIS mean? Who are the Sunnis and the Shia? What is a Caliphate? Perhaps you could find educational articles or sites on ISIS and terrorism on the Internet that you can read with your children. For a younger child, simply introducing the concept of good vs. evil is a nice way to help the child begin to understand why people sometimes do bad things in the world. Using movie characters or actual events that may have occurred in your child's life (e.g., a bullying episode) may also prove helpful. For children 8 years and older, the Newseum in Washington, D.C. has recently reopened its wonderfully informative exhibition, "Inside the Today's FBI." The exhibition explores the ways in which the bureau is fighting terrorism and cybercrime.

Minimize your children's exposure to the media. Turn off the news. News agencies have been on fire with terrorism stories since the Paris tragedy occurred.

Have an action or emergency plan. Another way to help your children get control over the things they can control is to have an action or emergency plan in place within the home. This is an excellent time to teach your children about keeping doors and windows locked and maintaining polite but appropriate boundaries with strangers. Choosing a location other than your home for your family to meet in the event of an emergency is also important. Having a designated out-of-state contact is also advised. Writing down necessary information in advance (phone numbers and email addresses of friends and family members, passwords, account numbers, social security numbers, etc.) and having copies on-hand for family members would also be helpful should cell phones, the Internet or landlines not work. Putting together a disaster kit in the event of an emergency is also a good idea. Having food and water for at least 72 hours is recommended, as well as having other sorts of supplies (a working flashlight, a first-aid kit, cash, etc.). If you can afford a premade 72-hour emergency kit, purchase one. The American Red Cross sells them on-line at redcrossstore.org. It is also important to

remind your children to be vigilant of their surroundings and to know how to discuss and report any out of the ordinary situations. The Loudoun County website has posted an informational guideline, "If You See Something, Say Something," which outlines the steps we can take every day in order to ensure our safety.

Legendary Holocaust survivor Dr. Viktor Frankl wrote, "Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." Certainly, the space we find ourselves in due to ISIS's recent acts of terrorism is a tragic and anxious one, but we must maintain our resolve for what we believe to be good and humane, not only for our own growth and freedom as adults, but, more importantly, for the growth and freedom of our children.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D., is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological and Psychiatric Services. Dr. Oberschneider has been featured on the Good Morning America, CNN and other popular media spots as a mental health expert. He has also received the Washingtonian Magazine "Top Therapist" honor for his work with children and teens. Go to www.Ashburnpsych.com or call 703 723-2999 to learn more.

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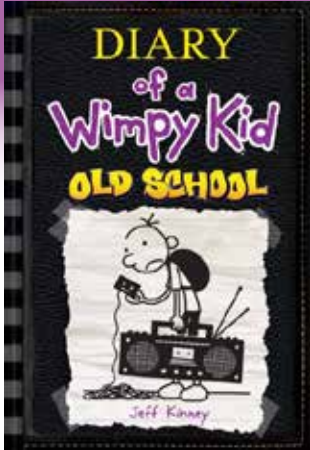
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Piper Dan's Keltic Shoppe Carries Western Attire, Too

Piper Dan's Keltic Shoppe, located at 109 E. Main Street in Purcellville, offers an extensive line of Western attire in addition to its Irish and Scottish imports. The section of the store, Katie's Country Outfitters, features the Tony Lama, Corral and Lucchese apparel brands, as well as American Rebel Boots, Stetson and Bullhide Hats, Montana Silversmiths Jewelry, and Scully Leather and Western Wear.

Mary Brady Shea Knight and her family have spent the past year transforming the back of the shop into a Western mode with authentic barn board, wood floors and country music. Knight urges her customers to realize their dreams of becoming "the Celtic Cowboy" in a one-stop shopping trip. "I like to think of it as Western Ireland," she said.

Knight started in business 44 years ago in her home state of Massachusetts. In Massachusetts she was her community's first Woman Rotarian, and was voted Best Business Woman of the Year in 1999 by the readership of her county's leading newspaper. She served on the Board of Directors of the YMCA, Downtown Association, the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Business and Professional Women's Organization. She was Co-Chairman of United Way Campaigns, and received numerous awards for volunteerism. She was Drum Major and Business Manager of the Berkshire Highlanders Pipe Band, in which she, her twins and son-in-law were playing members.

Her four kids all grew up in the business. "Our back room then was a play area, and as they got older, they came in after school so I could help them with their homework, but they



could also write up a sales slip, be social to customers, and make change in the register," says Knight. Mary and husband Dan, who met in high school, moved their family, dogs and business to Virginia over 10 years ago to follow their son Ryan, who after graduating from Syracuse University, took a job as a Director with AOL.

"We have gone to all the country artists concerts, but had to get most of our Country wear at western shops in Tennessee. We felt there was an opportunity for a Country Western Shop here in Purcellville," explains Knight.

Katie's Country Outfitters and Piper Dan's Keltic Shoppe is open seven days a week.

Town Of Leesburg Promotes Lisa Haley

The Town of Leesburg recently announced the promotion of Lisa R. Haley to Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Services. Ms. Haley is currently a Senior Management Analyst with the Town's Department of Finance and Administrative Services, a position she has held since September 2012.



Lisa Haley

In her new position, Ms. Haley will provide dedicated support for the forecasting of cash flows and management of the Town's investments and debt. She will continue to fulfill a leadership role in the budget preparation process and will supervise the Finance Operations, Procurement and Management Analysis functions of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services.

Ms. Haley received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from James Madison University and holds an MBA from George Mason University. Prior to joining the Town, she worked as a management analyst in support of the federal government for eight years.

"Lisa has been a tremendous asset to the Town since she arrived in 2012," said Kaj Dentler, Leesburg's Town Manager. "She has been instrumental in many of the recent improvements to the budget process, including our efforts to increase transparency to our residents through the OpenGov platform. I have every confidence she will continue to move us forward as an organization."

Students Create Posters For Breast Cancer Awareness



Photo: Judine Obedin

Forty sixth-graders from the Blue Ridge Middle School have partnered with the Loudon Breast Health Network to help spread awareness of breast cancer issues by creating posters illustrating insights in the following eight categories: Surviving Cancer Metaphor; Character Traits of Survivors; Empathy and Celebration; Journey Through Illness; How to Support Survivors; Awareness and Prevention; Message of Hope and Combination.

The posters were presented at LBHN's Annual Survivor Tea held at the Carver Center in Purcellville on Nov. 14 and at a ceremony held on Nov. 20 at BRMS. Breast cancer survivors selected first-place, second-place and third-place winners. The children's efforts were directed by the teacher of their art class, Ms. Liz O'Neil. LBHN intends to exhibit the posters in other venues both in Loudon and elsewhere.

ODFC West Travel Soccer Program Shines



ODFC Premier 22

Back row: Coach John Regan
Middle row: Catherine Kelly, MacKenzie Shores, Hannah Rayburn, Leah Hegerich, Lila Kelley, Tatum Black
Front row: Brooke Nicholson, Ashlyn Cool, Caroline Jacobson, Addison Carroll, Hadley Hill, Mia deLadurantaye, Maggie Sheridan (Not pictured: Delilah DeMark)



ODFC Alliance 22

Back row: Coach Chris Boner, Cade Browning, David Atherton, Alex Stetz, Henry McClellan, Trevor Jaastad, Brian Boner, Coach Joel McLaughlin, Coach Jose Arze
Front row: Avery Acham, Ayden Fugal, Henry McLaughlin, Ryan Cassidy, Noah Hofelt
Not shown: Mac McKinley

The Old Dominion Football Club West boys and girls middle school travel soccer program scored big the weekend of Nov. 21 and 22.

The girls Quest Premier 22 team took home the championship in the U12 Girls Premier Division of the Hunt Country Classic located in Fauquier County. The boys Alliance 22 team won the U12 Boys Yellow Division Championship game of the Columbia Fall Classic located in Columbia County, MD.

The ODFC West travel soccer program is led by John Regan and is based in Purcellville. Teams are currently looking for new players ranging in age from 7-13. For more information visit www.johnregansoccer.com, johnregansoccer@yahoo.com or call 703 431-3614.

Don't Forget The Pie



Photos courtesy Mom's Apple Pie

This holiday season, don't forget the pie! Mom's Apple Pie Company has been selected by Yahoo Travel as the best pie shop in the state of Virginia.

Mom's is locally owned and specializes in fresh pies using locally grown fruit as much as possible. They have a large variety of pies and since we have tried them all it is hard to decide which is our favorite. All we know is that they are delicious.

Their pies are preservative free and not too sweet – so you can really taste the fruit. Mom's has three locations: Leesburg at 220 Loudoun St, SE, Round Hill at 35246 Harry Byrd Hwy., and Occoquan at 126A Commerce St.

For more information go to www.momsapplepieco.com.

Randall, continued from page 1

Loudoun's rural environment, culture and businesses bring in \$3 billion in tax revenue. We don't need to 'protect' the people who prefer to live in what others consider to be out of the way places ... we need to leave them alone."

- **Transportation hot points.** According to Randall, county transportation hot points include a new interchange at Route 690 in Purcellville, traffic calming efforts taking shape in Hillsboro and elsewhere, and congestion on Route 9 and Route 15. "When you live in eastern Loudoun County you don't really understand the traffic issues in western Loudoun. I've heard lots of pushback about new roads, because people think new roads mean new homes. We need to all sit down and talk all of these issues through."
- **School system priorities.** Says Randall: "I have several school system priorities. I think we need to address putting the funding in place for full day kindergarten and also address school overcrowding. I'm not a fan of trailers, especially for elementary school students. I also believe that one of the biggest problems facing our schools is the contentious relationship between the BOS and the school board. We need to cultivate a more respectful working relationship."
- **BOS ethics and transparency.** "I have chaired two state level boards,

one of which was the Virginia Board of Corrections. I understand the need for governmental bodies to sometimes operate in closed sessions. But, to the degree possible we need to be in front of the people. I also believe that there should be a Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Code of Ethical Behavior. County employees are required to sign one, and we should sign, too."

On the issue of a BOS Code of Ethics, says Randall, "Freedom of Information Act requests may decrease if people see the board is trying to be transparent. I can't require the board to sign a code of ethics, but I will push for it."

All in all, Randall has a distinctly populist approach to her new job as chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

In addition to the county-wide swearing in on January 2, which Randall hopes will set the tone for a less partisan Board of Supervisors, she is also planning a series of outreach efforts to Loudoun's small town mayors, town councils, and the like in an effort to find out more about what makes these communities tick and what the people who live in them want.

Said Randall, "I would never see my colleagues with a "D" or an "R" behind their name. They are elected officials, not just Democrats or Republicans. I also want to encourage all elected officials to listen more to their constituents. To listen more to the people."

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Reflections On Graduation

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

Graduation. A day that has always seemed so far away yet now has finally arrived. As I contemplate the last three and a half years of college, I am astonished at the many adventures and lessons that I learned along the way. There a few thoughts I find inescapable as this important chapter in my life concludes.

In September of 2012, I entered college with an eye towards the future. I have always been afflicted with the desire to be at the next stage of life. Maybe it is a sign of discontent, or just a strong dose of ambition. Oftentimes I find myself longing to be somewhere else rather than in the place I currently find myself.

This philosophy sent me into the real world. Through a number of internships that I have detailed in earlier columns, I had numerous humorous situations and countless positive experiences. Tending to place greater value on my internships than classwork, yet now I realize how important college has been to my overall development. There are some who argue college is unnecessary, or that it inadequately prepares students for the real world. I used to agree, wondering the value of spending thousands of dollars and putting my life on hold to attain a degree that would make me appear more marketable to potential employers.

I now realize how college helped my development as a person. The pursuit of knowledge is never a waste. Whereas Steven Pearlstein's class on economics taught the clearly applicable realities of the marketplace and the basic fundamentals of economics, students who found themselves in Richard Norton Smith's class on the American Presidency may not use that knowledge in the professional world. But it helped develop critical thinking and analytical skills. As a student graduating with a degree in Government and International Politics, I have had the opportunity to develop and strengthen those skills while evaluating readings and writing term papers. I made this argument in each and every interview I had over the last few months, making the case that the skills you develop in the pursuit of your degree may be more important than the degree itself.

College is a time of self-discovery and an opportunity to dream big. It is also an occasion to evaluate and reevaluate plans. Upon entering college, the dream was to go on to law school and become a JAG lawyer. Law school became less appealing due to the high cost and lack of job prospects – lessons from that economics class. So the plan was amended to work on the Hill after graduation. Yet after working on the Hill for a few months, I recognized a fatal flaw. I do not hate Democrats, and in today's political climate, it seems that hating the



MOORE-SOBEL

other side or anyone with a different view, has become a prerequisite to entering the field.

I now find myself pursuing a career in government consulting, using those analytical skills to try to change the world. Or at least that is what I tell myself. The truth is that college helped prepare me to find a way forward.

Completing different internships and taking different classes guided me in learning more about myself and the world.

Certainly college is not for everyone, and America should be a place where anyone can achieve the American Dream without attaining higher education. There is a need for electricians and plumbers, and they happen to make good money too. "For the life of me, I don't know why we have stigmatized vocational training," Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio said in the last Republican Presidential debate. "Welders make more money than philosophers. We need more welders and less philosophers."

Approaching this milestone, I cannot help but ruminate on the experiences of those who came before me, of my great-great grandparents bravely starting over in the new world for more opportunities for their children. My great-grandfather, for whom I was named, was highly intelligent but without the means to attain a college degree. Standing behind the counter of a shoe store so that my father could get an education and by extension me as well. I realize that my graduation is made possible by the sacrifices of those who came before me.

I find myself utterly overwhelmed by a strong sense of gratefulness. Extremely grateful to have been born in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world. Grateful to be born to two parents who loved each other and who found it within themselves to love me, even when I made decisions with which they strongly and rightfully disagreed. Eternally grateful to my Aunt Jackie who generously assisted me monetarily, helping to ensure that I reached graduation debt-free. Grateful for the opportunity to build a life for myself and for my future family that some can only dream of in other parts of the world.

Admittedly there is a sense of nervousness as I turn the page and begin a new chapter. Will I be able to have the career I envision for myself? While the uncertainty of the future is daunting, it also remains extremely exciting. Paving one's way is never easy, but gives an opportunity to rise to the challenge. I am ready to embark on the next chapter in my journey, rooted in the lessons and experiences of the past while at the same time spurred on by the promise and vision of the future.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a graduating senior at George Mason University and a Contracts Intern with Federal Schedules, Inc.

VDOT Prepared For Snow Season

The Virginia Department of Transportation is encouraging residents of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince Williams to use its web site to tap into real-time updates on that status of snow plowing efforts in their neighborhoods. "Over two years, we've seen hits to the site increase while customer calls decrease, as residents check road conditions, locations of our trucks and the progress of our crews," said Branco Vlacich, VDOT's maintenance engineer for Northern Virginia, at the department's annual snow briefing held Nov. 12.

When it snows more than two inches, residents of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William can enter their address at www.vdotplows.org to see whether plowing is underway, completed or not yet started in their neighborhood. They can also track the location of plows in relationship to their house. The site is refreshed every five minutes.

VDOT is responsible for 17,737 lane miles in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties (Arlington County maintains its own secondary roads). About half of those miles are highways or high-volume routes, and half are neighborhood streets. During winter weather in northern Virginia, crews remove snow on both networks concurrently.

Last winter's budget for northern Virginia was about \$50.5 million and \$128.5 million was spent. This year's budget is \$70.7 million. The region's snow budget is part of VDOT's overall statewide maintenance budget of approximately \$1.5 billion.

More than 3,500 contracted trucks and plows are available and equipped with

automatic vehicle locator equipment. Special equipment includes:

- * A jet-powered snow melter for park-n-ride lots where snow piles can block spaces;
- * Seven high-pressure flush trucks that clear snow and ice around the bollards separating the I-495 Express Lanes and regular lanes.;

- * Two front loaders with 20-foot blades plow interstates during severe storms; and

- * Speed-activated anti-icing equipment that puts the right amount of material on the road.

Crews will pre-treat 850 lane miles of trouble spots, including 350 lane miles on interstates—including bridges and ramps prone to freezing such as the Springfield interchange and Capital Beltway at Route 1—with liquid magnesium chloride. There are 500 lane miles on major roads, such as Fairfax County Parkway, routes 1, 7, 28, 29, and 50 that are pre-treated with salt brine. Brine (77 percent water, 23 percent salt) prevents ice from bonding to the road surface, reduces the need for salt to melt ice, is kinder to the environment and can lower snow removal time and costs. For the second year, crews will pre-treat several roads with brine, plow when snow has fallen and then re-treat with brine. VDOT is testing the effectiveness of this method, which has seen success in some Western states and could further reduce the need for salt.

This year, 150 VDOT employees will be assigned on-road duty to monitor road conditions and snowplow progress. This works out to about one monitor for every five snow assignment maps in northern Virginia.

Camp Among Students To Represent United States Of America

In June 2016, Elena Camp from Lovettsville will travel to Normandy, France with the Iowa State University Cyclone Marching Band, which was chosen to participate in ceremonies honoring American World War II veterans, and to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landing.

The students will perform at the Omaha Beach Cemetery, as well as in the town square of St. Mere Eglise as part of the Salute to Liberation. Other notable performances include a ceremony at the American cemetery at Brittany and marching in the D-Day Memorial Parade.

The Iowa State University Cyclone Marching Band was chosen as the only American musical ensemble to participate in this incredibly prestigious ceremony and will be representing not only the state of Iowa, but our entire United States of America. The band was chosen through a competitive application process and their selection was based upon the excellence and tradition of the entire band program at Iowa State University.

These talented students have been tasked



Elena Camp

with raising money to offset the costs of the trip. To donate directly to individual students, contact Band Administrative Assistant Rachel Hansen at rehansen@iastate.edu. Or to donate to the entire *Marching Band Special Travel Fund*, call 866 419-6768.

Season of Giving

– By Mary Rose Lunde



LUNDE

“Tis the season” is the catchy jingle that will catch many people’s thoughts until the New Year is rung in. It is a simple idea that the season is all about joy and peace and a jolly well good time. But the real question is not over a holiday or religious view or even about how to celebrate. The season in this particular address is specific to giving. The idea of giving is tied specifically to this time due to the holiday cheer for certainty, but in reality the gift giving is more for a sake of appreciation.

Personally speaking gifts are a touchy subject for me. I’m not the gift card type unless it will help me decorate my apartment. The idea that many think about the “it’s the thought that counts” is pretty accurate. I would say it should be focused on the heart behind a gift, but that is just my opinion. Realistically, gift giving during the season is more of an excuse to get and receive presents despite religion. Yes, many say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy Kwanza, but the idea that this is mere convention is true.

Some people believe that the winter season is an excuse to buy presents and give them to people, a ploy by companies to get people to spend their money, where the “best” and most appreciated gifts are the most expensive. As much as this should not be true, the current of society nowadays has shifted to appreciating gifts only for their monetary value when it should not be this way. Gifts need to be from the heart and actually show thought.

Think about it, would you want a gift from your closest friend or significant other to be five dollars? Wouldn’t you rather it be say a homemade card and cookies that you can enjoy and treasure? Something temporary is just that, temporary. To have full meaning and value a gift needs to be well thought out and come from the heart, especially if it is from someone that is supposed to care.

This should not be out of obligation. The holiday cheer does not say give a gift to them because it’s a specific day. No, the holiday cheer is all about giving and showing people close to you how much you appreciate and value them. Think about gift giving this way, some people the only way they receive love is by getting a gift from the heart.

If you want an even better example at what a thought out gift can mean, look at the different projects to give people gifts such as Operation Christmas Child, or the idea of Giving Trees where generous people donate gifts to people that otherwise wouldn’t get them. Those gifts mean the world to the recipients despite monetary value. These people have the understanding and show what true giving should be like.

Giving is selfless not selfish not for gain or acknowledgement. Giving is serving and loving people in a tangible way. Yes, not all will warmly receive these gifts, but it is your heart and the story behind the gift that matter. So think about this when you go shopping for the holidays.

Mary Rose is finishing up her fall semester of Sophomore year at Virginia Tech. She looks forward to spending Christmas with her family.

Remembering Dr. Leslie Carroll Ogilvie

Dr. Leslie Carroll Ogilvie, 86, a prominent dentist in Purcellville for over 50 years, died Nov. 13, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital.



OGILVIE

Ogilvie was born on August 3, 1929 in Ashland, Virginia. He attended Randolph Macon College, graduating with honors. He then attended the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry and the L.D.

Pankey Dental School in Miami, Florida. Ogilvie, requested by one of his Professors to create a new idea thesis, wrote a paper on the utilization of magnets as diagnostic tools, which led to the development of today’s MRI machine.

While waiting to be called for the Navy, Ogilvie practiced dentistry for the Virginia Methodist Orphanage. He was a Lieutenant in the Navy for two years.

In 1955 Ogilvie came to Purcellville, to begin his dental practice upon the recommendation of Dr. Harry Lyons, taking over the practice of Dr. J.D. Edmonson.

Ogilvie was a member of the Virginia Dental Society as well as the Virginia Childrens Dental Society. He was a longstanding Rotary Club member, and belonged to both the Ruritan and Lions Clubs.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles Leslie Ogilvie and Helen Carroll Ogilvie, as well as his brother, Charles William Ogilvie, all of Ashland, Virginia.

Ogilvie is survived by his wife of 63 years, Gladys J. Ogilvie, and their son, Leslie C. Ogilvie, Jr., both of Purcellville. Dr. Ogilvie was a member of Bethany United Methodist Church in Purcellville, where a service of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, followed by burial at Hillsboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bethany United Methodist Church. Visit www.hallfh.com to express online condolences to the family. Arrangements made by Hall Funeral Home.

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Wild Loudoun

Ring-Necked Pheasant – Fanciful Holiday Bird

– By Andrea Gaines



The cherished 18th Century 12 Days of Christmas song celebrates a long list of increasingly grand gifts one true love gives to another.

Some say that the original “five golden rings” or “five gold rings” in the song was referring to the colorful neck banding of the ring-necked pheasant. Roasted pheasant was a traditional holiday food enjoyed by the rich folk in both Asia and later in North America, Australia and Europe, where the colorful game bird was later introduced.

Whatever the human lore that has developed over this beautiful bird, the common ring-necked pheasant – seen rarely if at all in Loudoun County these days – has a natural history just as grand as the holiday gift it once represented.

Ring-necked pheasants sport exquisite colors. Males have iridescent gold, copper and bronze feathers across their alternatively striped and dotted sides, back, wings and long tapered tail feathers. The head is a wonderful bluish-green punctuated by a short crest. And their throat and breast is a deep, brownish burgundy – as regal as the most prized port wine. A bright red face and a white or goldish ring around their neck finishes off the head and shoulders.

Females are a lovely and soft golden-buff color with equally distinctive streaks, dots and stripes. She needs the camouflage ... he needs the colorful “I’m here” display. Males in fact

establish harems of hens, and will defend those harems from aggressive rivals.

Pheasant are essentially ground birds, with a fast walk-run movement. They do sometimes fly short distances, especially when disturbed by predators and/or what they sense as human dangers. But mostly, they seek concealment. Females nest in fields or in hedgerow-type habitat, incubating up to one dozen eggs on their own. Young pheasant can fly within two weeks of leaving the egg, a defense mechanism against their high mortality rates. In the fall the bird forms flocks, families they will depend upon for survival until the following spring.

The pheasant’s diet consists of seeds, grains, insects, berries and some times small animals. In agricultural areas they benefit greatly from waste grains in after-harvest fields. They also favor the cover and protection offered by agricultural areas that are interspersed with low woodlands and areas of high grass and bushy vegetation.

Males have a loud, rooster-like cackling-type display that lends itself to long distances, a form of communication common to ground birds. They also display a wing-flapping behavior in open areas, especially during mating season.

The wild pheasant’s average lifespan is short – just 10 to 20 months. But, that short life is a colorful, grand and oft noisy one ... just so we know, if only in song, that they are out there.



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A View From The Outside At Bedlam Farm

By Hannah Hager

This estate is perhaps at its best when it's viewed from the outside looking in. The wonderment of the outside of this home is twofold: It lies just beyond the perimeter of Loudoun County's official borders; and it's also one of the few properties where the landscape and grounds' buildings equally rival the main home.

Stunning views surround the five-stall, center-aisle barn that is fully equipped with tack and feed rooms, a wash stall, laundry and hay storage as well as an equipment shed, four fenced paddocks, multiple run-ins and an amazing ride out.

This is an equestrian lover's dream, almost begging for you to bring your horses out to explore the more than 23 acres of your own personal property. What's more? This little bit of serenity is only a short 30-minute ride to Leesburg.

Make no doubt about it, however, the fully renovated farmhouse that was originally constructed in 1875, is a sight to behold all its own. The crisp, white manor home has been beautifully restored to maintain its original architectural integrity while allowing for modern-day needs and luxuries.

With no less than five bedrooms, four full



bathrooms and four fireplaces - the original construction of this home was both forward-thinking and accommodating to families of all sizes. Hardwood floors and ceiling trim make for a neat and simple home. A mahogany-toned wood lines the fireplace in the formal living room providing a sophisticated air that is repeated in the formal dining room with its own fireplace.



The sophisticated tone of the home slowly fades as you make your way through its rooms. Relax as you go through to the kitchen with its farmer's feel - boasting exposed pot slides overhead and a center island with a butcher's block. The stone-framed, wood-burning fireplace in the living room will provide you and your family with the ultimate coziness during the winter months. Once spring arrives, however, you won't be able to wait to enjoy your new home's patio. It's from there that you'll overlook the great outdoors that will be all yours.

Address:
497 Lockes Mill Road, Berryville
Bedrooms: Five
Bathrooms: Four full
Fireplaces: Four
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Acreage: 23
Price: \$949,000
Agent: Karen Cooper, Platinum Group Real Estate
Contact: 540-454-0467



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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life: Giving And Taxes

There is a relationship among income, gift and estate tax which can appear complex. However, in reality most of gifts are not affected by taxes.

This column addresses non-charitable gifts. Unlike a gift to charity, a gift to a person is not deductible by the donor for income tax purposes. A gift to a person is not taxable income to that person.

There is a federal gift tax but (with the exception of Connecticut and Tennessee) states don't impose gift taxes. Here's how the federal gift tax works: A person may make as many gifts as he/she wishes each year so long as the total value of gifts to each person for the year is within the amount of the "annual exclusion." The annual exclusion is subject to adjustment each year and is \$14,000 for 2015 and 2016. So Dad can give up to \$14,000 of gifts apiece to each child, grandchild and neighbor without having to file a gift tax return, no matter how many children, grandchildren and neighbors he has. Furthermore, Mom can do the same. In fact, if Dad wants to give up to \$28,000 per donee and Mom doesn't want to give anything, Dad can "borrow" Mom's annual exclusion for that year. However, Dad will have to file a gift tax return which Mom will sign to show she is allowing him to use her annual exclusion. (To avoid that requirement gifts can be made from joint property, as with a joint bank account.)

What if in one year Dad gives Junior \$14,000 in cash plus a share of ABC stock which has a market value of \$100? (Assume that Mom isn't in the picture to donate her annual exclusion.) In that case Dad will be required to file a gift tax return to report the gift, but probably won't have to pay any gift tax. The reason: Each of us has an exemption. For 2016 the exemption amounts to \$5,450,000. So the effect of Dad's gift is that his exemption is reduced by the amount over the annual exclusion, \$100. The balance of his exemption continues through his lifetime and applies at his death to his estate. Thus, only if his taxable



AMY & DAN SMITH

estate at death exceeds the balance remaining of his exemption (\$5,449,900 in this example) will his estate be subject to estate tax.

Please note that any gift between husband and wife, either during lifetime or at death, is not subject to gift or estate tax, no matter the size.

There is a subtle but important issue that should be addressed in the discussion of giving. In the above example in which Dad gave Junior a share of ABC stock, the value of Dad's gift is measured by the market value at the time of the gift, \$100 in this example. Let's say that Dad paid \$50 for that share some time ago, so his "basis" in the stock is \$50. When he gives the stock to Junior, Junior takes the same basis. So, if Junior sells the stock for \$100, he has a capital gain to report on his income tax return of \$50. On the other hand, if Dad gives Junior the stock at his death, the basis is "stepped up" to the value on the date of death. If that value is \$100 when Dad dies and Junior sells the stock for \$100 after inheriting it, Junior has no capital gain to report.

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.

This Is The Enemy

— By Nicholas Reid



REID

I was originally going to write this column about refuting the claim that America is a fundamentally racist country. But then Paris happened and forced my hand to write about ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The barbarity of ISIS's actions inside the Middle East is at a level not seen since the days of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in the Second World War. In fact, it is even worse, because ISIS takes no prisoners. None. ISIS executioners utilize a bevy of barbaric execution methods, ranging from shootings to mass drownings to running prisoners over with tanks, all of which are videotaped and used as propaganda. Worse still is the fact that ISIS's propaganda is effective. The Jihadist group has attracted tens of thousands of recruits, including more than 3,000 from outside the Middle East. Why? Well, either there are many people who just like killing others in brutally horrific fashions, or there is something else motivating them. Something like their radical version of their faith. It is important to point out that while not all Muslims are members of ISIS, all members of ISIS are Muslims—Muslims who believe in an especially violent and extreme form of Islam, which they justify through their twisted interpretations of quotations from the Koran and other Islamic teachings. ISIS's brand of Islam may be denounced by most Muslims, but the number of Muslims devoted to the organization's form of Islam represents a giant threat to civilized people all over the world.

Now, after identifying ISIS as a radical Islamist organization, the question remains on how to defeat them. In order to stop more attacks like Paris, Beirut, Metrojet Flight 9268, Baghdad, and what goes on inside ISIS territory every day, ISIS must be destroyed. In order to accomplish this

goal, the civilized world (and especially the United States) must be prepared for a long-term fight. Just like it took years to defeat the Axis, it will take years to defeat ISIS. There will be a lot of casualties on the way, too. ISIS will fight for every inch of ground with suicidal tenacity, based upon what we have seen so far in fighting them. It is not known how many US troops will be needed to defeat ISIS, but one thing is for certain: We will not defeat ISIS with a military campaign consisting of purely airstrikes and we will never defeat ISIS by restricting our troops with the strictest rules of engagement ever implemented in US history.

To defeat ISIS, Americans will have to accept the fact that civilians in the areas ISIS holds will be killed in the crossfire, possibly by American weapons, and that these dead civilians will be used as anti-US propaganda. The same was true of German and Japanese civilian casualties during the Second World War, but it did not deter our resolve then and must not now. Moreover, we must not forget that while we will do everything possible to limit civilian casualties, ISIS deliberately targets civilians.

To defeat ISIS, Americans must unite to offer as much support to the war effort as possible, whether through military service or by making sacrifices on the home front. Remember, our enemy does not distinguish between White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian; they do not distinguish between rich and poor; they do not distinguish between straight or gay: To ISIS, we are all infidels who deserve death. It's time that Americans stop listening to those who seek to divide us based upon ethnicity, gender, wealth, or sexuality and unite to face our common foe, ISIS. Divided we are weak, together we are strong.

Nicholas Reid graduated from high school in Loudoun County and is studying geology at the South Dakota School of Mines. He plans to be a paleontologist.

Tolbert Environmental Achievement Award Goes To Tuscarora High School

The Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission announced Tuscarora High School as the winner of the 2015 John W. Tolbert, Jr. Environmental Achievement Award. This award program recognizes students, community groups, and individuals who conduct or participate in activities that benefit the Town's environment. The Leesburg Town Council will present the award at the Dec. 8 council meeting.

The EAC chose Tuscarora High School as this year's award recipient for its innovative environmental science program that has helped spur several initiatives in sustainability.

One example of the school's efforts is the reuse of excess printed paper to create notepads, eliminating the need to purchase new paper notepads. A second initiative has been to aid the plight of the monarch butterflies with a garden waystation to help sustain the butterfly migration. In a third initiative, Tuscarora High School has implemented a new lunchroom recycling program developed and run by the Environmental Sciences classes.

Joseph Sanchez, Chair of the Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission, noted, "I am really impressed with Tuscarora High School's creative paper re-

purposing prior to recycling, which added considerably to the material's life cycle. And I applaud the butterfly waystation project. I know how difficult it can be to establish a functional planting designed to sustain other life. Well done."

The EAC and the Leesburg Town Council will host a brief ceremony to present the 2015 Tolbert Awards on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the beginning of the Council's regular meeting in the Council Chambers at Town Hall (25 West Market Street).



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Loudoun Valley High School Viking Players

Dec. 3-6 - Come join the Loudoun Valley High School Theatre for the time-honored classic "A Christmas Carol." Journey with Ebenezer Scrooge as he rediscovers the true spirit of Christmas. Come ready to laugh, cry, and join in the fun on Dec. 3, 4 and 5 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be sold at the door. Don't be a hum-bug - come out to Valley Theatre's "A Christmas Carol!"



Get Your Holiday Swagger On 10 Great Do-It-Yourself Local Gifts & Stocking Stuffers

- By Andrea Gaines

From fresh local herb swags to handy old-fashioned hardware store items to great general store finds to farm shops, western Loudoun is a veritable treasure chest of inexpensive, simple-to-sophisticated local gift-giving opportunities. Try these out for the holidays ...

- 1. Herb Swag** - these can be large or small; bundle up your favorite herbs, secure with wire and finish off with a ribbon - great gift for a chef.
- 2. Mason Jar Soup fix 'ins** - layer rice and beans in a small mason jar and add a festive gift tag to the top.
- 3. Locally Made Soap** - the soaps are everywhere, and the "flavors" are amazing ... from Lavender Lime, to Lemon Poppy, to Citrus Spice.
- 4. Vintage Tea Cup & Saucer For The Tea-lover** - consignment shops are full of them.



5. Jar Of Fancy Jam - local farm stores have lots of choices, as do gourmet shops.

6. Pizza Pie Gift Certificate - a great gift for visiting guests that also helps save you cooking time.

7. Fresh Local Apple Butters - a deliciously inexpensive stocking stuffer.

8. Coffee Mug with A Bag Of Your Favorite Brew - lots of handcrafted pottery can be purchased here, as well as fancy coffees.

9. Book By A Local Author - we have lots of talented writers from Loudoun County ... just Google it!

10. A Gift To Your Favorite Charity - when you can't think of what to give, or just want to give thanks, make a gift to a favorite charity in the name of your giftee!

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Have A Coconutty Holiday

– By Andrea Gaines

Recipes using coconut oil and coconut meat are all over the Internet, on the most popular cooking shows and in the new recipe books. Part of coconut's popularity relates to the fact that roughly 65 percent of the coconut's fatty acids are what are known as medium-chain (MCFAs) – easily digested nutrients the body uses for energy production and other purposes. Here are three fun and delicious recipes using coconut oil and coconut meat this holiday season.



Coconutty Popcorn:

Ingredients: 1-2 tablespoons of extra virgin coconut oil, 1/4 cup popcorn kernels, 1/4 teaspoon sea salt, 1 teaspoon butter.

Directions: Place the oil, popcorn and salt in a large pan. Heat on the stovetop over medium, cover with a lid and shake (so the kernels are covered with the oil). Cook with lid slightly ajar until kernels are mostly popped (shaking constantly). Turn off heat; add the butter, toss and serve.

Flavor Notes: While the freshly popped pop corn is still warm ... **for a sweet version**, season and toss with allspice and raw sugar, **for a savory version** sprinkle with a combination of cumin, chili powder and turmeric.

Coconutty Holiday Nuts:

Ingredients: 2 cups of mixed nuts, 3 tablespoons of extra virgin coconut oil, 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon, 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 teaspoon sea salt (or, to taste).

Directions: Place the oil and salt in a large shallow pan. Heat on the stovetop over medium heat, add the nuts and toss to spread the oil. Let the nuts brown slightly; take off the heat, spread in a shallow pan and let cool. Sprinkle with the cinnamon and brown sugar and serve.

Coconutty Date Rolls:

Ingredients: 1 cup fine coconut flakes, 1/2 cup sliced almonds, 1 cup dates, 1/4 cup of a cocoa powder/ raw sugar mixture.

Directions: Put all of the almonds, all of the dates, and 1/2 cup of the coconut flakes in a food processor. Blend until fully combined, so you have a fine, sticky nutmeat. Form the meat into smallish balls (about the size of a large grape). Then, roll 1/2 of the date balls in the remaining coconut flakes and 1/2 in the cocoa powder/ raw sugar mixture.

Hmmm!

P.S. Many products that use coconut oil and coconut meat are highly processed and have lots of additives – from unhealthy hydrogenated fats to artificial colors. Educate yourself on what you are using. One good source for information is www.evolvingwellness.com.

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Free Parking For The Holidays In Downtown Leesburg

Parking in the Town Hall parking garage and at on-street parking meters will be free from Thanksgiving to New Year's

The Town of Leesburg will be offering free parking throughout the holiday season in the Town Hall parking garage and at on-street parking meters in the Historic Downtown. The two-hour limit at on-street meters will remain in effect during the free holiday parking promotion.

Free parking will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25, and will continue until 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4. The annual free holiday parking program is in support of the Leesburg Downtown Business Association's holiday shopping promotions.

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Leesburg Teen Releasing Video To Promote Pop Single "Own It"

Jeyhan, a 15-year-old Pop/R&B singer hailing from Leesburg, will release his first single and the accompanying music video. The song, titled "Own It," is about following one's passions. "Own It" is about doing what you love to do in life your way and owning it, even if it isn't what others



want you to do or isn't the normal thing to do. I wanted to write a song that everyone, not just teens, could relate to and I think the song has a really inspirational message," said Jeyhan who is a sophomore at Riverside High School in Lansdowne. The song will be available on iTunes, Amazon and Google Play. The video will be available on social media sites.

Jeyhan recently won a singing competition with the National Cherry Blossom Festival

Parade and was selected to sing on live television during the event. He has performed for CureFest, Miss Intercontinental United States and the World Music and Independent Film Festival in Washington, D.C. "Jeyhan has everything it takes to make it in the industry," says award-winning voting Grammy member artist F. Cisco 'Steel' Anderson, who worked with Jeyhan this past summer. "His vocals are superb and well beyond his years and his single is commercial enough to be a number one hit on the pop chart."

For additional information about Jeyhan, contact Connie Lamothe of CCLTalent Management. His Facebook address is: [facebook.com/jeyhantucker](https://www.facebook.com/jeyhantucker).

Christmas In Hillsboro Craft Fair And Festival Dec. 12 And 13



Nearly 40 artisans and vendors will participate in the Christmas in Hillsboro Craft Fair and Festival on Dec. 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Dec. 13 from Noon to 4 p.m. at the Old Stone School Community Center in Hillsboro. The Christmas tree lighting will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Fresh trees and wreaths, as well as decorations, lights, food and drink will be available for sale. The Old Stone School is located at 37098 Charles Town Pike.

On December 12 from noon to 4 p.m., the Catoctin School of Music will sing carols on stage in the historic building. After the festivities have wrapped up on Sunday, December 13, visitors will be invited to come back to the Old Stone School at 6 p.m. for the Big Bad Drama Club's production of "A Little Bit of Christmas." The admission is a new toy that will be donated to Toys for Tots.

Franklin Park Christmas And New Year's Eve Events

Holiday-related events dominate the December schedule at Franklin Park in Purcellville. A one-man performance of *A Christmas Carol* will be offered on Friday, Dec. 18, a holiday sing-along is scheduled on the following day and a New Year's Eve celebration is planned for Thursday, Dec. 31. On Sunday, Dec. 6, the park will be offering music from the Civil War, and a comedy improvisation event is slated for Saturday, Dec. 26.

The *Albuquerque Journal* writes: "John Hardy's one-man version of *A Christmas Carol*... a stunning work of theatrical virtuosity. Run to see this; take the whole family. You will be transfixed from the first moment.... This play brings the story to life.... I've seen this story many times but never like this... it will be as if you are seeing it for the first time." The show begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

The Loudoun and Fairfax Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society, along with the Chorus of the Old Dominion, the Fairfax Jubilaires and chapter quartets will perform classic holiday favorites at the holiday sing-along on Saturday, Dec. 19. Hot chocolate and Apple cider will be served at intermission.

There are shows at 2:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$15; the cost for seniors, students and those in the military is \$12; kids of age 10 and under are free. Please call 540-338-7973 to reserve tickets.

The family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration features entertainment by the Loudoun Valley High School Comedy Cult and The Great Zucchini. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$35 for a family of four or more. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 9:00.

On Dec. 6, John DuRant will perform in authentic Civil War attire, sing, recite poetry, and perform Civil War period ballads and story songs, using an original 1850's French Parlor Guitar. Singing along is encouraged. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is for \$8 paid at the door.

A group of talented performers takes suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games at the Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv on Dec. 26. The show begins at 8:00 p.m. The price for pay-at-the-door admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for kids.

Please visit www.franklinparkartscenter.org for tickets.

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Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015

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DECEMBER EVENTS

- ☉ **Dec. 4, Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Lucketts Community Center Tree Lighting.** Refreshments, face painting and cookie decorating.
- ☉ **Dec. 4, Friday, at 7:30 p.m., Irving Berlin's White Christmas** at Belmont Ridge Middle School. Adults \$14, Children and Seniors \$12. Tickets at thepickwickplayers.com.
- ☉ **Dec. 4, Friday, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tree Lighting. Middleburg Salamander Resort** at Pink Box Information Center.
- ☉ **Dec. 4, Friday, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Wintertainmentfest Extravaganza** in Lovettsville. The evening starts at the Community Center.
- ☉ **Dec. 5 and 6, Saturday and Sunday,** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Christkindmarkt at the Game Club in Lovettsville. Vendors and artists, traditional food and drink, live traditional Christmas music.
- ☉ **Dec. 5, Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Dec. 6, Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Ida Lee Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Show.** Over 95 arts and crafts exhibitors. Free admission. Call 703-777-1368.
- ☉ **Dec. 5, Saturday, Christmas in Middleburg Events.** Hunt Parade at 11 a.m. Christmas Parade with Santa at 2 p.m. See www.christmasinmiddleburg.org.
- ☉ **Dec. 6, Sunday, at 5:00 p.m., Christmas Concert.** Patrick Henry College (PHC) Youth Music Academy, High School Choir and Orchestra. PHC Gymnasium. 10 Patrick Henry Circle, Purcellville. Free admission.
- ☉ **Dec. 6, Sunday from 8:00 a.m., Morven Park Nature Walk.** Registration required at www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm.
- ☉ **Dec. 11 Friday, at 7:30 p.m., Irving Berlin's White Christmas** at Belmont Ridge Middle School. Adults \$14, Children and Seniors \$12. Tickets at thepickwickplayers.com.
- ☉ **Dec. 11, Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Purcellville Christmas Lights Trolley Tour.** Tours leave from the parking lot in front of the Bush Tabernacle at 250 S. Nursery Ave. with the last

trolley leaving at 8:15 p.m.

- ☉ **Dec. 12, Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Grand Funk Railroad performs at Hollywood Casino** at Charles Town Races. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.
- ☉ **Dec. 12, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Breakfast with Santa** at The National Conference Center and West Belmont Place (18980 Upper Belmont Pl., Leesburg). Tickets are available for purchase at santaatwestbelmontplace.eventbrite.com
- ☉ **Dec. 13, Sunday, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Purcellville Christmas Lights Trolley Tour.** Tours leave from the parking lot in front of the Bush Tabernacle at 250 S. Nursery Ave. with the last trolley leaving at 7:15 p.m.
- ☉ **Dec. 18 - 20, Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Candlelight Tours at Oatlands in Leesburg.** \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children 6 – 16. Admission is free for Friends of Oatlands and children under age 6.
- ☉ **Dec. 18, Friday, at 6:30 p.m., StageCoach Theatre Company presents "Stand Up For Santa."** Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12. Tickets are available for purchase at www.stagecoachtc.com.
- ☉ **Dec. 19, Saturday, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Candlelight Tours at Oatlands in Leesburg.** \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children 6 – 16. Admission is free for Friends of Oatlands and children under age 6.
- ☉ **Dec. 20, Sunday at 4:00 p.m., Middleburg Concert Series Christmas Cantata.** Middleburg United Methodist Church.
- ☉ **Dec. 21, Monday, at 6:30 p.m., StageCoach Theatre Company presents "Stand Up For Santa."** Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12. Tickets are available for purchase at www.stagecoachtc.com.
- ☉ **Dec. 23, Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., Mother and Daughter Holiday Tea.** Enjoy tea at The Marshall House in all its holiday splendor. \$35 per person. RSVP is required. See events@georgemarshall.org.
- ☉ **Dec. 25, Friday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Middleburg Community Christmas Day Dinner.** Emmanuel Parish

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Saturday, December 5th from 11am to 5pm

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▼ Iliana (age 7) is battling leukemia



▼ Gina (mom) has battled Hodgkin's Lymphoma

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☉ **Dec. 26, Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Rich Vos performs at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.** Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

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On The Set By Sally York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
20					21								
22				23	24			25			26	27	28
29			30				31	32					
			33				34				35		
	36	37				38				39			
40				41	42			43	44				
45			46					47			48	49	50
51							52				53		
			54			55	56		57	58			
59	60	61						62					
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

ACROSS

1. Dove tail
5. Ankh feature
9. Sweetly, in music
14. Montreal player
15. Retin-A treats it
16. New Jersey county
17. Turturro and Bacon, e.g.
20. Ancient horn
21. Horse handler
22. Dance, e.g.
23. Elephant grp.
25. Bivalve shells
29. "Enter" and "left"
33. Can you dig it?
34. Clumsy boats
35. Tags
36. Legal org.
38. Govt. agency
39. Layer
40. Back
41. Berry
43. Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
45. Camera chief
51. Synagogue singer
52. Cousin of an ostrich
53. Bar order
54. Encourage
57. Cameos, e.g.
59. Hollywood honcho
63. Havens
64. Prefix for scoliosis
65. Intention
66. "We're #1!" e.g.
67. Hose woe
68. Copper

4. Phone, slangily
5. Fond du ____
6. Marine mollusks
7. Addition column
8. Chipper
9. Lecturers
10. Sovereign's privilege
11. "Seinfeld" uncle
12. One for the road
13. Dash widths
18. Bit
19. "Wellaway!"
24. Catullus composition
26. Churn
27. May event, for short
28. Bubblehead
30. ____ few rounds
31. Call
32. It's full of periods
36. "Tosca" tune
37. Beethoven's birthplace
38. Blubber
39. Twaddle
40. TV monitor?
41. Love devotee
42. Freight
43. Coat part
44. Pacific island
46. Short musical pieces
47. Swiss canton
48. Binary compound
49. Big roll
50. Move audience members
55. Fish caught in pots
56. Beasts of burden
58. Suffix with psych-
59. Blubber

DOWN

1. Centers of activity
2. Give a pep talk
3. Ancient military hub

60. Central truth
61. Can. neighbor
62. Minor player

Answers on page 34

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Answers to puzzle from page 30

M	E	S	H		L	O	O	P		D	O	L	C	E
E	X	P	O		A	C	N	E		O	C	E	A	N
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	A	C	T	O	R	S
C	O	R	N	U		O	S	T	L	E	R			
A	R	T		G	O	P			A	N	O	M	I	A
S	T	A	G	E	D	I	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	S
				O	R	E	A	R	K	S	I	D	S	
	A	B	A		F	D	A		P	L	Y			
F	R	O		A	C	A	I		A	N	A			
C	I	N	E	M	A	T	O	G	R	A	P	H	E	R
C	A	N	T	O	R			E	M	U	A	L	E	
				U	R	G	E	O	N	R	O	L	E	S
S	T	U	D	I	O	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	V	E
O	A	S	E	S		L	E	V	O		I	D	E	A
B	O	A	S	T		S	N	A	G		C	E	N	T



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Remembering Wilberto "Wil" Pitre, III

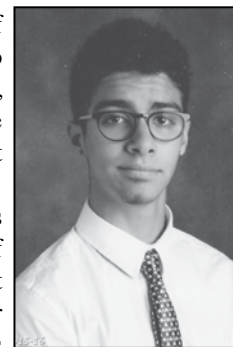
Wilberto Pitre, III, the son of Shannon Lopez and Wilberto Pitre, Jr and brother of Victoriana, Gabrielle and Dominic Pitre passed away Sunday, Nov. 22, at the age of 15.

He was a valiant leader in his family and a bold follower of Christ. Pitre sought to support and respect his parents, older sisters, Victoriana and Gabrielle's guidance and shared his wisdom with his younger brother, Dominic.

Pitre regularly reached out to inquire how others were doing and send his love. Beautiful family trips to spend time with aunts, uncles and cousins were the highlights of each summer break. There are such special memories of his exploits in the Minnesota lakes and the ocean waters of Puerto Rico.

A very talented musician, Pitre dove into recreating popular music on the piano and worked hard to further his pursuits with the acoustic and bass guitar, ukulele and saxophone. He excelled in academics so that he could get to college to study Psychology.

Pitre was an astoundingly compassionate friend to his schoolmates and teachers, in all grades of the many schools he attended: Berryville Primary, Catocin Elementary, Blue Ridge Middle and Loudoun Valley High School. He was passionate to care for each friend, from past years to present, sharing his love and giving life to the relationship even if they could not physically meet.



"WIL" PITRE, III

He is already missed immensely. His family thanks everyone in advance for the outpouring of support during this most difficult time.

Donations to offset costs, the family is receiving donations in memory of Wilberto Pitre, III at any Cardinal Bank in Virginia or through the GoFundMe account that was started by his good friend and his mother.

Pitre is survived by his parents, Shannon and Wilberto Jr and step parents Luiz Lopez and Beatriz Pitre, sisters Victoriana and Gabrielle and brother Dominic, grandparents Wanda and Jerry Hasbargen and Wilberto Pitre, Sr., uncles Chad (Jannell) Hasbargen, Brady (Katie) Hasbargen and Tony (Epi) Pitre.

He was predeceased by his grandmother Carmen Silvia Pitre, his infant sibling Baby Lopez and beloved pet mastiff Braccio.

Family and friends shared the memories on Sunday, Nov. 29, at Colonial Funeral Home. Services were held the following day at Cornerstone Chapel Church. His friend said it best on the family's go fund me page: "Our wonderful and funny friend Bert passed away November 22, 2015 in a tragic car accident. He was loved by everyone he knew and could light up a room like no one else. He was an awesome bassist and loved playing the ukulele. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. We will miss you so much Bert. God Bless you."

Loudoun Officials: If You See Something, Say Something

In the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris, Loudoun County officials remind residents that informed, alert communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe, and that "if you see something, say something." The following are steps that each of us can take throughout the year:

- **Remain vigilant and be aware of your surroundings:** Everyone plays a role in keeping Loudoun County safe. Whether you are at home, at work, or in public places like a mall, stadium or restaurant, be vigilant and report suspicious activity
- **Know what to report:** Examples of things to report include:
 - **Unusual items or situations:** A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package or luggage is unattended, a window or door is open that is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations occur;
 - **Eliciting information:** A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about a building's purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.;
 - **Observation/Surveillance:** Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest. This includes extended loitering

without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.;

• **Testing of Security:** Deliberate interactions with, or challenges to, installations, personnel or systems that reveal physical, personnel or cyber security capabilities.

• **Know how to report:**

- Report emergencies right away by calling 9-1-1;
- Loudoun County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line — 703-777-1021;
- Download an app for your phone to easily report something suspicious to Virginia's Fusion Center, call the center at 1-877-482-8477 or submit an online form. The fusion center is a collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies to better identify, detect, prevent, and respond to terrorist and criminal activity.

Learn more about the types of suspicious activity to report and find a link to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "If you see something, say something" campaign online at www.loudoun.gov/saysomething.



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On the Market ... with Sam Rees

2014 Top Producer Atoka Properties Purcellville Office

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HORSE PROPERTY



Amazing views from this 10 acre horse farm with 4bedrooms/3 baths (including main floor suite) and three finished levels. Stunning new kitchen. reclaimed board fencing , showcase flooring, built - ins and beams. Turn Key horse barn with 4 plus stalls, tack room, wash stall. Riding ring with observation deck. Immense shop for other Hobbies - **\$749,000**

CLOSE TO MARC TRAIN



Stunning updated school house circa 1920 on 3 acre. Updated interior with 10' ceilings that will amaze you. Immaculate and close to MARC Train. 3 bedrooms 2 full baths including main level suite. Other rooms include wonder enclosed stone porch, office, great room, living, dinning and kitchen. - **\$499,900**

RESTORED 19TH CENTURY W/BARN



Spectacular period home (1800's) superior kitchen, master bath/ garage & mud room additions. Setting is stunning! Sun-room w/deck overlooks 3 acres- beautiful trees, gardens, pond, lovely stable & fenced pastures. Save thousands w/geothermal & many new windows. Spacious yet cozy. Enjoy 3 woodburning fireplaces! A must see! Animal friendly property! - **\$629,500**

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY - 5 BEDROOMS UP



Nestled in the rural countryside of "Lucketts" (Leesburg) this 5 bedroom, 5 full bath home has mountain views and plenty of room for pets and gardening. Wood floors on entire first level, stone fireplace, Morning Room, deck and beautiful kitchen. Close to MARC Train and Historic Leesburg. Small community with only 14 homes. Ratify a contract with Powers Homes on this lot (Lot 1) by DECEMBER 30th and receive both a Free Finished Rec Room and Bath and \$10,000 closing costs! - **\$644,500**

On the Market...with Sam Rees Sold in 2015

19020 Yellow Schoolhouse Road, Bluemont (Represented Buyer)
 19052 Yellow Schoolhouse Road, Round Hill (Represented Seller)
 13 Broadway, Lovettsville (Seller)
 39159 Rodeffer Road, Lovettsville (Buyer)
 3760 North Fork Road, Purcellville (Buyers)
 37132 North Fork Road, Purcellville (Seller)
 14120 Seyzal Lane, Purcellville (Buyer)
 36513 Spring Pond Lane, Purcellville (Seller)
 38516 Titnore Court, Hamilton (Buyer)
 17890 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg (Seller)
 417 S King Street, Leesburg (Seller)
 311 Locust Knoll Lane, Leesburg (Seller)
 40016 Mt Gilead Road, Leesburg (Buyer)
 43201 Whisperwood Terrace, Ashburn (Buyer)
 15425 Cross Keys, Dominion Valley (Buyer)

FOR SPRING 2016



New Shenandoah Model to be built (\$629,900)- Just released by Powers Homes in Loy Estates. Includes a two story family room with floor to ceiling stone gas fireplace! Ratify a contract with Powers Homes on lot 6 ,7, 8 or 11 by DECEMBER 30, 2015 and enjoy a Free Finished Rec Room and Full Bath OR \$10,000 toward your lender allowed closing costs. Home sites from **\$499,900**

Let's get these three Homes for the Holidays!



Betsy is a 21 year old, Belgian/Morgan cross mare who was rescued by the Gingersnap Girls Foundation. Betsy had been an Amish work horse and was rescued from a hoarding situation. She is a sweet leadline girl - she has never been trained for riding but is very sweet. Betsy is fully vetted and is up for adoption in the

northern Virginia area only. All horses and ponies adopted out through the Gingersnap Girls Foundation go out under our contract to protect their future..If you are interested in fostering or adopting Betsy please contact the Gingersnap Girls Foundation at 540/338-5218 or email to info@gingersnapgirls.org



Flash is 4 weeks old. Extremely playful and very sweet. He would be best with another cat, flash loves company. His mother (who looks just like him) is also available for adoption.

They'd make a great pair for any family. Both are great with children and love people! If interested in adopting please contact Cindy Ingram at info@caseyhouse.org



Joey - is an adorable Pony of the Americas gelding. He is approximately 24 years old and full of personality. Joey was rescued by the Gingersnap Girls Foundation after being abused by a pony ride company. Joey had a fractured pelvis and the pony ride company was still trying to use him!! Due to his history of a fractured pelvis, Joey cannot be ridden. However, he would make a wonderful companion pony and pet. He loves people and gets along with everyone.If you are interested in fostering or adopting Joey please contact the Gingersnap Girls Foundation at 540/338-5218 or email to info@gingersnapgirls.org



Got Chickens?

Keeping Chickens as pets is becoming very popular in

Loudoun County- Please call me to find out which of these homes are "Chicken Friendly!"

Please Call
Sam Rees, Associate Broker
On the Market... with Sam Rees
703.408.4261

email:onthemarketwithsamrees@gmail.com
Ray Rees, Associate Broker, rayrees@ymail.com

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