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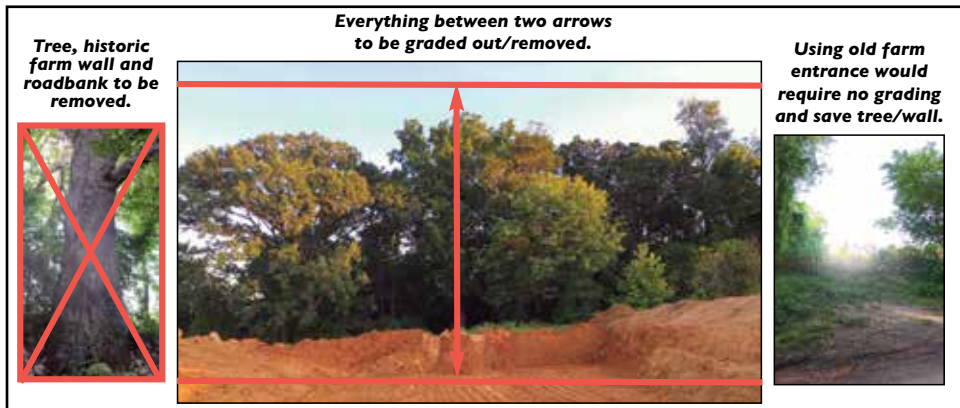
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Emblematic Fight To Save 600 Feet Of History



– By Andrea Gaines

“Just waiting for the chainsaws ... “ That is just about all long-time Loudoun resident Doug Steiner could muster in a recent email conversation with local preservationist Martha Polkey.

Steiner was talking about his more than decade-long effort to save a small segment

of one of Loudoun’s most historic dirt pathways – Paxson Road. A significant swath of one north edge of the road is scheduled to be leveled for an entrance to the Black Oak Ridge development, even though a far less expensive, far less destructive alternative – an old farm road – lies just 200 feet from the spot. The current owner of the property,

Continued on page 5

Admiring Eyes

Hundreds Will Join 20th Annual Butterfly Count August 6

How Is A Butterfly Like A Rainbow?

Scientists recently discovered that some butterfly wings contain tiny structures called gyroids that diffract or break up light into the colors of the spectrum. You may also have seen this (a rainbow, really) walking through a wet garden, where color appears in droplets of water backlit by the sun. An individual butterfly’s gyroid structures differentiate the light that reaches them. The light reflected – or prevented from passing through – produces the color you see.

– By Andrea Gaines

Their not-so-common names – “Red-Spotted Purple,” “Tawny Emperor,” “Little Glassywing,” “Spring Azure” – bespeak of their beauty, of their highly evolved structures, of their surprising colors. And more than that, the enchanted feeling we get as a “Papillion” (French), or “Babochka” (Russian for “little soul”) floats by.

On Saturday, August 6 butterfly lovers from all over Loudoun will fan out in 12 different areas to search out and count any one of the county’s 85 species. Eager volunteers are equipped with water, sunscreen, snacks, and checklists – along with binoculars, cameras, and field guides. Beginners of all ages are paired with experts, with teams meeting up at a specified location to begin counting. Teams take a break for lunch around noon, which also allows individuals and families to move on to other weekend activities if



they need to. Others continue on to the afternoon session and keep counting. Data from the LWC count is turned over to the Northern American Butterfly Association, the longstanding steward of this nationwide event.

LWC butterfly count is exciting and varies widely from year to year. For example, over the years, annual Pipevine Swallowtail counts have ranged from 1 to 3 to 23 ... but in 2015, the count for this species was 0. Over 1,500 Cabbage Whites were counted in 2009 ... but the species came in at just 68 in 2013. Northern Broken-Dash counts have ranged from 0 to 8 in the years 1997 to 2015. Seven

Continued on page 6

Makes Some Baseball Memories

American Legion Baseball At Fireman’s Field This Month, see page 11



World Series 2015 miracle catch.



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Pokémon GO: A Fun New Gaming App Or An Accidental Treatment?

– By **Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.**

– it is now the number one downloaded app in the United States.

Penicillin was accidentally discovered in 1928 when scientist Alexander Fleming returned to his lab from vacation to notice that a strange fungus growing on a culture had killed off the neighboring bacteria. After WWII, psychiatrist and researcher, Dr. John Cade, also accidentally discovered the extremely positive affects of lithium for mood disturbances that revolutionized the treatment for what we now know as Bipolar Disorder. Some of the other amazing medical discoveries that were found by accident include, Nitrous Oxide, the Pap Smear, the Pace Maker and even Viagra.



Dr. Mike

The game takes an interactive approach to fun where you can join a team and compete with others but without gratuitous violence. And while hunting and catching Pokémon has been described by many as being entertaining; the game also actually appears to be helping people with their problems.

Fast-forward to 2016 and the introduction of Pokémon GO, a gaming app that appears to have both entertainment value and inadvertent benefits. Pokémon GO is a mobile game that is played by using your GPS and clock to catch Pokémon in the real world. The game was released in early July, and its free to play location based augmented format has had great success

Occupational therapists, for instance, are claiming that Pokémon GO helps their patients with hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, fine motor cues, impulse control, and social skills. And there are several other on-line postings from individuals who reportedly struggle with depression, anxiety, agoraphobia, panic and autism, and many of these folks are sharing that the game has changed their lives.

As a child psychologist in private practice, I am typically not a big fan of video games inasmuch as I have seen first hand, time and time again, the negative impact excessive technology use can have on children and teens - increased rates of social problems,

Continued on page 29

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Busy Summer At The County

County officials are busy this summer despite the heat and hectic vacation schedules. The following is a sampling of updates on county issues, decisions, hearings and meetings impacting the lives of everyday Loudouners.

- **Quiet Time On The Porch:** New county noise standards give the Sheriff's Department the power to answer calls from citizens complaining about noise coming from another residence. The regulations state in part "... no person shall permit, operate or cause any source of sound or sound generation that is audible and discernible in any other person's residential dwelling ...". Standards for commercial businesses will be discussed at the BOS's Sept. 22 Business Meeting. To sign up to speak call 703 777-0204.
- **Who Will Pay For It?:** New state regulations limit the kind and amounts of proffers, or offset payments, counties are allowed to collect from developers working in select areas – including the land around new metro stops. New county zoning laws would make some of these areas exempt from these state laws, protecting the county's ability to secure proper payments from developers.
- **Millions Secured For New Interchange At Battlefield Parkway And Route 7:** The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has given Leesburg \$20 million toward this interchange, bringing

- the total available for the project to \$33 million of the \$58 million needed.
- **Give Us Greater Density ... We'll Give You A Sports Complex:** The Loudoun County Planning Commission voted in late July to forward on to the BOS One Loudoun's request to add hundreds of more residential units and a self-storage facility to their complex. In exchange, the developer would give the county an 80,000 sq. ft. recreation center. One Loudoun currently includes 1,000+ residential units, 3 million sq. ft. of office space and over 700,000 sq. ft. of retail, restaurant and entertainment venues.
 - **First Loudoun County State Park Established:** 604 acres of the 900-acre Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship preserve has been donated by the Robert and Dee Leggett Foundation to the Old Dominion Land Conservancy, and acquired by the state for the establishment of a new state park. **Several other hot topics are keeping everyone busy, including the citizens monitoring issues such as:** 1) The ongoing Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan Review – which may signal major changes to densities and the kinds of development allowed in the Transition Policy Area; 2) The ongoing controversy over AT&T's activity on Short Hill Mountain; and 3) Threats to historic dirt roads, including Paxson Road.

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July Purcellville Town Council Meeting And Work Session



– By Nathaniel Stephens

On July 12, the newly elected Purcellville Town Council held its first meeting as the official body representing the people of the Town. Key meeting topics and issues included:

Appointments:

The council appointed these individuals: Kelli Grim to the Planning Commission, Chris Bledsoe to the Economic Development Advisory Committee, Ryan Cool to the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Arts Council, Karen Jimmerson to the Tree and Beautification Committee and Nedim Ogelman to the Board of Architectural Review. (Council Member Doug McCollum declined an appointment to the Arts Committee.) Council Member Karen Jimmerson was appointed Vice-Mayor.

Sale of Bulk Water:

In Opening Statements, Council Member McCollum brought up the subject of the Town's bulk-water sales program. He said the program does not benefit the Town, and that the price is too "low cost" and "discriminates against commercial water users." McCollum said, "I am concerned that the bulk-water sales program has some problems with it, and I believe that there is a misunderstanding about whether the water sold is potable. I have confirmed that it is in fact potable, but because of existing health regulations, and the method the Town uses to disperse the water, the Town may not promote the water as potable. Neverthe-

Council member Nedim Ogelman initiated a discussion on the advisability of seeking an audit on Town business practices. Ogelman suggested this kind of an audit is essential for fostering trust and making sure that Town Hall makes the most efficient use of taxpayers' money.

less, the expense that the Town incurs processing bulk water is the same as what we incur to process water for those who live in Town." However, bulk water is sold at a lower rate because it is not delivered to and from any household or business in Town. Additionally, businesses in Town cannot use non-potable water as part of their daily operations. Bulk water is potable until it is removed from the hydrant. Then it ceases to be potable. It is sold to landscape companies, construction companies, and pool companies, to name a few, and once it is released, it does not go back through the Town's system. The Town currently charges \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons for bulk water.

Water delivered to customers must come back through the Town's system- and be cleaned through the sewer system before being returned to the stream systems, consistent with requirements of the EPA and the state. This process adds considerable cost to the water for Town residents and businesses.

Audit Of Town Business Practices:

After bulk water sales, the Council moved on to New Business. Council member Nedim Ogelman initiated a discussion on the advisability of seeking an audit on Town business practices. Ogelman suggested this kind of an audit is essential for fostering trust and making sure that Town Hall makes the most efficient use of taxpayers' money. This subject came up with the previous Council, but was not pursued due to lack of majority support. Municipalities that hold frequent audits often save millions of dollars otherwise swallowed up by the inefficiencies of everyday business practices, such as the administration of application processes and fees. Council member Kelli Grim said that "the efficiencies that affect how we get from point A to point B affect our financial health. We can do better with the money that we spend."

Mayor Kwasi Fraser indicated that many firms offer their services at a reduced cost or even for free to municipalities. "There are many firms that will do this pro bono. So I don't want to get caught up in a discussion of how much this could cost when it could cost nothing," he said. "My view on this is, and this is based on my conversation with EDAC [Economic Development Advisory Committee], is that we cannot always look up google and say, 'Oh my, this is going to cost us \$100,000.' There are firms out there that, based on our profile and how well we negotiate, will do this pro bono. So, I don't want us to get caught up in the potential cost of something for us, [and] not even investigate doing it. There is a lot of potential here and merit. So, I support it

and I hope to make this an agenda item. There are firms that will come and do it, and work with your structure, where you would not even know that they're doing it. The attractiveness of these firms is that they are able to work side by side with you during an audit. If you are a firm that cannot do that or have a consultant team that can come in and work side by side – that's questionable. So again, I support this all the way, and let's see where it will go."

As a last note, Council Member Ryan Cool said, "Government is not efficient, and while audit is a bad word, it is necessary to be a better town."

July 26: Town Council Work Session Appointments:

The town council unanimously appointed Brittany Adkins and David Estey to the planning commission, and reappointed Tip Stinnette and Theresa Stein.

Sales of Bulk Water, Take Two:

The discussion of the town's bulk water program came up again at this work session. It was reported that, to date the Town has secured revenue of \$23,000 through the program. Council Member Kelli Grim said she was impressed with the performance of the effort: "This is a strong program that still is in its infancy ... and could potentially make one debt payment."

Real Parties In Interest:

Council Member Kelli Grim brought forward the Real parties In Interest Disclosure, which would require developers and landowners to disclose all individuals who have a legal interest in a property or development, including people who are working on a project – and even – donors to previous or current town candidates. Real parties legislation would be part of comprehensive land use procedures requiring it for all land use applications, including rezonings, special exceptions, special use permits, variances, and annexation and boundary line adjustments. The motion was made to move forward with the Real Parties In Interest Disclosure. It passed unanimously, and the final draft document will be voted on at the council's September 13 meeting.

Loudoun County and Leesburg both require the Real Parties In Interest Disclosure. Grim has been working on the issue since 2011 (as a private citizen), but there was never a majority of town council members in favor of it. Real Parties In Interest was the subject of a Purcellville Business Association meeting attended by Grim in 2011. The previous Lazaro Administration had asked the association for its opinion on the issue, but never brought it before the town

council. At the PBA meeting, Grim was left with no option to push the issue with the Town Council because PBA board member and developer John Chapman made it clear that he was against the Real Parties In Interest Disclosure because he didn't want people knowing who his investors were.

Gift Of Easement To The Town:

Casey Chapman, son of developer John Chapman, has offered to make a gift of an easement to the town (free of charge except for legal fees incurred to transfer land – roughly \$3,500) on the front of his property at 601 West Main Street. The property is officially owned by CaseCo, LLC.

The council gave the go ahead for the staff to explore the possibility of obtaining the easement. Town manager Rob Lohr outlined several issues regarding how an easement at this location could help the town, including tying the easement to the Rust property infrastructure. The Rust property is five and a half acres currently zoned MC – Mixed Use Commercial – and currently for sale. Lohr also noted that the easement could help with safety issues on the north side of Main Street, including the addition of a traffic light. Council Member Nedim Ogelman pointed out that this project could have unforeseen safety consequences resulting from diversion of traffic into the neighborhoods south of Main Street. The traffic coming in and out of the 711 convenience store on the south west corner of the current T section, could further complicate and add uncertainty to any possible changes to this intersection (Rt. 690 and old business 7). He agreed with Grim who said, "I don't want to spend \$3,500 dollars of taxpayer money without definite information coming to us from VDOT." She also said, "I agree it is a dangerous intersection that is in need of improvement. If VDOT were to come back and say that a light is warranted there, then VDOT would take action and this would save Purcellville the money."

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said the easement might help with future sidewalk connections on Main Street.

Police Department Building Upgrade:

At the July 26 work session, the Town Council also moved the discussion of the possibility of the town building or buying an existing building for the police department to September. Mayor Fraser said that the need for a station should be discussed at a Comprehensive Plan Review level to determine if the citizens want a police station and if so where. He said that this is a key community decision and as such the community should be fully involved.

Council Members Seek Transparency

Council Member Karen Jimmerson expressed concerns that several development projects were moving through the application and review process without Town

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Paxson Road, continued from page 1

as well as select county staff have at times taken up Steiner's crusade. But recent developments – including requirements by VDOT and Verizon, and mixed messages from the county – have put Steiner right back where he started nearly 15 years ago: trying (now at the last minute) to get the powers that be to preserve the road.

Paxson runs east to west along a long stretch of countryside south of Purcellville, and crosses both Airmont Rd. (Rt. 719) and Silcott Springs Rd. (Rt. 690). The 600-foot segment Steiner is working to save faces the home he designed and built over 20 years ago. In addition to a steep and historic road bank – over ten feet high in some places – the proposed entrance would sacrifice an enormous old oak tree, dozens of other old trees, an original stone wall, and tons and tons of earth and vegetation. At 150 – 180-years-old, the largest tree probably predates the Civil War. As lovers of these old byways know, road banks reveal their age by their height, recording centuries of wear brought on by foot and horse, by wagon, carriage, farm tractor, and plow – and in this area – by Civil War, and quite possibly Revolutionary War, forces.

The county is required by law to preserve the character of historic roads. And, a long series of owners and developers have touted the added value history and intact nature bring to the real estate market. The Black Oak Ridge developer's website, for example, states that the area “consists of 248 acres of rolling countryside framed by forests, farmland, and rambling streams ... [including] ten acre conservancy homesites ... “ The website maintains, “Each site holds unique properties ... whether it be a wooden rear yard shaded by mature trees or a scenic vista to watch the sun set over the Blue Ridge Mountains.”

The surrounding area also includes Precision Dynamics Lake and Sleeter Lake, and is framed by one of the most sizeable open-space regions of western Loudoun. These lakes, along with remaining agricultural lands, forests, rural road hedgerows like those on Paxson, streams, wetlands, and meadow habitat play heavily into the area's value as a natural resources and historic hotspot.

Steiner has been active in the effort to preserve this segment of Paxson Road since 2003, when the last lands that made up the 800-acre Black Oak Dairy were sold off and subdivided. Over the years, for his own benefit and that of his neighbors, he became a volunteer caretaker of the road -- removing trash and fallen trees, clearing snow, and raking gravel into potholes, classic best-practices maintenance for old dirt roads. And, along the way, he developed a strong friendship with the late naturalist and historian Bob Lyon, who lived here, and whose father was the owner of the dairy.

Respecting the new owner/developer's rights to the property, Steiner commented on the original Black Oak Ridge development

“As lovers of these old byways know, road banks reveal their age by their height, recording centuries of wear brought on by foot and horse, by wagon, carriage, farm tractor, and plow – and in this area – by Civil War, and quite possibly Revolutionary War, forces.”



site plan, and noted that 600 feet of old road bank, the stone wall, and mature tree canopy could be easily preserved by taking advantage of the existing, at-grade farm entrance just 200 feet away.

Said Steiner in a memo to the Department of Building and Development at the time, “The proposed location for the western intersection of Wild Raspberry Lane and Paxson Road is located very nearly opposite my home, and will require the removal of several mature Oak trees, one with a circumference of ten feet ... [and] additional roadside clearing and reduction of natural buffers, disturbing the character of the road ... “ “ ... [A] slight westward shift of this intersection, incorporating an existing farm entrance, would be a superior location, preserving trees, rock walls, and reducing excavation ... A site visit would indicate the positive aspects of this request. I would be very appreciative of this consideration.”

Steiner said he met with almost outright dismissal at the time, even though the county's General Rural Plan called for historic road preservation. As development of the property moved along, he continued his efforts, contacting the newly formed Rural Roads Committee, meeting with representatives from local preservation groups, and going back and forth with VDOT and county officials. He also met with the new owners of the land – who seemed sympathetic to using the old farm entrance, but were struggling with county and VDOT requirements. At one point, it seemed that the owners would actually save money by using the old farm entrance, since this would eliminate the need to dig up and move Verizon transmission lines.

On January 16, 2016, as the time for cutting the roadbed came closer and closer, Steiner pressed his case again with Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony

Buffington, asking if he could “ ... share the concept, show you the alternate, and collect the appropriate resources to receive an impartial review.” He followed up with Supervisor Buffington's office shortly thereafter, this time also mentioning his earlier efforts to get help from then-Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke and officials from Building and Development. He also emphasized the owner/developer's willingness at the time to move the entrance, and spoke of the support he was getting from Mitch Diamond of the Rural Roads Coalition.

By May, despite continued efforts, Steiner was getting quite disillusioned. And, despite ongoing meetings, emails, and phone calls, by late June/early July he sensed he had lost his foothold to make anything happen around the alternative entrance scenario.

His lack of faith was confirmed when he took the photo here, showing an enormous grading path that had now appeared on the opposite side of the area within the approved development.

When Steiner contacted the Blue Ridge Leader in July he said, “Excavation for the road is proceeding past a point in which the developer would consider alternatives. The time for relocation is past. My thoughts [are to] mark the event as the continued destruction of the west, despite the appearance of reasonable alternatives.”

The BRL's discussions with representatives from the county – while indicating a desire to at least make some effort to preserve places like this – also indicated a complicated jumble of rules and requirements by VDOT, Verizon, the developer and the county that no one seemed to be willing to untangle. Situation: No real local government leadership to save this 600-foot stretch of history. Result: The impending buzz of chainsaws.

Old Roads As Living History

Loudoun County has more dirt roads than any county in Virginia. Our history – including our natural history – is written on these roads ... their age, experience, and connection to our past revealed by their steep banks and low floors, hedgerows, ancient barbed wire and well-established wildlife corridors.

Paxson Road – some parts of which are still used by farms that date back to Loudoun's establishment – is not only historic in and of itself, but framed by four of our county's sixteen designated Virginia Byways. Adopted by the Virginia General Assembly in 1988, these include Old Route 690, Airmont Road (Rt. 719), Snickersville Turnpike (Rt. 734) and one segment of Route 7.

Loudoun County's Revised 1993 Zoning Ordinance requires special protection for these corridors – issues discussed with great frequency as the original old Black Oak Ridge property was developed. Key to the county's tourism economy, the area framed by these roads is part of the well-known Journey Through Hallowed Ground, a National Heritage Area that runs from Gettysburg to Monticello.

This part of the Loudoun Valley also figured heavily in one of the Civil War's most infamous military campaigns – the 1864 burning raids which swept through Middleburg, Millville, Bloomfield, Philomont, Snickersville, Purcellville, and surrounding villages and farms. Yardley Taylor's iconic 1854 map of Loudoun County shows Black Oak Ridge and the area's importance to local history, with farm and homes belonging to members of the Nichols, Brown, Taylor, Dillion, Birdsall, and Janney families, as well as old settlements such as Circleville.

Steiner's fight to save this historic stretch of Paxson Road is emblematic of similar citizen efforts all over the county. With persistence and a great deal of effort you can shake things up and get an issue on the desk of someone with the power to help, but unless that someone champions the cause alongside you, and makes it their own, the tree comes down, the road bank is leveled, and the historic nature of the place is lost.

Said rural road advocate Diamond, “While we have worked with VDOT, we have not, so far, been successful in engaging county staff in these rural road discussions.” In Diamond's opinion, “ ... both the County and VDOT have been poor at involving residents in planning road changes, and even in informing them of upcoming projects” that impact the rural character of these historic roads.

Butterflies, continued from page 1

Monarchs were spotted in 1997, a count that increased to 78 in 2001, and 166 in 2006. The Monarch count was 51 in 2015. Overall, the number of species seen, while changeable, is generally on the upswing.

Abundant species – defined as butterflies “observable in large numbers” will be recorded. Common butterflies, which “should be seen” if you’re in the right place, are counted. Uncommon ones, rare ones, and limited ones will also be carefully documented. It doesn’t matter if just one individual of a seldom seen species is seen

by just one person. If it is there and recorded in the right manner, it gets counted.

Said LWC’s Nicole Hamilton, “We are very curious to see what numbers and diversity of species we find this year. Right now, butterflies seem scarce but the end of July/early August is when our numbers in Loudoun peak, so we are hoping for an upswing. We think that the low numbers right now are due to the spring climate (dry in April, then cool and wet in May). We will see! That’s what makes the count so interesting year after year.”

For more information about the count or to sign up, go to www.loudounwildlife.org.



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AT&T Short Hill Update Confusion And Activity At Site Continues



Plane's eye view, Short Hill AT&T site July 18.

– By Andrea Gaines

In June, AT&T suspended plans to construct a 160,000 sq. ft. expansion of its current transmission utility substation on Short Hill Mountain, requesting that an earlier commission permit application be withdrawn.

As we reported in July, despite that withdrawal AT&T continues work on the mountain ridge, applying for a site plan amendment related to a separate permit on the same day it submitted its letter of withdrawal.

For that reason, Short Hill Rescue and other citizen organizations continue to monitor activity on the mountain, the most recent of which seems to be occurring under a mixed bundle of old county approvals and/or permits, including SPAM 2015-0028, STPL 2004-0050 and SPEX 2004-0029.

Citizens now await clarification from AT&T on its ultimate plans for the site, which many believe involve the construction of a data center. It is widely believed that the rather abrupt withdrawal of the earlier application signaled that AT&T knew its plans were not defensible in court. The communications giant may indeed be hoping that the project will be more palatable to county officials if the current comp plan review loosens zoning regulations for telecommunications facilities.

One person visiting the site recently described the presence of machinery akin to a large generator. Another mused that so much grading had taken place, that “you could probably land a small plane.” And, a downhill neighbor has posted photos showing a large amount of digging going on below the site, saying, “*There’s a massive fiber optic cable running through my front yard, but it doesn’t provide me any of the service that I need for my job ...*”

In a recent letter to the editor, Catocin District Supervisor Geary Higgins, while indicating he does not believe a structure



Fiber optics cable work in the yard of Christopher Griggs.

of the height and size of that proposed by AT&T belongs on Short Hill or any other county ridgeline, also noted that by the time a project like this gets to the BOS, not much can be done to stop it. One member of the Short Hill Rescue group noted that in this case the real problem was the Planning Commission’s determination that the project qualified as an expansion of an existing use rather than a new use. Citizen Robin Wolgamont Bartok echoed this, saying: “This is why the push to deny the permit on the basis of the comp plan [which did not happen] was so important ... The door is [now] wide open.”

Citizen activist and former BOS candidate Malcolm Baldwin was equally direct in his criticism of the Planning Commission’s decisionmaking process, indicating that Higgins did not go far enough in his opposition to the project. “... the county staff badly neglected its duty to the county for objective analysis of the AT&T proposal,” wrote Baldwin. “It simply took what the applicant said and endorsed it.”

In an interesting twist, Loudoun historian and map maker Eugene Scheel has begun working on a map documenting the important history associated with Short Hill, including its role as a military staging area during the Civil War.

Further updates on AT&T’s Short Hill project will be posted on the BRL website as available: www.BRLeader.com.

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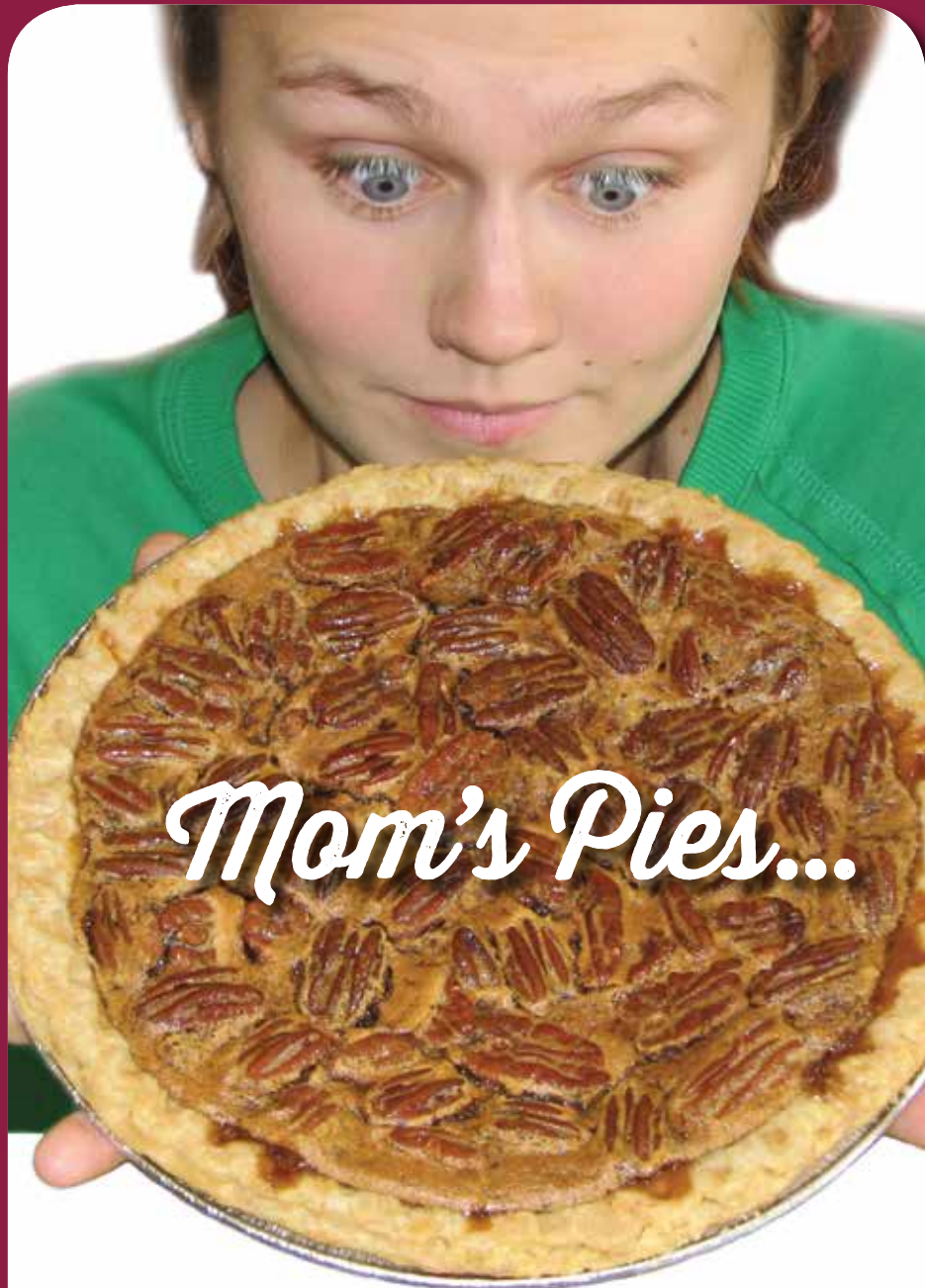
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Leesburg Announces Interim Policy For Residential Rezoning Applications

As a result of a new state law on residential rezoning applications that went into effect on July 1, the Leesburg Town Council has implemented an interim policy to address potential ramifications of the new legislation until permanent Town policy changes can be made. The interim policy is anticipated to be in effect at least four to six months.

The interim policy applies to any rezoning application accepted after July 1 that contains a residential component. The interim policy consists of three key elements:

1. The Town will not accept any type of proffer (cash or contribution) for any rezoning application that contains a residential component.

2. The Town will no longer accept applicant-initiated amendments to the Town Plan.

3. The policy will remain in effect until a permanent policy is established and amendments are made to the Zoning Ordinance, Town Plan, and other Town documents that relate to proffers.

In addition to changes to the Zoning Ordinance and Town Plan, staff anticipates that the permanent policy will include changes to application procedures, the repeal of established proffer guidelines, and an examination of development fees.

For more information, please contact the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703 771-2765.

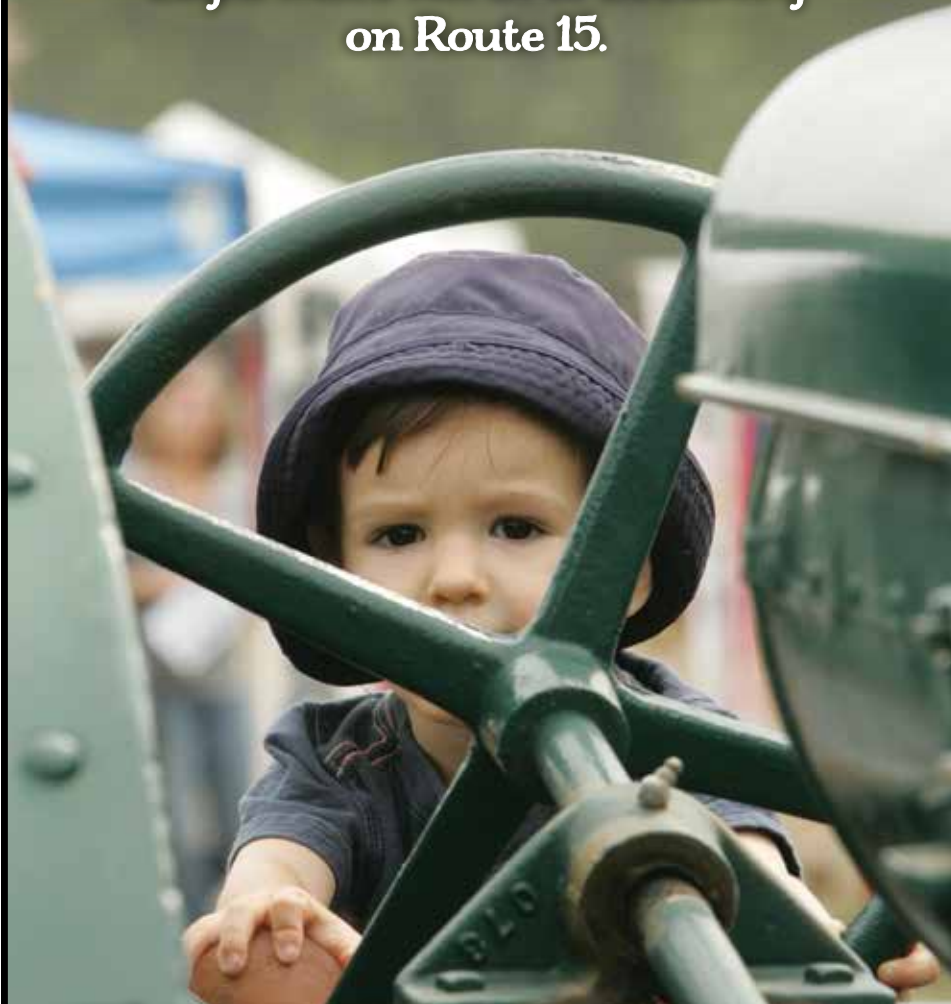
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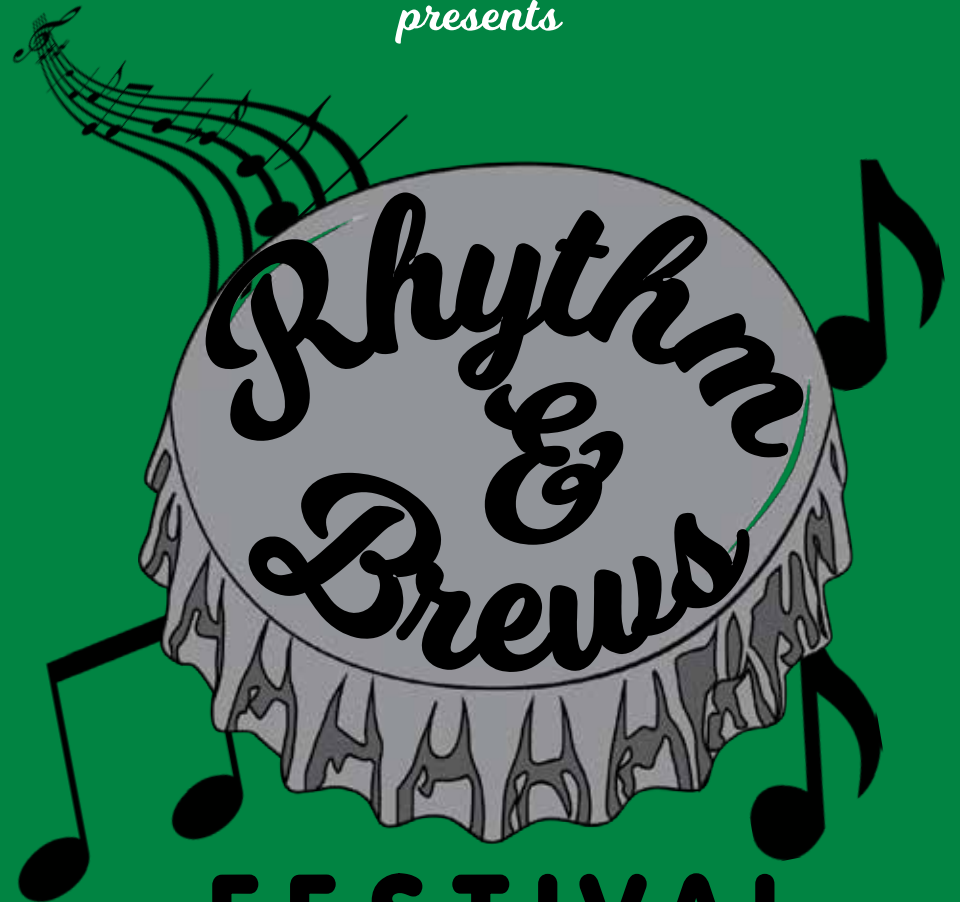


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A Home That Fits Your Family Like A Glove

– By Hannah Hager

You're meant to truly feel like yourself when at home. That is to say, all vestiges of professional responsibilities and even expectations of an active social life should fade away once you cross into the foyer.

This home acts as the cloak of comfort you seek. It's done the heavy work for you since it's already comfortable with itself. It's all-American. It's unassuming – meaning that it's grand, but in an inconspicuous way. It ticks all of the boxes on the checklists of those who come to Loudoun seeking an ideal space: an appealing façade with red shutters and a wrap-around porch; mature trees dotting the

Address: 21185 St. Louis Rd.,
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Bathrooms: Three full and two half baths
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otherwise lush green grass spanning more than four acres; a sapphire-water swimming pool with a streaming fountain cast of stone.

This home knows what it is – the background to a lifetime of memories. The quality and attention to detail in this custom-



built home is immediately apparent from the prevalence of hardwood floors, wainscoting, and crown moldings. Windows that seem to sparkle send the sunlight flooding into the interiors, which provide the perfect spotlight for the dining room and its accompanying butler's pantry, as well as the family room with wood-burning fireplace. The nearby dining area and kitchen have been lovingly maintained, while are also primed for a new family to come in and add their special touch.

Of course, the master suite boasts

vaulted ceilings and en suite bathroom with large vanity and soaking tub. The additional bedrooms are just as cozy and accommodating, with gray carpet and ceiling fans. You'll also find a fully-finished basement with fireplace and walkout, and a home office with a waiting room and outside entrance. Perhaps the real excitement for some would be the five-car garage space with an expansive upper-loft space.

What do you think? Is it time to try it on for size?

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Let's Make Some Memories

American Legion Baseball At Fireman's Field, Aug. 3 – 7

– By Andrea Gaines

American Legion Baseball is here at Fireman's Field in a big way, featuring five consecutive blockbuster Mid-Atlantic Tournament games – Aug. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Our local Leesburg Post 34 Rangers had some nice wins this summer, finishing 10-5 in the 15th–16th District regular season, with an overall record of 11-7-1. 15th–16th District League Championship Tournament wins (July 18 – 22) included a victory over Post 53 Front Royal. Post 72 Warrenton forfeited its July 22 game against the Rangers, moving the team forward to a double elimination tournament on

July 28. The team prevailed, and was picking up the bat at Fireman's Field as the Blue Ridge Leader went to press on August 3.

American Legion is one of the country's most successful amateur athletic leagues.

Founded in 1925, today the league represents 400 teams in all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. Some 72,00 youth ages 15 to 19 participate annually, with 64 teams reaching one of each eight regional tournament sites, and eight teams going on to the World Series. 67 Virginia teams are represented in the Mid-Atlantic Region – 38 Senior Teams and 29 Junior Teams – along with teams from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Whatever the outcome of the American Legion's Fireman's Field regionals, memories will be made and baseball's many mysteries will hang in the air. Have your heard the story, for example, of American Legion member **Nat Popolo's Mickey Owen-style glove**? As the Legion's website tells it, Popolo was given the glove by the army, but lost it in the years after the WWI. Popolo's daughter found an old glove on E-Bay and gave it to her dad to help rekindle his love for baseball and combat depression. Popolo – now 89 and more excited than ever about the game – swears that the glove his daughter found was the actual glove he'd lost all those years ago – all the way down to a serial number he said he'd committed to memory and an old army-issued shoelace he'd used to repair it while stationed in Europe. Normal people call it coincidence – maybe. Baseball lovers – especially American Legion baseball lovers like Popolo – call it a miracle. So, make some baseball memories and snatch some miracles at Fireman's Field this month. For game schedules, stats, tickets and other information go to www.legion.org/baseball, and www.leaguelineup.com/Post34Leesburg.



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The Blue Ridge Eagles Aerie #4368 in Purcellville, Va., is a non-profit organization that assists individuals and organizations financially. Over the past 12 years, the Aerie has supported families in need, Fire & Rescue squads, Police departments and Youth sports as well as provided college Scholarships. The Aerie exists to give back to the community and make it a better place for everyone. It's motto is "People Helping People."

For more information about the Fraternal Order of Eagles, visit www.blueridgeeagles.com or call the Aerie at 540-751-1435.



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OUT & ABOUT LOUDOUN & BEYOND

Destination: Relaxing With The Cool Tastes Of Summer



– By Andrea Gaines

All of us have our summer cool-down secrets. Stretching out in front of a fan in full-blown nap mode, or drenching yourself with the garden hose, for example. But, there is also that magnificent moment when you slide into full-body relaxation – feet up, legs out-stretched, and toes flexed – and bite into a crisp piece of watermelon, wash down a handful of salty-sweet kettle corn with a glass of ice tea, or dig into a warm piece of apple pie a-la-mode.

In this spirit of relaxation and good taste, we offer to you and your family one dozen summer destinations the objective of which is to test your sweet, summer take-it-easy skills.

Destination: Kettle Corn

Fun Country Kettle Corn products are produced in Berryville – home grown and oh so delicious. Fun Country sells its products on Saturdays and Sundays at Gilbert’s Corner, and at area events. The company offers great fundraising opportunities for nonprofits, too. (540 533-4731) **Catoctin Kettle Corn** in Frederick, MD offers lots of tantalizing flavors of its

signature product, including Honey Carmel. Catoctin’s factory is also open to the public. (888 682-6820)

Popcorn Monkey. With a fun name like that – and the tagline “Put Some Flavor In Your Mouth” ... not a lot of explanation needed here! Sweet little shop in the village of Middleburg, and, as with our other kettle corn companies, lots of online ordering opportunities. (540 687-6539)

Destination: Pies & Sweets

Mom’s Apple Pie. You really can’t talk about pies and sweets around here without talking about this iconic Loudoun County bakery. You can get Mom’s sweets at the Leesburg shop (703 771-8590), the Occoquan shop, and at the Hill High Country Store west of Round Hill on Rt. 7. Countless sweet and savory eating opportunities. Little Apple Pastry Shop on Rt. 50 in the village of Aldie, at the sign that says: “Best Home Made Food In VA.” Little Apple’s Facebook page keeps regulars and devotees up to date on what’s fresh each day – Truffle Cakes, Chicken Dinner Pot Pies, Lemon Bars, Almond Cake.

Apple pie and Key Lime pie are daily favorites. (703 327-2500)

Whoopie Pie Yay Gourmet Whoopie Pies. How cute is that? A nod to cowboys and sweets in one simple name. Somebody stop me from quitting my job here at the newspaper and going to work for Whoopie. In Middleburg. (540 687-7023)

Destination: Ice Cream

Gruto’s. With a super tasty product and great prices, this ice cream shop is an institution in Purcellville. The shop’s website reminds customers that while August is the steamiest, stickiest, sweatiest month of the year – it has the insanely delicious relief you are looking for. (540 338-1983)

Hershey’s Shake Shop. In Leesburg, this shop is classic Americana. One customer says, “I don’t like frozen yogurt, I want real ice cream ...,” and this is his favorite place. Juice bar and smoothies, too. (703 687-3982)

Great Falls Creamery. This is a family-run enterprise started a little over two years ago, and features local organic products. You can see the ice cream being made.

Shop awards gift certificates for great selfies! (703 272-7609)

Destination: Produce

Crooked Run Orchard. This lovely, rustic, Century Farm – right at the entrance to Purcellville – is the real thing. It is hands down one of the best pick your own destinations in the area. In season right now are berries, peaches and more. Call for updates on the specific produce available. (540 338-6642)

Nalls Farm Market, on Rt. 7 heading out towards Berryville, likes to brag about its sweet corn ... and tomatoes ... and local honey ... and more – and it has good reason to. There’s also a bakery in this convenient roadside stop, and a garden center. Wonderful place to stop if you’re out and about. (540 955-0004)

Potomac Vegetable Farms has a stand a few miles west of Tyson’s Corner on Rt. 7 and one north of Purcellville on Rt. 287. Regular customers know it as a combination farm/nutrition school, providing lots of information about how to combine and cook its wonderful produce to add to your family’s health. (703 759-2119)

Learning Patience As A Camp Counselor

– By Mary Rose Lunde



LUNDE

They say that one of the biggest blessings is being a teacher. It is also one of the hardest. Explaining to nine-year-old kids how to build a fire is one of the most challenging things I’ve personally ever had to do. It takes a lot to continue answering, “No that’s not a stick the size of a match stick” for the hundredth time (ten kids asking every five seconds). But the reward of watching their faces as their fire blazes is so worth it.

Patience is something that everyone struggles with, whether it be when you’re caught in a traffic jam or when you’re waiting for ten kids to use the latrine at 11 o’clock at night. It is exhausting and

energy-taking, but it is worth it. For where there is patience, there is love. They go hand in hand, and I’ll be the first to admit it can be trying at times, but oh so worth it.

I think the reason most people want to work on patience is because from patience sprouts other positive qualities. Patience is a lesson teacher; we can ask to be more patient, but until we are put into situations that require us to be patient, how can we grow to be more patient?

I ask this question to my elementary campers when they ask me why I haven’t gotten frustrated with any of them, or reacted negatively to them, “What would happen if I wasn’t patient with you?” The usual answers are “I don’t know,” or a childlike “I wouldn’t like you anymore.” I then explain that patience is something that I do struggle with because we are humans,

and we all struggle with something. For me, patience is an area I’m still working on. I then explain how serving them by being their counselor, and waking up four times a night so the same camper can go to the bathroom is rewarding. It is the little moments of patience that pay off and remind me that practicing patience is worth it.

I keep bringing this up, but camp is an exhausting task. Having to take care of ten kids with just you and a co-counselor is stressful and anxiety-causing. Patience is our secret weapon though, because of the influence we have on these kids. Think about it: how much of an impact would there be if I yelled at a kid because I lost my patience with them? How long would it take for them to recover from that? It’s the same in any circumstance. Patience is

called a virtue because it truly is one. It is what people notice about you. If a little kid can point it out, surly an adult can.

We all have patience in us; we just have to dig a little deeper to find it sometimes. I won’t lie, I do have to take a step back on occasion, and reevaluate a situation. Sometimes patience is taught through the reminder of how important it is. It isn’t wrong to take a minute and step back for a second. If that is what keeps your patience strong, then do so. We all have different ways to keep our patience.

Ultimately patience is learned and needs to be put into practice.

Mary Rose Lunde is a first-time camp counselor at Camp Highroad Christian Adventure Camp and has been working primarily with elementary campers.

Remembering The Man Who Never Forgot

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

“God is God because He remembers.” The implication being that the defining element separating humans from God is the Divine’s inability to forget. Elie Wiesel was defined in part by his willingness



MOORE-SOBEL

to remember, along with his insistence that the world never forget. The overarching struggle that came to define his life in many ways was with the God who remembers.

The loss of Elie Wiesel on July 2, 2016, was a huge blow to humanity. When awarding the Nobel Prize in 1986, the committee declared him “Messenger to Mankind.” His fame derived from his experience in the Holocaust at the hands of Nazi perpetrators, and his courage in sharing his story with the world. *Night*, a book that is rightfully required reading in many high schools across the nation, etched the horrors of the Holocaust into America’s collective memory. Weasel’s book was ten years in the making. He attempted “to find the proper words, the proper pace, the proper melody or maybe even the proper silence to describe the ineffable.” In the years since publication, approximately ten million copies have been sold around the world. It seems Mr. Wiesel found the “proper words” after all.

A prolific writer, he authored 60 books, helping to give voice to the suffering of millions. His writing is intoxicating, heartbreaking, groundbreaking and full of intensity, with pain leaping off each page, refusing to go unnoticed. The power in his writing may lie within his willingness to plumb the depths of human depravity. Wiesel himself looked like a man worn out by the evil he witnessed. As he aged, this only seemed to become more pronounced. His disheveled appearance, complete with a white tousled head of hair and a stooped-over look distinguished him from all others. His eyes filled with deep pain, Wiesel seemed a relic from an earlier time, bearing witness to an evil that the world was increasingly intent on ignoring.

The perils of ignorance played out within his lifetime. Wiesel not only spoke out against the persecution of Jews in Soviet Russia, but also on behalf of victims of genocides all around the world. The 1990s featured genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda which deeply troubled Wiesel, and reportedly led him to urge President Clinton to intervene. Yet the lack of action and the continuing prevalence of genocidal violence led Wiesel to be left with a deep sense of failure. When he addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations, he spoke on the topic, “Will the world learn?” His answer was no, and in an interview in 2013, took some of the blame for the world’s ignorance. “We haven’t learned. And maybe it’s our fault—mine and my colleagues—maybe we haven’t done enough. And yet we’ve tried.”

The pain felt by Wiesel did not go unnoticed even by his grandson, Elijah.

After Wiesel underwent open heart surgery in 2011, he detailed the experience in a book entitled, *Open Heart*. In an emotional hospital visit, a young grandson attempted to ease his grandfather’s pain. “Grandpa, I know you suffered a lot, and you have great pain. But you know how much I love you, tell me, if I loved you more, would you suffer less?” The pain always remained.

Perhaps Wiesel sought refuge in his writings. Yet no mere words could likely ever make up for the guilt he felt over wishing his father would die. As a young boy barely surviving in the death camps, Wiesel struggled to care for his typhoid-stricken father and wrote honestly in *Night* about his desire to be free from doing so. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach asked him how he could have written such forthright words. “I wrote them because if I was not honest in the book there was no point in writing it at all.” Or perhaps he hoped that through honesty, redemption for his weary soul could be attained.

As for God, he wrote one of the most defining passages ever written about religion. “*Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes.*” Yet age may have softened this man’s heart towards the God of his youth. In 1997, he wrote an op-ed that appeared in the *New York Times*. In it, he acknowledged that his seemingly vanquished faith in God remained intact throughout his lifetime, even during the immense suffering he endured. After a lifetime of wrestling, he ends his poignant piece by writing, “Let us make up: for the child in me, it is unbearable to be divorced from you so long.”

Reflecting upon the Holocaust within the context of my own family, I shudder to think about the different manner in which history could have unfolded. If my great-grandparents had not left Eastern Europe in the early 1900’s, my family tree on my father’s side quite possibly could have been rendered non-existent. It is easy to be lulled into a sense of complacency, that the atrocities committed by Nazi’s and Hutu’s and countless others are resigned to those far-away parts of the world. Yet we are all one step away from the permanent alteration of our family tree, whether Jews or Gentiles, Hutus or Tutsi’s, Muslims or Christians.

The remembrance of the Holocaust must not be lost with the passage of this great man. It is time to rise up and continue the work begun by Elie Wiesel. The weight of the world has finally left his shoulders, and must be carried by those left behind. Wiesel was once asked, “Is there anything else you’d like to do with your life?” He simply answered, “To begin again.” May the memory of Elie Wiesel burn brightly in the minds of people all over the world, and may his legacy of remembrance continue to be felt for generations to come. For God may be God because He remembers; yet, that does not give us license to forget.

Samuel Moore-Sobel possesses tremendous respect for Elie Wiesel and has always considered him to be a true “mensch.”

August Is National Peach Month Eat A Peach: In Salad



Are You Kidding?

No. A nectarine and a peach are basically the same species. Nectarines are bald peaches, in effect. In early cultivation, nectarines occasionally appeared on peach trees, the result of a recessive allele, the fruit from which were then cultivated as nectarines. Peaches are also part of the rose family. No wonder why we like all three, so much.

– By Andrea Gaines

August is National Peach Month – established by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. We love peaches, but how much do we actually know about them? And, what is your favorite way to eat them?

Well, they come in lots of varieties with really fun names – Zee Pride, June Lady, Zee Lady, Snow Princess, Snow Beauty,

Snow Giant. They are really nutritious – rich in potassium, fluoride, iron, vitamin C and vitamin A, and fiber. Like cherries, plums, and apricots, peaches are stone fruits, with a large, hard center seed.

As a cultivated crop, peaches seem to have originated in Asia, where they were a favorite of the Chinese ruling class. Interestingly, though, peaches may have made their debut in the new world via a British horticulturalist named George Minifie who planted them on his estate in Buckland, Virginia. Commercial peach production was a 19th Century phenomena in the U.S. The fruit was first cultivated in Maryland, Delaware, Georgia, and Virginia, and is now commercially grown in California, Washington State, South Carolina, Georgia, and Missouri.

We know peaches are delicious on their own, or in ice cream, or in jam. But, they are equally fantastic grilled or broiled and added to salads. Here is one of our favorites – Peach Delight Salad:

BROILED PEACH DELIGHT SALAD

Ingredients:

2 white or yellow peaches (broiled with 2 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil)
1/2 cup pine nuts (you can use any sweet nut)
8 oz. sugar snap peas
2 cups of fresh arugula (or watercress or bib lettuce)
2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 tbsp. white wine vinegar
1/2 tsp. honey
Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions:

Bring peaches to room temperature and prepare sugar snap peas (par boil to soften and cool in ice bath in the refrigerator) while preparing the rest of the salad. Carefully peel peaches, cut the peach in half and remove the pit. Preheat oven broiler, and place peaches cut side up on baking dish. Drizzle peaches with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and broil until lightly browned on top. Remove from oven, cool and slice into wedges. Pan-toast pine nuts until lightly browned and set aside. In a large bowl, combine the arugula, toasted hazelnuts, and sugar snap peas. Whisk together the dressing ingredients, pour over the salad and toss to coat. Serve the salad in shallow bowls topped with the broiled peach wedges. A decadent addition: Freshly grated parmesan cheese!

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— Eckhart Tolle

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and gaining some wonderful friends."
— Debra Randazzo, owner

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Amy and Dan Smith's Planning For Life Your Retirement Plan B

Take the time to design an alternative retirement plan should retirement come earlier than expected.

Imagine this. You've spend decades working, saving, and planning for your version of the ideal retirement. Your company was just acquired, and your boss is now strongly encouraging you to take an early retirement – five years before you're ready.



AMY & DAN SMITH

So, What Now?

Well, first recognize that you're not alone. Less than a quarter of American workers plan to retire before age 65, but almost half end up doing just that, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute's 2014 Retirement Confidence Survey. And most of them retire early through no choice of their own. The reasons vary – a personal or family health issue, loss of a job, burnout. The good news is you don't have to be a victim of your circumstances should this happen to you. But, you will have to make some adjustments.

That retirement plan may need to be revised to account for poor health, higher expenses, lower income, or simply having to stretch your nest egg over a few additional years.

Here's what you can do to help yourself rebound financially and find a new path to the retirement you envisioned for yourself.

Adjust To Your New Normal: The retirement transition can be difficult for anyone, but especially so for those who feel unprepared. During what may be a stressful time, it's important to step back and take stock before making rash decisions. You should:

Breathe: Don't panic and make a quick decision you might regret, like immediately filing for Social Security, or putting everything on credit, which could land you with a lot of high-interest debt later.

Get Health Insurance: If you're under 65 when you leave your job, your first priority should be finding health insurance since you likely are not eligible for Medicare. You may be able to join COBRA, a spouse's plan, or find coverage through an Affordable Care Act healthcare exchange.

Evaluate Your Savings And Income Sources: These include retirement assets, spouse's income, Social Security, pensions, rental income, disability or life insurance policies. You'll need to determine if those sources can cover your current living expenses.

Think Twice About Social Security:

Deferring Social Security Benefits typically increases your payments, so it may make sense to spend from other savings accounts first, although you'll need to account for taxes and potential early-withdrawal penalties if you use your retirement accounts. But if you really need a source of reliable income, talk to your financial advisor about applying for Social Security benefits sooner rather than later. He or she can help you determine the best withdrawal- and filing-strategy for your new circumstances.

Revise Your Spending Strategy:

A long retirement means your savings must last longer than originally intended, and you'll have fewer years to fund it; so it's critical to create a new budget to match your income. Look carefully at each essential and discretionary expense, and determine where you can make adjustments to save costs. Certain adjustments may be easier, now that you have more time to plan meals and cook for example. If you were originally planning to spend 4 percent or 5 percent of your savings each year after retiring, you may need to adjust that percentage downward.

Rethink Your Asset Allocation:

Any time you experience a major life change, you should revisit your asset allocation and investments. Talk to your advisor about alternative sources of secure income that meet your particular risk profile.

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. Legal advice and services are not offered through Raymond James. Amy V. Smith CFP® CIMA. Amy Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm offering 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.

Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Balch Library

– By Tim Jon



JON

Solitude, peace, and quiet: Not exactly the first three adjectives I'd choose to describe the greater portion of downtown Leesburg, although its charms

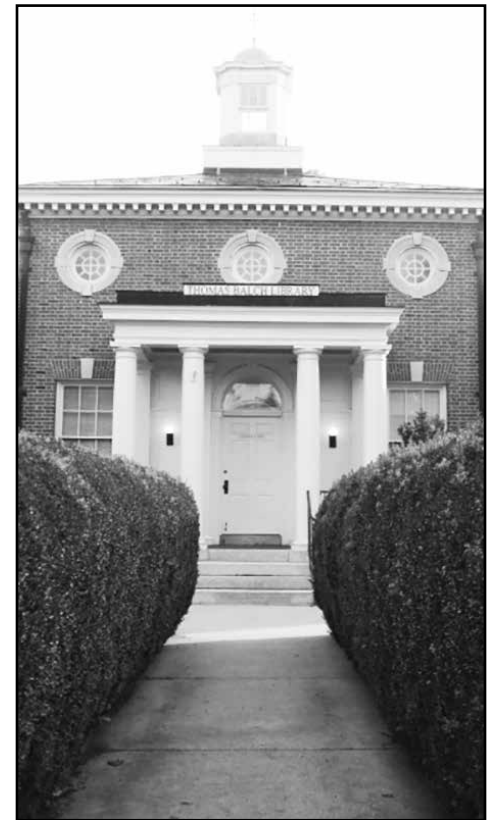
do shine through even on the busiest of weekday afternoons. The last morning I visited the grounds of Balch Library, on West Market Street, though, I enjoyed a sense of isolation in a beautifully-kept setting, amid – pretty much – total silence. I imagine that's just about what to expect on any given Sunday dawn at that spot – and for me, the experience proves well worth the effort of rising before the chickens.

A short, quick, but relaxing stroll around the historic building can certainly provide a different outlook on your day than merely watching the morning news from your living room couch. The images of graceful architecture set amid a green lawn and surrounding trees, separated a respectable distance from the street by a shaded walkway, augmented by the friendly gurgle of the fountain in the west side reading garden create a sanctuary-like atmosphere, yet still exposed to whatever elements Mother Nature chooses to provide at that particular moment.

I'd been inside the actual structure quite a few times during my tenure as a resident in the County Seat – including some research – a few years back, now – in developing scenarios for some of the Town's entertaining, August Court Trial events; the facility offers a surprising wealth of resources in local and personal history. The interior possesses its own visual charms, too: Images of local history grace the walls, the furnishings complement the surrounding architecture, and you're sure to find a comfortable, quiet, well-lit spot to sit and read for a couple of hours. I don't think I've ever seen the place crowded with visitors. The relaxed – and relaxing – atmosphere can certainly remove the stress brought on by the bypass or your boss.

And, in these days of instant information just a fingertip away on your electronic device, I find it absolutely refreshing that Leesburg maintains this library as a public resource, concentrating on Loudoun County and Virginia history and genealogy – where you can gain first-hand experience, in the flesh, with a real book, or map, or – get this – an actual human being. And – yes – I'm quite aware that Balch Library also offers a vast array of computerized information resources; I understand and appreciate that, but it's not what attracts me to the place.

The structure itself dates back close to a hundred years, and the relatively recent addition takes nothing away from the original; it's one-of-a-kind, dignified and charming – refreshing characteristics



in a world of increasingly cookie-cutter construction. I find it a great place to dig into local lore – or to look up your family's ancestry, or to attend a public event, or just to settle in with a favorite book and do some composed, yet inspired reading; and, if it's a nice day, I may not even step inside. In a community which prides itself on sophisticated gentility and (whether it's a battlefield, a family heirloom, a book or just a good story) the preservation of history, the Thomas Balch Library represents (for me) a place pretty close to the heart of what's best about Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg.

Grace, dignity and the unexpectedly casual: Those were my impressions as I toured the outside of the facility that warm, sunny morning; clean, white, flawless pillars offered the formality, and that spritzing fountain provided the sense of lively, playful, and reassuring engagement of simple, beneficent, elemental forces at hand. That level of subtle grandeur – quite difficult to achieve – makes it a unique place – in a community filled with beautiful, historic, cultural richness.

You probably won't see me enjoying the atmosphere at Balch Library very often, though; I'm too busy slogging through my daily grinds in order to earn a living. Fortunately for me, the images and experiences permeate far enough, and stick tightly enough, to travel with me through the workaday world – and into the subconscious dreamtime of nocturnal slumber. Those architects and designers must have done something right.

Maybe I'll see you – in my mind's eye – as I make my conceptual visits to these places; whether by night or day. As Bob Dylan said, "I'll let you be in my dreams if I can be in yours."

Makers On The Brink Of A Big Break

– By Andrea Gaines

About eight months ago, Makersmith's Executive Director Pat Scannell made a formal proposal to the Town of Purcellville to give his organization a crack at rehabilitating a nine-acre unused piece of town property near the intersection of A and South 20th Streets. Through a great deal of persistence, it seems likely the organization will make good on this dream. Mayor Kwasi Fraser is firmly behind the idea, and the organization is pledging not to give up until the deal is done.

Makersmiths is a kind of grassroots inventor's movement. Attracting everyone from retirees to Eagle scouts to school administrators, crafters, technology nerds, and more, the organization brings together people who like to explore things, build things, and innovate.

Makersmith's 3,000 sq. ft. Leesburg facility features a variety of what are known as "flex spaces," including a woodshop, a metal shop, a vehicle shop, a craft room, an electronics/3D area, a general classroom, and others. Shared tools and equipment include 3D printers, milling machines, laser cutters, and more. This space simply cannot



From left to right: Pat Scannell, Bob St. Germain, Dave Painter, Bill Tesla, Mike Fistler, and Tom Hill

keep up with the demand for facilities such as this, and the organization's 20,000 sq. ft. Berryville warehouse is now bursting with donated equipment and supplies ready to be

put to work by the group's growing local membership.

While continuing its negotiations with Purcellville for the nine acres of unused

town land and buildings, Makersmiths also has a vibrant Kickstarter Campaign going, and is more than 30 percent of the way towards raising the \$45,000 it needs to establish itself in Purcellville.

Makers are not just doers, but deep thinkers. They embrace specialized schools of thought that celebrate and explore where inventiveness comes from, and how seemingly ordinary people awake one day with an idea that, literally, changes the world. They also seek to better understand the power inherent in basic social and cultural concepts such as human collaboration and teamwork. They read books we might never have heard of ... but might find very intriguing, including William Least Half-Moon's *Blue Highways*, Sebastian Junger's *Tribes: On Homecoming And Belonging*, and Robert D. Putnam's *Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital*. (Good things to consider for everyone's summer reading lists.)

Proponents of the idea of making Purcellville one of Makersmith's newest – and earliest – pioneer communities are excited about the idea of getting going. For updates on Makersmith's Kickstarter campaign, and/or to contribute, go to www.makersmiths.org.

Wilde Warfield Foundation Donates To BRMS



Kimberly Wild Warfield & Richard Wilde of the Wilde Warfield Foundation present BRMS Principal Brion Bell with a donation to support technology at Blue Ridge. Pictured from left to right: PTO representatives Jennifer Bodamer & Jennifer Heffron, Principal Brion Bell, Kimberly Wilde Warfield and Richard Wilde.

The Wilde Warfield Foundation, a local non-profit organization headed by Kimberly Wilde Warfield and Richard G. Wilde, recently presented the Blue Ridge Middle School Parent Teacher Organization with a donation of \$2,600 to enhance technology at the local middle school. "This donation provides amazing opportunities for BRMS students and staff! We are thankful for the generosity of the Wilde Warfield

Foundation," said Principal Brion Bell.

A fundraising event sponsored by KSW Connect was held early June at Franklin Park to raise the donated funds. Max Major, a nationally known mentalist whose performances combine magic, mentalism, and hypnosis, dazzled the near capacity. The sponsors donated 100 percent of the projects from this performance to support technology at BRMS.

Western Loudoun Rugby Prevails



Sean Eagen on offense.



L to R: Carl Gragg, Ryan Fox, Mark Stanley, Jordan Haran, Jack Candelaria, Sean Eagen, Bryson Blaylock, Mallock Henderson, and Connor Davis.

The Western Loudoun Wolverines U19 Rugby Club participated in a 7-a-side rugby tournament hosted by the Great Falls team and came away winners with victories in all three matches played. For more information about the Wolverines and youth rugby, visit wlrugby.com or contact the club president Mike Blaylock at mjblaylock@gmail.com.



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ART IN THE GALLERY



Hot & Cool
August 1 - 31, 2016

glass artists **David & Dale Barnes**

abstract artist **Kay Layne**

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www.ArtsInTheVillage.com

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Artists' Reception
Sunday, August 7 from 3 to 6
with wine and light fare

August 1-31

Hot & Cool featuring glass artists Dave & Dale Barnes and abstract painter Kay Layne

Arts in the Village Gallery announces the August Featured Artist exhibit, **Hot & Cool**, showcasing the red hot dichroic fused glass designs of **Dave & Dale Barnes** juxtaposed with the cool and reserved acrylic abstracts of painter **Kay Layne**, for a truly well-balanced exhibit for your summer viewing pleasure.

Join Dave, Dale, Kay and other Gallery artists for the Featured Artists' reception at the Gallery on Sunday, August 7 from 3 to 6 pm.

Arts in the Village Gallery, 1601 Village Market Blvd, Suite 116, Leesburg, VA 20175. Tel: 571-442-8661.

The Loudoun County Fair Good Old Fashioned, Affordable Fun

The 2016 Loudoun County Fair was held at its traditional Dry Mill Road fairgrounds on July 25-30. Highlights included the Miss Loudoun County event held on Sunday, July 24, Super Farmer, Stoney Roberts Demolition Derby and more.

The fair did not disappoint with these events and tons of first class entertainment, including Reggie Rice Comedy Illusionist, Nascar Driver Patrick Szabo, MVY Amusements Inflatables, lots of laughs from Les Kimes' Pork Chop Review, Wildlife Ambassadors (non-releasable wildlife, unwanted pets and captive bred educational animals), Chainsaw Carvings, Twisted K Rodeo, and Bull Riding and more.

Loudouners showed they really know how to eat, with the Corn On The Cob Eating Contest, Oreo Stacking, and Pie Eating events. And, all manner of livestock competitions showed how close both attendees and participants are to the agricultural traditions that made Loudoun County what it is.

With activities throughout the day, tra-



ditional fair dinners – which benefitted the organizations sponsoring the meal – carnival rides and

lots of fresh air, open space and music to enjoy. Loudoun once again showed that the best fun is good old fashion fun. Can't wait 'til next year!

Camel ride and pie eating photos by McLaughlin Photography

Painted Wine Barrels To Be Sold At Auction October 8



Those painted, oak wine barrels you've been seeing around town will go on sale at public auction October 8.

The casks were given to 35 Loudoun County artists to create Purcellville/Loudoun themes on them, and will be on display throughout Purcellville through September. Maps of the locations of the barrels, and the names of the artists, are available at town businesses and at www.discoverpurcellville.com.

The Friday, October 8, Auction for the Painted Barrels will take place at 7 p.m. at the Bush Tabernacle Skating Rink. Mexican food from Casa Tequila, along with beer and wine, will be available for pur-

chase. The \$10 tickets include chances to win prizes, including one of the Painted Barrels. Brian Damewood of Damewood Auctioneers will conduct the sale.

The Painted Barrels project has been coordinated through the Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee, and spearheaded by Michael Oaks. Each barrel has been sponsored by a local business. For more information, call 540 751-0707.

Fitness Studio Opens On Main Street



First Class Fitness Studio offers fitness classes, personal training services, nutritional programs and health seminars. The business is located at 860 E. Main Street, Purcellville VA 20132, and the owners are Vicki & Rob Frye. They held their ribbon cutting mid-July with Mayor Kwasi Fraser cutting the ribbon.

Go to www.firstclassfitnessstudio.com for more information.

CARVER CENTER EVENTS – AUGUST 2016

- ☉ **Monday Morning Moves** (Ages 55 and up)
Mondays, on-going, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
- ☉ **Fitness for 55 & Up (Ages 55 and up)**
Mondays, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and/or Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- ☉ **National Night Out (All ages)**
Tuesday, August 2, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Family-centered community event.
- ☉ **New! Lyme Support Group (Ages 18 and up)**
Tuesday, August 2, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- ☉ **New! Pickleball (Ages 18 and up)**
Most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Two, three, or four players can play this game. Non-members pay a \$2 facility drop-in fee.
- ☉ **New! Basic Ukulele (Ages 55 and up)**
Wednesdays, on-going, 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- ☉ **Carver Chess Club (Ages 5 and up)**
Thursdays through 8/25, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- ☉ **Monthly Lunch & a Movie – Amazing Grace (Ages 55 and up)**
Friday, August 5, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Call reservation line at 571-258-3459.
- ☉ **Kickboxing (Ages 12 and up)**
Saturdays, on-going, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Purchase a \$100 punch card for 12 classes. Cards remain valid for six months.
- ☉ **Summer Supper Club - Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown, WV (Ages 18 and up)**
Thursday, August 11, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration closes 8/4.
Transportation by bus is available to the restaurant and back to Carver Center for \$6.00.
- ☉ **Fashion Show (Ages 55 and up)**
Friday, August 12, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- ☉ **August Lunch Bunch - Pike's Fish House, Lansdowne (Ages 55 and up)**
Wednesday, August 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration closes 8/10.
- ☉ **Alzheimer's Support Group (Ages 18 and up)**
4th Thursday, on-going, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

AUGUST 2016 EVENTS

- ☉ **August 5, 6, and 7**, Friday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Middleburg Sidewalk Sale.
- ☉ **August 6, Saturday**, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Doug Parks, Acoustic Solo Performance, American Legion Post 293, 112 21st Street, Purcellville.
- ☉ **August 6, Saturday**, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Doug Parks and the Lonewolves, American Legion Post 293, 112 21st Street, Purcellville.
- ☉ **Saturdays**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Purcellville Farmers Market, 717 E. Main Street.
- ☉ **Movies on the Green**, Beginning at Dusk in Lovettsville:
- ☉ **August 12, Friday, Star Trek II: Wrath of Khan**
August 26, Friday, The Peanuts Movie
August 12, Friday, 2:00 p.m., Cookie Decorating, Lovettsville Library.
- ☉ **August 6, Saturday, Music on the Green** — The Sea Chanters (U.S. Navy), Lovettsville.
- ☉ **August 14, Sunday, 4:00 p.m., Cardboard Regatta**, Middleburg Community Center.
Boats must be made of cardboard and duct tape, color decorations by marker only. \$10 per team to enter; free to watch. Contact jennifer.Sweigart@loudoun.gov
- ☉ **August 19, Friday, Dinner and Drive-In Movie** (Monsters University), Middleburg Community Center.
- ☉ **August 26**, Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Art Explosion, Middleburg Community Center.
At each location there will be a different family-friendly art project to make and take home or to stay at the location for display throughout the year.
- ☉ **August 26**, Friday, Registration at 7:30 a.m., Start at 9 a.m., Blue Ridge Eagles Charity Golf Tournament, to benefit Wounded Warriors, Boulder Crest Retreat and Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, Shenandoah Valley Golf Club, Front Royal. Awards Dinner follows tournament; \$85 per person (includes beverage and dinner). Visit BlueRidgeEagles.com.

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Will the Circle Be Unbroken Show To Perform At Franklin Park Arts Center

— By Amanda Clark

On September 7, at the Franklin Park Arts Center the show *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* will debut, just as it did three years ago at Franklin Park, after touring all over both the United States and Canada. Elizabeth Bracey, Franklin Park manager, says, “It is a multi-media, live music tour through history, and the roots of the music that is truly American.” The show chronicles the Carter and Cash families and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band’s recording sessions that led to their Grammy award winning album *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*.

The show encompasses the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band’s landmark “Circle” album initiated by John McEuen in 1971, when he asked Earl Scruggs and Doc Watson if they would record with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. The show also discusses the Carter Family music created through classic forms of country music. Bracey says, “You will discover how the historic sessions ‘went down’ as Scruggs and Watson combined with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Roy Acuff, Vassar Clements, Merle Travis, Jimmy Martin, and Franklin Park Art Center’s Les Thompson, a founding member of the Dirt Band and participant at the Circle sessions.

Les Thompson will be playing on stage with them at Franklin Park at the upcoming show. Of being a band member, Thompson says, “I have always appreciated what it meant to be a part of that moment. I knew we had done something important, but when you are a part of the process, you don’t always see the magnitude of what you are doing; you just do it. It was later, when other musicians and the industry deems what you have done as influential



and historic, that you can step aside and see what you have really accomplished.”

Thompson, after having not been in a position in decades to get back to the music and reminisce about those days until asked to perform in the show, says, “It was not expected, but I must say I am very pleased to be a part of this wonderful production.” When asked how the show will portray the hard work that goes into making a Grammy award-winning album, Thompson says, “The show represents a time in our lives and a time in musical history that will never happen again.”

Thompson is grateful to have been a contributing part of this “wonderful piece of musical history.” “The Circle Tour is our way of showing our gratitude and sharing with an audience just how important this piece of musical history is, by playing the songs, telling the stories, and showing films of these great recording sessions,” says Thompson.

The show is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$45, and can be purchased online at www.franklinparkartscenter.org, or at the box office of the Arts Center Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm.

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ACROSS

- 1. Embargoes
- 5. Paw
- 8. Nautical pole
- 13. On the safe side
- 14. Vice president under Jefferson
- 15. 747, e.g.
- 16. High time?
- 17. Crowning point
- 18. Hockey sites
- 19. Chopper cleaner
- 22. Offensive
- 23. Jump into a pool?
- 24. Drools over
- 27. Simpleton
- 29. Handle
- 33. Drupelets
- 34. Drive
- 36. Mud
- 37. Media snapper
- 40. Aquatic shocker
- 41. Informatory
- 42. Billiards move
- 43. "Nerts!"
- 45. Freelancer's enc.
- 46. Hip hop's Souljah
- 47. Cousin of an ostrich

- 49. Delighted
- 50. Blue Sky rep
- 58. Billy and namesakes
- 59. Clinched
- 60. Calculus calculation
- 61. Moorehead of "Bewitched"
- 62. Rocker Glenn
- 63. Polaroid
- 64. Circumspect
- 65. Disobeyed a zoo sign?
- 66. Priestly title

DOWN

- 1. Boston or Chicago, e.g.
- 2. Frostbite treater
- 3. Brightly colored
- 4. Subjective
- 5. Fief
- 6. General assembly?
- 7. Wine sediment
- 8. Jag
- 9. Statue base
- 10. Eastern royal
- 11. Signs, as a contract
- 12. Makeup, e.g.
- 14. Makes an illegal move on the mound

- 20. Film genre
- 21. "A Doll's House" playwright
- 24. Dressed like Superman
- 25. Earthy pigment
- 26. "Twelfth Night" role
- 27. Charm
- 28. Light on one's feet
- 30. Old pay-to-graze arrangement
- 31. "All That Jazz" director
- 32. Schlepper
- 34. Hawkeye's home
- 35. Veneer
- 38. ___ Camp
- 39. Comics publisher
- 44. Penn's partner
- 46. Down at the heels
- 48. Chaotic
- 49. Knight mare?
- 50. Omani moolah
- 51. Sharpness
- 52. Top drawer
- 53. Bickering
- 54. One to grow on?
- 55. River to Donegal Bay
- 56. ___ East
- 57. Sticky fixer

Answers on page 30

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

obesity, ADHD, depression, learning problems and aggression.

But the interactive aspects of Pokémon GO are different, because they have the additional benefit of increasing socialization and physical activity for children and teens, which it now appears can paradoxically reduce negative symptoms. In contrast to sitting around and playing a video game in isolation for a long period of time, the teen playing Pokémon GO is active, is outdoors, and is likely socializing more than he or she would've been with a traditional video game. Heck, if he's hunting Pokémon at a museum or historical site of some kind, he might even be learning something new.

It's doubtful that the creators of Pokémon GO were thinking about the ways in which their game could help people with their problems, but their game is a surprisingly wonderful response to some of the troubling research findings on video games for children with certain types of conditions. We know from the research, for example, that children with an autistic spectrum disorder, and other conditions (e.g., ADHD), play more video games than children without these conditions. The research in this area has also shown that teens with autism tend to spend more time with technology, but in less social ways than their neurotypical peers.

Within the past week, several parents in my practice have shared their excitement over the gaming app and the positive impact it has already had on their children; specifically, their children are more active and are getting outside more, and their children are challenging themselves to be more social.

One of my teenage clients shared a photo with me on his smart phone of his "new friend" who he met in a park while playing the game. It's my hope to now help my client build a social media network as he meets more and more people in the world playing his new game - this was not possible as a treatment goal until now.

So maybe Pokémon GO is not the next penicillin, but its unique gaming platform appears to have the potential to help and to heal those with certain types of problems. It's also not clear whether or not the changes parents and others are already seeing are sustainable, but there is no doubt that the creators of this game have stumbled on to something quite fantastic.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist in private practice. His new children's book on screen and media time management, 'Ollie Outside,' is being released next month through Free Spirit Publishing. Go to Ashburn-Psych.com or call 703 723-2999.

Town Council, continued from page 4

Council receiving adequate details. She said, "I noticed that the O'Toole property has put in a submission." [Note: This was for a rezoning as they are currently zoned Transition X and are asking for the most dense zoning: MC Mixed Use Commercial. They were annexed by the previous Lazaro Council and when they were in the county they were zoned for approximately one or two residential units.] She continued, "I'm just curious, at what point, during the whole planning process, does the Town Council get an overview of the project? They resubmitted on July 5th. So, the Town Council doesn't get any of that until what - all of those things are processed?"

Council Member Nedim Ogelman said, "I know the folks in town, based on the election, are sensitive to growth issues. Is there any reason why when a developer comes to staff or to the town council and is lobbying for a rezoning or something like that - why can't projects be made public so our citizens can be aware of it right from

the outset. Not just the council but the citizens in general. People are sensitive to that issue and the idea that there would be a back and forth without them knowing it might raise issues of trust."

Council Member Kelli Grim said that she had brought this issue up as a concern earlier. Past town council policies allow all applications and reviews to be handled internally by the community development department - and they don't come to the Town Council or the public until it's time for the planning commission to hold a public hearing - and this must change, she emphasized.

Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan said, "I guess I would have to take that under advisement and provide you with some sort of paper on that after I have thought about that for a while."

The Town Council will be reviewing policies and procedures for this at their upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting - September 9 and 10 at the train station.

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Answers to puzzle from page 29



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**State Senators Investigate
University Of Virginia's \$2.3
Billion Operating Surplus**

Senators Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City) and Bill DeSteph (R-Virginia Beach), are calling for an investigation into disclosures that the University of Virginia has accumulated a \$2.3 billion operating surplus, now titled a "Strategic Investment Fund," that is significantly larger than the Commonwealth's own cash reserves. Both senators agree that the money, which the university admitted arises from its operating accounts, should be returned to Virginia students and families through lower tuition.

Yesterday, UVA released a statement saying the money will be used in a "Strategic Investment Fund" as a source of "transformational funding" for the university. According to the Board of Visitors Strategic Investment Fund Guiding Principles, "[it] is expressly intended that the Investment Fund proceeds *not* be used to supplement the ongoing operations of the university within the scope of the annual budgeting process."

In response, Petersen noted that the University has apparently run a covert surplus for years on its operating balances, which are predicated on state assistance and tuition revenues. "It is uniquely inappropriate for a nonprofit institution to

consistently overcharge for its services - there is no legal authority for the university to do this, and no authority for its faculty or the board of visitors to spend these massive sums of money, which represent tuition and fees paid by thousands of working families who apparently have been over charged," Petersen said.

From his office in Virginia Beach, Senator DeSteph called for a forensic audit of the UVA fund, and a full report on those who authorized the creation of the fund. "As a senator, and as a citizen, I have more questions than UVA has answers. There are families and students in Virginia Beach who are struggling to pay for college tuition, and I can't explain to them why a public university is sitting on \$2.3 billion," DeSteph said. He continued, "This was all done in closed session meetings, under the cover of 'personnel matters,' which I feel is completely inappropriate."

The senators intend to formally call for an audit into the fund, which was announced the same week the Commonwealth's economic indicators show a revenue shortfall that will delay a long-promised state employee pay raise.



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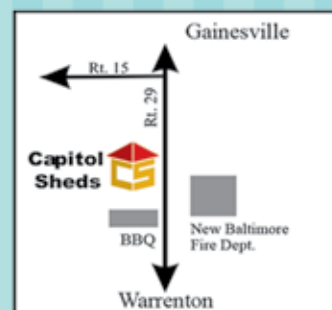
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