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## Nonprofits Team Up To Bring Solar Power To Local Veteran

Mayor Kwasi Fraser joined Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson and Council Member Chris Bledsoe for the installation of a rooftop solar system for Brian Haas in late September. Haas, a local veteran army helicopter pilot with 20 years of military service, will soon receive the benefits of solar power on his home in Purcellville, thanks to a new partnership between HeroHomes and GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic. Volunteers with the nonprofit solar company GRID Alternatives installed a 6.8kW system on a brand new house build by HeroHomes, which was founded by Jason Brownell, for retired army helicopter pilot Brian Haas, his service dog Buddy and his wife Jolyne. HeroHomes is a local nonprofit that gives disabled veterans homeownership. Standard Solar designed and engineered the system and donated the equipment for the installation. The work was done by local volunteers and veteran job trainees. Over the course of its lifetime, this system will provide approximately \$25,525 in savings to the family.



Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, center, along with volunteers, installs solar panels.

## Purcellville Halloween Block Party Oct. 29



The sixth annual free Halloween Block Party will get started at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 on 21st Street in Old Town Purcellville. Organizers anticipate that even more people than last year's 5,000 will come to enjoy the event that will feature seven categories of judged costume contests (with cash prizes and trophies), along with games for the kids and adults.

The Last Ham Standing comic troupe will take the stage at 5:15 p.m., followed by the costume contests starting with infants to 5-year-olds (judging at 6 p.m.), then 6-year-olds to 12-year-olds (6:30 p.m.), then pets (all kinds) (7 p.m.), then 13-year-olds to 17-year-olds (7:30 p.m.), then adults 18 and older (8 p.m.), then group/family (8:30 p.m.). These will be followed by a \$500 award for the best overall costume. First, second, and third prizes in each category will be awarded \$100, \$50, and \$25, respectively.

Other events will include "howl at the moon" and "most horrific scream" contests, magic by Ryan, balloon artists, and face painting.

Food vendors from Magnolias, La Dolce Vita Gelatos, Casa Tequila, and several other establishments will be on 21st Street from 5 p.m. until closing at 9 p.m.

Parking will be free throughout the town. For contest rules and more information visit [www.purcellvillehalloween.com](http://www.purcellvillehalloween.com), or Purcellville Halloween Block Party on Facebook, or call Michael Oaks or Kim Patterson at 540 751-0707 or email [reloveit@aol.com](mailto:reloveit@aol.com).

## Board Approves Harris Teeter Special Use Permits

— By Andrea Gaines

On Thursday, Sept. 22, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-3-1 to give final approval on the Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center in Aldie, complete with multiple special exceptions. Supervisors Ralph Buona (R-Ashburn), Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin), Matthew Letourneau (R-Dulles), Ron Meyer (R-Broad Run), and Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian) supported the motion. Supervisors Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), Koran Saintes (D-Sterling), and Kristen Umstadd (D-Leesburg) opposed the motion. Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At-Large) was absent for the vote.

The Transition Policy Area project

includes one of the largest Harris Teeters in the country, a suburban-style parking lot, and a 10-pump gas station. Only one other gas station has ever been approved in the TPA. This use came in via Special Use Permit, as did the addition of 30,000 sq. ft. to the already approved 105,000 sq. ft. grocery store. Three drive-thru restaurants were denied. No complex even approaching this size has ever been either proposed or approved here. This area is, in fact, designated in the County Comprehensive Plan as a "spatial separation" between the suburban east and rural west, set aside for neighborhood-based commercial, clustered housing, large swaths of open space, protected natural areas, and a village-style

road system.

The project's size and distinctly suburban features took TPA communities by surprise, and triggered intense and sustained opposition from hundreds and hundreds of people – from letters to public meetings to individual supervisor visits to signed petitions.

The project's developers, however, tying the appropriateness of the project to higher densities in the nearby Suburban Policy Area – including the dense Rt. 50 corridor – persisted over time, and continued to push for higher densities and more uses – some of which went down, and some of which survived.

*Continued on page 4*



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**ASK DR. MIKE**

- By Michael Oberschenider Psy.D.

*Dr. Mike,*  
 We recently signed our 4-year-old daughter up for gymnastics. It wasn't cheap, but her friends from the neighborhood do it, and she has been begging us to go. It turned out to be a horrible disaster. From the first lesson, she was frustrated, she couldn't pick up the instructions, and it was a battle to get her to go every time. My husband took the hard line that our daughter had to continue because she made a commitment and because we couldn't get our money back. I initially shared his position, but he never went to a single practice to see what I saw, and I couldn't continue to drag my kid out of the car crying only to peel her off of me to enter a room and an activity she was miserable in for two hours a week over and over. I made the executive decision to pull our daughter, and my husband has been furious with me ever since. His unbending hard line position is that our society is all about immediate gratification these days and that commitment and perseverance means nothing to the youth of today; and that we are spoiling our kids by



*giving in to their every whim. What do you think?*

**Concerned Parent in Loudoun County**

Concerned Parent in Loudoun County,

As the legendary football coach, Vince Lombardi, once said, "Winners never quit and quitters never win." But Vince Lombardi, nor your husband, observed what you did, and as a loving mother you likely listened to your head (and your heart) and you did the right thing by removing your daughter from a situation she was incapable of handling at 4 years of age.

In my opinion, when it comes to stopping a formal activity for a child - piano lessons, football, Cub Scouts, etc. - the decision to discontinue should be based wholly on your child's bandwidth for the moment. If gymnastics was an "I don't want to anymore" moment for your daughter, then I agree with your husband that your daughter should've pushed through her negative feelings and she should've honored her commitment

*Continued on page 38*

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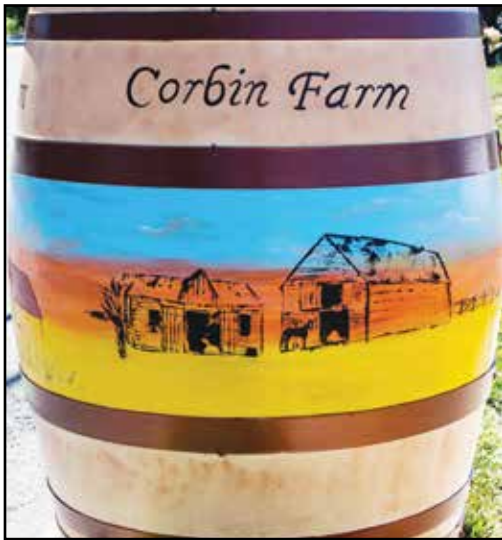
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## Painted Barrel Auction Sat., Oct.8



The Auction for The Painted Barrels around Purcellville will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m at the Bush Tabernacle – 250 S. Nursery Ave. Purcellville. Thirty-Five local Loudoun County artists were given an oak wine barrel to create a Purcellville / Loudoun theme on it. Each barrel was sponsored by a local business and was displayed throughout Purcellville until the end of September. The project was coordinated through the Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee and spearheaded by member Michael Oaks. According to Oaks the purpose of the Painted Barrel project is to bring attention to the talented artists in Purcellville; attract new visitors to town

and raise funds for future community projects. Some of the money raised from the Painted Barrel auction will help fund the next project which will be hand painted Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa decorations that will adorn Downtown and Main Street Purcellville this holiday season.

Damewood Auctioneers will be conducting the sale. Casa Tequila along with Beer and Wine will be available. Tickets are \$10 each and will enter you to win prizes including one of the Painted Barrels. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2585292](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2585292), or stop into Re-Love It 132 North 21<sup>st</sup> Street. They can be purchased at the door, also.

**6TH ANNUAL PURCELLVILLE HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY**

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Harris Teeter, continued from page 1

Over the summer, Buffington defended TPA zoning against the special use permits, but rather than voting on this after the public hearing, he moved the issue to committee, delaying the Kirkpatrick vote until September. By that time developers had made further cosmetic and functional concessions (a six foot "berm" at the northern part of the property, etc.), and Buffington failed to secure support from other supervisors to protect the TPA lands within his own district. In the county's recent strategic retreat, he then went on record as supporting possible changes to the Transition Policy Area.

Giovanni Coratolo, founder of the

Save Braddock Road Task Force, asked supervisors on the night of the vote if they worked for taxpayers or developers. In a follow-up interview with the Blue Ridge Leader Coratolo said:

"The board justified their votes on increasing the intensity of a commercial center located in low-density zoning by stating that the nearby residents should be happy that the board was able to require the developer to screen a gas station that is 100 yards from residences. Their reason - the board is on track to transfer thousands of acres of low-density zoning into high-density. After they do, the residents would receive nothing."



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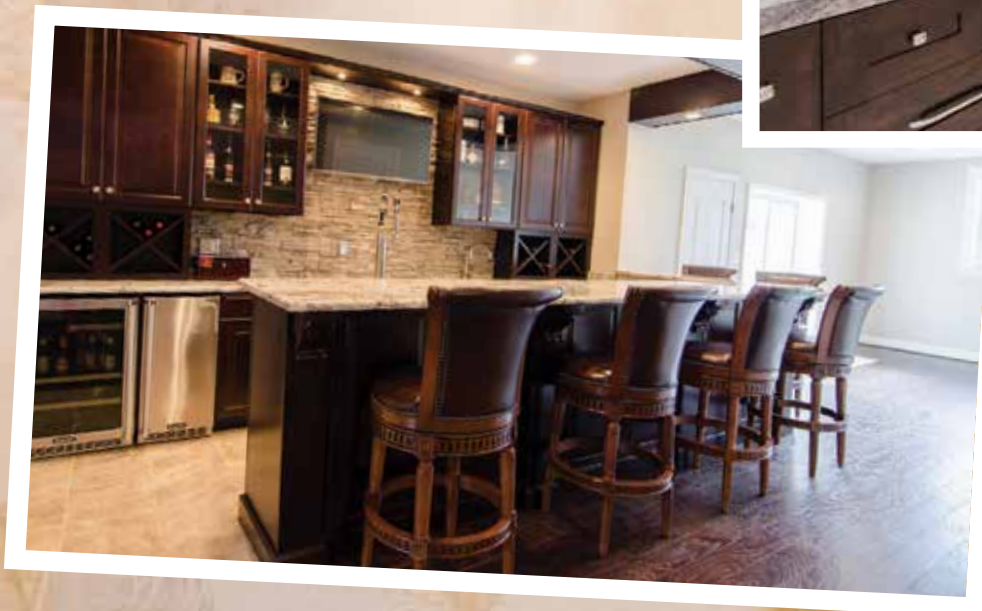


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## Some Quick Notes: Purcellville Strategic Planning Session Brainstorms On Town's Vision

The Purcellville Town Council held its annual strategic planning session Sept. 9-10 at the Purcellville Train Station. The sessions, taking place on Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., were moderated on Saturday by Mike Chandler.

Sessions with department heads started with Administration/IT, Town Attorney, Finance, Community Development, Public Works, and the Police Department. The council also met with the chairs of the Planning Commission, the Board of Architectural Review, the Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Arts Council.

The strategic meeting set the tone for greater transparency and citizen engagement in local government. Other highlights included:

- **Broadband:** Broadband strategy was discussed, with Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson in favor of finding ways to advance high speed internet for the Town of Purcellville. Jimmerson said she also wants to explore how the town could better serve small businesses and facilitate the process of opening small businesses. She said she favors developing a process to engage residents when they move into town.
- **Schools:** Strengthening schools with a homework club, and collecting school



supplies for kids at drop off places, such as Shamrock Music Shoppe, the Re-Love It consignment shop, and the town hall were also a topics of interest, discussed by Jimmerson.

- **Personal Property Taxes:** Council Member Ryan Cool said he wants to look at ways to minimize personal property taxes, a burden for town residents. He also said he wants the town to do a better job of providing information to citizens.
- **Zoning:** Council Member Kelli Grim said she will be re-evaluating recent zoning-use changes to determine if they are in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Commercial Property Vacancies:** Council Member Chris Bledsoe, along with the Economic Advisory Committee, will be studying ways to fill the vacancies for commercial properties, while talking to business owners. EDAC will work with the Woodgrove High School and Loudoun Valley High School marketing departments to find creative ways to address the commercial vacancies in the Town of Purcellville.
- **Citizen Engagement:** Council Member Nedim Ogelman said he wants to create a mechanism for more citizen engagement and transparency, and also – along with other council members – said he wants to implement OpenGov. Council Member Doug McCollum suggested that the Town Council have regular meetings with citizens.
- **Lower Water/Sewer Rates:** Mayor Kwasi Fraser said he will continue to try to find ways to lower the town's water and sewer rates, including but

not limited to, increased bulk water sales, water reclamation, and using a portion of the meals tax to cover the inherited waste water treatment debt. "This council is eager to move forward with the many potential solutions to the issues we face," he said, adding that he is looking at ways to maximize the value of town assets such as the 198-acre Aberdeen property – 180 acres of which is unused.

- **Community Services:** Council Member Kelli Grim said she wants to collaborate with nearby towns, and share information and resources. She is working with Loudoun Cares to establish Purcellville Cares. This would give essential services to families in need. "Partnering with Loudoun Cares and our charitable organizations to identify needs of our local residents, and provide assistance to families and senior citizens is essential to our community," said Grim. Grim said she wants to live-stream town meetings, and make them available to the public on the town's website. Financial policies of the town have to be reviewed, she stressed.
- **Transportation:** Many council members stressed the importance of making the Rt. 7/Rt. 690 interchange a top priority, as well as bike trails and improved pedestrian mobility throughout the town.

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We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.  
Deadline for print edition is the third week of  
each month, or, online any time.

## Purcellville Town Council Schedules Meetings On Comprehensive Plan

The Purcellville Town Council has scheduled special meetings for the purpose of discussing and considering, but taking no action on, the town's Comprehensive Plan.

On Oct. 13, there will be a meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. On Oct. 20, there will be a meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

On Oct. 27, there will be a meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. On Nov. 5, there will be a meeting from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Town Hall and then from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Town Hall.

## Letters To The Editor

### Comstock Understands National Security

Dear Editor:

On 9-11, I attended three ceremonies throughout Loudoun County honoring and remembering those 2,977 souls that we lost on that day of infamy. Our Congresswoman, Barbara Comstock was also there with us at ceremonies in Lovettsville, Purcellville and Leesburg. It reminded me that Barbara has been working on these issues regarding the terrorist threats we face, since that very day when a best friend of hers was on the plane that hit the Pentagon.

Barbara understands how important our national security and defense are and she has been a leader advocating for and voting for increasing our national security and defense assets. In her leadership as a Chairwoman of the Research and Technology Committee she has focused on the need for additional cybersecurity resources also. She

understands that Northern Virginia – and Loudoun in particular – is uniquely situated to provide for the new cybersecurity assets and workers that will be needed in the battles we face today. She has brought in local experts on cybersecurity and her leadership will allow our leaders in this important industry to respond to increasing terrorist threats here and abroad. There is bipartisan agreement in that we cannot sustain more defense cuts and Barbara is working hard to make sure that we increase funding – not decrease. And it's not only important for our national security – locally it is an issue impacting our economy. Geary M. Higgins  
Catocin District Supervisor

### Kirkpatrick West Decision Could Prove Costly

Dear Editor:

Thursday's [Sept. 22] 5-3-1 vote by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

on Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center had larger implications on whether the Board intends to retain its ability to hold developers accountable for the increase in intensity of their projects as development expands both west and south.

The vote was a strong indication that some are willing to relinquish most of the Board's rights over the future development of thousands of acres of land that is currently zoned for low-density. While housing densities have been allowed to increase, approval is subject to oversight and scrutiny by the Board and the public at hearings.

The justification for approving the Kirkpatrick West's 30 percent increase was shocking. Several Board members indicated that after the Comprehensive Plan process, which has just begun, much of this area will be included in the higher density Suburban Policy Area which will allow by-right

Continued on page 7

## Purcellville Town Council Meetings – September



– By Valerie Cury

The newly elected members of the Purcellville Town Council wasted no time moving forward on more open government measures and transparency measures during the month of September.

### Transparency Software

The town council voted to approved the purchase of OpenGov, a financial transparency software used by many localities in Virginia.

With the easy-to-use, collaborative, OpenGov software, citizens will be able to see how every dollar is spent. This system gives the residents the opportunity to view data, analyze charts and also track information other than budgets. Said Council Member Nedim Ogelman, “Citizens will come up with creative ideas based on looking at things and actually find savings.” Mayor Fraser said, “It is an investment in trust.”

The town will pay \$26,932.50 for the software, over a three-year period.

### Town Audit

Council also discussed doing an efficiency audit, with three different kinds of audits laid out by staff. One would be organized by the employees of each department, another would be run by staff and a commission of citizens and the third would be conducted by an outside firm.

Council Member Nedim Ogelman said, “The one word that stands out to me is independent. It has to be independent of us. I think we need to embrace and look for opportunities of improvement.”

Said Council Member Chris Bledsoe, “There is a lot of value to having an

independent set of eyes on it.”

Mayor Fraser said, “The goal is to first establish a base line, and provide the entity with what the current state is and what ... your major challenges [are] and how you can get to a future state. So all I am hearing from our council members is a need for us to improve. There is always room for improvement.” He continued, “From a board prospective, at least sitting as your mayor, I don’t want to be surprised again by a \$400,000-dollar software. And, I don’t know what the next surprise would be. From my prospective we need to get someone that is independent, and it will be councils’ decision – it will not be the [town’s] CEO Rob Lohr’s decision. This council needs to decide if it will be an end-to-end operational audit with all of our departments, or just finance – because that’s where the buck stops.”

### Real Parties In Interest

The town council moved forward with the Real Parties In Interest legislation, which requires land development applicants to disclose a list of firms, individuals and organizations – everyone – with an interest in a project. Council Member Kelli Grim has been trying to get council to pass this for over 5 years. However, it was not supported by a majority of previous councils, because it lacked support of the Purcellville Business Association – at the time PBA board member developer John Chapman said he did not want anyone to know who his investors were. RPI would require a zoning ordinance amendment, going to the Planning Commission and then Town Council.

### POLCO

Council Member Nedim Ogelman has been working with staff to implement what is known as POLCO – a civic-engagement platform connecting citizens and their local governments.

With POLCO, the company takes the voter roll and ensures that only verified addresses are used in town citizen involvement processes. It prevents users from creating multiple accounts and voting multiple times. “Real-time questions would be asked and the citizens would answer yes or no,” said Ogelman. “The beauty of this kind of work is ... the things coming up – you have real-time feedback or close to real-time. The biggest issue is introducing it to citizens and making sure they are comfortable using it.” The monthly cost of POLCO is \$100.

### Live Streaming Of Meetings

Council Member Kelli Grim is working to implement live streaming of town meetings. The town already has camera equipment in the council chambers, but to date, it has not been used.

### Zoning Ordinance Revisions

At the Sept. 27 Town Council Meeting Grim asked the Town Council to move forward with zoning ordinance revisions:

**Stream And Creek Buffer Zoning Text Amendments**, which govern the construction of structures and parking adjacent to major stream areas. This would promote water quality and help preserve significant environmental resource areas. (The issue was previously brought before the Planning Commission by Commissioner Chip Paciulli.)

### Building Height Limits In The C-4

**District.** This addresses 21<sup>st</sup> Street, part of Main Street and Hatcher Avenue – the Downtown Central Commercial District. In 2008, the Lazaro Council raised the building heights allowed in this district from 35 ft. to 65 ft. (or six stories), based on the advocacy of developers John Chapman and Mark Nelis. This Sept. 27 effort would lower the height limit from six stories, and keep building heights in line with the purpose of the district, which states in part: “New buildings should be designed and constructed to be compatible with and in context with adjacent buildings.”

**Limited Civil Penalties.** This effort would provide for enforcement for violations ordinances relating to signage, landscaping, commencing a building project without a permit, offending noise and outside storage of vehicles on commercial property to name a few.

**Screening And Buffering Requirements.** This effort would provide for barriers, buffering and screening between commercial and residential properties to minimize harmful impacts.

**Tree Clearing.** This effort would require some mature trees to be preserved on commercial development properties.

The revisions were presented for consideration so the town council can direct the planning commission to weigh in before issues go to a public hearing and back to the town council for a public hearing and vote. “These are critical issues that need to be considered to preserve the quality of life and protect our small town charm,” said Grim.

*Letters To The Editor continued from page 6*

development. In this case, the developer was permitted to build a gas station 100 yards from residents in return for basic safeguards of increased screening, operation restrictions and lighting limitations.

The Kirkpatrick West decision also signaled that that the cost of road improvements needed to fully mitigate resulting traffic congestion will be subsidized by the residents. The 1.2-mile two-lane stretch of road that feeds the center currently handles approximately 5,000 cars per day. Centers of the size approved last Thursday require 4-5 times the traffic. A last minute attempt to make the developer shoulder more of the cost of widening the road to four lanes failed.

Furthermore, this area of the county has the top two most overcrowded schools. While the increased size and upscale nature of this center will be a plus for many

of the nearby residents, it is of the caliber that will greatly ignite home sales in the surrounding area – The Wegman’s Effect – and will also significantly expand its original intended market.

Should a decision be made to limit board control and muzzle the voice of residents when approving an increase in housing density or commercial intensity for thousands of acres, you better start checking the cushions of your couch for a lot of spare cash to cover the need to increase taxes.

Giovanni Coratolo

Founder, Save Braddock Road Task Force

### Bennett Knows How To Make Economy Work For All

Dear Editor:

In the election for the 10th District House seat, only one candidate has a more than three decades of success growing a local business. As the owner of a successful

small business, LuAnn Bennett knows what is needed to improve northern Virginia’s economy and create good jobs.

Her family owned real estate and construction company has helped create job opportunities for more than 1,000 workers and generated millions of dollars in economic development throughout the local region. Her company has also been on the cutting edge of energy efficient and environmentally sustainable development projects.

On the other hand, her opponent has spent her entire life in partisan, Washington, D.C., politics. Congress could use more people from outside government who understand how decisions made – or not made – in Washington impact businesses and the economy.

LuAnn will fight for pro-growth policies to expand opportunity and make sure our economy works for everyone. She’ll roll up her sleeves to get Congress working again

so that businesses have the certainty and stability they need to grow.

LuAnn supports:

- Rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, including creating a national infrastructure bank.
- Increased strategic investments in science, technology, research and development that will spur innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Cutting the red tape that makes it difficult for small businesses to raise money and create jobs.
- Grabbing hold of the economic opportunities that renewable energy sources and technologies bring.
- Expanding access to high-speed internet in our rural communities

LuAnn Bennett knows how to build partnerships that contribute to a healthy business environment. She deserves your vote on November 8.

Sarah O’Neil  
Middleburg

## Citizens' Voices Defended At Joint Comp Plan Review

The Purcellville Planning Commission and Town Council held a joint meeting September 8 to discuss the Town's Comprehensive Plan Review. The major points of discussion in the review revolved around issues of growth – specifically how broad the language should be and how far into the future should the town go.

A few planning commissioners want the Comp Plan to incorporate broad language – allowing for purposely flexible planning to allow expansion of the Town's boundaries in the future. On the other side of the discussion, Town Council Member and Planning Commissioner Kelli Grim has argued that the residents of Purcellville do not want to grow outside the Town's existing boundaries. Said Grim: "It is time that we focus on growth and development inside the boundaries of our beautiful small Town." Senior Planner Daniel Galindo, expressed his preference of focusing the Comp Plan "25 years out" – presumably allowing for greater flexibility. But, Commissioner Tip Stinnette said that the citizens would be much better served focusing the larger portion of the plan on the next 10 years.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said that he didn't think it is wise or prudent to have a development plan all the way into 2034 or beyond. And, Stinnette agreed with this saying, "Part of our problem here is that we are trying to project what we are going to



look like in 2040. And, to be completely honest with you none of us have a clue. The point being is if you look at Middleburg and the other Towns in Loudoun County, they have taken their planning documents – their Comp Plan – and have actually brought it in and said I want to build a plan with 10 year assumptions, and if those things change within 5 years, we will change it, we will redesign it."

By law, the Comp Plan must be reviewed every 5 years, as the guiding document for whether or not the town pursues zoning use

changes and annexations.

Stinnette continued, "Let's just figure out how to get to 10 years from now. That is a foundational question, I personally say go with 10 years ... and there are other people who say we ought to be looking out 25 years. Until we figure this out we are going to get this mixed vibe ... I do think if we design a tight plan that basically says we are not in the business of growth and are not in the business of annexation we are looking at a 10-year horizon."

The problem with envisioning a future

for Purcellville to 2040 is that speculative assumptions about the far future end up shaping the plan for the next 5 years.

Adding to the discussion, Chair Theresa Stein said, "If you put up the hard boundary, you put up the wall, somebody has to wait a year to get the Comp Plan amended, then I don't think we have done our job because we cut them off and an opportunity has been lost. And, what do you have, we do the Town a disservice if we say there is a line."

Town Council Member Nedim Ogelman pointed out that it is not a matter of making a line or not, it's a question of whether citizens or outside special interests are better positioned to influence the future of the town. Purcellville citizens have clearly expressed their desire to preserve "our small town." The Comprehensive Plan should tightly and unambiguously reflect this prevailing sentiment. If a developer wants to deviate from this expressed will of the citizens, a Comprehensive Plan amendment is the most appropriate vehicle because it forces a more transparent process giving the citizens a chance to scrutinize, deliberate and decide whether or not they want to go in a different direction. A loosely worded Comprehensive Plan, continued Ogelman, would give outside special interests the room they want to change Purcellville against the expressed will of the citizens.

## View From The Ridge - Broken Promises, Hidden By A Six-Foot Berm

– By Andrea Gaines

On Aug. 9, 1825 at the age of 69, French military officer the Marquis de Lafayette was honored in Leesburg by former President James Monroe. The French-born Lafayette, inspired by stories of American independence, had sailed here to fight side-by-side with Americans at the young age of 20. Half a century later, he was back to visit old friends and a growing United States, watching former colonists work with their representatives to build a new country.

After the Leesburg ceremonies, the two men traveled down the Old Carolina Road (Rt. 15) to Oak Hill, Monroe's home. Once there, they might have shared memories of the Revolutionary War. Maybe they talked about the fireplace mantles the Frenchman had given the president as thanks for intervening to save Lafayette's wife during the French Revolution. Maybe they discussed architectural details that their mutual friend, Thomas Jefferson, had suggested for Monroe's estate. Perhaps the conversation went to The Monroe Doctrine, written from Oak Hill in 1823.

Maybe, too, Lafayette and Monroe walked to the south portico to admire the view, with Monroe pointing out Leesburg to the north, the foothills to the east, and Washington, D.C. beyond. Middleburg to the west. Oatlands Plantation to the north. The small settlement called Gum Springs to the southeast ...

Now, flash forward to 2016 and this very same spot – the view from the south portico. Incredibly, not much has changed in 191 years. But, due to an increasingly aggressive developer community – and the weak knees of a growing number of supervisors – it will. Without concerted citizen action, it certainly will.

Standing on the south portico of Oak Hill, just about everything you can see to the north and east falls into what is known as the Transition Policy Area – a sweeping, 27,000-acre section of Loudoun County designated as a "spatial transition" between the Suburban Policy Area to its east, and the Rural Policy Area to its west.

The innovative open space, road system, stream buffer, and density guidelines that apply here direct how and where development in the TPA can proceed, creating the spatial transition called for by the County Comprehensive Plan, and protecting some of the most precious land resources in the county.

But, on Sept. 22 – after a long, drawn out fight – the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors used a nakedly transparent slight-of-hand to put its final stamp of approval on the Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center – a 135,000 sq. ft. Harris Teeter grocery store (105,000 sq. ft. was by-right) and a 10-pump gas station. Right here. Right here in the TPA.

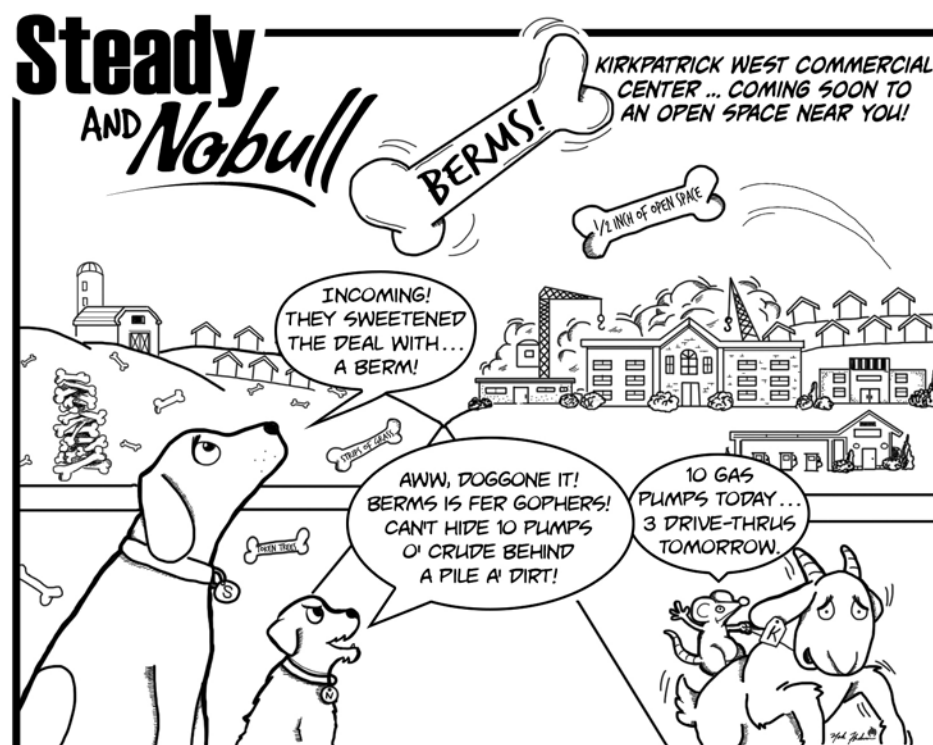
While the board held the line on several special use permits that went along with

the project, all that citizens got in exchange was the denial of something that should never have been proposed in the first place – three drive-thrus – along with lower lights, reductions in building heights and a few berms ... visual barriers around the gas station.

The slight-of-hand used to take this action was two-fold. First, supervisors argued that although the commercial center

didn't fit with the open space and low-density standards of the TPA, it bordered on the nearby high-density zone and tended to fit in, at least in part. Second, argued the board, the Comp Plan is in the midst of review, at which time these standards might be reduced or even abandoned, so why not allow the higher density, now? Why not try

*Continued on page 18*





## Loudoun County Strategic Retreat Notes And Highlights



– By Valerie Cury

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors held a strategic planning retreat in Sept., discussing a wide variety of issues including the upcoming review of Loudoun’s Comprehensive Plan. Discussion highlights included.

### Transportation:

Traffic problems on Routes 7, 15, 50, and 9 were discussed, as were transportation plan revisions, alternative ways of getting around, and bus services. Vice Chair Ralph Buona (R- Ashburn) seeks to update the county transportation plan. Supervisor Ron Meyer (R-Broad Run) has concerns about the Rt. 15 corridor, including road/trail links, and maximizing grants. Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At Large) wants transportation to focus on more than just roads. Buona supported short-and long-haul bus services, particularly with Metro coming. Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian) supported bus services and other transportation connectors, noting their importance to jobs. Supervisor Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin) said: “What we need in the west is more roads ... “ – later clarifying Rtes. 7,15, 50 and 9 specifically dealing with road capacity. Supervisor Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles) discussed eminent domain issues, and all, including Supervisors Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), Kristen Umstatted (D-Leesburg) and Koran Saines (D-Sterling) supported a transportation summit. Said Umstatted, “These are complex issues that really do require that we get into the weeds and also look at funding.”

### Economic Development And Quality Of Life:

Economic development discussions covered a wide varied of topics, including how traffic and growth impact quality of life, housing and the state of major commuting routes. Approximately 50,000 new residents, 25,000 new jobs and 16,000 new households will come to Loudoun County by 2021.

Umstatted expressed growing concerns about managing the noise that attends development, particularly in the west. Others said that quality of life underpins the economy of the west. Meyer and others related economic development to the completion of roadways and Greenway alternatives. Shrinking county gas tax revenues were part of the discussion, as was the potential to bring businesses such as Amazon to Loudoun, along with data centers. Buona linked data centers to gains in tax revenues, while discussing their impact on quality of life. Randall echoed this. “I am more than a bit concerned that the data center industry,” said Randal. “[It]



is starting to have a slight negative effect [on] quality of life ... “

With discussions about how commercial relates to residential, which the relates to schools, Volpe emphasized the need to address each application on its own. “Reducing growth “scares me,” Said Volpe – “A house is where a job goes to sleep at night.” Other discussions included attracting higher education campuses to Loudoun, the need for broadband and cellular coverage, and the importance of work force housing.

### The Fate Of The Transition Area:

The current county plan codifies a three-part growth management strategy, with carefully-focused development in the east, lighter, rural-style development in the west, and a central, lower-density transition area that draws on the strengths of both. Citizens have expressed sustained support for this strategy. But, several supervisors seem ready to rewrite the rules ... if not ditch the concept altogether.

Umstatted, believes the board should stick to this three-part strategy. Volpe, Buffington and others disagree. Said Volpe, “If you look at the transition zone, one half of it isn’t the transition zone.” Buffington seems to be leaning towards significantly reducing its protections, calling some parts of it transition area “in name only,” while at the same time at the county strategic retreat mentioning that the transition area should be protected. Letourneau challenged even this approach, indicating that the three-part three zoning policy might not “even make sense” anymore.

Randall warned the board against offline meetings about the plan, and wants the staff to focus on guidance from the current board, not the previous board. “As we do the [review], we really have to communicate better ... more often ... “In Randal’s opinion, “behind the door [and] ‘I want this, I want that’ meetings” are not appropriate.

### Community Health, Wellness And Related School Issues:

In a recent interview with the Blue Ridge Leader Phyllis Randall, a mental health professional emphasized the need for the county to review its mental health services. This was included in retreat discussions, along with social concerns such as homelessness, substance abuse, and the county criminal justice system – all of which face big population growth pressures.

Said Randall, “We aren’t doing enough, we’re just not” – for circumstances in which mental health issues interrupt an otherwise successful life.

Umstatted brought up the need to “revisit what the school board uses for estimating the number of kids per house ... “, indicating that the student numbers were being way undercounted.



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*“As your Congresswoman, I will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen our national security and protect us from terrorism; advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer’s and diabetes; promote a 21st century economy with more opportunity and higher wage jobs; provide transportation funding and solutions; and fight the growing problem of human trafficking and heroin abuse in our community.”*

*Barbara Comstock*

**ELECTION DAY**  
**VOTE NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION:**  
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# Candidates for Congress



## LuAnn Bennett

Democratic Congressional candidate LuAnn Bennett has lived in Northern Virginia for 35 years. She has run a small business that has created more than 1,000 local jobs. She has raised three sons, following the death of her husband. She takes pride in her ability to bring people together to solve problems. If elected, she vows to use that ability on Capitol Hill.

**Blue Ridge Leader: Our national debt is approaching \$20 trillion. What solutions do you suggest to reduce it?**

**LuAnn Bennett:** First, we need Congress to do its job and pass a budget. Congress hasn't passed a budget in six years. That is unacceptable. I've been balancing budgets in my business for thirty years and never missed a payroll. We need more leaders in Congress with a business mindset, who understand how the economy works, and who can work with members of both parties to get this done.

Next, we need to make critical investments in infrastructure and in education that will lead to economic growth. That means putting people to work building roads and bridges and investing in job training at our community colleges. Robust economic growth will help reduce our national debt.

I support reforming our tax code to make it fairer and simpler. That includes closing costly corporate loopholes, and tax relief for middle and working class families so they can get ahead. At the same time, we should be asking the wealthiest individuals and corporations to pay their fair share.

Finally, we need to look at our entitlement programs and put them on a sustainable path so the benefits of our social safety net will be available for future generations.

**BRL: Entitlement reform has been a hot button issue for years, but nothing gets done. Do you see this as a Congressional priority, why or why not, and how would**

**you address the issue?**

**LB:** Congress is supposed to tackle the hard issues. Unfortunately, our Congress is completely dysfunctional and stuck in gridlock. There's too much partisanship.

I do believe entitlement reform should be a priority of the Congress. I'm willing to roll up my sleeves and work with members on both sides of the aisle to ensure that Social Security and Medicare are put on a sustainable path. We must ensure that the safety net is available to future generations. An important step we can take is to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices similar to how Medicaid and the Department of Veterans Affairs already do. That will help stem the rise in costs and allow for a more secure safety net. What we cannot do is take away these important programs, which support the very people that have spent their entire lives paying into them.

**BRL: What can a single member of the United States Congress do about illegal immigration? Is the whole thing in the President's court?**

This is another example of Congress abdicating its responsibility to solve tough problems. The US Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill in 2013 with 68 votes. Getting 68 Senators to vote for anything these days is difficult. That bill dealt with border security first, an important measure that both parties agree on. But the bill also dealt with the eleven million undocumented immigrants who are already here, the vast majority of whom are productive members of society who contribute to our economy and our country. Unfortunately, the House played partisan politics on this issue and refused to even bring to up for a vote. That's not leadership.

I support the Senate bill, or a similar comprehensive immigration reform measure. As a Congresswoman, I can advocate for this issue and work to find common ground with my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle. Unfortunately, my opponent has refused to lead on this issue. Like Donald Trump, she's denigrated our immigrant community. She said we should track immigrants like FedEx packages. That type of rhetoric is wrong, and it is not helping solve the problem.

Finally, what we're not going to do is build a wall and pretend someone else is going to pay for it. And we are not going to compromise our values as Americans by imposing religious tests on people who are trying to come in to our country.

**BRL: How would you define "excellence in public education?" What is the role of the states, and what is the role of the federal government?**

**LB:** Excellence in public education means that every child, regardless of their circumstances, can receive the knowledge and the skills they need to prepare them to compete in a global economy. Education is absolutely critical to our nation's future.

*Continued on page 15*



## Barbara Comstock

First-term Republican Congresswoman Barbara Comstock has lived in Northern Virginia for 35 years. A former aide to longtime 10th District Congressman Frank Wolf, she has also worked in the Justice Department. Before being elected to Congress in 2014, she served in the Virginia General Assembly for five years. She has raised a family, started a small business, and been a senior member of a law firm.

**Blue Ridge Leader: Our national debt is approaching \$20 trillion, what solutions do you suggest to reduce it?**

**Barbara Comstock:** Tackling the national debt takes a multifaceted approach involving a combination of budget reform; regulatory reform; tax reform; acquisition reform; targeted spending cuts; and up-front, long-term investments in healthcare and education—the former will lower spending with preventive care and better cures, and the latter will equip our future generations with the knowledge needed to grow a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy.

I support the Biennial Budgeting Act, which is something with which I am already familiar having served in the Virginia General Assembly, where this is the model. This bill would require Congress to set its budget in two-year terms rather than a single year, increasing budget stability and reducing costs of procurement and acquisition. I also supported the House-Senate Budget Resolution in 2015, which would balance the federal budget within 10 years with targeted spending reforms, a repeal of Obamacare, and much-needed improvements to mandatory spending programs to preserve them for future generations. I supported the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, a \$600 billion tax relief package signed into law in December 2015. The PATH

Act made permanent the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Mortgage Interest Deduction. It also made the R&D Tax Credit permanent so companies can re-invest that money in their own businesses and continue to grow the innovation economy which would reduce the deficit. A thriving economy increases GDP and, therefore, government revenues.

**BRL: Entitlement reform has been a hot button issue for years, but nothing gets done. Do you see this as a Congressional priority, why or why not, and how would you address the issue?**

**BC:** Early in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, we passed a bipartisan bill called the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, which fixed the fundamentally-flawed Medicare physician payment schedule that has plagued our healthcare system since the late 1990s and cost the federal treasury billions in unnecessary patch-jobs (called "Doc Fixes") over the course of two decades. We can find other ways to reform entitlements while keeping our commitment to seniors. I also supported the Bipartisan Budget Act, which stopped a cost spike for Medicare Part B premiums (which would have disproportionately affected current and retired federal employees) and saved the Social Security Disability Insurance program beneficiaries from a 20% cost spike. We can continue to find reforms and modernizing our health care system while keeping our commitment to seniors and saving money.

**BRL: What can a single member of the United States Congress do about illegal immigration? Is the whole thing in the President's court?**

**BC:** No one person can or should bypass the Constitution—not one representative, not one senator, not the president. We have to fix the broken immigration system through the legislative process and that requires collaboration.

Instead of continuing to fail on immigration reform because no one can agree on everything in one entire bill, we should instead work on a step-by-step basis to find areas we can agree on and fix many of the broken parts of the system and regain trust in the system. We should start with strong border security measures that include using our modern technology and many of the assets we have here in the 10<sup>th</sup> District already engaged in this area. We also need to enforce the laws that are already on the books. It is a systemic problem when it is easier for those who come here illegally than those seeking legal means of immigration to our great nation. Our immigration system should reward those who follow the law and come here to seek the American dream, so we need policies that reflect that and reflect the economic interests of our country and advancing our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

**BRL: How would you define**

*Continued on page 15*

# Leesburg Mayor Candidates



## Dave Butler

Dave Butler was appointed Mayor on February 8, 2016, after being elected to the Town Council in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. Prior to 2008 he served on the Planning Commission, the Standing Residential Traffic Committee, the Utility Rate Advisory Committee, and the SE/SW Trails Committee.

Butler is married to Pamela Butler, President of Loudoun Lyric Opera, and has two sons, Alex and Daniel. He is a native of Oswego, NY, and moved to Leesburg in early 2002.

He is the International IT Security Director for Asurion in Sterling.

**Blue Ridge Leader:** Is it a good idea for the Town of Leesburg to seek city status? Why or why not?

**Dave Butler:** I favor commissioning a study to determine whether Leesburg would, or would not, save money by achieving city status. It's possible that if Leesburg were to become a city, we could reduce taxes by up to 20-25 percent. But without a study, no one really knows.

As we are larger, in population, than 70 percent of the cities and 75 percent of the counties in Virginia, there's no question that we have the size and resources to effectively manage ourselves. We have an obligation to our residents to determine whether becoming a city would be financially positive, or not.

**BRL: One of Virginia's Top 10 Tourism Hotspots is Manassas National Battlefield – just a half an hour from Leesburg. How would you increase tourism in Leesburg and keep the downtown vibrant?**

**DB:** Tourism in Leesburg is significantly lower than it's been because of many factors, primarily due to growth of the surrounding areas, and changing interests from newer residents in Northern Virginia. Improving our colonial & civil war sites, enhancing the music and theater scene, and completing the inner and outer "Leesburg Loop" bike trail are three ways we can improve tourism.

To make downtown more vibrant, we know the answers. These are common to hundreds of historic downtowns all over America. We need more residential development within walking distance of downtown. We need an improved sound ordinance to allow reasonable music at restaurants and on the street. The shops need to concentrate their efforts on drawing in customers on nights and weekends as well as during the weekdays.

We need more amenities that will attract people to come down.

**BRL: What is your goal for residential versus commercial development – what's the right balance?**

**DB:** There are several myths around commercial vs. residential development. The first is that commercial "pays for itself" while residential doesn't. This is untrue, especially for Leesburg. The second is that residential has a higher impact on traffic and congestion than commercial does. It does not.

Light industrial commercial development, like K2M, is ideal. The required services are low, and the financial and economic impact are high. While regular office space is nice, that is unlikely to grow significantly. Due to the market conditions, there is a lot of approved, but unbuilt, office space in town. More restaurants and retail stores improve our quality of life. However, those types of commercial development require additional residential development to be viable.

As we create jobs, the need for more housing will be created naturally. The more employees that live in Maryland, West Virginia, and points west, the busier that Routes 7, 9, and 15 north become. The residential development with the least impact to traffic and the environment, and the most positive impact financially, is "urban infill." A great example is the new Crescent Place development. Leesburg needs more areas like this.

**BRL: Do you see the need for Leesburg to extend its borders to accommodate growth?**

**DB:** Whether Leesburg expands its borders, or not, has little to do with growth. In some cases, the areas around Leesburg are already developed, in which case welcoming them into the town will not change how they are already developed. In other cases, areas around Leesburg are not developed, but will get developed eventually whether they're in the town or not.

The real considerations for expanding the borders are whether it is financially viable for the town and the people or businesses in the areas of expansion, and whether it makes sense from a land-use perspective. I am not interested in doing any forced annexation of a property or development when the owners or residents don't want it.

I would support asking residential and commercial developments within the Joint Land Management Area whether they would be interested in coming into the town. I believe it would be financially advantageous for Leesburg, and provide us with a larger scale to make living here even better.

I would also support bringing in smaller areas to the north and south, outside of



## Kelly Burk

Kelly Burk currently serves as Leesburg's Vice Mayor, and has served as a member of the Leesburg Town Council for over eight years. Burk has also served as Leesburg's representative on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. She has been a resident of Leesburg for 39 years, and a special education teacher in the Loudoun County School system for 34 years. She is a former president of the Loudoun Education Association. Burk's service to Leesburg and Loudoun government is augmented by her support of Friends of Leesburg Public Art, the Loudoun County League of Women Voters, and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. In 2001, Burk was named Loudoun Woman of the Year by the Loudoun Commission on Women. She also founded the annual Youth Job Fair. Kelly Burk received her BA from George Washington University, and her MA from Virginia Tech. She has been married to Larry Burk for 40 years, and has two sons.

**Blue Ridge Leader: Is it a good idea for the Town of Leesburg to seek city status? Why or why not?**

**Kelly Burk:** Some residents may think becoming a city is a solution to high taxes or double taxes; however, there is evidence it will, in fact, raise our taxes. If the only reason to become a city is to lower taxes, there is evidence it might not work.

Cities are mandated to provide a school system, constitutional officers, courts, social services, building code enforcement, an electoral board, libraries, and many other costly functions. Loudoun County now provides those expensive services, and due to the economy of scale, it does so at a lower cost than what the town could achieve. If the town were to take over these services, it is unclear how the town could possibly afford to do so without a major tax increase.

The General Assembly has imposed a moratorium preventing any town from becoming a city. This moratorium will expire in 2018 but there is serious talk of extending the moratorium for another 10 years. This is due to a number of indicators that some of the cities in the commonwealth are in financial distress and failing to provide the service.

**BRL: One of Virginia's Top 10 tourism hotspots is Manassas National Battlefield – just a half an hour from Leesburg. How would you increase tourism in Leesburg and keep the downtown vibrant?**

**KB:** The Loudoun Artisan Trail is one example of how our area towns are banding together to create tourism destinations. The County is discussing how to increase biking

in our area. The W&OD Bike Trail runs through the heart of Leesburg, and creating bike trails from other tourist hotspots in Northern Virginia to our area can only create opportunities.

Loudoun is home to 44 wineries, and Leesburg is the Gateway Town to the western part of the County. Having the Visit Loudoun Visitors Center located in Leesburg gives our town greater visibility, and opportunity to draw in residents and tourists.

I would like to see much better signage that tells people what is in town and how to get there. Signs can direct people to events and places.

**BRL: What is your goal for residential versus commercial development? What's the right balance?**

**KB:** No one person can agree on what the right mix of commercial and residential balance should be. The Leesburg Town Plan aims for a 60 percent commercial to 40 percent residential revenue balance. Presently it is at a 23 percent commercial to 77 percent residential revenue balance. What is clear is that residents shouldn't bear the burden of all of the town's operational expenses. Residents value a balance between the two, and much of it is tied to the quality of life. Our neighborhoods are who we are – their character, streets, homes, parks, and commercial developments give us that small town feel, even though we are one of the largest towns in Virginia. Our residents understand that a healthy business community is essential to their quality of life and the town's bottom line. The quality of life and impacts on everyone must always be given significant consideration when reviewing development proposals.

**BRL: Do you see the need for Leesburg to extend its borders to accommodate growth?**

**KB:** In recent years, the town has positioned Leesburg as pro-business, and put in place policies that encourage more business growth within the town limits. If Leesburg became a city, the door to annexation would be closed forever. We should always be judicious about any annexations. With redevelopment and new development, there are many opportunities for the town to grow.

**BRL: Leesburg residents pay a personal property tax rate of 1 percent, and real estate tax rate of 18.6 cents per \$100. of assessed value. What are your suggestions for ways the Town of Leesburg can save money and keep tax rates down?**

**KB:** The Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival, Leesburg Airshow, and our 4th of July Parade are signature events that bring in revenue and create a unique brand for Leesburg. By involving the whole community in these events – and

# Leesburg Mayor Candidates



## Kevin Wright

Kevin Wright served on the Leesburg Town Council from 2006 to 2014, after having previously served as chairman of the Leesburg Planning Commission. During his tenure on the Town Council he served as the Town's Vice Mayor from 2010 to 2012. Kevin is a lifelong resident of Loudoun County and has lived in Leesburg for over 28 years. Kevin's prior community service includes serving on various downtown business organizations and refereeing youth soccer. Kevin and his wife, Dena, have a daughter, Katelyn, who graduated from Tuscarora High School in 2014 and is currently attending William & Mary. Kevin works as a delivery manager for Cisco Systems. Kevin and his family attend Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg.

**Blue Ridge Leader: Is it a good idea for the Town of Leesburg to seek city status? Why or why not?**

**Kevin Wright:** I do not support pursuing city status for Leesburg at this time for several reasons. First and foremost, Virginia has a moratorium on granting any new city charters until 2024, which they just extended this year. Second, for the town to start the process they would need to spend \$100,000 of taxpayer money to complete a study to demonstrate it is economically viable for BOTH the town and the county for Leesburg to become a city. Third, the town would need to establish or contract for all of the services and capital facilities currently delivered by the county; courts, social services, health services, jail, animal control, fire/rescue, and most significantly

schools. Rather than creating a divide with the county, and spending money on the pursuit of an option that is not soon to be granted by the state, if ever, Leesburg's leaders need to work proactively to ensure that Leesburg residents, as county residents, get their fair share for their county tax dollars and Leesburg minimizes the duplication of services with the county.

**BRL: One of Virginia's Top 10 Tourism Hotspots is Manassas National Battlefield – just a half an hour from Leesburg. How would you increase tourism in Leesburg and keep the downtown vibrant?**

**KW:** I will work with our various heritage resources; Balch Library, Dodona Manor, Loudoun Museum, Morven Park, Balls Bluff, Oatlands, etc. to coordinate efforts to highlight the extensive resources in and around Leesburg and by encouraging them to work together they can increase their reach to our community and those wanting to come enjoy Leesburg. No one solution will keep downtown, and all of Leesburg vibrant. It is our businesses, not government officials, that make downtown vibrant. As town leaders, we must focus on ensuring our businesses have an environment in which they can thrive, where all businesses are treated fairly with one set of rules. We need to find ways to get more "feet on the street" in our downtown through business growth, appropriate infill development, and adequate public infrastructure, as well as tourism.

**BRL: What is your goal for residential versus commercial development – what's the right balance?**

**KW:** The guiding principle for all development must be; does the new development conform with the intent of the town's plans, provide a benefit to the community, respect and protect our

neighborhoods, and properly address its impact? To strike the balance we need to preserve areas planned for commercial development for appropriate development. We also must adapt to the changing marketplace as the economy and commercial office market evolve to make sure our zoning decisions are responsible and practical.

**BRL: Do you see the need for Leesburg to extend its borders to accommodate growth?**

**KW:** I support appropriate annexation that is revenue positive to the town, does not place an additional tax burden on our existing residents, and is within the area planned for annexation. Our Town Plan has long planned for the town to proactively annex property within our urban growth area, primarily between the Dulles Greenway and Route 7 east of Leesburg. By not working proactively to annex this property, Leesburg residents are set to bear the burden for the development adjacent to Leesburg Executive Airport, where a major big box store is under construction as approved by the county, but the primary ingress and egress is on the already congested Battlefield Parkway at the Dulles Greenway in the town.

**BRL: Leesburg residents pay a personal property tax rate of 1 percent, and a real estate tax rate of 18.6 cents per \$100. of assessed value. What are your suggestions for ways the Town of Leesburg can save money and keep tax rates down?**

**KW:** I have a strong record of detailed budget review to ensure that your tax dollars are spent wisely, while providing needed services, and looking for ways to reduce your tax bill. I also spearheaded efforts to ensure that our budget is sustainable for the long term so that you do not have

unexpected spikes in your tax bill. The reason for all of this is a simple guiding principle, it is YOUR money. The town can save money by holding the state accountable to fully fund road maintenance, make sure we are only responsibly on capital projects, maintain our AAA bond rating that reduces our interest costs, and constantly looking for efficiencies in our service delivery. We also must grow our business revenues, I will adopt a dashboard of economic indicators to track our performance for economic development and growth to reduce the tax burden on our residents.

**BRL: Distinguish yourself from the other candidates; If elected how would you make a difference?**

**KW:** As your mayor I will be informed, prepared, and ready to do the work that is before the town council, while taking the lead to keep you engaged and informed of what is happening in our community and actively seek your feedback and engagement. I bring a wealth of experience as mayor, serving as chair of the planning commission, 8 ½ years on the town council, combined with my experience in corporate management. That experience provides me with the ability to be prepared to address issues and bring the council together to focus on making the best decisions for Leesburg. Those issues include responsible fiscal management, addressing the current 18% vacancy rate on our police force, facing the challenges in our community from drugs and gangs, addressing the gaps in our transportation network, and supporting our growing business community while protecting our neighborhoods. I will focus on providing a town government that is open, transparent and accountable to YOU. The job of mayor, the job of Leadership, is about serving others, it is about serving you. I am running for mayor for that reason to serve you and to serve our community.

*Dave Butler continued from page 12*

the JLMA, if Loudoun County and the property owners are willing.

**BRL: Leesburg residents pay a personal property tax rate of 1 percent, and a real estate tax rate of 18.6 cents per \$100. of assessed value. What are your suggestions for ways the Town of Leesburg can save money and keep tax rates down?**

**DB:** Leesburg is already the most efficient town in Northern Virginia. Our average tax bill is the lowest of other towns (about half of Vienna's for example), as is our average taxes per capita. These numbers have dropped about 25 percent since 2007. Our residents per town employee is easily the largest, double that of some comparable

towns. Further reductions in taxes would almost certainly require a reduction in services for our residents.

However, there are ways to reduce our "double taxation" from the County. For example:

The County is considering creating a set of specialty libraries. These specialties might include Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM), Law, or History. Balch Library might make a wonderful History library for the County. If the County took over Balch Library, that would save almost ¾ of a cent on the tax rate.

Due to the County's funding formulas, it appears to be possible to reallocate some Fire & Rescue funding from Leesburg to Loudoun County. If true, this could save

another ¾ of a cent on the tax rate. This would be tolerable only if there was NO reduction in total funding for our Fire Department or Rescue Squad.

The best way to reduce taxes, however, is to continue to improve economic activity within the town. This increases revenue and allows tax reductions to residents.

**BRL: Distinguish yourself from the other candidates; If elected how would you make a difference?**

**DB:** In my 8+ years on Council, I have been the main driver and advocate for more initiatives than anyone else. Examples include K2M and its 400-500 high-paying jobs, the Oaklawn gas station, the Plaza Street bike lane, the widened sidewalks on King St., the bike-

related improvements at Raflo Park, and the retail at Crescent Place. Far more than any other candidate, I've been interested in moving Leesburg forward, rather than keeping it in the past.

My experience in leadership exceeds the other candidates. I've managed many large groups of employees (up to 60), large budgets (up to about \$30,000,000 in today's dollars), and global projects; ran a church for six months when we were between pastors; and Chaired the SE/SW Trails Committee in 2006.

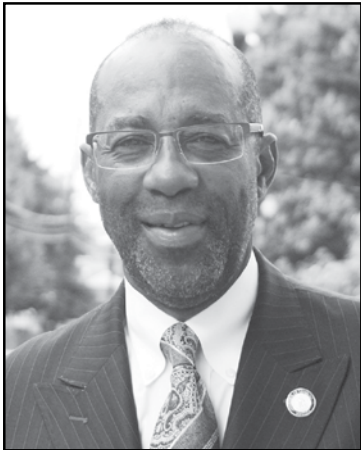
In addition, I have a master's degree in Engineering, am a Certified Planning Commissioner, and completed the Sorensen Institute's Political Leader's Program.

And I've been Leesburg's Mayor since early February.

# Leesburg Town Council Race

By Amanda Clark

Voting for Leesburg Town Council and Mayor, along with the general election, will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The online voter registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 17 at 11:59 p.m. and the in-person voter registration deadline is the same day at 5 p.m. Here is a look at each of the candidates who are vying for the three open town council seats.



**R.E. "Ron" Campbell**  
**The Time is Always Right to Do What is Right.**

"I am a business owner who understands the value of communicating at high levels, and the processes involved in achieving relationships that open doors to creative solutions. I believe that my skill sets and experience uniquely qualify me to represent the residents of Leesburg on the Town Council," says Campbell. He currently serves on the Town of Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission, and on the Loudoun County Community Justice Advisory Board. Campbell's focus for this election is developing and managing the town budget, proper transportation and road development, planning of residential/land development for new business, and better advocacy for town residents in the relationship among federal, state, and county elected officials. "I will lead the charge to overhaul the budget process and deliver a budget that moves the town forward in the most efficient manner possible, to preserve the past and ensure a viable future," he says.

**Thomas S. "Tom" Dunn**  
**Elect Dunn.**

Dunn says, "Council is finally working on one of my efforts to reduce our double taxation and get more of our county tax dollars coming back to the town." Some of his accomplishments include his asking county and town staff to change the timing of the lights at Evergreen Mill and Battlefield Parkway to reduce congestion, and finding a \$300 solution to reduce traffic congestion of Battlefield Parkway and Route 15 N. He says that he is the only candidate to "seek alternate solutions preserving historic downtown buildings," and the only candidate "seeking



**John H. Hilton**  
**Keep Leesburg Livable.**

alternatives to constructing unnecessary levels for a parking structure in backyards of homeowners." He has served on the Leesburg Economic Development Commission and has served two terms on Town Council. Dunn is the Town Council liaison to Balch Library and Board of Architecture Review. He is also sub-committee chair of Infrastructure; sub-committee chair of Tourism and Historic Preservation of the Economic Development Commission.

Hilton currently serves on the Loudoun County Board of Equalization and the Town Environmental Advisory Commission. Professionally, he has been in corporate sales and real estate, and currently is in life insurance and financial services. Hilton says, "The most important local issues to me are first managing growth and development in a way which keeps Leesburg livable, and maintains our small town character which we all love. Public safety, law enforcement, and traffic reduction, which are related to land use, would be the other most important local issues to me." He would like to do a 180 on land use projects from the current Town Council. He says, "Our Town Plan and Planning Commission recommendations have been repeatedly ignored in favor of high density residential housing which negatively impacts our quality of life here. I would change that if given the chance."



**Katie Sheldon Hammler**  
**Hammler for Leesburg.**

"I have the most experience of any candidate for Leesburg, having served on council for 12 continuous years," says Hammler. She was chosen by elected leaders across the Commonwealth to serve as the vice president of the Virginia Municipal League, a first for Leesburg. She also currently serves as council liaison to the joint sheriff-police committee. She says that "one of the most important issues is to maintain this level of excellence without raising taxes, which we have successfully done even facing a fiscal cliff in 2017, which we have avoided through careful planning." She says, "Our town requires experienced council leaders ready to responsibly address the evolving needs of our citizens. As the most experienced candidate with a proven record, I will be prepared to listen, and to act decisively in a way that moves the town forward."



**Evan D. Macbeth**  
**For Every Neighbor.**

"Earlier this year some friends asked me to help organize parents and families around the major school rezoning happening in central Loudoun, and together we helped ensure that school communities here in Leesburg were kept together and supported through that process. After that, some people I was involved with talked to me about running for Town Council, and with my family's enthusiastic support, I jumped into the race. I'm proud to be counted on a ticket with Kelly Burk, Gwen Pangle, and Ron Campbell, and know that together we do a great job planning for Leesburg's future," says Macbeth. The top issues he

says Leesburg faces are traffic and roads, specifically the backup on Bypass North every evening. He also says there is not enough affordable housing for young adults starting out, and that Leesburg needs to support school communities with accommodations such as safe streets and walk zones.



**Gwen H. Pangle**  
**Better for Leesburg.**

Pangle says, "I am chair, or a member, of nine committees, groups, or organizations within my profession and my community. She is chair of the Leesburg Downtown Business Association and the Leesburg Economic Development Commission, as well as a member of the board of directors for the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce. Pangle has read the town plan, and understands the current vision for Leesburg is economic development to ensure a growing, thriving town. "Leadership with vision; seven people working together, with respect for each other's points of view and perspectives is necessary to make that happen. Our citizens deserve leaders who have these qualities, and are more likely to participate in the plan/vision for Leesburg, if they trust their leadership," she says. The top issues to her are bolstering of small business, advancing the arts, and culture of Leesburg, and focusing on education and efficiency to train the youth of Leesburg for jobs in the future.



**Kenneth D. "Ken" Reid**  
**Real Results for Leesburg!**

Reid formerly represented the Leesburg District on the Board of Supervisors, and also has served on the Leesburg Town

*Continued on page 15*

*Comstock, continued from page 11*

**“excellence in public education?” What is the role of the states, and what is the role of the federal government?**

**BC:** I come from a family of educators who know that excellence in public education requires a system in which students, parents, and educators are all engaged, and understand that in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century innovation economy, education will be a lifelong pursuit. A growing percentage of jobs – and many of the highest paying jobs are in the STEM fields and they represent an area of economic opportunity. Given my role as the Chairwoman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, I regularly reach out to our education and business community to find innovative ways to develop the workforce we need for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century competitive high paying jobs.

I supported the *Every Student Succeeds Act*—the most significant education reform bill in well over a decade. The bill was hailed as an outstanding bipartisan compromise which ended No Child Left Behind and halted the top-down federal Common Core standards. Most importantly, it pushed more control to state and local governments, and teachers and parents who know best how to educate their children. We also passed and I cosponsored The *STEM Education Act of 2015*, which strengthens ongoing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education efforts at our federal science agencies and ensures computer science is included in these efforts. I support more choice in education and have supported charter schools and opportunity scholarships so that children, particularly

in inner cities or low-income areas, are not trapped in failing schools. I also authored and passed in the House the INSPIRE Act which promotes young girls and women in STEM.

**BRL: If elected, how would your election/re-election make a real difference in our nation’s future?**

**BC:** Following 9/11 after I lost a best friend in the terrorist attacks, I worked as a senior official at the Justice Department working with the Attorney General and other senior officials at Justice, the FBI, and Homeland Security to address our national security issues. I consider national security a top priority since the terrorist threat continues here and abroad. The FBI has opened ISIS investigations in all fifty states and I meet with the FBI

on issues impacting our own area where there have been terrorism related arrests and investigations and have voted for the legislation to provide them with the tools to detect, deter and thwart terrorist attacks here and abroad.

I worked successfully with my colleagues to stop the defense sequester cuts which have hurt the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The indiscriminate nature of the cuts hurts our national security and the Virginia economy which suffered 0 percent growth in 2014 largely due to the sequester. I will work to restore our national security, intelligence, and military and continue with the strong relationships I have built throughout the national security, intelligence, military and criminal justice community, working to keep us safe.

*LuAnn Bennett, continued from page 11*

Our federal government should partner with our states and help to expand educational opportunities, universal pre-K, career and technical training at our community colleges, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in our high schools. The federal government should also take action to bring down the cost of higher education and help alleviate the burden of college debt by lowering interest rates, extend payback periods and index payments to income.

At the state level, our state government should provide the necessary funding to our local school divisions so that they can attract and retain the best and brightest teachers and provide our students with the highest quality facilities and programs possible. Our states also need real-world based assessments that focus on critical thinking and collaborative problem solving. We need to reevaluate the culture of testing that we have imposed on our

school systems, our teachers, and students.

**BRL: If elected, how would your election make a real difference in our nation’s future?**

**LB:** Our nation faces a number of challenges. Each is solvable, but only with the right leadership. I want to take my experience in the business world – bringing people together and solving problems – to get Congress working again. I cannot change Congress single handedly, but I will bring a different approach to representing the 10<sup>th</sup> District. I’ll put solving problems ahead of ideology. Working together with my colleagues and with a new President, we can make progress on so many issues: Building an economy that works for everyone, fixing our crumbling infrastructure, bringing down the cost of college, passing comprehensive immigration reform, addressing the threat of climate change, and keeping our country safe and secure.

*Kelly Burk, continued from page 11*

other annual ones – we can further their promotion and create more synergy for more success. As an educator, I believe in revitalization through education; give businesses the tools they need to grow and prosper, especially our small business owners. I am committed to working to increase opportunities for growth, and doing so in a fiscally responsible manner that will benefit the Leesburg taxpayer with efficient use of the taxpayer money.

**BRL: Distinguish yourself from the other candidates; if elected, how would you make a difference.**

**KB:** My approach has always been and will be to govern by timely and accurate communication, collaboration, transparency, diplomacy, accountability, and ethics. I strongly believe that the key to effective leadership is being a proactive representative of the people through respectful action, thoughtful listening, and being astute enough to seek the advice of experts where needed.

Having retired from teaching, I can be a

full time mayor without the conflicts and commitments of the full time outside job.

During my time on council I spearheaded the creation of the Diversity Committee to outreach to the minority community, I support bike trails and crosswalks at busy intersections. I continue to work to revitalize the downtown. I began the Youth Career Fair and Keep Leesburg Beautiful. I insist that any new or infill residential development mitigate the impacts to the town services, and have govern with honesty and fairness.

My priorities will include: Leading through consensus building, collaboration through active listening with the council, with the town employees, and with local, state, and private industry. I am a firm believer in balanced decision-making through receptive input from others, building partnerships with local communities, and being the best advocate for the people of Leesburg. Going forward, Leesburg needs solid vision, accountability, leadership, unity, and ethics (VALUE) to put us on a continued path to being one of the best towns in Virginia in which to live, work, retire, and play.

## How To Vote Absentee In Loudoun



Absentee balloting in Loudoun for the November general election began Friday, September 23.

In-person absentee voting will take place at the Loudoun County Office of Elections, 750 Miller Drive, S.E., Suite C in Leesburg, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginning October 24, hours for absentee voting at the Office of Elections will be extended and will be Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee voting will be available on Saturday, October 29, and Saturday, November 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From October 24 through November 4, voters may also vote absentee at the Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling; and the Dulles South Multipurpose Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, Monday through Friday, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The deadline for voters to apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to them is 5 p.m., Tuesday, November 1. The last day to vote an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, November 5. For more info, go to [www.loudoun.gov/absentee](http://www.loudoun.gov/absentee).

*Reid, continued from page 14*

Council. “Despite national discontent with Washington and politicians, I find people in Leesburg want folks with experience to lead, and those who have shown a commitment and dedication to work on issues of importance in town. He went door to door to discuss some issues that voters may have, and found that many residents would like transportation improvements, addressing the backups along U.S. 15 to Maryland. He says that the best solution to this problem would be to work with Maryland on another bridge crossing, or a bypass around Lucketts. The biggest concerns of voters he found were gangs, traffic safety, and whether the streets will be plowed better than they were during the January snowstorm. Reid also says that “empty nester” voters have expressed a desire for housing for those over 55. He says, “We need a plan to ensure that our downtown doesn’t die.”



**CREIGHTON FARMS, VIRGINIA**

Elegant 11,000+ SF custom home. Elevated 6.33 acre lot with privacy & views. Gated community offers world class amenities. 3 levels of open living. Indoor pool. \$3,995,000



**WILLOWIN FARM, PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**

Equestrian estate in protected community w/ trails & rideout. 6BR, 5.5BA, almost 12 acres w/ barn. Hardwoods, main lvl BR, gourmet kitchen, fin LL. Patio + views! \$1,099,000



**PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**

Private double lot oasis - 25.3 acres bordered by stream & trail. Brick Colonial, 3 levels, 3/4BR & 2.5BA. Wood floors, fireplace. Barn + board fenced paddocks. \$997,000



**PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**

Custom home on 3.6 acres backing to stream. 3 levels, 4BR, 4.5BA, recently updated. Wood floors, finished LL with bar & FBA. 2 level Trex deck. Heated pool + hot tub! \$759,000



**PIEDMONT HUNT, VIRGINIA**

Historic 3BR residence c. 1815 on 116 acres. Original mantles, hardware, beams, flooring. Bank barn, spring house, tobacco shed + 2 streams & pond. Views! Privacy! \$2,295,000



**MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA**

NEW LISTING! Rare opportunity to acquire large parcel! Perfect mix of clear & wooded. Ride-out, no conservation easement. Road front on Quaker Ln. & Willisville Rd. \$1,975,000



**ALDIE, VIRGINIA**

NEW LISTING! Wonderful 3 bedroom home on a very private 10 acre lot. Conveniently located for an easy commute. No HOA. \$575,000



**POSSUM HOLLOW, DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA**

Private wooded lot. Enjoy the country, while being just minutes from town. Hardwoods & wildlife abound this 31 acre parcel with many building sites. Views! \$435,000



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**LEEDS MANOR FARM, HUME, VIRGINIA**  
 Historic equestrian estate on 81 acres. 11 stalls, 5 paddocks, dressage ring. Additional acreage available. Prime Old Dominion Hounds Hunt location. Updated 5 bedroom, 5 bath. \$2,500,000



**ROUND HILL, VIRGINIA**  
 Breathtaking estate on 42.5 acres. Views, wide stream, pond. Completely redone, hardwoods, 5BR, 5.5BA, 5 car garage. Guest cottage, horse barn. Perfect horse vineyard. \$1,750,000



**WILLOWIN FARM, PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**  
 Equestrian estate in protected community w/ trails & rideout. 6BR, 5.5BA, almost 12 acres w/ barn. Hardwoods, main lvl BR, gourmet kitchen, finished LL. Patio + views! \$1,099,000



**STONELEIGH, ROUND HILL, VIRGINIA**  
 Custom home on 2.6 acres w/ views of fairways. 3 car gar, main lvl master w/ fpl & deck, kitchen w/ cherry cabinets & granite. LL with BR & FBA. 2/3BR upstairs + loft. \$795,000



**BLUEMONT, VIRGINIA**  
 10 acres w/ pond, stream, fenced paddocks & barn, run in shed, ride out. Stone walls, woods, pool, porch & deck. 4BR, 3BA, 2 fpls, hardwoods, master suite to deck. \$670,000



**LOVELLA, PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**  
 Beautiful on cul-de-sac with mature treed 3 acre lot & yard space. Hardwood floors & gourmet kitchen. Stone fpl in fam room. Huge master suite. LL with BR/BA & 2nd kitchen. \$619,000



**SUNNY RIDGE, ROUND HILL, VIRGINIA**  
 UNDER CONTRACT! Private 4+ acres with trees, yard, pool. 2 car gar, circular drive, 4 fireplaces, pine floors, granite counters, fam room, sun room, screened porch, walkout LL. \$587,500



**PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**  
 UNDER CONTRACT! Home with huge in-town lot features fenced backyard, deck, 3-car gar, updated kitchen, main level master suite, den, fireplace, hardwd flrs, finished basement. \$549,900



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WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE



View continued from page 8

to get as much as we can, even if it is just a 6-foot berm?

Said Supervisor Ralph Buona (R-Ashburn): "... there is a 'zero percent chance' the land in question will continue to be in the transition zone once the plan is complete." *But, in fact, although the Comp Plan is under review, this will be a lengthy, public process – as required by law – wherein all will be invited to discuss needed changes.*

Said Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin): "On this location, the battle for protecting the transition area has already been lost." *But, in fact, the part of the TPA under discussion is still quite rural, still quite open, and with*

*much less density – all per zoning rules that apply there.*

And, for his part, Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge), although seemingly sympathetic to the hundreds of residents who had opposed the project until the very end, failed to pull together enough votes to enforce TPA zoning on this land within his own district.

With these arguments in mind, think back to the two greats of American history standing on Oak Hill's south portico in 1825. What hopes did they have for the area's citizens and the people who might govern them?

The TPA contains 30 historic sites and

30 archeological sites, magnificent water systems, farms, old mansions, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, small new and old communities.

Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan was made final in 2003 – a massive effort that took citizens, elected officials, preservationists, and businesses years to complete.

Actions like this are indeed agreements. Agreements between the governing body and the governed. And here, government broke the agreement.

If, in the board's opinion, the Suburban Policy Area was already encroaching, getting too close to the less dense TPA, why

did the board approve such development in the first place?

If the board felt that the county should reconsider how the TPA was drawn, why did it not wait for the Comprehensive Plan Review, when citizens could have their full say, along with the developer community. Why did the board give away its authority to limit development here ... in exchange for a six-foot berm?

It is ironic, even sad, that a place with such historic connections to representative government – with Monroe and Lafayette looking on – would be the scene of something that has such an undemocratic feel to it.



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**October 8th - Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company**  
**October 9th - Lovettsville Volunteer Fire Rescue**  
**October 16th - Ashburn Volunteer Fire Rescue**  
**October 16th - Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company**  
**October 23rd - Arcola Volunteer Fire Rescue**

**For more information call 571-442-2801**

# Let The Sun Shine In And The Mold Fade Away

– By Andrea Gaines

The fall is a good time to check off one of those ongoing home maintenance tasks – window washing, and the more arduous job of power washing the sidings and other surfaces on the outside of your home. Maybe you are thinking of painting, or maybe you can see it's time to get rid of that gray-green tinge on your shingles and clapboards.



JAY FUGAL



To bring in a little expertise on the topic we talked to Jayson Fugal of Jay Crew Window Cleaning and House Washing in Purcellville. In business locally since

2010, Fugal is as steady as it goes and as knowledgeable as can be on the issue. "I'm confident in my work and know how to get things really clean," says Fugal. "But, it still surprises me to be walking around the grocery store and have someone come up to me to say, "I can't believe the job you did! My home and windows are just so much brighter!" Says Fugal, "It happens all the time."

As with the cleaning tasks inside your home, it's important to know what that dirt and discoloration on your windows, sashes, gutters, siding and shutters is, and where it comes from. And, some of the sources

– what you are actually looking at, might surprise you.

After a heavy rain you can easily see the dirt splash-up that covers the lower part of your siding or shingles. But, it's not just soil and other bits of organic material. Houses collect dust and dirt from the road, smoke and other chemicals, and pollen and other bits of organic matter that blow over and adhere to every surface. Some of the stickiest and most problematic things are the sugars released from trees, including saps and nectars. All of these things – the organic ones, anyway – are a welcome meal

*Continued on page 20*





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& Sunday October 16**  
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*Home Improvement, continued from page 19*

for the different forms of algae, lichen, mold, moss, and fungus, including mildew (a fungus) and artillery fungus. These plants and microscopic animals then attract water and grow themselves into a corrosive and unattractive film.

Window and home pressure washers like Jay – most of whom also work on walkways, driveways and sidewalks – have the skill, equipment and experience to make quick work of these unwanted outside guests. The work is not so much hard, says Fugal as it is tricky, involving ladders, spray and protective equipment that is hard to maneuver on a ladder. A new modern house – which has an average of 70

windows – can take a homeowner a good 2 days to complete themselves, while Fugal and his team can finish the same job in a matter of hours.

Window washing and pressure washing are not the sexiest of home maintenance tasks to check off your to-do, but, they are among the most urgent. The north side of the home, for example, never gets direct sunlight and is a prime spot for green algae or mildew to set up shop – holding in moisture, spreading out roots and breaking down surfaces and finishes. “Left unchecked,” says Fugal, “it is not going to be a good outcome.”

*Jayson can be reached at 917 446-2841 – “Feel free to text me,” He says or via email, [jfugal@mac.com](mailto:jfugal@mac.com).*

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# Now's The Time To 'Fall' In Love With Berry Hill

– By Hannah Hager

Berry Hill's been around for 200 years, but you've got mere weeks to snatch it up before peak fall foliage season comes to an end. You surely don't want that to happen as you would miss the opportunity to catch a glimpse of this tree-lined drive at its prettiest.

Autumn is also the best time to settle into a home with "good bones," which is precisely what you'll find in this historic home's living spaces that are flush with fieldstone accents, most notably around all four fireplaces. Snuggle up in front of one fireplace in the family room that is flanked by wooden built-in bookcases. Welcome friends and family for some warm cider in the formal living room which harkens back to yesteryear with its deep-seated windows, chair rails, iron chandelier and stone-rimmed fireplace, of course. Send the kids (or the men) downstairs to enjoy their own fireplace that was undoubtedly meant to serve as the food-service area.

With all its historic touches, however, Berry Hill is well and truly a home that straddles both past and present. It was fully renovated in 2015 with modern touches that also thoughtfully maintain its original charm. Indications of past are the hardwood floors, built-in bookcases and stone accents



throughout many of the bedrooms. Evidence of the present are the elevated ceilings, updated light fixtures and the stainless steel appliances, to name a few.

What's the point of such owning 10 acres of land if you can't have a little fun on it? The whole family will have a time on this small farm that features a spring-fed pond, paddocks, stable and scenic grounds located in the heart of Middleburg Hunt Country. Don't wait too long to make a move - winter is coming.



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 Bathrooms:  
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# Fall For October

## A PUMPKIN POEM

"When all the cows were sleeping  
... And the sun had gone to bed ...  
Up jumped the pumpkin ... And this  
is what he said: I'm a dingle dangle  
pumpkin ... With a floppy floppy  
hat. I can shake my stem like this  
... And shake my vine like that."



– By **Andrea Gaines**

This fanciful and uplifting autumn lyric can't help but make you smile – reminding us all that although summer is gone, we would indeed be as silly as a dingle-dangle pumpkin to waste one minute of one single beautiful October day.

Our average daytime temperature for the month will be in the high 60s. We'll get just 2-3 inches of rain. It will not snow. And, two out of three days will be sunny or partially sunny. So, get out and about this month ...

**Find A Fair:** The must-not-miss fall event 'round here is the Waterford Fair, October 7, 8 & 9. With traditional crafts, living history, authentic country food and more, it is a joyous experience ([www.waterfordfoundation.org](http://www.waterfordfoundation.org)). Consider, too, the Festival of Leaves in Front Royal, October 8 – enjoy arts and crafts, food, music and history. Also, close by is the Aldie Harvest Festival and Duck Race, October 15, with traditional fair fare and, yes, an awesome duck race ([www.aldieheritage.com](http://www.aldieheritage.com)).

**Find Out What's Haunting You.** All kinds of places turn up haunted in October – there's the grisly Darkwood Manor in Luray, the oh-so-scary Hill High Farm in Winchester, and the perfectly creepy Route 29 Haunted Farm at Bucklands in Warrenton ([www.onlyinyourstate/Virginia/Halloween-haunted-houses-va](http://www.onlyinyourstate/Virginia/Halloween-haunted-houses-va)). Or, visit some of our local ghosts in Leesburg with the Loudoun Museum's Annual Hauntings – 90-minute walking tours of haunted homes and businesses in downtown Leesburg led by costumed guides. October 28 & 29 ([www.leesburghauntings.org](http://www.leesburghauntings.org))

**Amaze Yourself:** We offer three suggestions for this time-honored October tradition: Great Country Farms in Bluemont, Temple Hall Farm in Leesburg (see [www.novasparks.com/events](http://www.novasparks.com/events)) and the place getting lots of talk this year – the incredible Corn Maze in the Plains ([www.cornmazeinthepains.com](http://www.cornmazeinthepains.com)). So, "get lost in the kernels," as they say. You'll also find great food, farm animals, hay rides, and, of course, pumpkins!

**Dress In Costume:** One of the most fun

October activities is visiting your favorite thrift shop, consignment shop or flea market for a great old or new Halloween costume, costume jewelry, raggedy clothes, fingerless gloves and faded jeans so you can wow everyone this Halloween. Owners Kim Patterson and Michael Oaks of one of the best consignment shops around – the Re-Love It in Purcellville – tell the story of a young woman who bought a beautiful pink ruffled dress for her prom ... and then paired the same dress with knee-high boots and a big blond wig to go as Lady Gaga on Halloween. Said Kim, "She got two fabulous totally different wears out of that dress. So fun!"

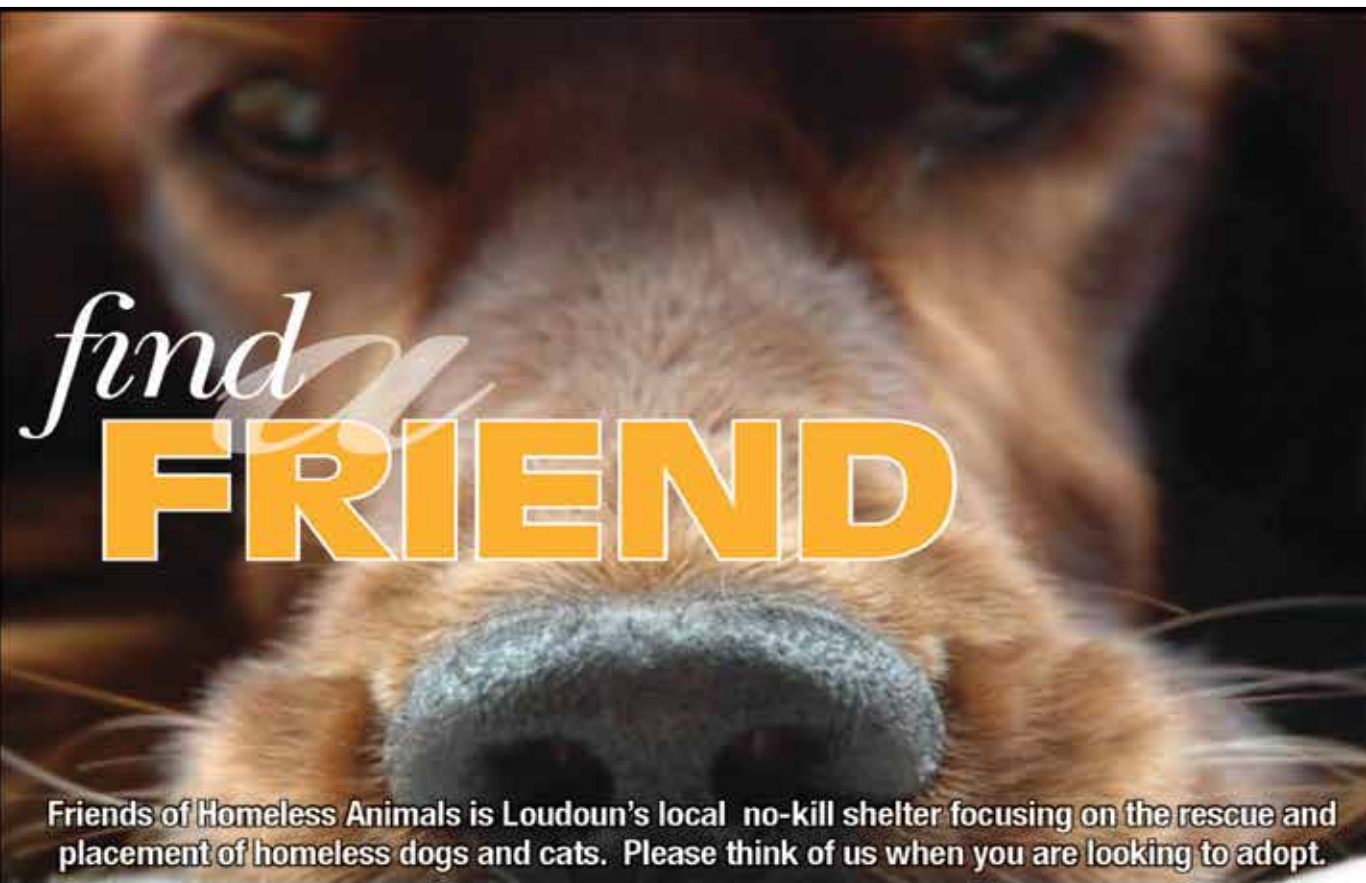
With the leaves turning and with harvest season in full swing, the journey to these places is half the fun. So, get out and take a turn around a pumpkin or two.

### **Pumpkins ... Rule**

Pumpkins are the kind of thing that, given the right amount of water, the right amount of sun and the right amount of space, will grow until old man frost steps in and stops them in their tracks. One of the largest pumpkins in the world was grown by a guy named Beni Meier in 2014 – it weighed about 1 ton, or just about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.

We love pumpkins for their bright fall colors and for their usefulness. Indeed, they provide us with everything from pie to jack-o-lanterns to delicious seeds to pumpkin-stuffed raviolis to animal feed. Witches, of course love to turn people ... into pumpkins. And Cinderella's fairy godmother went the other way ... turning a pumpkin into a horse-drawn carriage.

Biologically, pumpkins are not a vegetable, but a fruit. The average pumpkin is about 80 to 90 percent water, and giant pumpkins change shape dramatically as they grow, starting off as a sphere and morphing into a melted, somewhat pancake-like shape as they approach car-worthy size. And one more tidbit: Pumpkins are widely travelled, growing on every continent except Antarctica.



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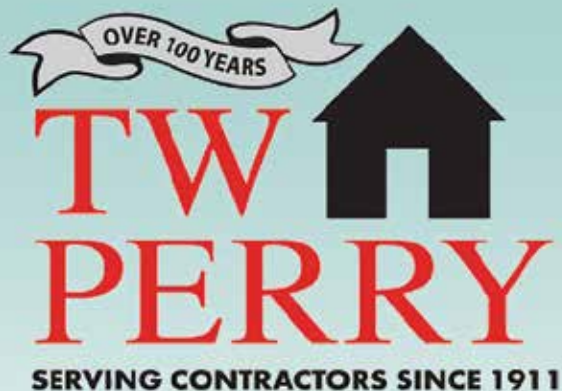


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# Remembering Lee Jacobs



Garland Lee Jacobs "Lee" (67) passed away peacefully in his home on September 22. Born February 9, 1949 in Loudoun County, to James Garland Jacobs and Darse Louise Arnold. Jacobs is survived by his two sons Jeff L. Jacobs and Steve D. Jacobs, stepdaughter Patti Pierson Hausenfluck as well as numerous grand and great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his loving wife Doris Jacobs and stepson

Charlie Pierson. Along with being a loving husband, father grandfather and friend to many, Jacobs was well-known by the community for his longtime service at Nichols hardware in Purcellville. Visitation were held on Thursday Sept. 29 at Hall Funeral Home, and the service was held Friday, Sept. 30. Jacobs is laid to rest in the Lovettsville Union Cemetery.

SEVENTY-SECOND  
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 October 7, 8 & 9, 2016 10am-5pm

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## Leesburg Native Serves Aboard Guided-Missile Destroyer

- By Lt. Cmdr. David Daitch, Navy Office of Community Outreach

A 2010 Loudoun County High School graduate and Leesburg native is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the guided-missile destroyer, USS O'Kane.

Ensign Alissa Kain is the OI division officer aboard the forward-deployed Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer operating out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

"I'm in charge of the dark room with all the radar screens," said Kain. "We make sure the ship gets where it needs to go, managing flight operations, and shooting down ballistic missiles if it ever comes to that."

According to Navy officials, destroyers are tactical multi-mission surface combatants capable of conducting anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare, as well as humanitarian assistance. Fast, maneuverable, and technically advanced, destroyers provide the required warfighting expertise and operational flexibility to execute any



tasking overseas.

"Our Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific guided-missile destroyers are poised, trained, equipped and ready to deploy forward and support the Fleet," said Rear Adm. John Fuller, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. "Working with friends and allies, our MIDPAC sailors provide sea control, advance maritime security, enhance regional stability, and foster continued prosperity in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region."

"I'm learning something new every day while serving here," said Kain. "It's interesting how small the ship is, and how well we work together to make big things happen."

## FBRM Clean-Up Day At Blue Ridge Regional Park

Join Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains for an Autumn clean-up to remove invasive vegetation from Blue Ridge Regional Park on Saturday, Oct. 15th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some tools and equipment will be provided, but please bring your clippers, pruning shears, or saws if you can.

Directions: From Leesburg, drive west on Route 7 past the turnoff for Bluemont and turn left on Blue Ridge Mountain Road. Proceed about three miles. The entrance will be marked on the left. For more information, go to [www.friendsofblueridge.org](http://www.friendsofblueridge.org)



## Calling All Artists

Attention all local Artists. The next Purcellville community art project is now being rolled out. Seeking artists of all ages to paint a large Holiday ornaments to be display around Purcellville this December. We have 14 different designs to choose from including Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa themes. The ornament cut-outs are a flat design ranging in size from 24" to 48" tall. To get a cut-out to paint, stop by Re-Love It or call Michael Oaks for more info 540 751-0707.

## Southern States Celebrates Ground Breaking For New Building



Eddie Potts shared stories of Purcellville when it was just a farming community.



Southern States in Purcellville celebrated their ground breaking for construction of their new store which will reopen March 1. The store will be 12,000 square feet with 60 parking spaces on the property. In the interim, the store will relocate during construction to the Loudoun Truck Center at 631 West Main Street.

Dan Virts, the store manager, said that the decision for the expansion was due to the growing broad customer base.

## Artwork Sought For W & OD Trail Exhibit

Regional artists and craftspeople are invited to enter their original artwork in the W & OD Trail Exhibit and Sale at Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville. This exhibit celebrates the beauty and historical nature of the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. This exhibit will be on display at Franklin Park Arts Center from November 4 through December 4. Artwork can be dropped off on Monday October 31 and Tuesday, November 1 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. There is a \$20 entry fee.

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## Pandolfi Plays Gershwin At Franklin Park On Oct. 29

American pianist virtuoso Thomas Pandolfi will play the music of George Gershwin on Saturday, October 29 at 7 p.m. at Franklin Park in Purcellville. Pandolfi has recently performed as a guest soloist with The National Philharmonic, The Ohio Valley Symphony, the North Charleston Pops and the Wilson Symphony. Tickets for the concert can be purchased online at [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org). The price is \$25. The price for a ticket and for admission to a VIP post-concert reception is \$55.

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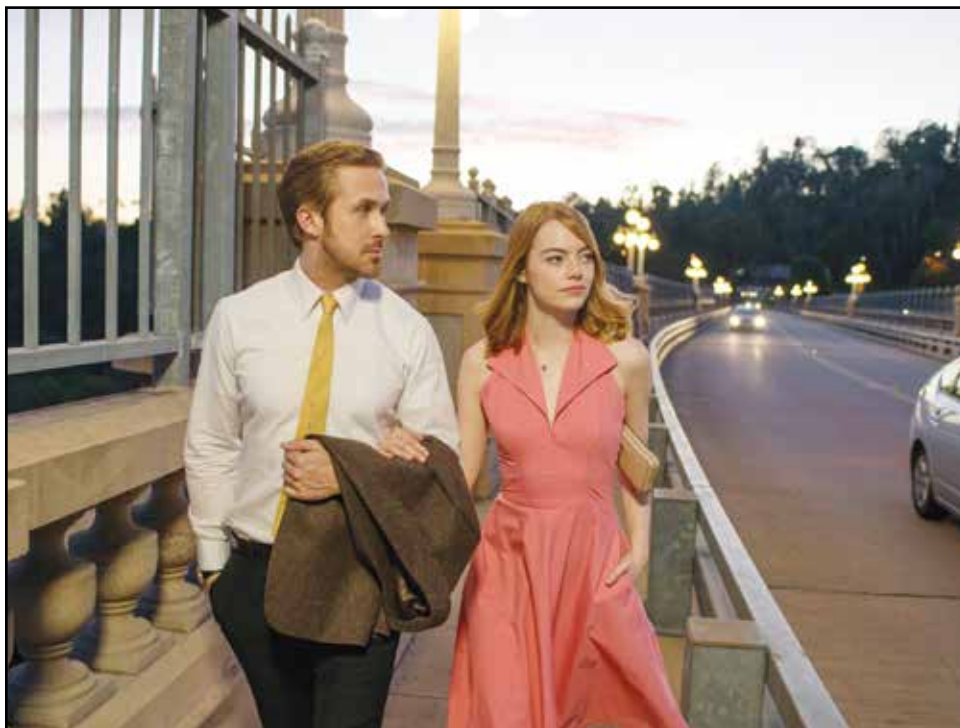


FARMS

CRAFT BEVERAGES

SPECIAL EVENTS

## Middleburg Film Festival Announces “La La Land” As Its 2016 Centerpiece Film



Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone in LA LA LAND.

Photo by Dale Robinette

The Middleburg Film Festival announced the highly anticipated film *LA LA LAND* as its 2016 Centerpiece selection. *LA LA LAND*, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, will screen on Saturday, October 22 with Oscar-nominated director Damien Chazelle (*Whiplash*) in attendance. The Festival runs October 20 through October 23 in Middleburg. For more info, go to [middleburgfilm.org](http://middleburgfilm.org). The Coca-Cola Company is the festival's presenting sponsor.



## Proclamation To Recognize Tracy Robinson

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser read a proclamation, initiated by Council Member Kelli Grim (third in from right), to recognize the extraordinary fundraising effort of Tracy Robinson. Robinson, a cancer survivor, raised \$100,000 in 10 weeks as a candidate for man and woman of the year with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



A \$50,000 grant for childhood leukemia research was named in honor of Gina and Illiana Ruben of Purcellville, both cancer survivors. Tracy Robinson choose to designate money from the \$100,000 she raised for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

### CARVER CENTER EVENTS – OCTOBER 2016

**Lyme Support Group (Ages 18 and up)** Tuesday, October 4 (and all first Tuesdays), 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Decluttering Clothing (Ages 55 and up)** Wednesdays from October 5 through October 19, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No sign-ups after first week.

**Flu Shots (Ages 55 and up)** Thursday, October 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Monthly Lunch and Movie: Calendar Girls (Ages 55 and up)** Friday, October 7, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Order lunch by noon on October 6 (571-258-3459).

**Simon's Corgi Tricks (Ages 55 and up)** Friday, October 14, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**New! Inkle Loom Weaving (Ages 55 and up)** Tuesday, October 18, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. "Inkle" means "ribbon" or "tape." Learn to weave bands of one to three inches to make bracelets, belts, dog collars or leashes.

**Advanced Beginner Watercolor (Ages 55 and up)** Wednesdays 10/19-11/30, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 for six classes. Supplies provided.

**Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Counseling** Appointments on Wednesdays 10/19-12/7 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (morning hours only on 11/23). Please call 571-258-3400 to schedule your 1.5-hour appointment.

**Fire Safety Presentation (Ages 55 and up)** Friday, October 21, 1 to 2 p.m.

**Beginner Watercolor Painting (Ages 55 and up)** Fridays 10/21-12/9, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 for six classes. Supplies provided.

**October Lunch Bunch: Romano's Macaroni Grill, Sterling** Friday, October 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration closes October 14. Bus transport for \$4.

**Core and More (Ages 16 and up)** Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10/25-12/9, 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Cost: \$120 for 18 classes. A blend of upper body and lower body exercises featuring Pilates movements and weight lifting.

**Decluttering Paperwork (Ages 55 and up)** Wednesdays 10/26-11/9, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Halloween Dance (Ages 55 and up)** Friday, October 28, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets: \$3.00

**Intermediate Watercolor Class (Ages 55 and up)** Mondays 10/31-12/5, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$30 for six classes. Students bring their own materials.

**Body Sculpting (Ages 15 and up)**

Mondays and Wednesdays 10/31-12/12, 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$100 for 12 classes. Bring a mat. Tighten and shape your muscles using resistance bands, Pilates balls and weights.

**Monday Morning Moves (Ages 55 and up)**

Mondays, on-going, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Kick-start your week with light aerobics, hand weights, bands, and balls aimed at building core strength and increasing muscle awareness, balance, coordination and mental stimulation.

## Fall Gardening and Activities –Five Reasons Why You Can Skip Garden Cleanup

The familiar fall ritual is upon us –cleaning up the gardens and lawn for the long winter. But as it turns out, there are many reasons why it's better to keep gardens intact over the winter.

- **It's less work.** And it is getting cold and there is probably a football game to watch or a book to read.

- **Leaves are good for gardens.** They are nature's winter mulch that protect plant roots from freezing soil. As they decompose over the winter, they become valuable organic matter.

- **Bees, Butterflies and Birds.** Insects need a protected place to spend the winter. They hide in the hollow stems of plants or burrow under leaf piles. Birds benefit from the abundance of insects. If we cut everything down, we destroy overwintering sites for these critical pollinators.

- **Predatory insects like ladybugs,** lacewings, and beetles like to eat pests and also like to hibernate in winter gardens as either adults, eggs, or pupae. You'll be glad they are in your garden come spring.



- **Winter interest.** Grasses, dried flowers and plants look beautiful dusted with snow – better than a barren landscape. And birds nibbling on the seeds and berries in your garden are fun to watch during the cold days of winter.

If you do have the urge to clean up, please join the Weed and Waste Warrior volunteers on October 11 from 4:30-7p.m. at the Chapman DeMary

Trail to help pull invasive plants and mulch the path. The trail is located at 355 North Hatcher Avenue (behind the building at 205 East Hirst Road) in Purcellville, Virginia.

Another great fall activity at the trail is the annual Hail to the Trail, held this year on Sunday, November 6 from noon to 3 p.m. Come rain or shine and enjoy nature walks, music, kid's activities, live animals, food and drink, demonstrations, and local "green" businesses and environmental organizations.

The Nature Generation will unveil the trail sign that lists the names of individuals and businesses in the community who support this privately funded local asset. For details on how you can add your name to the sign by becoming a sponsor, please visit [www.NatGen.org](http://www.NatGen.org) or e-mail Amie Ware, [aware@NatGen.org](mailto:aware@NatGen.org).



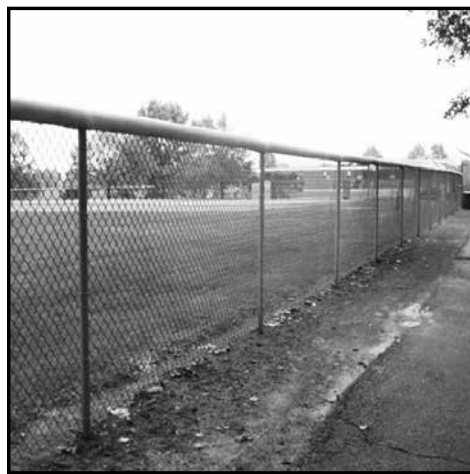
## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Robinson Park

—By Tim Jon

Looking back, now - I'm glad it wasn't what most people would've considered a nice day; I don't know about you, but I've had my share of hot and sunny to last me for at least a generation (especially since my 'office' is right out in the street where you may live). No - the morning of my last visit to Robinson Park in Northeast Leesburg, the conditions were memorably cool, cloudy, and even a little windy. The day hadn't really gotten started yet (you would've been hard-pressed to say just exactly where the sun was - somewhere behind all those greyish masses marching across a dark sky), and I recall moving with a definite purpose of generating a little personal warmth out of the situation. Now,



JON



all this may serve as evidence to keep most of us safe at home under similar weather; for me - I've long preferred the sort of day that comes right up and introduces itself (even working outside - as long as I survive the experience, I look back at elemental

inclemency as at least stimulating - if not always 'fun' at the time).

Now - a walk around Robinson Park isn't exactly a remote, wilderness excursion, is it? The small, scattered stands of trees and the culverted little part-time brook serve as about the only outstanding natural features, with the ballfields and manicured grass looking pretty tame; so, a little challenge from the climactic conditions came as a welcome distraction from the surrounding domesticity.

But I was still outside, after all - exposed to whatever the skies chose to throw my way. So, the antemeridian perambulation left its indelible mark on me: Literally - I had goosebumps and raised hairs from the low temperatures, and figuratively - my sense memory being more accurate than that of the mere intellect - I can still 'feel' my way back there in time and enjoy it all over again - like, right now. And, if the

human race retains any of the herd and flock instincts of the 'lower' creatures (Ever wonder how a swarm of blackbirds can all change direction in the same instant?) you can get an inkling of the experience for yourself. And, I just may possess a better mental picture of Robinson Park's 10 acres, athletic fields, walking trail, gentle sloping hill, picnic tables, nearby Leesburg Elementary School and surrounding Exeter neighborhood because of Mother Nature's participation in the event.

And - who knows? Maybe next time it'll even be raining; one can only hope. So, if you should see a strange character out there walking the perimeter some early - wet - possibly cold - morning, it could be yours truly - out for a stroll when any 'sensible person' would be safely tucked in at home. Not that I would disagree - much of the time - with those

*Continued on page 42*

## We Are Not Safe

—By Nick Reed

As citizens of a Western country, we are not safe.

We are not safe in a train. We learned this on July 18 when a 17-year-old refugee started attacking people with an ax on a German commuter train near Würzburg, Germany before being shot dead by policemen. He declared himself a "soldier of the caliphate (ISIS)" and carried a homemade ISIS flag on his person during the attack. Four passengers on the train were wounded.

We are not safe at a music festival. On July 24, a Syrian refugee in Ansbach, Germany blew himself up with a homemade bomb outside a wine bar near an outdoor music festival. It was later discovered that he had pledged allegiance to ISIS. Twelve bystanders were injured.

We are not safe in our places of worship. In Rouen, France, this became clear on July 26 when two terrorists burst into a morning Mass in a Catholic church in Rouen, France. The two, videotaping their actions continuously, used the church's altar to give an unknown sermon in Arabic and proceeded to take hostages and murder the priest who had been giving the Mass. French SWAT units were soon on the scene and killed the two before they could commit any more murders. ISIS claimed responsibility after the fact.

We are not safe in a nightclub. We realized this after the deadliest Islamist terrorist attack on US soil since 9/11, an American of Afghan descent shot up a nightclub in Orlando, Florida that catered to gay and lesbian people until police killed him after a 2-hour long siege. The terrorist pledged allegiance to ISIS in a 911 call and expressed other

Islamic supremacist beliefs. Forty-nine patrons of the club were killed and 53 others wounded.

We are not safe at patriotic celebrations. This became horrifically apparent on the night of July 14, when a Tunisian in Nice, France drove a cargo truck into a crowd of people returning from a Bastille Day celebration. After plowing through the crowd, the driver emerged from the truck, guns blazing, and died in a shootout with police. Eyewitnesses reported the man screaming "Allahu Akbar" and ISIS later claimed responsibility for the attack, calling the man a "soldier of the Islamic State." In total, the attack killed 84 people, some of whom were so badly mangled that it took days to identify them, and injured another 308.

We are not safe in our workplaces. We were exposed to this fact on December 2, 2015 when a couple of Pakistani descent gunned down an office Christmas party in San Bernardino, California. They then initiated a high speed chase with police until the police killed them in their rented SUV. ISIS claimed the couple as "supporters" of their regime and their computer records showed that they had read and watched considerable amounts of ISIS propaganda. Fourteen people were killed and 22 others wounded.

We are not safe from ISIS and their supporters anywhere. We will not be safe from them until we have destroyed ISIS as completely as we destroyed Nazi Germany.

*Nick Reid is a graduate of Loudoun County high schools and is currently pursuing a degree in geology and paleontology at the South Dakota School of Mines.*

## Invisible Illnesses

—By Mary Rose Lunde



LUNDE

It is general knowledge that when people think about illnesses, they don't think about illnesses that aren't physically apparent. Sure, people know about conditions such as multiple sclerosis and other diseases with visible symptoms, but many have never even heard of conditions like POTS or CPRS, which don't show outward symptoms, and don't often require braces or wheelchairs. No, people live with these illnesses, and struggle daily without our knowledge.

It is unfortunate to say that these people who may need to park in handicap spots are cast down simply because they look normal. It is unfortunate that these people get bullied and harassed because they don't have "actual illnesses" that show outward symptoms. It is a disgrace that these people are shamed for something they can't control, an actual medical condition that impacts their lives so much that they have to park in a handicap spot.

Perhaps it is simply ignorance, or that people are just too afraid to understand what people have to go through. I suspect that their minds would be changed, if they would just talk to these people and attempt to understand them. If anything, the least they could do is be respectful to them, and treat them as they would treat a dear friend. In my opinion, these people deserve more respect than ordinary people, because of how resilient they are, how much they have to fight every day to simply live the normal lives we take for granted.

A friend of mine posted on social media a while ago about her diagnosis with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), which is a condition in which a person's blood pressure is raised or lowered as soon as the patient stands. It is a dangerous condition. My friend described

her struggles since her diagnosis. The biggest struggle she reported was getting out of her car one day after she had parked in a handicap spot. A person had given her a dirty look and told her that she should give her spot to someone who actually needed it. It is frustrating that this is the general consensus. People do believe that if there are no outward symptoms, then the condition is not worth acknowledging.

Also, the discussion of pain tolerance and of what should and should not be tolerated, based on the injury and what is seen on the outside, is quite frustrating. One of my friends who goes to University of Virginia has a condition called Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. She experiences pain constantly. Any sort of contact with her skin causes her extreme pain. She recently had a ketamine treatment at UVA Medical Center, where she spent multiple days in the hospital. Her pain has subsided for the time being. My friend doesn't look sick. If it weren't for her update, I would have never known she was ill. That's the thing about invisible illnesses. They aren't apparent to us because we don't look for them.

Now, I'm not saying any illness is better or worse than another. No, I just think it's important that everyone is reminded that people, despite what they may look like on the outside, may be sick and enduring unspoken pain. Understanding that people have their reasons, and giving people the benefit of the doubt, as well as treating them as people, is what matters here.

*Mary Rose is a firm believer that one should not look at someone and see only their outer appearance. She tries to give people the benefit of the doubt, and believes people may be struggling in ways that she can't see physically.*

## Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life Are Your Estate And Financial Plans Shock-Proof?

Don't wait until "what if?" becomes "what is."

### Where will you live as you age?

Think about your housing options now, so you have choices and won't have to make a hasty decision should an unexpected health event force you to move or modify your home.

#### Staying Put

Most of us prefer to stay in our homes as we age. If that sounds like you, plan in advance for modifications you might need to make your home safer or more accessible (e.g. ramps, wider doorways, grab bars.) Think about whether family members can take you to doctor's appointments, buy groceries and help with home maintenance. If you don't have a support system, you'll need a plan and budget for transportation, home repairs, and in-home health and personal care services. Hiring a personal aid, for example, costs an average of \$21 per hour.

Sources: Legg Mason, [longtermcare.gov](http://longtermcare.gov)

#### Moving Out

While it may be hard to imagine today, if you can't stay in your home due to a health event, consider other housing options that could provide more personal, social and healthcare support.

#### Assisted Living

Among the benefits of an assisted living facility: social connections with other residents and help with everyday tasks like laundry, taking medications and transportation. Some amenities are included in your rent and some cost extra. Your monthly rent could be as high as \$4,500, depending on the facility and care needed, so tour facilities in your price range and develop a short list. Ask about additional fees for services like help with dressing if you were to become less mobile.

#### Nursing Home

If you face a chronic illness or injury that requires 24/7 medical care, your next step may be a nursing home, also called a "long-term" or "skilled-care" facility. Tour facilities and talk to staff. Ask residents and their families (if you can) about the level of response and



AMY & DAN SMITH

care they receive.

Keep in mind these facilities are often part of a continuing care retirement community, so residents already in a community's independent or assisted care facility will get first preference on long-term housing. Ask if there's a waiting list for non-community retirees.

#### Continuing Care Retirement Communities

If you're thinking about the levels of care you may need as you age and prefer to minimize changing neighborhoods and providers, a CCRC may be your best option. These communities progress in cost and care, from independent apartments to assisted living and finally, long-term care. Ask whether there are buy-in costs that guarantee you first preference if, for example, you have to move from an independent apartment to the assisted living facility. Tour each facility within the CCRC and budget accordingly.

#### Tips

Visit at different times of day, including mealtimes. Talk to residents and visiting family members. Review fees for rent and additional services. Ask about average response time to assist a resident.

#### Next Steps

- Think about if you'll need transportation or live close enough to walk to shopping and medical facilities.
- Learn what fees are required upfront to buy into a continuing care retirement community.
- Calculate how much to set aside should you need long-term care.

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## In Defense of 'Adulthood'

— By Samuel Moore-Sobel

Most friends transitioning from college to the workforce long for the days of college, wishing to be back in class and participating in campus life. To be honest, I may be in the minority, but I have trouble understanding the desire to return to the past. Yet the fear of adulthood persists.

The term "adulthood" is often used by millennials in reference to the transition from college to the workforce. The urban dictionary defines it as, "to do grown up things and hold responsibilities," such as paying bills and obtaining employment. More precisely, the appropriate moniker is #adulthood. What else can one expect from a generation schooled in the ways of social media? Complicated feelings are diminished to an emoji. Our society was built upon the foundation of the written word. Now it has been reduced to a hashtag. #irony

For those who have yet to reach this developmental phase, let me paint a clearer picture than you will likely receive at your academic institution; and, for those of you who have already made the transition to adult life, you might find these observations insightful...more likely amusing. I must warn you that adulthood is far from easy. Many friends and colleagues are saddled by student loan debt or car payments, making the prospect of making ends meet all the more challenging. The credit card may prove too alluring for some. There are investment strategies to adopt, stock picks to consider. A friend told me recently, "You know you've reached adulthood when you hear, 'How can I diversify my portfolio?'" Sound exciting, anyone?

Plotting career moves will likely take up a considerable amount of time. The reality of embarking upon a career path after graduation differs greatly from the ill-fated plans mapped out within the safe walls of academia. Intense competition demands countless applications be submitted, numerous interviews attended. Once you land the job, nagging questions will likely persist, such as, "Am I spending each day doing what I love, or showing up for the paycheck?" Asking such a question could evoke a sense of guilt. In an economy that has been particularly unkind to those falling within my age bracket over the last several years, is it right to complain if you feel underutilized in your current position?

The flexibility and excitement of college life fades as one embarks upon a career, often betraying predictability. Similar to a scene out of the movie *Groundhog Day*, every moment seems previously experienced. You wake up each morning and drive the same route to work. You get to the office and perform the same duties completed last week. After a few months, it can prove to be monotonous. Yet the cast of characters that you choose to grant access to your life can break through this repetitious cycle.

Long days at work are rewarded by weeknights and weekends filled with happy

hours and dinners. Predictably, a pack of cars travels around Northern Virginia in an effort to reach the destination of choice. Everyone has learned the hard way that I am not the one to follow on these sorts of excursions. Following behind my car can be tricky, due to my penchant for changing lanes at the last moment to reach the correct exit. Recently, a good friend has taken to picking me up whenever we go out. Asking him about this recently, wondering if this is due to a lack of driving ability on my part. "I just love driving," he responded in a convincing tone, although doubt remains.

Inevitably, adulthood brings a whole new set of annoying questions from those around you. Children are asked what they want to be when they grow up. College students are asked about their major and future career path. Yet, after you land a job, the focus shifts to relationships. "What will you do with that degree?" gives way to "Are you seeing anyone?" Family members want some evidence that you will one day bear heirs to the name. Friends pester you with questions about your love life, listing off the relationship status of everyone within your immediate orbit, and even those far outside it. One watches the rush to the altar and obsession with relationship status either with a bit of amusement or a sense of ... well ... missing out. We wish them well, while wistfully telling others that our time has not yet come. You combat the aggressive questions by simply telling others that you are too focused on your career to invest time in finding "the one," as if that is really in one's control anyway. If you really want to startle someone, tell the questioner that you will never get married because you are worried that the results of the impending presidential election will lead to the apocalypse.

Once you graduate college, life changes. In college, you meet many people and cultivate large groups of friends. The working world is different. Time becomes a more precious commodity. Forty to 60 hours a week are dedicated to your vocation. By very nature of this fact, you choose your friends wisely and make time for family. Deep questions about purpose and meaning are prone to randomly surface. Your friends and family are there to help you sort through the nagging questions and temporary moments of doubt. A wave of gratefulness washes over you.

So to all students who dread adulthood, do not fret. A world of mystery awaits you. True, adult life is complicated. Yet adulthood does have its upside. Making money is an empowering thing. Trips can be taken, dinners out more accessible. Save money, build your portfolio, and never forget what really matters. Friendship and family make life worth living. #reallife.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel has wanted to be an adult starting from the age of 5. His start to adulthood has been quite an adventure. Here's to hoping the adventure never ends.*



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# FALL FEST



## at Franklin Park

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**ACROSS**

- 1. Shed
- 5. Tees
- 9. Confusion
- 14. "Alfred" composer
- 15. Grunt
- 16. Beguile
- 17. Collections
- 18. Hint
- 19. "Family Affair" role
- 20. Replaces Samantha with Aunt Clara?
- 23. Get into a stew?
- 24. Sweep
- 25. Atoll protector
- 26. Trial
- 28. Get with strain
- 30. Put away
- 33. Secrets
- 35. Truth \_\_\_\_
- 37. Breaks the hearts of milliners?
- 41. "Bellefleur" author
- 42. Treeless region
- 43. Turk. airlines
- 44. Bring to bear
- 45. Ground ball
- 49. Hinged catch
- 52. + or - item
- 53. Gametes
- 54. Smaller Bic?
- 59. Butterfly genus
- 60. Nitwit
- 61. Michael Collin's country
- 62. As a whole
- 63. Affaire d'honneur
- 64. Model Kate
- 65. Rumble
- 66. Lofty nest, var.
- 67. Arrogant one

**DOWN**

- 1. Dissed, in a way
- 2. From the 1930s
- 3. Discrete unit
- 4. Actor Adam
- 5. Impossible
- 6. Gulf ship
- 7. Wildebeests
- 8. Warp
- 9. Butter up?
- 10. Liturgical vestment
- 11. Grassland blaze
- 12. Sum, \_\_\_\_, fui
- 13. Pewters
- 21. Seeks
- 22. Cholera
- 27. Part of A.P.R.
- 28. Flow from
- 29. U.S. architect
- 31. Blackguard
- 32. Germany's Dortmund-\_\_ Canal
- 34. Bell and Carney
- 35. Persuasive
- 36. Roster abbr.
- 37. Cold porter fan?
- 38. Derisive laugh
- 39. Irregular
- 40. With skill
- 44. Final: Abbr.
- 46. Hand \_\_\_\_
- 47. Extremely
- 48. Most unusual
- 50. Twinkle-toed
- 51. Thrash
- 52. German river
- 54. Big loser's nickname?
- 55. Crescent
- 56. Icelandic epic
- 57. Profligate
- 58. Hesitates

Answers on page 42

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

to complete what you signed her up for. If, however, your daughter truly experienced an "I can't" moment in gymnastics, than stopping was the right thing to do. This is because young children who are pushed harder than their emotional abilities allow are at a greater risk for experiencing increased stress/anxiety and even subsequent self-esteem and self-worth struggles.

Based on what you've written, it seems that your daughter was unhappy from the start and that she was unable to manage her feelings or herself in the environment; and, she was also unable to master the task at hand. Thus I think you did the right thing by removing her from a situation that was causing her pain and that would've likely only worsened for her with continued exposure to the stressor.

Differentiating from an "I don't want to" moment from an "I can't moment" for our children is not always easy, but when it comes to protecting our children from harm, loving parents who use their intuition and exercise their best judgment usually get things right.

Your husband's point that he doesn't want to raise a soft child that is later ill prepared to enter the world is valid, but perhaps he's being too rigid for where your daughter is in life. Developmentally, at 4 years of age, getting your daughter out of a situation she couldn't handle was the right thing to do, but you likely wouldn't have taken that same approach if she were struggling with a commitment at 14 years old or 34 years old. It's our job as parents to challenge our children and to hold them accountable (age appropriately) so that they can grow and succeed, but the challenges need to be reasonable and attainable.

Regarding your daughter, I don't think quitting gymnastics alone addresses the issue. For instance, what will you do the next time she wants you to sign her up for something? At 4 years of age, while it's important that your daughter is involved in activities

and is socializing, you can't quit everything you sign up for. Thus, I recommend easing your daughter into her next activity; perhaps take one lesson at a time until you feel your daughter is mature enough to handle a more meaningful commitment to a given sport or activity.

Beyond your daughter, your choice to make the "executive decision" to quit gymnastics without including your husband, is problematic for me. I understand that you and your husband viewed your daughter's struggles with gymnastics differently, but by acting unilaterally, your conflict with your husband has only increased. I recommend that the two of you take some time to talk through this most recent disagreement, and perhaps come up with a game plan for how to be more together in the future when a problem for your daughter arises. If you are unable to reach a point of respectful compromise, seeking the help of a couple's therapist could be helpful.

Lastly, keep in mind that you're not alone in your moment, and many parents go through their own sort of gymnastics crises with their own children. Incidentally, I recently pulled my 6-year-old son from his baseball team in response to his strong upset over playing baseball. At first, he wanted to play, but from the start, he was miserable. After several attempts to make the experience a positive one, my wife and I allowed him to stop, and it was the right decision. I realized this when we walked off the field right before his first game, and he looked up at me with his face full of tears and said, "Thank you, daddy."

*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 released through Free Spirit Publishing. Go to AshburnPsych.com or call 703 723-2999.*

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**Open Burning Regulations For Fall And Winter**

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office has reminded residents that effective October 1, through midnight February 14, 2017, open air fires/open burning of leaves and trees, brush, yard and garden trimmings generated on site are allowed, except in the town limits of Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill, and subdivisions (urban or built-up areas) throughout the county.

Legally set open air fires are subject to all local regulations. Specifically:

Fires must be reported to the Emergency Communications Center at 703 777-0637 before ignition and when the fire is out.

- Fires shall be attended by competent person(s) 18 years of age or older, at all times, with provisions for control and extinguishment available.
- Fires must be limited to the burning of leaves and trees, brush, yard and garden trimmings, generated on site.
- The burning may be no closer than 50

feet from a structure and pose no hazards to a roadway.

- For agricultural purposes, such as clearing a field or fence row, for materials generated on site ; burning may be no closer than 1,000 feet from an occupied structure and may not pose a hazard to highways and airfields.
- For bonfires, provided that they consist of seasoned wood, piled neatly, can be no more than 5 feet in diameter by 5 feet

in height. The burning may be no closer than 50 feet from a structure.

- The burning of construction debris, plastics, tires, tar based materials, oil or petroleum based products, hazardous materials, chemicals, animal carcasses and similar materials or waste is prohibited countywide (towns included).  
 For open burning information, please call 703 737-8600 during normal business hours or visit www.loudoun.gov/firemarshal.

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**Answers to puzzle from page 38**

1	S	P	E	W	5	N	O	G	S	9	B	A	B	E	L		
14	A	R	N	E	15	O	I	N	K	16	A	M	U	S	E		
17	S	E	T	S	18	C	L	U	E	19	S	I	S	S	Y		
20	S	W	I	T	21	C	H	E	S	22	I	T	C	H	E	S	
23	E	A	T	24	O	A	R	25	R	E	E	F					
26	D	R	Y	27	R	U	N	28	E	K	E	30	I	C	E		
				33	A	R	C	A	N	A	35	S	E	R	U	M	
37	S	H	A	T	38	T	E	R	S	H	A	T	T	E	R	S	
41	O	A	T	E	42	T	U	N	D	R	A						
43	T	H	Y					44	U	S	E	45	R	O	L	E	R
				48	P	A	W	L	50	I	O	N	51	O	V	A	
54	S	L	I	G	H	T	E	R	L	I	G	H	T	E	R		
59	L	U	C	I	A	60	D	O	L	T	61	E	I	R	E		
62	I	N	A	L	L	63	D	U	E	L	64	M	O	S	S		
65	M	E	L	E	E	66	A	D	E	R	67	S	N	O	T		

*Tim Jon, continued from page 33*

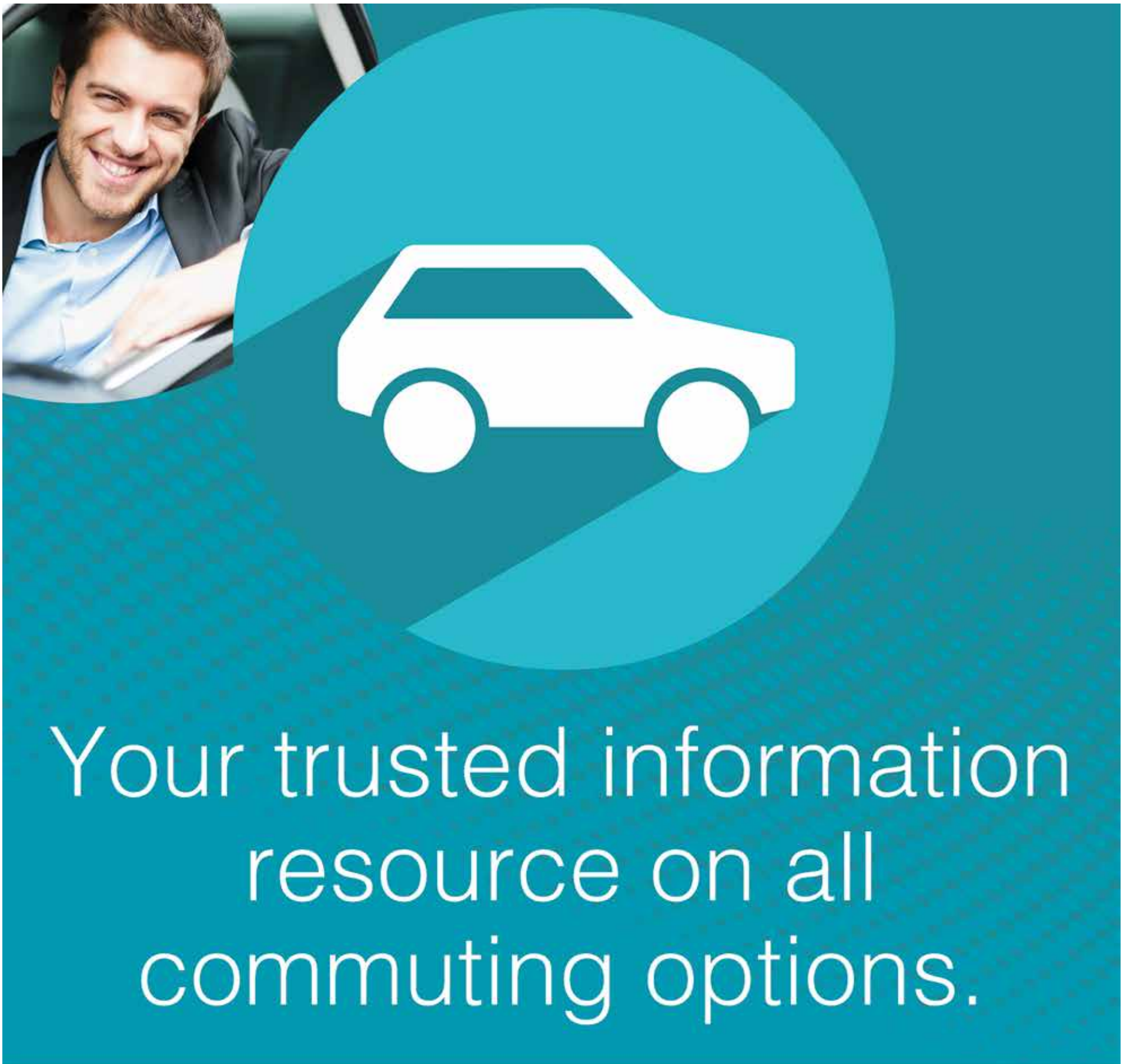
instincts, but I really do feel like that local walking path makes up a portion of what I consider my enlarged 'home.' OK, Robinson stands a bit more out of the way for me than Brandon Park or Olde Izaak Walton – and it's certainly far under the radar of the more popular Ida Lee – but I will keep it filed away under my list of places to stop and enjoy the atmospheric rewards of whatever moments find me in that part of town. And if it's inclement enough, I may even leave my electronic device in the car – truly 'roughing it,' as Mark Twain might have said. And, as I pull my hat brim down a bit to shield my face from whatever's falling from the clouds, I just may be thinking, "My, what a nice day!"

I'd like to think that the perfect Robinson Park experience still lies out there – somewhere – in my future; the same holds true for the rest of my favored – and, even undiscovered – local places. The dawn is on the horizon; we may as well strap on our boots and go out to greet it.

Aren't you gonna come? We're just about there, now...

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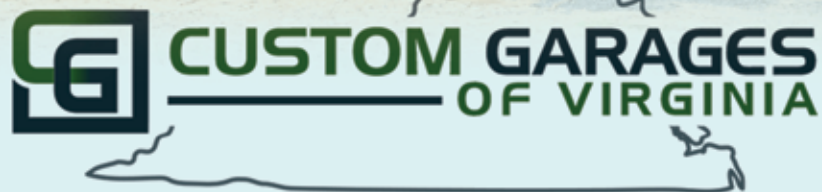
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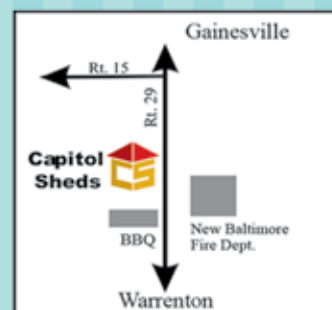
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