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## Developers Go For The Gold In Comp Plan Review

### Two Decades Of Successful Managed Growth On The Line



– By Andrea Gaines

Each of the growth management strategies that Loudoun County has used to protect itself as an exceptionally unique place – while wrestling with its position as one of the fastest growing counties in the nation – is on the table as the Board of Supervisors conducts its legally-required 15-year review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Formally entitled “Envision Loudoun,” the effort is expected to take 18 months, extending through the spring of 2018. Phase I entails a series of “Listening & Learning Workshops,” facilitated by the consulting firm of McBride Dale Clarion.

Department of Planning and Zoning Director Ricky Barker has described this as “an open, inclusive process that connects and engages people to provide meaningful

The next Envision Loudoun Comprehensive Plan community outreach workshops will be Monday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at Woodgrove High School, 3681 I Allder School Road in Purcellville, and Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place in Sterling. To learn more, go to [www.EnvisionLoudoun.org](http://www.EnvisionLoudoun.org).

opportunities to influence the future of our county.”

But, in the background is the palpable resentment many builders have at continued opposition to new development ... and the raw wounds left by citizen efforts to save Short Hill Mountain from AT&T’s 160,000 sq. ft. “transmission” structure, to stop the Catesby special events facility near the

*Continued on page 4*

## Ugly Christmas Sweater Fad Keeps Growing



Since 2012, the Re-Love It consignment shop, at 138 N. 21st Street in Purcellville, has developed the reputation as the place to get your Ugly Christmas Sweater in the Metro D.C. area. In that time, Re-Love It has sold more than 3,000 vintage Ugly Christmas Sweaters.

Co-owner Michael Oaks says people have come from Richmond, Annapolis, Fredericksburg, and beyond to find that perfect tacky Christmas sweater to wear to their office or home Christmas party.

Oaks says that when Re-Love It started selling Ugly Christmas Sweaters in 2012, it had 30 in stock, the next year 100. By September, Re-Love It had 2,400 on hand, and garnered considerable Metro-area and national publicity as the largest seller of Ugly Christmas Sweaters. It still has hundreds in stock, so don’t miss out.

## Very Special Arts Of Loudoun – Performs Parade Train



Franklin Park Arts Center featured performances of the Parade Train by VSA Nov. 18-20. The performance celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic Purcellville tradition, with the Parade Train used to welcome the holiday with stops along the WO&D Railroad towns. Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser made a cameo appearance to the surprise of the cast and audience.



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*Former Owner - Just Sold- 17295 Arrowood Place, Villages of Round Hill*



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**ASK DR. MIKE**

- By Michael Oberschenider, Psy.D.

Dear Concerned Parent,

*Dr. Mike,*

*My son was diagnosed with ADHD two years ago, and his pediatrician at that time recommended we try a social skills group for his "immaturity" and "impulsivity." We did that, and our experience was horrible. The kids in the group had much bigger problems than my son and a couple of them actually had Autism and not ADHD. One child couldn't control himself and hit my son and that was our last group with them. I think the group made things worse because my son was very self-conscious and anxious afterwards. Fast forward two years later, and my son is still socially immature and impulsive and now his fourth grade teacher is recommending a social skills group for him. Ugh! The place we went to two years ago is supposed to be the best social skills group practice in our area, so now what? Thank you for your guidance. Concerned Parent*



**Dr. Mike**

It's common for children with ADHD to have social challenges, and social skills groups can sometimes be helpful. Reading social cues and nuances, starting and maintaining conversations, regulating emotions and behaviors, impulsivity, sharing and taking turns, greeting others, asking for help, responding to others, are several of the areas a good group would address for a child with ADHD in the Fourth Grade.

But as a child psychologist who sees a lot of children with ADHD, I can tell you that your experience isn't unusual. Finding a good social skills group isn't an easy thing to do, and I frequently speak with many parents with your very same problem.

Research in this area has identified three factors that contribute toward a group's success - (1) the group members should be the same age or close in age, (2) the group should be small (e.g., 3-7 kids), (3) and the children in the group should have similar struggles. These three things, along with having a well-

*Continued on page 30*

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# A Final Ode To Thanksgiving 2016



On Saturday Nov. 5 members of the Purcellville Town Council, Mayor Fraser and Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall pardoned Lord Percy who resides at Fields of Athenry Farm in Purcellville. Chair Randall wrote a poem for the occasion:

*I'm honored to pardon Lord Percy the turkey,  
I believe it's appropriate to grant him this mercy.  
His gift to me is that I will be thinner,  
Because Lord Percy will not be my dinner.*

Lord Percy was thrilled to return to his home in Purcellville along with his owner, Elaine Boland. From left to right: Council Members Nedim Ogelman, Ryan Cool, Karen Jimmerson, Chair Phyllis Randall, Elaine Boland with Lord Percy and Mayor Fraser.

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7:00-8:30pm  
Woodgrove High School  
36811 Allder School Road, Purcellville

**Thursday, December 8**  
7:00-8:30pm  
Cascades Senior Center  
21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling

More activities will be announced, please check the website for dates, locations and additional details.

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## Comp Plan Review continued from page 1

historically black settlement of Willisville, and to derail the enormous, suburban-sized shopping center approved for the distinctly non-suburban Transition Policy Area – all projects incompatible with the intent of their zoning districts.

In the midst of all of this, too, are the 29,000 new residential units already approved and yet to be built, and Metro's Silver Line – expected to more than triple the number of new residents in that area – from 7,000 to 22,000.

The business community is looking for the growth pendulum to break through (and in some places, shatter) citizen efforts to limit development. And, preservationists, property owners in the TPA, individuals looking for lower tax rates, and suburban residents who support the idea of a rural west are getting nervous.

### Managed Growth Is Essential To Loudoun's Uniqueness – A History

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved several very large residential developments. By 1995 there were 50,000+ approved but yet-to-be-built residential units, with thousands more added each year.

In very short order, taxpayers were on the hook for dozens upon dozens of new schools. Residential tax rates went from an

average of \$1,534 in 1994 to over \$5,000 in 2011. And, VDOT was falling behind in building new roads. At the same time, the state legislature was saying “no” to tools localities could use to manage and pace growth: “no” to building-permit moratoria; “no” to adequate public facilities ordinances; “no” to developer-impact fees; and “no” to affordability indexes.

Just as things reached a breaking point, voters ushered in a new board, starting the county on a path it has struggled to maintain; *consistent efforts at managed growth*.

Seven major rezonings were denied, future housing units were cut by some 83,000, and new uses were proposed for the west while some densities were lowered. Then, a new Comprehensive Plan was written to reflect today's three-part growth management strategy: 1) focus new development in the suburban east where it was compatible with existing uses and densities; 2) lower some densities and add new uses in the west to support open agricultural lands and traditional ways of life; and 3) create a central Transition Policy Area with neighborhood-based commercial centers, progressive open space requirements, clustered housing, and more, including a green buffer between east and west. Subsequent boards have watered down some of the earlier board's work: cutting environmental protections in wetland areas, weakening the TPA, and adding 60,000 residential units back into the plan.

However, the three-part growth management strategy – rural west, transitional middle, and

suburban east—has survived.

### The Board's Agenda For The Comp Plan Review

In a recent case, the Loudoun County's three-part managed growth strategy faced one of its most difficult challenges, and lost. On Sept. 22, supervisors voted 5-3-1 to give final approval on the Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center in Aldie. Featuring one of the largest Harris Teeters in the country, the project included by special exception, a 10-pump gas station, and an increase of 30,000 sq. ft. to the already approved 105,000 sq. ft. grocery store.

Transition Policy Area residents had come out by the hundreds in sustained opposition to the special exception. Supervisor Tony R. Buffington, Jr. (R-Blue Ridge), who represents these residents, voted no. But, he had also failed to secure support from other supervisors to protect the TPA lands within his own district. And in a recent BOS strategy meeting, Buffington seemed to dismiss the whole concept, saying that the TPA carried that designation “in name only,” due to the crush of highly-suburbanized lands on its borders. This sentiment was echoed by Geary M. Higgins (R-Catoctin) and Matt F. Letourneau (R-Dulles). In an earlier interview with the Blue Ridge Leader, when asked if he supported higher residential development in the Transition Policy Area, Higgins said, “No, I do not.”

BOS Chair Phyllis Randall is on record as supporting the TPA, and has said that putting suburban-style development right up to the TPA's borders is not wise. But,

the board, under her leadership, has made taking a look at the TPA a priority within the Comp Plan and Envision Loudoun process. The area's open space requirements could be changed or eliminated, road and trail systems designed to connect specific neighborhoods to specific low-impact commercial areas might migrate back to more suburban-style boulevards with destinations versus neighborhood shopping. Densities could go up—or, the TPA could be eliminated altogether.

Developers and their supporters on the board have been pushing for changes in the TPA for some time.

The debates around what new uses should be allowed in the rural west, what kinds of activities should be allowed in open space areas set aside for agriculture, forestry, and the like, and what constitutes a “strong rural economy” and “quality of life” for western residents is also on the board's Comp Plan agenda.

### Who Is Advising The Board?

#### ZOAG

The Zoning Action Ordinance Group, authorized by law to advise the county on revisions and updates to the General Plan, has proposed 36 additional uses for rural and open space land in the county.

Updated in October 2016, and dominated by developers, ZOAG's members/affiliations include: Lou Canonico, Christopher Consultants, Northern Virginia Building Association; Kevin Ruedisueli, Kevin Ruedisueli, Inc. (an architect who has

*Continued on page 5*

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Since 1984

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### We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor:

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Please include your name,  
address and telephone number.

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

## Letters To The Editor

### Loudoun's "Rural Economy" and "Quality of Life" Grassroots Vs. Astro turf

Dear Editor:

The Transition Policy Area is a valuable asset to Loudoun County, and gives us a sense of place and beauty, which we are fast losing as more and more of the suburban area is built to capacity. The TPA is rich with amenities for all the residents of Loudoun County. With the mandate of 50-70 percent open space, the TPA offers space for recreation, ball fields, walking, biking and equine trails and farming.

The TPA serves as an invaluable buffer to further westward sprawl. Many families moved to the TPA region of Loudoun County to enjoy the lower density living environment while still enjoying improved amenities and infrastructure. Additionally, the TPA is highly desirable with easy access to both suburban and rural areas.

In recent years, developers have been attempting to significantly increase the density of housing in the TPA. While several

rezoning applications were disapproved by or withdrawn from the previous Board of Supervisors, the current Board has indicated a willingness to look more favorably upon such applications.

Some supervisors have publicly indicated, that after the New Comprehensive Plan is completed, the TPA will not look anything like the current plan or may be eliminated altogether.

In the TPA, there are many very valuable historical, cultural and environmental areas that need to be protected and preserved for current and future generations. Recently, more than two dozen locations in the TPA were identified as potential historical, cultural or environmental heritage sites, perhaps even worthy of National Register for Historic Preservation status – the most significant designation given to rare historic assets in the country.

In Loudoun County and in the TPA, residential building has outstripped most capital infrastructure including roads and schools. Rush hour traffic from and through the TPA increases each month and

recently completed schools are already overcrowded, requiring the use of mobile classrooms (trailers). Increasing residential building and density increases the county tax deficit – for every \$1 in residential taxes collected, it costs the county between \$1.20 to \$1.62 to provide services for these homes. The shortfall at the county level is passed on to all homeowners and businesses. It is irresponsible leadership when the net is to live beyond our means while depleting and destroying the asset.

As Loudoun County looks to the future, preserving the Transition Policy Area is vital as a buffer to further high density expansion to and through the Rural Policy Area. If we are to preserve the high value land, cultural, historical and environmental significance of this extraordinary county, there clearly needs to be fireline ... a tripwire ... a buffer, beyond which the insatiable pace of residential growth cannot breach.

Donald G. Goff  
Transition Area Alliance  
Aldie

**Comp Plan Review continued from page 4**

also worked as a regional manager for the Toll Brothers); Malcom Baldwin, former White House Council on Environment Quality and former candidate for supervisor. Baldwin owns the Weatherlea B&B; Gem Bingol, Piedmont Environmental Council Clarke and Loudoun County Land Use Officer; Brent Campbell, Dulles Area Association of Realtors; Packie Crown, Bowman Consulting; Kevin Daniel, Northern Virginia Building Association;

Colleen Gills, Cooley LLP (representatives for Washington Metrorail, the One Loudoun development project, and others); Mark Hassinger, WestDulles Properties, Inc.; Judith Meany, School of Architecture and Practice, the Catholic University of America; Georjan Overman, Loudoun County Bed & Breakfast Guild; Joe Paciulli, Paciulli, Simmons & Associates, Ltd.; Patrick Quante, Bowman Consulting; Eric Zicht, Zicht & Associates, PLC; and

Louise Zwicker.

All ZOAG members must file a COIS (Conflict of Interest Statement) upon joining the group. And, while the transparency is there in that sense, the recommendations of the developer-dominated group have huge implications for the nuts and bolts of how land is used and developed, and what regulations apply. Developers and their representatives know these issues inside and out; others, typically, do not.

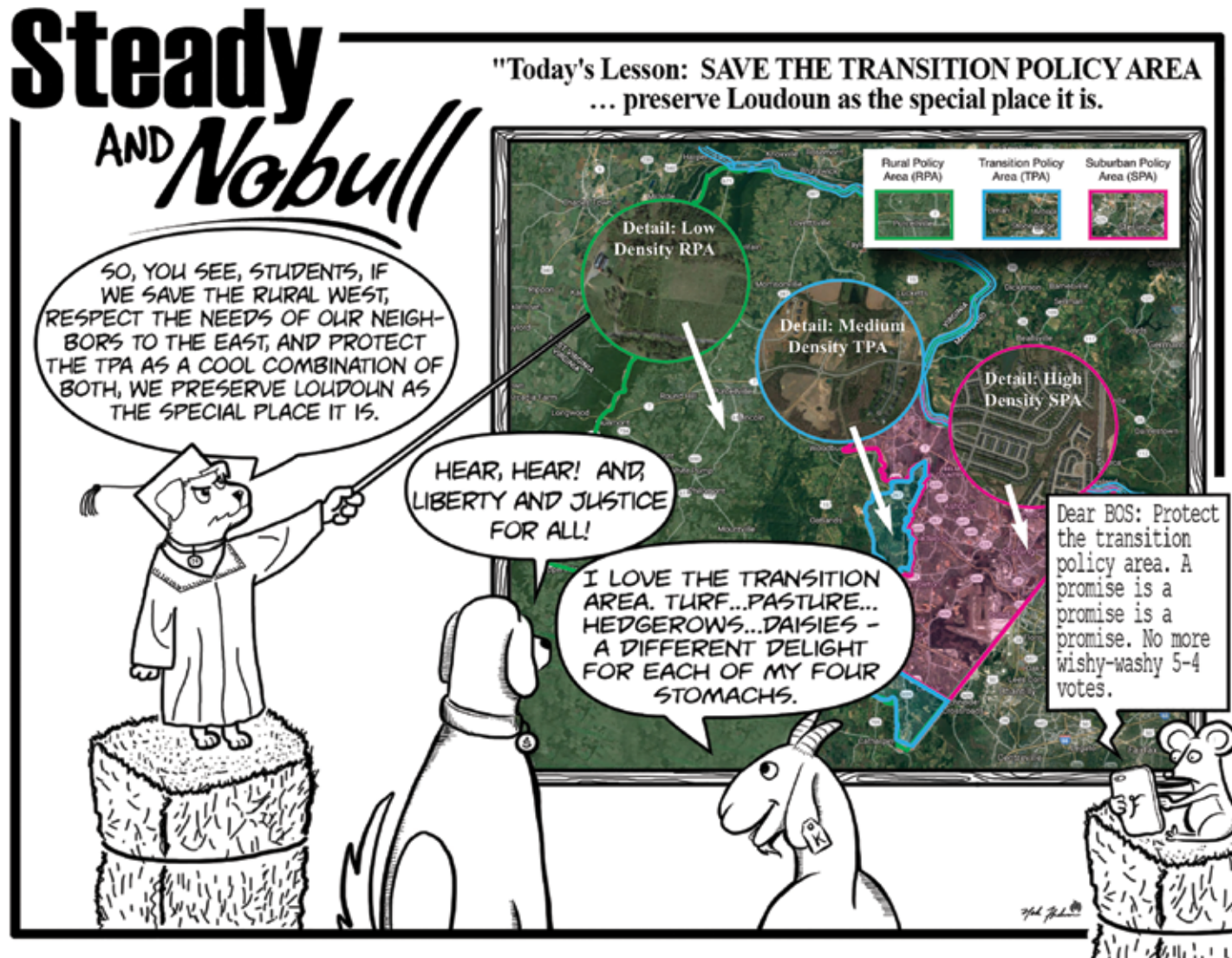
Do noise standards apply and can they be waived in some cases? Can a landowner change the course of streams, creeks, and other natural systems that also impact neighboring properties? Are floodplain studies required or can they be waived? If a structure is temporary, can its use bypass the regular rules? Will large paved surfaces be allowed in areas served by dirt roads? If a use generates more traffic than the old road can accommodate, can the road be widened ... and what about sidewalks ... do they belong in an area that doesn't even have a stop sign?

**The Envision Loudoun Stakeholder Group**

The county has appointed several dozen people from a wide variety of interests to serve as a "Stakeholder Group" to report back to the board what they are learning about what people want in their new Comprehensive Plan.

The Stakeholder Group includes many of the business, nonprofit, and citizen groups that make up ZOAG, but it too is dominated by developer, real estate, and business interests. These individuals include: Jeff Salmon PC (chair), Kathy Blackburn PC (vice chair), Chris Glassmoyer, David Mowbray, Chad Campbell, Lou Canonico, Kevin Ruedisueli, Mike Turner, Scott Fisher, Wendy Yacoub, Aaron Gilman, Mark Baker, Mark Hassinger, Lars Henriksen, Todd Pearson, John Andrews, Al Van Huyck, Michael Capretti, Keith Muerlin, Dr. Julie Leidig, Michelle Rosati, Packie Crown, Gem Bingol, Destry Jarvis, Beth Erickson, and Joseph Paciulli.

And, even though there are representatives of preservation-oriented organizations on bodies such as ZOAG and the Stakeholder Group, they don't have the votes to sustain any objections they might have to what will make up Loudoun County's new Comprehensive Plan.



**Kline Annexation Fails – Comp Plan Language Promoting Annexation Eliminated**



– By Valerie Cury

On Nov. 8, the Purcellville Town Council voted to deny the Kline/Purcellville Crossroads Annexation application 6-0-1, with Council Member Chris Bledsoe absent. This was one of the new Council's significant actions to date.

Pleasants Kline, along with three other property owners, had requested the annexation of approximately 50.4 acres. Currently zoned JLMA-3 (one house per three acres), the property is located at the

northwest corner of the intersection of Berlin Turnpike (Rt. 287) and Harry Byrd Highway (Rt. 7) and along St. Francis Court.

The proposal called for approximately 70 residential units, 75,000 square feet of commercial space, an 80-room hotel, and Tilley's Entertainment Center, including indoor and outdoor commercial recreational facilities.

Council Member Nedim Ogelman said it was very fortunate for the future of Purcellville to bring back this proposal

back for a vote, because he felt that during the election citizens were expressing their opinions on this issue. "There have been 59 emails submitted for the record tonight relevant to the Kline Annexations in general – one email in support of Kline. We should act, because citizens expressed their views – they have the information they need – and we act on the expressed will of what they want," said Ogelman.

Council Member Kelli Grim said, "It's long, long overdue. There is a plan for the

JLMA [Joint Land Management Area], it's clear – staff at the County level has said it in the memo sent March of 2013 – the Purcellville JLMA is no longer planned as a Town growth area, but instead will protect the existing residential development pattern, and serve as a County transition area between the Town and the rural policy area." Grim continued, "Further, the CPAM [Comp Plan Amendment] that was passed retains existing planned policies which

*Continued on page 19*



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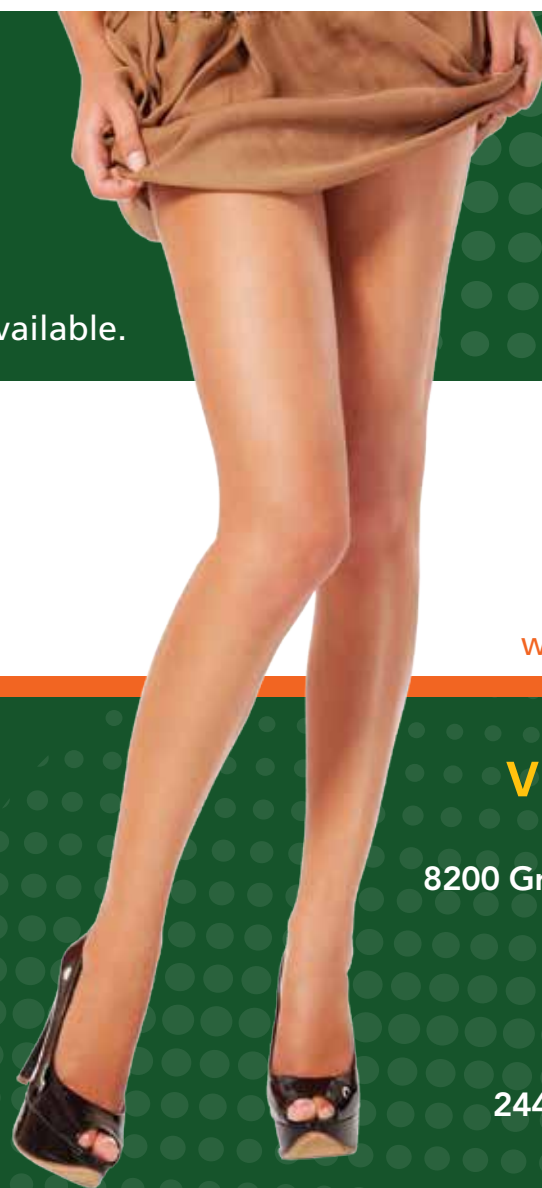
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# Catesby Vote Scheduled For Dec. 6

## Unexpected Commercial Use Garners Widespread Attention

– By Andrea Gaines

The Catesby proposal, permitting by minor special exception the operation of an events center on the historic, 160-acre Catesby Farm is on the agenda for a vote at the Board of Supervisor’s business meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

In the AR-2 Agricultural District, Catesby has been in permanent open space easement since 2004. The easement provides that neither the property nor the structures on

The Dec. 6 BOS Business Meeting starts at 5 p.m. At that time 8 individuals can sign up to speak. At 6:30 p.m. an unlimited number of speakers can sign up. To sign up in advance to speak call 703-777-0204.

it can be modified except to further its agricultural use, language designed to

accommodate a farm, an equine business, even a B&B – many of which have operated for decades in the area.

But, Robert and Michelle LaRose – heirs of tech giant and philanthropist Robert E. LaRose – hope to sidestep the easement’s agricultural restrictions – and the area’s agricultural zoning – in favor of a temporary events center model. They want a special exception to hold up to 20 events per year of 200 people each, with most necessities –

from staff, to tents, to bathrooms, to shuttle buses, to catering, to music, lighting and safety/security personnel – brought in and taken out on an event-by-event basis.

The proposal has generated lots of opposition since making it to the board’s agenda.

The Mosby Heritage Association, Unison Preservation Society, Piedmont Environmental Council, Goose Creek

*Continued on page 19*

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# A Home That Is A Beauty To Behold

– By Hannah Hager

Aging gracefully is usually a descriptor reserved for the beauty of a woman over time - not the constitution of a home over the decades. Nevertheless, this expansive home in the outskirts of Round Hill on Snickersville Turnpike does not easily betray its true age.

Built 40 years ago, the upkeep through renovations, upgrades and expansions has helped this home stay firmly in modern-day. The entrance is adorned with a stone facade that is accented by dormer windows and an expansive front porch. What appears

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*Continued on page 30*



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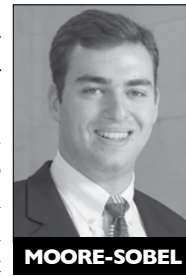
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# America: Worthy Of Our Trust

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel



MOORE-SOBEL

My friend and I sit in a bar near our office. He is upset, bags under his eyes due to lack of sleep. Thursday, our weekly night to meet is usually a happy hour filled with intellectual exchanges, much laughter, even sarcastic wit. Yet on this night, my friend is talking in hushed tones, detailing his anxiety over the future of our country. My optimistic outlook, borne from a sense of hope that pervades my very soul, make it impossible for me to share his dim view.

A man wearing a polo affixed with a military insignia sitting nearby overhears us. He launches into a long-winded statement voicing his support for a certain newly elected candidate. I steal the conversation back from the stranger, attempting to pivot towards an entirely unrelated subject. Still reeling from this odd exchange, my friend has an inattentive look on his face. His mind is somewhere else.

The November 8th results came as a shock to many. The polls, predictions, and pundits were largely wrong. As a result, the aftermath is pulling at the seams of our divided country, leading to demonstrations in many cities across America. Pockets of the nation are angry, and understandably so. There were rational, thoughtful reasons for supporting any of the candidates. It was far from an easy choice.

My father went to the polls undecided about which lever to pull. He stood in the booth for twenty minutes, deciding on every other race before confronting the top of the ticket. He pondered, struggled and searched his conscience. He filled in a circle. Moving towards the ballot box, he suddenly stopped short. His mind is changed.

Moments later he confronted an election official. “No problem, sir,” they say, instructing my father to invalidate the ballot by filling in every single circle. Once complete, he is walked towards a bin in which this null ballot must be inserted. It is overflowing. “I’ve been doing this for twenty-five years,” the man tells my father. “I’ve never seen anything like this.”

After such an arduous and divisive election season, is it even possible for the wounds inflicted to be assuaged so that Americans can come together and work towards a vision of hope? In her reaction to the election, the columnist Peggy Noonan wrote, “This is my fear: The question we ask after every national election is, ‘Can we come together?’ The question this year is more, ‘Do we even want to come together?’ Have the two nations within our nation reached a point of permanent estrangement?”

Noonan went on to detail an interaction with a man whose son was scared by the election results. He asked her what he could tell his son. “Tell him to trust America,”

she said. This correlated with my own feelings; mainly, that no one man or woman can fully change this great nation. Confident that the checks and balances our Founder’s created would ensure that our democracy would surely live on, that the principles binding our nation together were strong enough

to withstand the onslaught inflicted by one election cycle. That the values we hold dear regardless of party affiliation can serve as a bridge back towards moderation and civility.

Which brings us back to the Thursday after the election. My friend and I get up to leave. I breathe a sigh of relief as he grabs his coat, turning around in an effort to make a quiet exit. Until my friend stops and tells the man that he voted for the other candidate. The man apologizes. “No, no that’s ok. I have realized over the last few days that there are people in this country who feel left behind...” He goes on for a few seconds, eloquently speaking about the problems confronting the nation and admitting his preferred candidate’s vulnerabilities. Finally, while acknowledging the ideological chasm separating them, he boldly declares, “I am willing to work with you, are you willing to work with me?” The man readily agrees. “Will you shake my hand?” my friend asks. I watch in awe as the two men shake hands, unable to fully process what has just transpired. Upon reflection, it is a moment fully encapsulating an element of American greatness. Differences discussed freely and openly. Love of country successfully conquering blind loyalty to a fallen candidate.

This brings to mind a gem from the past. In January of 1993, a new President was about to assume office. It had been a hard-fought election, replete with insults and disparaging comments. An incumbent’s dream of a second term had been crushed by a little known, charismatic Southern governor. Despite the disappointment, no shots were fired. Unlike many parts of the world, the peaceful transition of power is the bedrock of our democracy. In that spirit, despite his intense disappointment, an outgoing President found it within himself to offer heartfelt words to his successor. “You will be our President when you read this note,” he poignantly wrote. “I wish you well. I wish your family well. Your success now is our country’s success. I am rooting hard for you.” Let’s never lose that, America. Let’s never lose the ability to shake hands with those who hold different views. Let’s keep rooting for our country’s success.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is hopeful for the future of the United States of America. His trust in the people that comprise this great nation has given him no reason to doubt that America’s best days still truly lie ahead.*

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# Amy and Dan Smith's Planning For Life

## Early Returns: How U.S. Markets Reacted To The Presidential Election

On Nov. 8, 2016, Republican candidate Donald J. Trump won a closely contested election for president of the United States.

Late on election night, when it became evident that Trump was likely to win, despite consistently trailing in the polls, foreign markets went into a deep dive. (fn. 1.) Many observers expected a similar reaction when the U.S. stock market opened on Nov. 9, but after an initial drop, the S & P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average, and NASDAQ rose throughout the day; and all three indexes closed up more than 1 percent. (fn. 2.) Although this was unexpected after the late-night surprise, it actually continued a two-day surge that began when Democratic Hillary Clinton was expected to win the election. (fn. 3.)

The market was mixed but steady the following day, Nov. 10, with the Dow again up more than 1 percent, a small increase in the broader S & P 500, and a moderate



AMY & DAN SMITH

decline in the NASDAQ which tends to be more volatile due to its inclusion of smaller, technology-driven companies. On Nov. 11, the NASDAQ recovered its loss, the Dow was slightly higher, and the S&P 500 was slightly lower – not unusual after a week of rising stock prices. (fn. 4.)

On the other hand, bond prices fell steeply the day after the election, and the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which rises as prices fall, jumped more than 2 percent for the day. This, too, was a surprise, because Treasuries are generally seen as a safe haven in times of uncertainty. But on the day after the election, investors were more interested in selling Treasuries than buying them. (fn. 5.) The Treasury sell-off continued on Nov. 10. (fn. 6) (Bond markets were closed on Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.)

The conciliatory tone of Trump's acceptance speech, Clinton's concession speech, and remarks by President Obama all indicate there will be an orderly transfer of power, which may have helped calm the markets.

Here are some additional implications that might be drawn from the initial market reaction:

First, although the Trump presidency was unexpected and his economic policies are untested, rising stock prices suggest that investors may be optimistic that his promised pro-business agenda could help the upward market trend of the last few years. Investors like clarity and consistency; and the fact that the same party will control the White House and Congress might create a more productive and predictable working relationship. (fn. 7) At the same time, fundamental differences between the president-elect and the Republican Congress suggest that any changes may be more measured than originally anticipated. (fn. 8)

Second, in this initial transition stage, money flowing out of Treasuries suggests that bond investors may see a Trump presidency as leading to higher inflation and higher interest rates, due to a combination of more protective trade policies and heavier government borrowing to fund

infrastructure spending, and reduced taxes for individuals and corporations. Declining bond prices might also reflect a belief that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates at its December meeting, despite the political surprise. (fn. 9)

Is the U.S. Economy strong enough to withstand any headwinds that arise from a changing administration? That remains to be seen, but fundamental economic indicators have been solid, and overreacting to political events is unwise. The most stable approach in changing times is generally to maintain a well-diversified portfolio using a strategy appropriate for your time frame, personal goals, and risk tolerance.

1) CNN Money, Nov. 9, 2016. 2), 5), and 7) MarketWatch, Nov. 9, 2016. 3) and 4) Yahoo! Finance, Nov. 11, 2016. 6) Marketwatch, Nov. 10, 2016. 8) New York Times, Nov. 9, 2016. 9) CNBC.com, Nov. 9, 2016.

*Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss. The principal value of stocks and bonds may fluctuate with market conditions. Stocks, when sold, and bonds redeemed prior to maturity may be worth more or less than their original cost. U.S. treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results; actual results will vary. Investing internationally carries additional risks such as differences in financial reporting, currency exchange risk, as well as economic and political risk unique to the specific country. This may result in greater share price volatility. Copyright 2016. Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved. The foregoing contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy Smith, CFP®, CIMA® Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent firm, offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176 (Tel.703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com) The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer.*

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## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: South Riding

– By Tim Jon



JON

I should have known that this one would take me far from my contemplative, Zen-inspired comfort zone; after I'd traversed more construction projects than I wanted to tally, competed with hurried, coffee-driven commuters with no time for mere existence, and kept a respectable distance from a fleet of school buses which would have made General Patton proud, I tried to enjoy a few moments of near peace at the South Riding Town Hall and pavilion – way down there in the corner of the County – smack dab in the center of a busy universe of activity. Now – having negotiated the pinball-like series of traffic circles on Route 50 – and successfully avoided all the heavy equipment entering and exiting my route – I felt entitled to just a bit of solace and deep breathing before heading back on the road for my return trip. I needed to hear some of those Tibetan monks, or something. Well, this is South Riding, I thought.

Commuter traffic, school buses and



ongoing construction; this still-rapidly-growing community appears much more complete, though, than at the time of my previous visit – probably five years earlier – but certainly hasn't slowed down its level of activity: if my early-morning weekday appearance represents the standard down here – well, let's just say that I'd be more relaxed in a beehive. Now, with all this in mind, I want to stress that my first actual visit to the South Riding Town Hall and pavilion (a charming little oasis) was a far cry from my latest; I had (half a decade, or so, ago) interviewed one of our local elected officials one summer Sunday morning, and I was amazed at the tranquility I encountered: Little, if any traffic (commercial and domestic life was

just starting to erase their cobwebs), and the most notable activity came in the flock of robins pulling worms out of the dewy lawns. I made a mental note at that time – in bold print – to return and savor the experience at greater length at my own leisure; hmmm – “Funny how things never turn out the way you had ‘em planned,” is one of my favorite Bob Dylan lines, and I can really apply it to my intentions to spend a peaceful Tuesday morning – in the Year 2016 – down at the Town Center in South Riding.

Well, it was my decision to drive there during a weekday rush hour, so maybe I'll just re-configure my vision to return at some point on another Sunday – or holiday, perhaps – when the workaday world is in neutral mode and I can enjoy that cup of java in some semblance of solitude, stillness and sanity – so I can prove to myself (once again) that our densely populated areas in Loudoun County contain their charm and battery-recharging properties, just like some of the more isolated spots. Ahh, images of this sort makes me feel good already.

And in contemplating the meditative, satori-esque side of South Riding, I

recall my first-ever on-site visit to this new community; it came back in 2005 – when the local Supervisors and officials in the public safety industry celebrated a groundbreaking for the then-incoming Public Safety Center. I remember a warm, sunny September day with scenes of lots of unused space, lots of open views of the horizon – but also many acres of freshly turned over Virginia clay – denoting incoming houses in the numbers one sees only in places like Loudoun County. The drive – that day over a decade ago – from Leesburg and back was much less congested, and I remember thinking that it'd be nice to come back some time in the future (like now) and visit when the neighborhood feels more like – well, a neighborhood. And – you know? It does.

And if you care to show up on a weekday morning during the school year, you'll get a chance to see everybody in action. And I guess that's the way it's supposed to be. Just pay attention to where you're going and keep in mind that a lot of those other guys are in a hurry. If I'm there, I hope I prove the exception.

## Leesburg Town Council Swearing-In Ceremony Dec. 15 – 7 P.M.

The Leesburg Town Council will hold a swearing-in ceremony for Mayor-elect Kelly Burk, Council Member Thomas S. Dunn, II, and Council Members-elect Ron Campbell and Kenneth “Ken” Reid on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the lower level social hall at the Ida Lee Park Recreation Center (60 Ida Lee Drive NW). A dessert reception for the newly sworn-in members of the Town Council will immediately follow the ceremony.

**Kelly Burk** will be sworn in for her first two-year term as Mayor of Leesburg. Mayor-elect Burk is currently Vice Mayor and was elected to Council in the April 2012 special election and reelected in November 2014. She previously served on Town Council from 2004 to 2007. In November 2007, Kelly was elected to represent the

Leesburg District on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. She served on the Board from 2008 through 2011. A Leesburg resident since 1979, Kelly was a special education teacher with Loudoun County Public Schools until her retirement in 2014. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from George Washington University and a Master's Degree in Middle School Curriculum and Instruction from Virginia Tech.

**Thomas S. Dunn, II**, will be sworn in for his third four-year term as a Leesburg Council Member, having been first elected to the Town Council in 2008. Council Member Dunn served on the Leesburg Planning Commission and the Leesburg Economic Development Commission prior to his election to the Council. He

holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies from Mary Washington College, which is today the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg.

**Ron Campbell** will be sworn in for his first four-year term as a Leesburg Council Member. Council Member-elect Campbell currently serves on the Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission. A fifteen-year resident of Leesburg, he is the owner of College Business Concepts, LLC, a business development consulting company. Ron holds a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, and a Master's Degree in Counseling, Human Services and Guidance from Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey.

**Kenneth “Ken” Reid** will be sworn

in for his third non-consecutive four-year term as Leesburg Council Member. He was first elected in 2006 and was re-elected in 2010. In November 2011, he was elected the Leesburg District representative to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. He served on the Board from 2012 through 2015. By profession, Ken is the owner of Washington Information Source Co, a small publishing and book/DVD distribution business located in Leesburg. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers University and a Master's Degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Ken and his wife, Dr. Lynn Reid, Ph.D., have been residents of Leesburg since 2002 and are the parents of twins, James and Lara, who are now college juniors. Ken is a member of CHABAD Synagogue in Herndon.

## New Members Join Advisory Committee Of Boulder Crest Retreat

A former U.S. Army Surgeon General and four other experts have joined the advisory committee of the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness in Bluemont.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the first woman and nurse to serve as a military surgeon general, served as the 43rd U.S. Army Surgeon General and commanding general of the US. Army Medical Command. In her 33-year career with the Army, Horoho held every level of leadership in Army Medicine, and served as commander of several facilities, including Walter Reed Health Care System in Washington, D.C. “I have always embraced the belief that a collaborative approach for caring for our warriors that leverages the tenets of health, wellness, sleep, activity,

and nutrition are fundamental to improving the health readiness of those that have given and are continuing to give so much to this great nation of ours,” says Horoho.

Also joining the advisory committee are: Brian Gast, a former CEO of several public and private companies in the telecom industry. Gast has been an executive coach to leaders at Fortune 1000 companies for more than 15 years. He has a Masters in Business Administration, is a long-time Zen student, and a certified clairvoyant.

John DiJulius, a best-selling author, keynote speaker, and international customer experience consultant. DiJulius works with a variety of large corporations including insurance companies, hotels, auto manufacturers, and food processors.

Rick Houcek, president of Soar With

Eagles Enterprises, a company that provides strategic planning systems for business and life. He is creator of the Power Planning Strategy system that helps leadership teams of organizations enhance performance. He has coached more than 300 CEOs in over 85 industries, and is author of 22 books on self-motivation, team excellence, and peak performance. Says Houcek, “The ravages of fighting and war-zone living – not knowing if today is your day – take a huge toll on the mind, body, and spirit. We owe it to our brave warriors to return them to complete wholesomeness,” explains Houcek. “The commitment to an accountable strategy at BCR is unlike anything I have seen before in the nonprofit world.

Randy Hetrick, founder and CEO of TRX,

a leading training brand, and creator of the exercise equipment Suspension Trainer. Hetrick is a former collegiate athlete, a 14-year Navy SEAL officer, an entrepreneur, an inventor, and a growth-company CEO whose company earned multiple placements on the rosters of the Inc. 500 Fastest Growing Companies and Outside Magazine Best Places to Work. Hetrick holds an MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, where he is a contributing lecturer on entrepreneurship, branding, and leadership. He is also host of Spike TV's reality series “Sweat Inc.”

The five new advisory board members will serve with long-time members, Dr. Rich Tedeschi, Dr. Bret Moore, and Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen.

## Coo-Coo For Cah-COW



– By Andrea Gaines

Chocolate – the mind-blowing substance we coax out of the modest cacao bean – is everywhere this time of year. Wafting past our noses from the cake in the oven. Showing up as cookie crumbs in the pockets of our jeans. Catching our eye as those skinnier-than-skinny office mates pop yet more malted milk balls in their mouths. We're obsessed with this bean, it's true. We celebrate Chocolate Mint Day on Feb. 19, Chocolate Mousse Day on May 2, and Chocolate Milk Day on July 28. According to an organization called Farm Flavor, there are in fact 30 different dates set aside to pay homage to our love of chocolate. But, here at the Blue Ridge Leader, we are partial to the granddaddy of them all: America's official Chocolate-Covered Anything Day, which is celebrated on Dec. 16 ... In celebration of the holidays and this sacred substance, we present to you three tantalizing ways to enjoy the taste of chocolate this month, and any day of the year.

### Real Hot Chocolate

One famous chef maintains that when making hot chocolate, using cocoa powder instead of real chocolate is, well, a sin. Says this chef: "The only reason anyone uses cocoa powder is because we haven't evolved enough as a hot chocolate civilization to make hot chocolate from real chocolate." Here's a great recipe for this childhood classic. **Ingredients:** roughly 1 to 2 cups of chocolate powder for every four cups of milk, cream (or a combination of the two), and a sweetener of your choice. **Re:** the powdered chocolate, choose one that is 60 percent to 80 percent cocoa. **Directions:** with your stove, sauce pot, and whisk at the ready, bring the milk/cream base to a high heat without boiling in the saucepan. Add in your room temperature chocolate powder, bring the mixture to high heat again, and blend until smooth. **Flavors:** Hot chocolate takes to a wide variety of flavors and mix-ins – shake a mixture of nutmeg, pepper, and cinnamon on top, squeeze an orange wedge into your chocolate, and use the peel for garnish, add a drop of vanilla, almond flavor, or mint ... and a dollop of whipped cream is always welcome. Some people add the slightest pinch of salt.

### Chocolate Hardening Sauce

Chocolate hardening sauce is a liquid chocolate concoction that hardens when it comes in contact with something cold. It is as versatile as it is simple to make.

**Ingredients (for 2 cups of sauce):** 1/2 cup raw sugar liquefied over heat with water (or use liquid Stevia), 1/2 lb. unsweetened chocolate (or the equivalent of unsweetened cocoa powder), 1 cup refined coconut oil (for a more neutral, chocolate-friendly flavor). **Directions :** Melt the three together s-l-o-w-l-y in a microwave (15 seconds at a time), or in a bowl over boiling water. Heat and stir, heat and stir, heat and stir, until everything is velvety smooth. **How To Use It:** Pour it over ice cream, dip fresh or dried fruit in it (apricots, bananas, sliced kiwi fruit, raspberries), dip chilled almond- or peanut-butter balls in it, or chilled squares of pound cake. To pump up the fancy quotient, roll the dipped item in crushed nuts, shredded coconut, or other goodies as the chocolate hardens.

### Double Chocolate Carrot & Zucchini Muffins

I wouldn't even call these muffins. They're more like mini round brownies in a cupcake shape ... with the unexpected texture and flavor of vegetables. They really take advantage of the beauty and power of chocolate. Great for breakfast, they are just as useful as a snack, or covered with ice cream for dessert. The chocolate hardening sauce is out of this world on these muffins.

**Ingredients:** 1 cup whole wheat flour, 1/3 cup of cocoa powder, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1/4 tsp. salt, 2 tbsp. coconut oil, 3 tbsp. brown sugar (or sugar substitute), 1 tsp. vanilla, 2 eggs, 1-1/2 cups shredded zucchini and carrots (drained and squeezed of liquid), 1/4 cup diced apple (peeled), 1/2 cup regular or almond milk, 1/2 cup good quality white or dark chocolate chips (or mix the two). **Directions:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees and prepare muffin tray with paper liners or oil. Combine the dry ingredients – flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt. In a separate bowl, beat together the oil, brown sugar, vanilla, and eggs. Then add to this mixture the shredded vegetables, apples, and milk. Finally, add the dry ingredients, and blend until smooth. Fold in the chocolate chips, and fill the muffin tin with the batter, and bake for 20-25 minutes. Then transfer to a cooling rack.

# Pearl Harbor

– By Nicholas Reid

Seventy-five years ago this Dec. 7, to quote President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." It will have been 75 years since America was forced into WWII by the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Of course, the attack on Pearl Harbor was only one of a wave of Japanese offensives across the Pacific that was the culmination of years of growing hostility between the U.S.A. and imperial Japan. There are still many valuable lessons that can be learned from the long series of events that preceded, and caused, the worst surprise attack on the United States of America.

One of the chief causes of the Pearl Harbor disaster and the other disastrous defeats which would follow in the next six months in the war against Japan was the general unreadiness of the U.S. military. Supplies and funding for the armed forces had dwindled after the end of WWI; and by 1940, many American soldiers were training with wooden mock-ups of rifles and other weapons, because the military didn't have enough real weapons to issue to every soldier. Of those weapons the armed forces did have, many were outdated or defective. American fighter planes that did manage to get into the sky found themselves hopelessly outmatched by the agile Japanese Zero fighters. Many American torpedoes would hit their targets but never detonate due to faulty detonators.

We can see a similar, and frightening, unreadiness in our current armed forces. Most American aircraft and ground vehicles in service are at least 20-30 years old, with some, like the B-52, having been in service since the 1950s. By contrast, China and Russia have been rapidly updating and expanding their stocks, including many new weapons systems. Due to lack of trained service personnel and spare parts, only about 33-50 percent of American aircraft are able to take off and fly missions on a moment's notice. And, most critically, only about 33 percent of U.S. Army and Marine combat brigades are classified as "Combat Ready." More information can be found in the Heritage Foundation's Index of U.S. Military Strength 2017; but, needless to say, much of it is grim. The current state of our armed

forces is similar to the state of our armed forces in 1941: one of a dangerous lack of preparedness in the face of multiple potential, powerful threats.

The road to Pearl Harbor is also a lesson in careful foreign policy. The most direct cause for the Japanese sneak attack was an American oil embargo on Japan. This embargo, put in place because of continued Japanese aggression in China and French Indochina (Vietnam), was designed to prevent further Japanese aggression in Asia, and to show that America still supported China. But instead, the embargo angered the Japanese and gave them the feeling of being pushed into a corner, causing them to lash out in their massive Dec. 7-8 Pacific offensive.

The oil embargo was not accompanied by a meaningful increase in the readiness of the armed forces for war with Japan, leading to a weakness that the Japanese fully exploited. This rash foreign policy likely caused America to enter WWII earlier than in a world without the embargo.

We can see "feel-good" foreign policies that have created tensions between the U.S. and other countries, but have not been backed up by meaningful shows of force by the Obama administration. One notable example is the U.S. seizure of Russian assets after the takeover of parts of Ukraine by forces supported by Russia. Time will tell if this leads to further conflict between the U.S. and Russia. But actions like these do not help things. By angering potential enemies without a military backup plan, we risk having a Pearl Harbor repeat.

Modern weapons are much more deadly than those used in the 1940s and at Pearl Harbor. For the six months after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese became the de facto masters of Asia and the Pacific Ocean. It was only time and a war of attrition which only the U.S. could win that reversed that. With modern weapons, who knows how long it would take to reverse the effects of a surprise attack on the U.S. or our interests. An EMP (electro-magnetic pulse) attack with a single nuclear weapon would send the U.S. back to 1800's. The price of defeat is too high for the United States to risk leaving itself open to a devastating sneak attack through military unpreparedness and rash foreign policy.

*Nicholas Reid is a graduate of Loudoun County high schools and is currently studying geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He wants to become a paleontologist.*



REID

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Photo by Sarah Huntington

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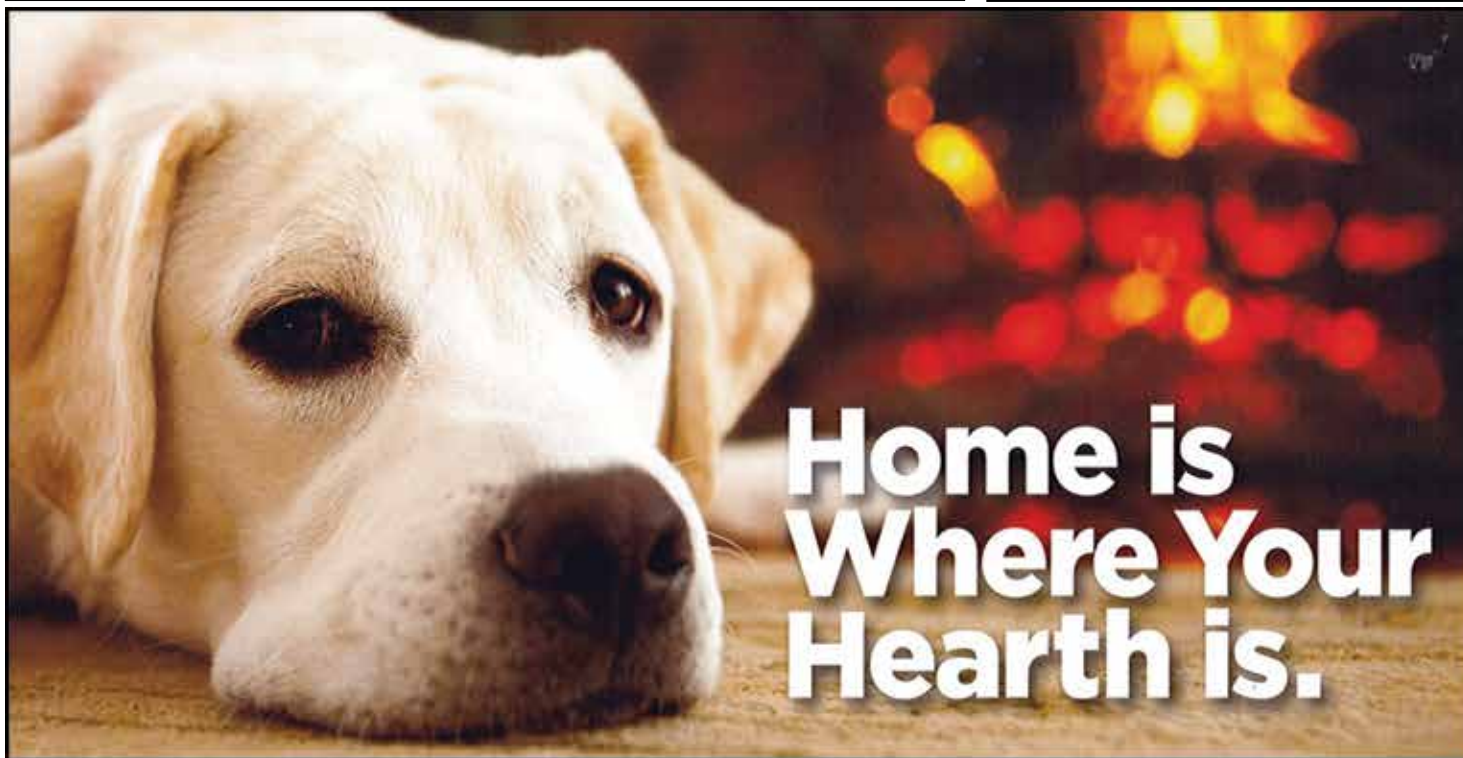


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– By Andrea Gaines

Take a few evening hours this month and let yourself be enveloped ... and then calmed ... by the beautiful holiday lights that will be on display all over Loudoun County. Walk along one of your favorite farm paths or a lightly travelled dirt road. Or, grab some friends, pack up the car, and snuggle up with some hot chocolate, cookies and a blanket or two. Ditch the mall and spend some quality holiday time – no deadlines, no cell phones, no two-for-the-price-of-one holiday jingles to fill the space on the radio.

For the little scientists out there, it varies, but the sun sets at about 4:48 p.m. this month, and the high and low temperatures day to night will be between 32 and 43 degrees.

**Some suggestions ...**

From Leesburg heading west, cruise by the display at the Loudoun County

Courthouse. A Menorah Lighting Ceremony will be held on Friday, Dec. 5, and Ida Lee Park Recreation Center will be lit up with lights for a craft show on Sat. and Sun., Dec. 6–7. Head down Route 15 south from there and pick up Harmony Church Road towards the town of Hamilton. This quaint little place will light its Christmas tree on Sunday, Dec. 7 and luminaries will be put out at dusk on Christmas Eve. Hillsboro will have its annual tree lighting on Dec. 7 as well, and follow that up with an historic house tour on Dec. 13. There will be plenty of sparkle throughout the town for much of December.

You'll see lots of modest but beautiful home and farm displays as you make your way around western Loudoun.

Lovettsville will be sharing its holiday cheer throughout the month of December, as will Purcellville, Berryville and Middleburg. The small village of Lincoln always celebrates the season in a quiet but meaningful way

with caroling and a bonfire. An evening drive through the village in mid-December – down Lincoln Rd. from Purcellville and then onto the Lincoln Loop (see [www.lincolnpreservation.org](http://www.lincolnpreservation.org) for directions) will give you one of the most meaningful holiday moments of 2016 – guaranteed.

For more animated and organized lighting events, consider the Edward's Landing Lights (Woods Edge Drive in Leesburg, Dec. 12-25), the Bull Run Festival of Lights ([www.novaparks.com/events](http://www.novaparks.com/events), through Jan. 8) and ZooLights at the National Zoo in Washington, DC ([nationalzoo.si.edu/events](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/events), through Jan. 1). Brambleton, Ashburn and other neighborhoods also put on a show.

I also like to drive the backroads and try to spot a barn or two with a single lighted wreath, a fanciful reindeer in the middle of a meadow or a string of lights along an old fence. Sometimes you'll see Santa dropping himself down a chimney with the horses and cattle looking on. Send your own reports and photos to our facebook page – we'd love to see what you found on your travels.

For your information, most county offices and services are closed from Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 26, reopening on Tuesday, Dec. 27. County offices are also closed on Monday, Jan. 2 (2017) for the New Year's Day observance.

Enjoy a beautiful – and quiet – holiday season!

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# Woodgrove High Student Will Pursue Track And Field At George Mason



Puneet Kaur of Woodgrove High School has signed a National Letter of Intent to continue her track and field career at George Mason University.

Kaur has held the school record in shot put since her sophomore year and is looking to throw shotput, hammer, discus and maybe even the javelin at the collegiate level. She only picked up throwing during her freshman year when the high school coach approached her but has also played on Woodgrove's Varsity Basketball Team for four years where she is the all-time leader in free throw percentage and on the leaderboard (ranked 4) for all time charges.

She is also heavily involved in her school community. She helped create the We're All Human club at her school which helps prevent the stigma that surrounds suicide by hosting events such as color runs, walks and concerts, as well as in-school sessions to help peers. She is a member of the National Honors Society, the Spanish Honors Society, the Varsity Club, and Athlete 2 Athlete, another club where she is an officer to help kids with mental disabilities play sports. She is also an avid sports fan and is the sports editor-in-chief of the Woodgrove High School's Newspaper (*The Woodgrove Outlander*) as well as its online liaison.

*Annexation continued from page 5*

recognize the existing JLMA as a district planned land use area, and maintains the current County zoning designation for the area."

"In 2012, recognizing that the Town did not desire any increased density and growth outside the current incorporated Town boundaries, and to the JLMA – the Purcellville Joint Policies Review Committee and the Town Council called for the repeal of PUGAMP [Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan]," said Grim. She pointed out that the JLMA will develop in accordance with the underlying County zoning ascribed to the area, which is one house per three acres. The growth area outside the Town limits does not exist unless the Town Council takes it up, Grim pointed out.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "I was told years ago, hope is not a strategy and hope is not a plan. Annexation for the sake of annexation in the hope that in the future that we can control it – we need to put that into the right context. This Town has seen many annexations that took over 20 years for someone to develop it. We need to see what the plan would be, and do we have the infrastructure to support it. Net net, we need to be careful what we plan for."

The Town Council voted against the annexation, and voted to return 75 percent of the application fee, which is in accordance with state law. The annexation would not be compatible with the Town's existing scale and Comprehensive Plan.

## Comp Plan Resolution

Council Member Nedim Ogelman also asked Council to amend resolution 15-01-12, which initiated the Comprehensive Plan Review and Amendment Process. He said, "The first and fundamental reason I am asking to bring this back is that the original resolution has an assumption that reads 'Whereas the Town has been asked by land owners in Loudoun County to consider further expansion into the Town's jurisdictional limits' – so it's essentially saying one of the reasons we are doing this is because landowners in Loudoun County

asked the Town to consider expanding the borders to consider annexing, and there is no similar language about the citizens of the Town. So, there is no language that citizens of the Town want this."

Ogelman said this "struck me as inconsistent with the Town's representative government, and in addition to that, this land that is zoned by the County already exists in the County ... and the Town, with the abolition of PUGAMP, has said they don't want to grow anymore."

This was something that was significant in the election – referring to growing the Town. "There is no requirement to consider areas outside of Town when reviewing the Comprehensive Plan," he said. "The idea of expanding the Town's jurisdictional limits, or considering to expand them, because landowners in the County asked us to do that, with no consideration to what the citizens in Purcellville want, didn't ring true to me, and what I myself committed to in the election; and that's why I wanted to bring it back."

Council Member Doug McCollum disagreed, saying, "I think it is unwise to oppose this issue." He continued, "We need to have a supply of land – mixed use, industrial and commercial have received support during the Comp Plan review."

Developers have attended the review process and expressed their desire for expanding the Town.

Council Member Kelli Grim said the wording is flawed when "we are going to do something with our Comp Plan based on landowners, and not addressing our citizens and residents." Grim pointed out that the Town has doubled in size in 10 years. "We are finding as we break this onion open, talking to our consultants, that there's a lot of other policies that we can put in place, because if growth paid for itself we wouldn't be in the position we are in now. Developers have gotten carte blanche, and the citizens get stuck with the bill." She noted that previous politicians have approved development that has not

complied with the current Comp Plan.

"If growth paid the bills then we would have an excess of money," said Council Member Karen Jimmerson. "Fairfax County has no more boundary. They have nowhere to go, so they are doing infill, and are facing a political cliff." Jimmerson continued, "They don't have any more land. For us, we have Mayfair, Catoctin Corner, Purcellville Gateway, and Purcellville Green – and all of those things did nothing to make a dent in our debt. They haven't lowered our water bill, they haven't lowered our taxes. And so, I can't find any rational argument that I have to go expand my tentacles. Any resolution we have has to involve the current residents." She also said that the previous resolution excluded the residents of Purcellville.

Mayor Fraser said that he supported the proposal to amend the language of the resolution. He said it does not "put a stop on saying that we will never consider annexation." We need to be able to look at the entire landscape, and determine whether we have the infrastructure to support whatever decision we need to make."

"Where in this resolution does it say we will never consider annexation? It doesn't say it. It puts the citizens first, and I fully support it," said Council Member Ryan Cool.

Town staff went back and forth on whether or not to delay the vote one month to notify the applicant – since staff had not done so. The Town attorney told Council numerous times that the Town would not be in legal jeopardy if they voted on the resolution.

Said Council Member Cool, "We are here to take action. We are not here to pontificate and talk all night. So people want the government to take action to do things." Cool continued, "If we are not in fear of legal action, let's do what the people put us here to do and take action. And I am happy to make the motion." The motion passed 5-1-1 with Council Member Doug McCollum voting no and Chris Bledsoe absent for the vote.

## Glenfiddich Farm Pottery Sale

Special 4-hour pottery sale, Saturday, Dec. 10, noon-4 p.m.

Wide selection of plates, bowls, mugs, wine coolers, oil jars, garlic keepers, vases, and more. 17642 Canby Rd., Leesburg, [glenfarmpottery@aol.com](mailto:glenfarmpottery@aol.com), [glenfarmpottery.com](http://glenfarmpottery.com).



*Catesby continued from page 8*

Association, Land Trust of Virginia and others oppose the project. Said the UPS, "[We] do not oppose economic development ... [but] Approving this application ... would allow for hallowed ground to become a parking lot." (The Civil War 1862 Battle of Unison was fought on the property.)

The Loudoun County Health Department notes that new wells may need to be drilled on the property, something that may not be allowed by the 2004 open space easement.

In recent months, the heirs purchased additional land adjacent to the site to address limited and narrow dirt road access and other barriers, and proposed moving the 90+ guest cars parking area. Other County meeting notes show language in a standard disclosure made by Planning Commission member Eugene Scheel during a Briefing/Work Session of that body in March noting that he had met the day before with the Catoctin Farmer's Club "regarding a proposed resort type complex at Catesby Farm near Willisville," information not contained in the public record that makes up the application.

With Catesby certainly on his mind, in an Oct. 16 letter to the Rural Economic Development Committee, Supervisor Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) said that the protection of the rural, historic and scenic character of the west is one of his top priorities.

Buffington believes that economic growth in the west is necessary to save it. At the same time, however, Buffington has acknowledged that on issues such as the preservation of dirt roads his constituents are "uncomfortable" with the balance that has been struck so far.

With regards to Catesby, Buffington is on record saying that he will do what the citizens want. However, he would not commit to how he will vote. This, despite the fact that hundreds of citizens spoke in support of the many profitable by-right uses available to property owners in the area, and against the new and very different use requested by Robert and Michelle LaRose.

In an onsite interview with the LaRoses as this paper went to press, Michelle LaRose recounted instances of how their family had held many many large private events at Catesby over the years. She also made clear that their preference is not to operate a traditional B&B.

# Hillsboro's Old Stone School Co-Hosts Two Weekends of Festivities

The non-profit Friends of the Old Stone School and the Town of Hillsboro will co-host two weekends of holiday festivities. Here's the schedule:

**Greens Workshop**—Sunday, Dec. 4, noon to 5 p.m. Help make decorations for the five historic homes on the Dec. 10 tour. Experts will show volunteers how to make wreaths, swags, and other arrangements, using fresh greens. Bring gloves and clippers – to sign up, visit [www.OldStoneSchool.org](http://www.OldStoneSchool.org).

**Town Tree Lighting and Potluck**—Sunday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bring some goodies to share and help count down to the lighting of the Town tree in front of the Old Stone School. Singers from the neighboring Hillsboro Charter Academy will perform. RSVP at [www.OldStoneSchool.org](http://www.OldStoneSchool.org)

**Historic Homes Tour**—Saturday, Dec. 10, noon to 6 p.m. Five historic homes in the Hillsboro area will be beautifully decorated for the holidays, and open to paid ticket holders from noon to 6 p.m. Candlelight tours start at 3 p.m. Those on the tour will have a chance to see the homes



while volunteer docents give histories of the homes and their unique architecture and antiques. Purchase tickets online at [www.OldStoneSchool.org](http://www.OldStoneSchool.org).

**Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Outdoor Market**—Dec. 10 and 11. Handcrafted items will be on sale at the Old Stone School during its annual Holiday Craft Fair and Outdoor Market on Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 11 from noon to 4 p.m. There will also be food, and a beer- and wine-garden, and live music, with the Catoctin School of Music and other performers.

**Freewill Offering Dinner at Hillsboro United Methodist Church**—Saturday, Dec. 10, starting at 11 a.m.

## What Is Special To You About The Holidays?

— By Amanda Clark



**Henry Carlson – Purcellville**

“For me, the holidays are about celebrating the connection you’ve got with your kin, listening to 50’s music, and staying warm!”



**Katie Hunsucker – Waterford**

“One thing that is special to me about the holidays is my family. Before Christmas, my family always holds a celebration at my house where we exchange ornaments and presents with each other. It is my favorite time of the year.”



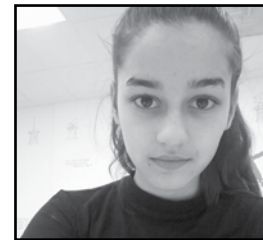
**Kate McCarthy – Round Hill**

“The holidays are special to me because everyone gets to come together in love and be thankful for the things that they have which may be forgotten on a daily basis. It gives everyone a time to be surrounded by people they care about and reflect and enjoy each other’s company.”



**Kelly Keane – Hillsboro**

“The holidays are such a special time in my house. We always decorate the house early, making it smell like pine until February, and bake cookies every Christmas Eve. I love being with my family around the fireplace as we just spend time together and relax. It makes Christmas so special.”



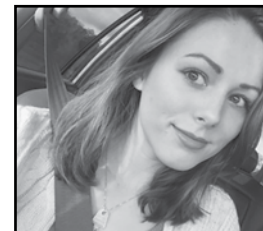
**Caroline Hanson – Hamilton**

“The holidays are special to me because of the snow. I used to live in a tropical area where there was no snow so now snow really ties the holidays together. I love all of the lights and decorations that come with the whole time of the year; it has this wonderful feel to it that makes me feel like I am living in a snow globe.”



**McCoy Schroader – Leesburg**

“The holidays are special to me because I love to play Christmas music and spend time with family and friends. The music helps bring everyone together and brighten the mood during the cold months.”



**Ashley McMillan – Lovettsville**

“What’s so special to me about the holidays is that I finally get to kick back and relax with the ones that mean a lot to me. Senior year has been really hectic with so many changes soon to come, so it’s nice to finally get a chance to slow down for a change.”



**Elyse Morris – Bluemont**

“During the holidays, I love the heightened sense of friendship and community that is present. It is a wonderful excuse to get together with family, and everybody is more neighborly and giving. It is so refreshing to see people connecting with one another in a way that doesn’t happen during any other time of year. I also love holiday baking!”



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## Lovettsville's Christkindlmarkt Slated For Dec. 3 and 4

The Loudoun Valley German Society is hosting the Ninth Annual Christkindlmarkt (Traditional European Christmas Market) on December 3rd and 4th at the Lovettsville Game Protective Association. Acclaimed as one of the top 11 German Christmas markets by BuzzFeed, the market features 20 plus local artists and vendors, six two-hour sets of live traditional European Christmas music, typical German Christmas market food and drink, and free holiday activities for the younger patrons sponsored by the German language students from Harmony Middle and Woodgrove High Schools – 16 Berlin Pike in Lovettsville. The Christmas Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

# Purcellville Holiday Artisan Gallery Opens



A Holiday Artisans Market is open in Purcellville through Dec. 31. The Holiday Gallery is located on 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Old Town Purcellville between Re-Love It and Dominion Tea in the former Barber Shop space.

The Holiday Gallery features the creations of Western Loudoun County artist, potters, jewelers and more. The goal is to offer local

hand-created gifts for the holidays. Discover Purcellville, a recently formed non-profit, put the gallery together for the local artisan community. Artists that have their work displayed include: Jill Perla; Deb Morrow; Anne Stine; Debbie Candenas; and Nan Bowe.

Anyone interested in selling in the Gallery should contact Michael Oaks at 540 751-0707 or reloveit@aol.com.

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## We're Open – We Promise

– By Amanda Clark

Twigs, located at 613 E. Main Street in Purcellville, is open and ready for the people of Loudoun to shop local this holiday season. Twigs' neighbor is undergoing temporary construction, and as a result, some people do not even realize that the store is open.

Owner Amy Turner says, "The construction has been a huge challenge during our fourth quarter business. It has been very difficult dealing with all the trucks in front of my store, and has kept some people away during our most important season."

Twigs has been operating in Purcellville for more than 20 years, and is Turner's livelihood. She says, "I employ several local people, and I am supportive with donations in our community. It is a store where people come, and it feels like home. I am so thankful to have such wonderful



customers and employees. We get to know our customers as friends, and I am thankful every day for their business and support."

Turner's goal is to find unique items for customers so that everybody may find what they are looking for. There is a wide range of variety in Twigs' products including home decor, jewelry, clothing, French soaps, and other bath products.

The store also offers a local line of soy candles by Sydney Hale, whose proceeds give back to dog rescue. Accessories such as scarves, gloves, and hats are sold, as well as fair trade items, seasonal decor, pet gifts, and select items for men.

There is a children's room that includes gifts for babies and older children. Twigs is open seven days a week, and offers free gift wrapping. Stop in anytime to shop their unique items for everyone in the family.

## Middleburg Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team Wins State Championship



Middleburg Academy repeated as State Champions in the Virginia Independent School State Championship (Division II), defeating Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, 3-1.

Middleburg Academy Lady Dragon's Volleyball team played in more matches than any other high school in the State of Virginia, 43 matches with an overall record of 40-3. The Lady Dragons, finished the season ranked number 7 in the State and 310 Nationally. That places the team in the top 1 percent in the country.

In the State Tournament, Middleburg Academy had a quick start against Trinity Christian in the semi-finals and pushed until the final point of victory. As a team, they mastered 49 digs and 6 blocks. Junior Lilly Reilly '18 led the team with 11 kills and Junior Emma DiClementi '18 finished with 10 kills with set scores of 25-14, 25-13, 25-18.

Middleburg Academy entered the finals as the defending VISAA D2 State Champions and in the first two sets moved the ball quickly and hit hard. The third set the tempo changed and it was clear some nerves were creeping in and the Lady Dragons lost the third set. The fourth set was a point by point match and once again, this talented group came together and worked each point as a team. Freshman Ashleigh Moffett '20 stepped up with very aggressive serving, including 3 aces. Sophomore Chelsea Penfield '19 demanded attention with 19 booming kills. Junior Lilly Reilly '18 continued to swing for a match total of 13 kills and Junior Lilian Vargo '19 dished off a total of 35 assists. Defensively the team dug 96 balls with Senior Libero, Alison Thomas '17 anchoring the center for the Dragons to pull away with a consecutive state title 25-12, 25-19, 27-25, 25-23.



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## JOHN HARDY: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, a One Man Performance \*

Thursday, December 15 8:00 PM

(All ages) Charles Dickens himself began the tradition of performing his novella as a one-man play in 1853. *The Albuquerque Journal* writes "John Hardy's one-man version of A Christmas Carol... a stunning work of theatrical virtuosity. Run to see this; take the whole family. You will be transfixed from the first moment... This play brings the story to life.... I've seen this story many times but never like this... it will be you are seeing it for the first time." \*A co-production with The Virginia Commission for the Arts

Tickets: \$20 All Seats, Reserved Seating [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)



## GERONIMO PRODUCTION COMPANY: THE GIVER

Thurs, Fri, Sat, Dec 8, 9 & 10 7:00 PM,  
Sat, Sun, Dec 10 & 11 2:00 PM

In this one act play we are transported to a seemingly utopian world where a young man is confronted with memories that question everything he, his family, and his community hold dear.

Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 Students, \$8 Senior/Children  
[www.geronimoloudoun.org](http://www.geronimoloudoun.org)

## RAINIER TRIO & LESLIE MABE: HOLIDAY FAVORITES

Fri, December 16 7:30 PM

(All ages) Join the Rainier Trio and Soprano Leslie Mabe for a captivating evening of Holiday Favorites including Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, O Holy Night, White Christmas and a sing-along of traditional carols.

Tickets: \$10 All Seats, Reserved Seating [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)



## BEALE STREET PUPPETS: SNOWFLAKES

Wednesday, Dec 14 10 AM

Tickets: \$5 per person

## BOB BROWN PUPPETS: NUTCRACKER FANTASY

Wednesday, Dec 28 3 PM

Tickets: \$5 per person

## THE CHORUS OF THE OLD DOMINION

Sat, Dec 17 4:00 PM

For the second year, the Chorus of the Old Dominion, along with several Loudoun County high school choral groups, will present a holiday event you won't want to miss.

Tickets: \$20 All Seats  
Call to Reserve 540-338-7973

## LAST HAM STANDING

Fri, Dec 30 8:00 PM

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

Tickets: \$14 Adults, \$12 Seniors, \$10 Kids  
[www.lastham.com](http://www.lastham.com)

## FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

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

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Readers Theatre Sun, Dec 4

(Ages 16 & up) Performance group BITWC Imagine That! presents "One Slight Hitch."

Tickets: \$8 per person

Meet The Artist: Meredith Hilt

Sun, Dec 11

Jewelry & metalwork artist Meredith Hilt will have a hands-on project for you to take home.


Tickets: \$8 per person

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## On Stage In January

JAYME STONE: THE LOMAX PROJECT  
Thurs, Jan 5 8:00 PM 

Jayme Stone re-imagines traditional Americana music much of which exists today because of the field recordings done by folklorist and music pioneer Alan Lomax.

Tickets: \$35 Tickets only Reserved Seating  
\$65 Tickets & VIP post-concert reception  
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Spread Some Holiday Cheer!



# ‘The Giver’ Comes To Franklin Park Arts Center – Geronimo Production Company’s Premier Show

Geronimo Production Company is bringing another sort of Christmas play to Loudoun County. *The Giver*, based on Lois Lowry’s YA dystopian classic, will be premiering at Franklin Park Arts Center on Dec. 8-11.

“This show is perfect for Christmastime,” director Keaghan Wier said. “It focuses on displaying the value of family, love, and joy.... These themes, along with Jonas’ discoveries of things like snow, sleds, and Christmas lights all make it a wonderful play for the holiday season.”

*The Giver* follows Jonas, a 11-year-old boy living in a community without differences, choice, or even the ability to see color. When everyone in his age group turns 12, though, Jonas is given a special job assignment: Receiver of Memory. Jonas’s world turns upside down as the previous Receiver of Memory—who calls himself the Giver—shows Jonas color, suffering, and joy.

Though the novel won a Newbery Medal after it came out in 1993, it consistently remained on banned book lists for the next 20 years because of its controversial plot. *The Giver* paved the way for future dystopian novels, however, and has become



Front row, left to right: Keisha Fuller (community member), Will Meeks (Jonas), Morgan Weis, (community member), Lydia Dunn (Chief Elder), Maddy Ricci (community member), Aubrey Fischer (community member), Sadie Fischer (Lily).

Back row, left to right: Haley Gosman (Fiona), Anders Ogelman (Asher), William Henry (Giver), Mike Ford (Jonas’ Father), Caroline Fischer (Rosemary), Georgia Fischer (community member).

a classic for many middle school book lists. The stage adaptation, written by playwright Eric Coble, is closer to the original novel than the 2014 movie starring Jeff Bridges.

“I like that we get to do scenes with lots of emotion,” said Will Meeks, who

is playing Jonas and will turn 12 just before the show’s premiere. Some of his favorite scenes are with the Giver, played by Leesburg native William Henry. The two characters develop a friendship throughout the show, each challenging

the other.

This same dynamic plays out in real life: The five children in the cast up their game with the help of the adult actors, while at the same time the adults pick up playfulness and emotional vulnerability.

“Keaghan keeps us moving forward, but at the same time we keep it light,” Henry said. “I think the younger cast members set the tone for that.”

The play is as much a visual treat as it is thoughtful. Crewmembers spend many rehearsals discussing how they will bring special effects, like seeing the color red for the first time, to life onstage.

Though this play will be Geronimo’s first show, it is already creating a buzz: The play’s powerful plot and young cast make for an enjoyable family show.

“As soon as you mention the title *The Giver*, people’s eyes light up,” said Emma Royce, who plays Jonas’s mother. “Everyone’s excited to come see it.”

Shows will start at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8 through Saturday, Dec. 10. Matinees will be at 2 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 11. Tickets can be purchased at the box office in Franklin Park on the day of the show or online at [geronimoloudoun.org/giver/](http://geronimoloudoun.org/giver/).

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Video online at: [www.loudoun.gov/adulthood](http://www.loudoun.gov/adulthood)

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.



# Make Your Car Your Friend-In-Safety This Winter

– By Andrea Gaines

The holidays are coming up, a new year is upon us, and as the colder temperatures settle in, there are lots of things to do to keep your sanity as the snow starts flying.

The last thing you need in the middle of all of this is car trouble – be it an accident or a break down.

So, take a few minutes now to think through how to get yourself and your vehicle(s) ready for the winter. The experts – and those unhappy folks who’ve lived through a cold night of waiting for the tow truck – offer these simple bits of advice.

- **Gather up some old blankets**, an extra fleece or two, a couple of extra pairs of socks, gloves, and hats. And stash them in your trunk. If you do happen to get stuck, they’ll come in handy, and make all involved a little more comfortable. Pack some water, too. Just remember where you’ve put it, since it will tend to freeze.
- **While you’re doing that**, make sure you have basic items like an ice scraper, a snow shovel, and some salt in your vehicle.
- **Maintain at least a half tank of gas and ample wiper fluid**, in case you get stuck in traffic or bad weather.
- **If you do get stuck, stay in your car and wait for help.** You can run the car heater to stay warm for 10 minutes every hour,

but make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow, and keep a window cracked to avoid the buildup of carbon monoxide.

- **Lastly, have a little fireside chat with all the drivers in your household** to review these six-basic winter driving safety measures:

– Always clear all of the snow and ice off your car or truck before you get on the road; this includes the windows, lights, reflectors, hood, roof, trunk, and exhaust pipe. It’s dangerous to have to stop on the side of a road to do this.

– Always drive with your headlights on.

– Test the road conditions by tapping your brakes, and checking to see how stable your steering wheel is. It is best to find out at a *slow, unobstructed speed* how your vehicle will react, should you need to brake or turn suddenly.

– Slow down. Winter roads are often more narrow and have less visibility due to rain, snow, snow banks, downed branches, and reduced hours of sunlight. Keep in mind, too, that bridges and overpasses – where ice is more likely to build up – can be treacherous.

– Never pass a snow plow or sand truck; wait for them to pull off to the side of the road.

– Keep a cell phone with you, but only use it when you are safely on the side of a road or in a parking lot.

## Crossing The Line By Miles Meller and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
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57						58				59			
60					61				62				
63					64				65				

### ACROSS

- Gaugin subjects, often
- Actor Gooding, Jr.
- Indian dish ingredient
- Dead to the world
- Load
- Odd, spelled oddly
- Place on the field
- Wilbur’s home
- This and that
- Orient
- Popeyed
- Dizygotic \_\_\_\_
- Unexpressed
- Lap, as a wave
- The Old Sod
- Gloaming
- “\_\_\_\_ over!”
- Surveyed
- Body part
- Known formerly as
- Kind of shell
- With the bow, in music
- On the job
- Made like
- Panegyric
- Leader born in Georgia
- Isles
- Daft
- Last stop
- God offended by Daphnis
- Foreign pen pal
- Oil holder
- Refuses to
- Soaks, as flax
- Glower

### DOWN

- Lagerlöf protagonist
- Newton, e.g.

- Controvert
- Shortly before?
- Larry, for one
- Guarantee, in a way
- Remarkably
- Sticker
- So to speak
- Sign of summer
- Patch up
- Proof word
- Appraiser
- Arctic sight
- Sent
- Wow
- Weak
- Buckwheat pancakes
- No longer on the plate
- Tube
- Part of a joint
- Kind of jacket
- Boot
- \_\_\_\_ Rebellion
- Enter
- Schedule
- Like gastric juice
- Elaborate
- Most sound
- In groups
- Word of honor
- Friction matches
- Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
- National park acronym
- Interminable time
- Throw \_\_\_\_
- Japanese soup
- All over
- Compaq competitor
- Crater on Mars
- Fond du \_\_\_\_, Wis.

Answers on page 30

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There is \$5,200 allocated in the FY2017 budget to disperse. Go to [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov) and send your completed application to Town of Purcellville, Annual Sports League Funding, 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, VA 20132 or emailed to [mccoggin@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:mccoggin@purcellvilleva.gov). Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12.

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*Real Estate continued from page 9*

to do when you see the back deck and patio that have expansive views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and your 42-acre property.

Back inside, however, you’ll enjoy the lightness that bounces off the light hardwood floors in the foyer entrance that also boasts a brick fireplace. Views of the property immediately appear upon entrance thanks to the wall of windows spanning the rear of the home. Likewise, vaulted ceilings with exposed wood beams open up the great room just beyond the kitchen.

You’ll find exposed beams, hardwood floors, recessed lighting, and plenty of natural lighting to boot, throughout the home. This holds true on the lower level where you’ll find a second full kitchen

outfitted with stainless steel appliances. On the other side of the home is the great room, which is perfect for entertaining or enjoying a game of pool.

Elsewhere on the property you’ll enjoy a five-car garage and the space afforded by the detached three-level cottage. White cabinets and hardwood floors and ceilings deck out the cottage kitchen - the same touches are found in the cottage bedroom where you can also spend time on the two-story deck.

Horse lovers celebrate - a multi-stall, center-aisle barn boasts a wash stall, tack room and hayloft. It’s the perfect place to prepare for a ride on your property that includes a year-round creek and pond. Trotting through the expansive pastures and paddocks, you’ll take in all the beauty there is to behold.

*Dr. Mike continued from page 2*

trained and experienced therapist as the group leader, will usually lead to a positive outcome.

If you decide to try another social skills group for your son, I recommend you make sure that the above three factors are present before starting. You could also ask the therapist if your son could attend one group session as a guest (without making a larger commitment) to see if the group is a good fit for him.

Given your experience, however, working on individual social challenges with a child therapist might be a good next step. Groups can be anxiety producing for a lot of children, and your son might do better seeing a therapist one-to-one initially to address his challenges.

As parents, you will also want to create opportunities for social and friendship development. Clubs, organized sports and volunteering as a family, are a few ways you can expose your son to social moments that can lead to increased maturity and growth. Setting up one-to-one play dates and small group experiences with other children will also give your son that extra social practice he needs to do better.

Also, if your son’s teacher is reaching out to you to recommend a social skills

group, his challenges may already be impacting his learning and behavior in the classroom. Thus, I recommend that you schedule a meeting with your son’s teacher to discuss your son’s learning and to improve peer success. You might consider asking the following questions: Does your son presently have a 504 Plan or an IEP per his ADHD diagnosis, and if not, would he benefit from having more formalized supports and accommodations? If your son is experiencing social challenges at school, can behavioral/relational strategies be put in place to help him? Are there any social opportunities at school (e.g., Lunch Bunch) for children with social challenges or ADHD?

Lastly, if your son is being prescribed ADHD medication by a pediatrician or child psychiatrist, I recommend that you meet with that professional to determine if a change in dosage or the current medication entirely is warranted. If your son isn’t presently taking medications, this might be a good time to consider a consultation with the pediatrician or a child psychiatrist.

*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](http://AshburnPsych.com) or call 703 723-2999.*

**Answers to puzzle from page 25**

1	N	U	D	E	S	6	C	U	B	A	10	G	H	12	E		
14	I	N	E	R	T	15	O	N	U	S	16	E	E	R	Y		
17	L	I	N	E	O	18	F	S	C	R	I	M	A	G	E		
20	S	T	Y	21	O	L	I	O	22	T	A	I	L	O	R		
23	A	G	O	G	24	T	W	I	N								
25	B	E	T	W	E	E	N	T	H	E	L	I	N	E	S		
32	L	A	V	E	33	E	I	R	E	34	E	V	E				
35	I	T	S	36	S	C	A	N	N	E	D	39	H	I	P		
40	N	E	E	41	T	A	C	O	42	A	R	C	O				
43	I	N	T	44	H	E	L	I	N	45	E	O	47	D	U	T	Y
48	A	P	E	D	49	L	A	U	D								
50	S	T	A	L	I	N	53	A	I	T	S	54	M	A	D		
57	T	H	E	E	N	D	O	F	T	H	E	L	I	N	E		
60	E	R	O	S	61	A	M	I	E	62	E	A	S	E	L		
63	W	O	N	T	64	R	E	T	S	65	S	C	O	W	L		



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