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How Will Envision Loudoun See The West?

— By Andrea Gaines

Loudoun County held a series of public Listening & Learning workshops in November and December of 2016, part of the five-phase, multi-year effort to review its County-wide Comprehensive Plan. The process includes in-person workshops, an interactive website that mirrors the workshop exercises, a Facebook page, a Twitter feed, and other ways to participate in the planning process. The website portal – www.envision-loudoun.org – is available to citizens through the early part of January.

Said western Loudoun resident Peggy McElligott, who participated in Envision Loudoun's online exercises: "... any plan should maintain the rural character of Western Loudoun and not interfere with rural tourism, which fails when the character of the neighborhood is no longer rural."

All citizen- and stakeholder-input will then be organized as part of the next phase of the effort, when the County tries to put what it has learned into practice.

An Open Forum With An Uncertain Endgame

The County's goal with Envision Loudoun

is to solicit input to "Help make Loudoun County an even better place to live, learn, work, visit, shop, and raise a family."

The outpouring of opposition to the the AT&T project on Short Hill Mountain, the Catesby Farm event center, and the special exceptions approved as part of

the Kirkpatrick West Commercial Center demonstrate the durability of people's desire to put limits on development, and get themselves back behind the wheel.

But, sustained pressure by developers to open more of Loudoun to suburban-style development, and to scale back on open space and other protections, while speeding up approvals, leaves the answer to a basic question still unknown: How and where will Envision Loudoun break up the County zoning map?

Continued on page 9

Kelly Burk Assumes Mayoral Seat

— By Andrea Gaines



Burk with her pilot-in-training-grandson, Sam.

Longtime Leesburg resident and popular county legislator Kelly Burk started her official 4-year term as Leesburg's Mayor on Sunday, Jan. 1.

A Virginian by birth, Burk considers Leesburg to be her hometown, having lived there for over 40 years. She served on the Leesburg Town Council from 2004 to 2007, and on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors from 2008 to 2011 – chairing the Board's Transportation and Land Use Committee. She returned to serve on the Leesburg Town Council in 2012, and

served as Vice Mayor under Mayor Kristen Umstattd, before capturing the Major's seat in 2016. Burk also worked as a special education teacher with the Loudoun County Public Schools before her retirement in 2014.

A steady, disciplined force in Leesburg and Loudoun County politics for many years, Burk cultivates a quiet presence publicly, a presence that seems to show both her love of public service, and her knowledge of it.

And, in assuming the mayor's seat Burk is very clear on her priorities.

She first discussed with the Blue Ridge

Continued on page 21

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



"I resolve to be more discrete when my lips start a'flappin and my teeth jump out of my mouth in laughter at that ridiculous hat my owner wears as she mucks out my stall." – Incitatus

Continued on pages 8 and 9



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ASK DR. MIKE Six Tips To A New Year And A New You In 2017

- By Michael Oberschenider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

Research has shown that as many as 45 percent of us make New Year's resolutions, but only about eight percent are actually successful in achieving them. And it seems that age is a factor:

about 39 percent of people in their twenties achieve their goals. Inasmuch as old habits are hard to break, and new ones are hard to maintain, I offer the following tips to help you succeed:

Set reasonable expectations. Too often we set the bar too high. And if you set unrealistic goals, you will be doomed from the start. You will find yourself feeling discouraged, lacking motivation, and eventually giving up. So, be reasonable with your expectations—instead of a goal to lose 50 pounds, try to lose five or 10, and then reassess from there. If you believe your goal is attainable, then you will be more driven to meet it.

Make one change at a time. It is hard enough to focus on making one

positive change at a time, so do not overload yourself with several resolutions. Getting more organized, losing weight, quitting smoking or drinking, or saving money may all be things that you would like to do, but tackling resolutions en masse is a bad idea. Instead, tackling goals one

by one will be far less overwhelming, and will improve your chances of success. January is not the only time of year for you to resolve to improve your life; once you meet one meaningful goal, then plan to tackle another. As the old saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day"— but over time, it turned out to be pretty spectacular city.

Determine an action plan. Without an action plan or a roadmap, achieving a New Year's resolution will be difficult to impossible. Thus, knowing and preparing for the steps you will need to take to meet your goal is essential. So, if your goal is to be healthier, define the steps to get there -

Continued on page 17

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Powerfully Small Town Gets A Bit Bigger Hillsboro Annexation Breaks 250 Years Of History

– By Andrea Gaines

The historic western Loudoun Town of Hillsboro – originally spelled Hillsborough as locals love to remind us – added 108 acres to its previous 56-acre footprint ... just as 2016 was coming to a close. The action, supported broadly in the community was seen as a very special New Year's gift to all.

The boundary line adjustment had been in the works for some time, and, according to Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance was done for very practical reasons, some quite unrelated to the political considerations often at work as small towns seek to expand their borders.

In this case, the move will make the Town more walkable, give it more opportunities to move forward with aspects of the town's current Hillsboro Comprehensive Plan, and help with grants, and other sources of funding small communities rely on to get capital projects and other things done. The Town's comp plan takes into careful consideration the citizens' desire to carefully direct its future, with open space requirements, a focus on low-density and medium-density residential development, and measures it has devised to protect the town's floodplains.

The increase in size will help Hillsboro realize that vision, bringing into town the Hillsboro Charter Academy, the Old Stone School, the Hillsboro United Methodist Church, Stonybrook Farm & Market and

the Hillsboro Bed & Breakfast – public and private assets that have always given it a special and functional sense of place.

In a sentimental twist common to small, self-determined towns like Hillsboro, the boundary line adjustment also brings in several neighboring properties, the owners of which have always considered themselves residents. Now, they can say – I'm the oldest new addition to Hillsboro.

The change to Hillsboro seems to have a special, private relevance for long-term Mayor Roger Vance. Vance is known as a real team player, riding the state, county and legal procedures that went into the annexation with great grace. He said he was extremely grateful for the help he received from Hillsboro Town and County officials to make this a reality. But, this is clearly a legacy that will attach in large part, to him.

Some say the annexation makes Hillsboro a small town no more.

But, locals will beg to differ.

While the boundary line adjustment is a large one in terms of Hillsboro's original size, it brings into town land and historic features that people have always associated with this charming place.

In that way the town's increased size confirms it is now steward of many more of the things that make it so special.

Congratulations, Hillsboro and Happy New Year.



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Purcellville Town Council Meeting, December Wrap-up



– By Valerie Cury

The Purcellville Town Council addressed several important topics in its December proceedings.

Mary's House of Hope

The Council unanimously approved the sale of the Mary's House of Hope property.

Mary's House of Hope is operated by the Good Shepherd Alliance, which has for nine years provided temporary housing for women and children. The Town is selling the property for \$300,000. The Good Shepherd Alliance, over the years, has paid for substantial renovations to this formerly abandoned property.

Said Council Member Kelli Grim, "This property was planned to be torn down. Previous Council Member Nick Pelchar and others helped to move it forward to be used for a good cause. This has been functioning in the same use for more than 8 years. I do think we are moving in a

positive direction."

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "I see this as a dormant asset that we are now waking up ... now we will be receiving revenue from it. But, more importantly we will be receiving a cash flow for the benefit of our citizens. So, I see this as a good thing."

Makersmiths

At long last ... the Town will be renting out its former maintenance facility, which has been unused for over 5 years, to the Makersmiths.

The property is located at 785 and 787 South 20th Street. Makersmiths is a popular and dynamic non-profit organization that encourages innovation and invention. The lease, which will hopefully be signed sometime in January, is proposed for 4 years with an option to purchase at a later date. Makersmiths will also make significant improvements to the property annually.

Purcellville Town Wells

Mayor Fraser began this discussion with

comments to correct two identical articles that appeared in two local newspapers about Purcellville's wells. "As I drink a bottle of Deer Park Water, I look at the cover of it and there is a deer on a mountain. That deer is beautiful, he is in a green pasture and it's a great marketing tool." But, continued Fraser, "... that deer could be a source of E.coli. I say this because there were two articles ... [stating] that our Hirst well is [raw source water] contaminated with E.coli. That is true, but the context in which the articles were presented was as if Purcellville has one single point of failure. The well that is contaminated with E.coli is the first source before it gets downstream into the drinking water. So, I believe that there should have been due diligence in presenting those articles to say that we have multiple controls in place to prevent your drinking water from getting E.coli."

Fraser continued, "The test was done when there was a major rainfall and that is one reason why the test can show positive for E.coli. So, I would like to work with staff to present the true picture so our citizens will know that raw water can be tested for E.coli – but we have a pre-chlorination process that should kill E.coli. If that does not work then we do have a filter, and post application of chlorine which will eradicate any E.coli."

Expanded Recreational Options

The Town's Parks and Recreation Committee has been working on expanding recreational options for Town residents in a cost-effective manner – looking at grants and outside funding sources.

They have been exploring a pump track, which is a bicycle style park with looping trails of rollers and berms. The track would take about one and a half to two months to build and would be built on unused Town property on South 20th Street. Council Member Karen Jimmerson said that she would like to honor Robert Harrington by possibly naming the park after him. Harrington tried several years ago to get biking out in the Purcellville area – and December marks one year of his passing. Council Member Nedim Ogelman said that kids need something to do, and this kind of project would reflect the desire of the community.

Request for A Paralegal

The Town Council voted against funding a new position for a paralegal.

Said Council Member Ogelman, "Just looking at and comparing 15 different towns and cities that have more than 8,000 citizens – and what I see out of that

analytically is only 5 of them – one third of them have a paralegal and all of those that said they have a paralegal were towns or cities with at least 15,000 people. Some of them much bigger – like Leesburg with a population of 47,773 or Charlottesville. None of the towns [of] our size – 8,000 to even 15,000 – had a paralegal. But, it begs the question, then, to find out how we produce a bigger demand than these places. We need to work within our means." He continued, "The towns that have paralegals are big towns or cities where they run school systems and fire departments."

Town Manager Rob Lohr said, "We are an 8,000-community operating as if we are 25,000. He pointed out that Purcellville is more like Leesburg and Herndon. "When you look at the services and programs, and the committees, commissions and boards, and the budget and the facilities that we operate, we are definitely a lot more like ... Leesburg and Herndon ..."

Ogelman then said, "Good governance is having an administration and governance that is commiserate to the value, size and scope of the community that it is serving, not bigger, not smaller. He pointed out that Leesburg has a population of 47,773 people. Ogelman mentioned that Leesburg with a budget of \$94 million spends 6 percent of its budget on legal, and Purcellville with a budget of \$21 million spends 10 percent on legal.

Council Member Ryan Cool pointed out that the Town incurred a lot of legal expenses during Purcellville's growth period. "What is causing the need to have so much legal demand now," he asked. Lohr responded that the town generates a lot of work. "We always want to go much larger, there is an expectation."

"This is a band new council," pointed out Council Member Grim. "[We] did not approve this enhancement. "We are not in a growth spurt." Grim said that the Town is currently paying the same dollar amount to outside law firms as the Town is paying for its in-house attorney – approximately \$250,000 for both. Looking at a list of 55 items from the town attorney, Grim said, "What I see is no priority – [for example] drafting a false alarm ordinance for the police – you don't have to reinvent the wheel because there are 50 other towns that have that type of ordinance already in place." She continued, "We do need to look at the priorities on this list because it might not fit with the priorities of this council."

"This is an opportunity to run a leaner ship," said Mayor Fraser.

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We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.
Deadline for print edition is the third week of
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Letters To The Editor

Love My Mealy Worm Small Town Life

Dear Editor:

One of the things I love about living in a small town is that when I order mealworms and our local post office receives them, I get a phone call from Rena saying that they came in and asking if she should put them on the truck for delivery or if I'd rather pick them up. This personal touch makes me smile every time. (And boy does it make our birds happy when the package comes in!)

Sometimes it is the small things in life that make the difference ... Happy New Year!

Nicole Hamilton
Waterford

CORRECTION:

In the December issue of the Blue Ridge Leader the article titled "Developers Go For The Gold In Comp Plan Review," section "Who Is Advising The Board" – second paragraph 5th line Kevin Ruedisueli is an architect in Waterford and was incorrectly identified as someone who had worked as a regional manager for Toll Brothers. We regret this error. To find out more information on Kevin Ruedisueli go to KRIncArchitect.com.

New Purcellville Town Council Examines Utility Rates

– By Valerie Cury

The Town's consultant, Municipal & Financial Services Group, will appear before Council in January, to respond to Council's questions on ways to lower utility rates.

At an Oct. 17 Town Council meeting to review and discuss options, Purcellville Town Manager Rob Lohr talked about availability fees from more growth as a way to defray the rising cost of Town utility rates.

Council Member Nedim Ogelman reacted to Lohr's statement, saying that using more tap fees or building more residential units to get out of the infrastructure trap does not make sense. Services and their costs become more complex as the community grows, said Ogelman.

Ogelman challenged the notion that growing the Town would drop utility rates, and the Town's consultant agreed. Said Ogelman, "I am also hearing that you have to keep on adding more lines, and that to me feels like a contradiction. If you just keep on getting more people to move in, then there is not some magic line that says the unit costs will go down. So, this whole idea that if we have more tap fees or we build more units, that we are going to get ourselves out of this infrastructure trap – that doesn't make sense to me."

Eric Callochia with The Municipal & Financial Services Group, the Town's consultant on utility rates then said, "You are absolutely correct."

Continued Ogelman, "And something that is being said quite a bit, 'Well if we just develop a bit more ... that is something that will drop the rates ...' this is not that economy of scale situation where the unit cost will go down."

Council Member Ryan Cool said, "I am hearing the whole argument which is what I have been hearing for years: That we can just keep building our way out of debt, which is complete nonsense. What level have you hit capacity where you have to completely build again?" Cool continued, "You have to look at things holistically; you just don't build a hundred homes, and your day is solved. You just brought on \$30 million debt, and you have a bigger problem than you had when you started."

"I have been in the Town for 10 years," said Mayor Kwasi Fraser, "and I feel like I am that frog in the water – and you keep increasing the heat. But now it's getting to a boiling point, and our citizens are asking us, 'When are you going to give us relief?' He said, "If we keep telling the citizens that OK, we'll keep on increasing the rate slowly, slowly, and one time you are going to boil." Fraser said that the Town needs to start looking at alternate ways to "put revenue into the utility fund."

Council Member Karen Jimmerson noted that incomes have not gone up for the last decade, and they are just starting to inch up. "If our utility rates grow faster than people's incomes – we've got a disparity, because that is going to hurt people being able to shop at the stores, and do other things that cause us to get tax revenue."

Mayfair will bring in \$12 million over the five years of buildout, pointed out Council Member Kelli Grim. "Obviously, rates have to pay for what we already have. Plus, we are putting money in reserves for maintenance, repairs, etc. So, when Mayfair comes online at \$12 million – we have \$5 or \$6 million of improvements to make... The question is, What does it cost to put in

new capacity?" Lohr then assured Council that the Town has the capacity for Mayfair.

The consultant said, "One of the things you have to keep an eye on, people seize on any reason they can to complain about this, and I do, too. But your water bill and your sewer bill, as a percentage of household income or household expenses, is miniscule. We don't do a good job of educating people. Look at what a gallon of water costs at the store, or the price to have your septic pumped. How do you measure affordability?"

Cool said that residents want to "see a little out-of-the-box thinking." He said that the Town has to come up with new and innovative options. "What are other people doing?" he asked. "How can we think outside the box?"

Mayor Fraser said he was thinking of using a portion of the meals tax to pay down the utility debt. "At the end of the day, once we start lowering this debt that we have, we can then pass some of that to consumers by lower rates." The consultant responded, "You can do that if you want – the only challenge with that is that the meals tax is less reliable – less predictable – and you will have more fluctuations in your cash flow, which could affect credit ratings."

However, our research shows the meals tax revenue has consistently increased by approximately 18 percent for the last 6 years. The Town has exceeded its meals tax revenue projection by \$180,000 annually for the last two years.

"The goal is to simplify rates, define what is fair," said Cool. He suggested looking into monthly billing, paying online, and reading the meters remotely. "There is a \$10,000 software to do this, versus driving

all over Town doing it, and buying a \$50,000 vehicle."

Grim concluded saying, "I want to see many options, not [just] the option that says the rate will go up three and six percent every year, no matter what you do."

One Active Annexation Request For The Town

The Town of Purcellville has one active annexation request. The 131.29-acre Warner Brook property, which is in the County and is zoned JLMA 3 (Joint Land Management Area – one house per three acres), is located at 17100 Purcellville Road (Rt. 611), north of the Rt. 7 Bypass, east of Purcellville Road, and west of Carmichael Place.

The annexation request calls for the following:

- Commercial on 11 acres – 70,000 sq.ft.
- Residential on 65 acres – 160 units
- Light Industrial on 24 acres – 313,000 sq.ft.
- Indoor and Outdoor Recreation on 31 acres – 130,000 sq.ft. (with the Outdoor Recreation changing to MC – Mixed Use Commercial when the market demands).

This proposal would add an average of 7,665 daily trips. The property owners had a design charrette Nov. 21, 2014, and invited County Supervisors, County planning commissioners, County development staff, Purcellville Council Members, Town planning staff, adjoining property owners, community youth league leaders, and development professionals. The charrette was facilitated by Bowman Consulting and DBI Architects.

There are other property owners interested in annexation with the expectation of high density development being proposed.



Short Hill update from the air, Nov. 20, 2016, Andy Catsakis.

Neighbors Calling On AT&T To Be A Better Neighbor

– By Andrea Gaines

The residents that call the Short Hill Mountain area their home continue to monitor AT&T's activities on the mountain's ridge, following the tech giant's abrupt withdrawal of permit applications to build a new "substation transmission" there.

A county decision to withhold certain project details as part of a Freedom of Information Act exemption has kept those who oppose the project in the dark. And, despite a recent meeting with the county, citizens are getting impatient at the lack of responsiveness to their complaints, about, among other things, the bright lights that now burn throughout the night at the site. AT&T has recently applied for a several new permits (VSMP-0016-0098 and WAIV-2016-0055), which appear to relate to a stormwater management plan and a

waiver from the requirements of that plan. But, no one seems sure what that work it is for, as the FOIA exemption is keeping permit details out of the public domain.

Neighbors are clamoring for action from the Board of Supervisors, and see the ongoing lack of clarity as another example of AT&T's posture of testing the boundaries of what makes a good neighbor.

AT&T has, they feel, been given the benefit of the doubt ever since – as this paper reported –AT&T's original permit requests "went down in smoke" last June. AT&T claims that what they're doing is a "continuation of a current use." But, that's the safe answer, as activities related to that use are the only thing currently permitted at this site. Despite repeated attempts, the use is still unclear nearly 6 months later, say neighbors.

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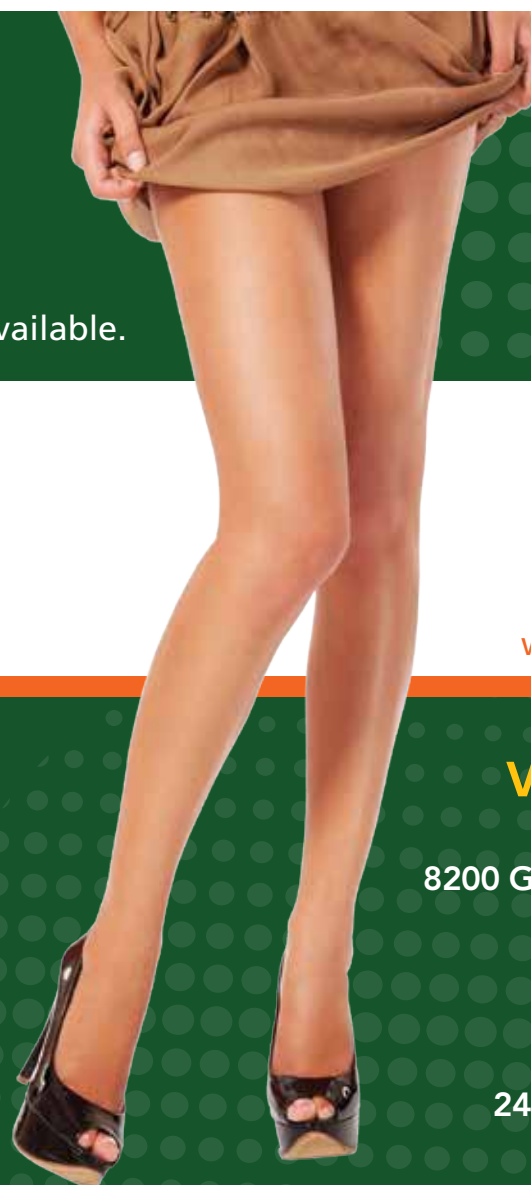
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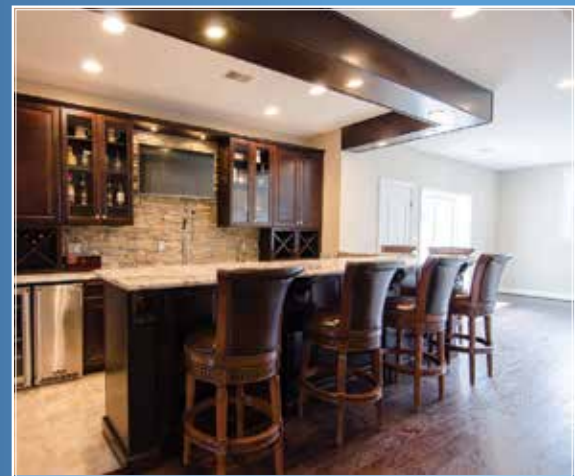
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Resolve ... To Get More



- By Tim & Wyatt

Perhaps this was a bit unusual, perhaps not. But, when the Blue Ridge Leader's search committee ("Hi, I'm Wyatt," and "Hi, I'm Tim,") went out to see what every day Loudouners had in mind for New Years resolutions, there was a distinctly common theme; get more out of life in 2017.

Here's what BRL readers from Ashburn, to Middleburg and everyone in between, said:



"I just want to be nicer." - Ryan



"I would like to read more." - Riley



From Left to Right:
"Golf!" - Faith
"Be a better friend to my classmates." - Niya
"I want to hit home runs." - Zach



"My family would be so happy if I did not wake them up so early. So, that is my resolution ... cock-a-doodle-doo!"
- Claudius



"Eat better, read more and watch less TV." - Ben



"A little more down time, instead of working 24/7." - Shawn



"I'd like to stay in South Carolina - for the warm weather." - Stacey



"I would like to pick up a new hobby." - Leah



"I want to finish a triathlon." - Jesse



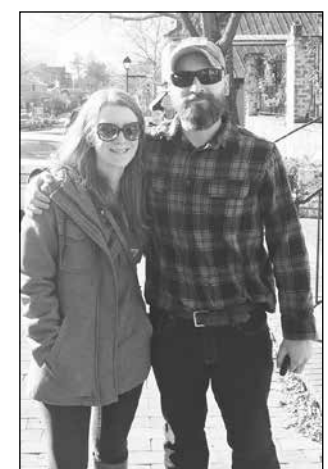
"Peace." - Rod



From Left to Right:
"Be more efficient, do more with less - physically and metaphorically." - Judi
"Get back to painting." - Betty
"Use time more wisely." - Emlyn
"Come up with a New Year's resolution." - Aidan
"Cook for myself more often." - Gray



"I will do my 'doodie' and keep up the job of fertilizing my neighbor's yards. Secondly, I will refrain from gulping my food in one bite. Finally, woof - sorry but I had to clear my throat, I will not sleep horizontally at the foot of 'my' bed disrupting my owner's sleep. I'll simply take over the pillow!" - Dodger Bennett



"Rescue more animals." - Moira and Graham

Out Of Life



From Left to Right:
 “I want to go to Greece.” – Anita
 “I would like to buy a two-bedroom apartment.” – Christina



From Left to Right: “We want to eat healthier and get in better shape.” – William, Donna and James



“I would like to watch better movies.” – Myron



From Left to Right:
 “Ride my bike to work every day.” – Myles
 “Save, save, save.” – Kevin (from Bicycle Outfitters in Brambleton)



From Left to Right:
 “Do something with my life.” – Ismael
 “Help more people.” – Steffanie



“Spend more quality time with family and friends and my dog, Jake.” – Abigail



“I resolve to have my picture printed in the newspaper.” – Simon

Envision Loudoun continued from page 1

Kelly Burk has served on the Leesburg Town Council and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, and on New Year’s Day assumed her newly-elected position as Mayor of Leesburg, parts of which fall into the Transition Policy area. An experienced planner, Burk is clear on at least one Comp Plan issue. Said Burk in a recent interview with the Blue Ridge Leader, “If we don’t preserve the Transition Policy Area, there is something wrong with us,” linking the conservation of the rural west to the zoning laws that temper development in and on the borders of the TPA.

The Harris Teeter development decision, a hotly debated issue within the BOS, saw a 5-3-1 vote in favor of a 30 percent increase in the size of a Harris Teeter grocery store in the low-density TPA. Supervisor Tony Buffington has expressed support for protecting areas that his Blue Ridge District constituents want to save, but he also holds the view that TPA lands bordering on more densely zoned land carry their protections “in name only.”

Divergent Interests, Competing Visions And Blue Stickers

The wide variety of the individual, non-profit, business, neighborhood, and governmental participants in the Envision Loudoun exercise reinforces more than anything the complexity of issues the County has before it in updating the Comprehensive Plan.

In the mix are individual farmers and small agricultural companies that make their living off the land. There are marketing companies whose clients seek to build “new urbanism communities.” There are individual property owners looking for ways to protect historic properties that have been in their families for generations. And there are individual property owners looking for site-specific zoning changes that will make their land more valuable.

In workshop and online exercises, citizens are directed to address two broad issues regarding Loudoun’s future: “What do we need to do to make Loudoun County an even better community in the future?” and “How will we get there?” Participants cover maps with blue stickers identifying where they live, and place red stickers to show what kind of zoning they think appropriate for various locales. Participants may put a note in a western Loudoun village showing an old neighborhood they think needs protection, a now-open area where they’d like to see dense development, or a place they want reserved for open space. Importantly, participants include everyday citizens, and people in the planning and zoning business, including developers.

These people have expertise that individual members of the Board of Supervisors may draw upon, whether they represent developers or historic and wildlife experts who sit on the Zoning Ordinance Advisory Group, for example, which is charged by law to make specific zoning recommendations to the BOS. ZOAG in particular, chaired by top executives in some of Loudoun’s largest developer partnerships, will have significant influence on what the Comp Plan looks like, tempered, citizen groups hope, by the preservation instincts of the general public.

Numbers Versus Quality of Life

Loudoun County is home to more than 375,000 people, and covers 5,200 square miles. It is diverse, both culturally and economically.

But, the bigger picture – the heart of the matter from a zoning and development perspective – is that Loudoun County encompasses an area as important to the nation’s history as any in the country, and includes natural environments essential to the health of the entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The county has so far managed to retain a sense of both the old and the new, and profited mightily from that.

At the same time, cutting-edge companies want in and Metro wants in. New residential development is booming, and commercial development aims to follow. Upwards of 3,000 new residential permits were issued in FY 2012, a combined total of more than 8,500 in FY 2013/2014, and a combined total of more than 7,500 in FY 2015/2016.

It sounds like a silly question, but the question is out there, and being asked in earnest: Where will Loudoun’s more than 1,400 farms, hundreds of precious historical assets – and more than 15,000 horses! – go, if growth is allowed to continue at this pace, steamrolling from east to west?

Where is the balance, and will the Comp Plan review answer that question?

Platforms for citizen participation in the effort to rewrite Loudoun’s Comprehensive Plan include: On the web –www.envision-loudoun.org; on Twitter; twitter.com/envisionloudoun; on Facebook; www.facebook.com/envisionloudoun. All are also encouraged to send comments to their individual Supervisors. Emails can be found at www.loudoun.gov.

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Architect Kevin Ruedisueli – Preserving Loudoun’s Sense of Place



Waterford architect Kevin Ruedisueli.
 Photo by Sarah Huntington

– By Andrea Gaines



Seamlessly compatible fieldstone addition to historic brick home.



Classic mountain retreat shares property with classic old Victorian.

“A Sense of Place” is the term people use to express a special kind of endurance that certain towns, villages, and properties exhibit, despite the visible change in and around them. That old barn on the outskirts of town is gone, but the antique mart that took its place has a familiar feel to it. There are a few more stoplights in the village, but right outside of town that same herd of cows stares at you from over the fence. There’s a new development going up, but it’s hidden by a long line of old trees; and the entrance has been kept small and unobtrusive.

Kevin Ruedisueli is a Waterford architect who has experienced that sense of place, and now helps clients achieve it with their own building projects – a new wing and master bedroom for an old farm house in West Virginia, a seamless stone addition to a 19th Century brick home, a total rehabilitation of an almost lost log cabin in an historic district. He also works diligently with various local planning agencies

and leaders to spread his vision of what Loudoun County can do as community to save its sense of place as it grows.

Ruedisueli knows that it’s not just growth and development that can threaten an area’s sense of place ...it is growth and development that takes the lead as it comes in, knocking down and replacing, instead of enhancing and blending into, what is already there. Loudouners are very fortunate to have a guy like Ruedisueli in the mix – whether they are newcomers looking for the home of a lifetime, or long-term residents looking to do what they can to preserve the county’s rural essence.

Ruedisueli grew up in Falls Church, when it was still known as a rather wild suburb of Washington, DC. Falls Church was dominated for most of its natural history by the Potomac River, and dramatic geological and natural features such as Great Falls, Little Falls, and the Broad Run watershed.

continued on page 11



Rustic and elegant living space over a large garage.



Detail of an old log cabin given a new life.

Amy and Dan Smith's Planning For Life – Investing In The Family Stock

Family relationships are usually not considered under the rubric of “investments”. Yet, the personal gain and loss from family relationships is much more significant than economic return from stocks and bonds.



AMY & DAN SMITH

Taking time out to relate to a person without a self-promoting agenda is counter-cultural, yet such an investment of time in the younger generation can demonstrate an alternative to the current social paradigm, and create a rich, personal reward. Think of an aunt, uncle, or grandparent who stands out in your memory. I bet the image is not one of a super-producer who accomplished great feats in the marketplace. Rather, those

who touch us most deeply are those who take time to care for us on a personal level.

Consider the grandparent who has some time and a little money to invest. What would be the return on the investment of bringing family together for a few days at a retreat facility or beach house? Or taking a grandchild or two for a weekend in D.C. or N.Y.?

Which creates greater value in the long term: A few thousand dollars contributed to a 529 Plan, or the same amount spent for a special outing with parent/grandparent and child? Investing in a memory bank can produce a lifelong return.

As one who has practiced law for four decades, dealing with families and estate planning, I can say without hesitation that the richest clients who come through our offices are those who have invested wisely

Architect, continued from page 10

People whose family history is tied to the place see similarities between what was lost in Falls Church and what is under threat in western Loudoun. But, Ruedisueli, while very aware of the pressures to over-develop Loudoun, sees opportunity, too.

Growth can and does damage the environment, he says. But, professionals, including architects and planners, need to look beyond the politics, and see what they can do to make growth ... better – for the environment, for architecture, for historic preservation, for quality of life. With the exception of America's early city landscapes, the places where we live were all once a combination of rural and wild, notes Ruedisueli. “In my early years, I spent a lot of time on Staten Island, NY at my grandmother's house. You look at the place today and can't imagine that as kids we could walk down a dirt path to get to the water. Before it was developed, that's the kind of environment we played in.” “Old Staten Island never left me,” continues the architect. “It also helped give me a knack for old homes, and inspired me,” he says.

Ruedisueli sees the home he built in Waterford on a pipestem lot with frontage on Catoctin Creek as an example of how to develop an area – in this case, one structure at a time – without erasing its prime or signature features.

In Loudoun, he explains, you have the suburban east, the Transition Policy Area in the middle – which he admits is under threat – and the rural west. The economy of the west is distinctly rural, says Ruedisueli. The thing that most people miss – the characteristics that make up its sense of place – is that it is a “rural economy that allows houses, not a series of residential communities surrounded by some remaining farmland. Residential is actually secondary to western Loudoun's purpose.”

This point hints at Ruedisueli's deep expertise and broad vision as both an architect and a planner.

The people defending Loudoun's rural

west, and people pushing for suburban-style development in the west, are coming from completely different places, and this makes for a very contentious planning atmosphere, says Ruedisueli. When suburban-style of development moves east to west, he explains, “You end up with projects that come in as isolated islands within a rural landscape.” There is no innovative blending, no new ideas, he argues. Even when a park is added to try to make it more compatible with the rural surroundings, designers send you plans for “an island of suburbia ... with a park ... surrounded by and unconnected to a beautiful rural landscape.”

In Ruedisueli's experience, “We're all part of the problem, and we've got to stop throwing things at each other.” In the vision of this architect/planner, the question we need to answer with respect to western Loudoun is not how to locate suburban-style development here, but how to preserve and enhance the features of the area that make it rural. This includes not only an individual building's style and features, a 100-home development's architectural style and features, or a transportation feature's size and location, but how each functions within the rural landscape. What is their proximity to open spaces? How big are they, and in the case of the development, how dense? How do they connect to trails and roads? And how do they access rural economic centers, and community gathering places, such as farms, villages, churches, and community resources?

For his part, Ruedisueli cautions planners – and organizations that advise planners, such as Loudoun's Zoning Ordinance Action Group – to pay strict attention to interconnectedness issues, and issues related to affordable housing – two things he hears about over and over again, and are right at the top of citizens' agendas.

Here he goes back to the idea of avoiding the new-development-as-an-island pitfall, and preserving both the rural nature of the west, and the vibrant economy of farms and small towns that makes it such a special place to live.

in developing close personal relationships, especially within the family. Such folks have more wealth than those with huge financial net worth figures. A legacy of treasured memories is a rich heritage.

As we begin a new year, it might be wise to consider how we might maximize our family ties. Time, energy, and even money invested can produce great dividends in the long term.

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Freedom Park

– By Tim Jon

A great name for a great place, this public space shows us – in my opinion – what’s best about Leesburg, Loudoun County and our country. Freedom Park – just off the Dulles Greenway on the South side of Town – represents – to me – much more than just its 20 acres of land, with a series of athletic fields and support facilities. And this goes back to its very beginning. I remember getting a lump in my throat as Council Members – well over a decade ago now – came up with the idea for this site as the location for the Town’s 911 Memorial – and what better title for the spot than Freedom Park?

I think it’s pretty cool – in an even bigger picture – that we have generations of kids growing up in our locality, and enjoying healthy, athletic activities at a place they can tell their grandchildren about – “Yes, I can remember when I was little, we played baseball, softball and soccer at Freedom Park in Leesburg, Virginia: Now let me tell you a little more about what that name



JON



means ...” Yeah, all these years after the initial name choice, the goosebumps are still there.

Ironically, the morning I last visited this local facility, the gate was still closed, and I had to make a quick pilgrimage to the 911 Memorial, get a brief overview of the buildings onsite, and then hightail it back to my car at the side of the road. By the way, for those who’ve never been, you’ll find the access on Tolbert Lane off Evergreen Mills Road; the site’s a bit landlocked by its eastern border with the greenway, and Battlefield Parkway to the South.

Now, when you’re touring the facility on foot, you can’t help but notice the name

‘Henry Stowers’ on the impressive field house – done up in a traditional barn style; I’d like to think that Mr Stowers still looks after the land in these parts, just as he did as a farmer – for many years – up until a fatal vehicle accident took his life in December of 2001 (another motorist ran a stop sign and both died in the crash).

Henry Stowers also served on the Loudoun Board of Supervisors back in the 1970’s, as well as a number of agricultural panels – and lent a big hand to local 4-H youth activities. To say he was well-liked by his peers would be understatement. In fact, I could do far worse than nominate his spirit as eternal steward of Freedom Park and those who visit the place, as I trust that those who knew him far better than I would tell you that part of the man is indeed, still here.

This sentiment enlarges and comes full circle in the tasteful Memorial – at Freedom Park – to those who lost their lives in the tragedies of September 11, 2001; we – hopefully – not only remember them and grieve their loss, but also – just possibly – communicate for a brief moment with their essence – the best of what they were – in

the deepest of possible empathies. Is this not – after all – at least one sense of eternal life? Truly, their spirit carries on, and I say, kudos for the initiative to place the Marker in the local parcel of land we call Freedom Park. As I stated at the top of this story, a great name for a great place – and – to a great degree – it demonstrates our higher nature, to ourselves as well as to others.

Now, when I was a kid, I played all the usual sports and had a lot of fun, but never grew up to rival Babe Ruth, Jim Brown or LaBron James; likewise, with the majority of our youngsters of today, who learn the lessons of teamwork, fairness – and good, old-fashioned participation in what we call recreation – in play. To paraphrase the cliché, I don’t recall too many victories or losses on my local sandlots or gridirons, but I vividly remember taking part with my neighbors, friends and family, and enjoying boatloads of fun for my efforts. And, yes, I took my share of bloody noses, ‘shiners’ and bruises – and probably even had my ‘bell’ rung a few too many times – but how we enjoyed the sense of freedom to play – (with the avoidance of injury), may it always be so.

Choosing A Different Lens

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

We have all heard, “A picture’s worth a thousand words,” maybe even said it aloud while perusing old photo albums or scrolling through Facebook timelines. Sometimes words fall short of adequately describing an emotion encapsulating a distinct moment. Pictures fill in the gaps when words fail us. Perhaps the flash of a camera can tell us just as much as the length of this column.

Our culture is dedicated in theory to the collection of moments. In reality, portraying oneself in the best possible light seems to be the primary focus. The way we collect and disseminate images has evolved since the days of past generations. No longer are these captured images confined to the shelf, collecting dust. They are broadcast for the entire world to see, published on social media outlets to proclaim our greatest moments of happiness and triumph. Sometimes, images are used as a weapon against a spurned lover or a former friend. Other times, they are utilized to paint a dishonest picture, to paper over the unhappiness felt deep within one’s soul. Yet the smile persists, perhaps in an effort to conjure up a feeling of happiness that may or may not exist.

The advent of “the selfie” has only served to broaden an obsession with capturing our best image. According to a recent study, young adults, on average, will take 25,700 selfies throughout their lifetime. There is something about this act that seems to validate



MOORE-SOBEL

an experience. Selfie-sticks ensure that images can still be captured with or without the presence of bystanders.

The whole idea of being photographed is in itself not authentic. No matter the circumstances, we stop and brave a smile. As a child, I dutifully said, “Cheese!” What are we, mice? I mean, I like cheese just as much as the next guy; however, what exactly does cheese have to do with pictures?

It is this very in-authenticity that began my war with the camera at an early age. Forced in front of a lens by extended family members who seemed far more interested in dutifully cataloging the sequence of unfolding events than being active participants, my interest in being photographed waned. The battle continued into my teenage years, coming to a head when my face was heavily scarred in an accident, giving rise to a feeling of immense self-consciousness.

A period of banishment was employed to conquer my war against the camera. The yearbook agreed to run my picture from the year before. Extended family members were at the time forbidden from capturing my face in my current state – for those were dark days not worth remembering. Yet, the complete removal of all photography proved elusive. A new plan emerged. I would be the photographer, deciding which shots to take candidly and which to stage, obsessing

about which angle to choose and how far away to stand. Yet through that experience, I felt as if I were no longer present. Hiding behind the camera transformed me from an active participant into a passive observer. This could lead to what researchers call the “photo-taking impairment effect.” The idea is that the act of taking pictures detracts from a person’s ability to clearly remember the event. Ironically, actively photographing an event may actually impair memory.

Perhaps this theory helps explain why some of my happiest memories were made without the appearance of a lens. Unlike their predecessors, my parents were never obsessed with photographs. Instead, an emphasis was placed on being fully present. The camera wasn’t needed to capture our joy, for we had enough to go around. Holidays passed without the appearance of a camera. Birthday cake was presented and candles blown out without being greeted by the click of a flash.

This isn’t to say that pictures are not important. Recently, I saw a group of children taking pictures. They looked happy, jumping around and making funny faces. I thought back to what it was like to be a child, to experience life as it happens. Children live in the moment rather than its capturing. Isn’t that the way it should be?

Pictures are useful when capturing our histories, accumulating a personal record of the life we have lived. To remind us of the persons we once were and what we can be once again. There are gaps in the

personal record of my life. Gaps that lasted years, when the moratorium on cameras and pictures reigned supreme. Yet, therein lies an unexpected lesson. Mainly, that not every moment demands to be documented. Some of the most precious days of my life are tucked away in the recesses of my mind rather than displayed on a Facebook timeline or Instagram account.

My hatred of the camera has now morphed into a state of indifference. It no longer elicits a negative reaction. I rarely use social media, and even when I have frequented such sites, I rarely have posted images. People can live happy and full lives without feeling the need to achieve a certain number of likes to prove their self-worth.

Instead of focusing on documenting every minute, maybe we should focus on truly experiencing every second. One of my New Year’s resolutions is to be more fully present, to truly experience life instead of letting it pass by in an effort to get further into the future. So the next time something noteworthy happens, instead of reaching for your phone, stay in the moment. Hang on for as long as you can, and try not to forget a single detail. For pictures are only as good as the meaning behind the moment; and, if you miss the moment, the meaning is lost, too.

Samuel Moore-Sobel enjoys a life filled with as few pictures as possible. Although he does enjoy keeping some pictures on the wall despite what this column might seemingly suggest.

Remembering Carrol Baker Crim

Carroll Baker Crim, Sr. of Purcellville, died in his home Dec. 25, 2016.

Crim was born on Sept. 25, 1920, the son of the late William M. and Mary E. Crim. He served in the U.S. Army and worked for Giant Food before retiring. He also served as deacon at St. Paul's Church.

He is survived by two sons Carroll, Jr. and wife Margaret of White Post, VA; Newton W. and wife Connie of Clearbrook, VA; two step sons, Gary Cooper of Purcellville and Aubrey of West Virginia; one daughter Dorthey E. Poland and husband Clinton of

Round Hill; and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two daughters, first wife Nellie P. and second wife Doris V.; two brothers and four sisters; two grandsons and one great grandson.

The family received friends on Wednesday Dec. 28 and interment followed at Lovettsville Union Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given to Christian Community Church at St. Pauls, 12623 Harpers Ferry Road, Purcellville, VA 20132.

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Help Joseph ... And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Blue Ridge Middle School's PTO is seeking help with its drama department, working diligently on the production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

The children in the show are enthusiastic and very talented. And, the school has a long history of first class productions with recent shows such as The Lion King, which won 11 National Youth Arts Awards under the direction of Dolly Stevens.

The school is also dedicated to advancing each child's academic career in addition to cultivating absolutely super creativity. All performers must maintain high grades to remain in the play.

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- Advertising in the production's Play Bill.
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Show dates are:

- Friday, Feb. 24 – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 25 – 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 26 – 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 3 – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 4 – 2:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 4 – 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 5 – 2:30 p.m.

Questions may be directed to James Willis at jameswillis75@comcast.net, or call or text (601) 862-1402 for further details.

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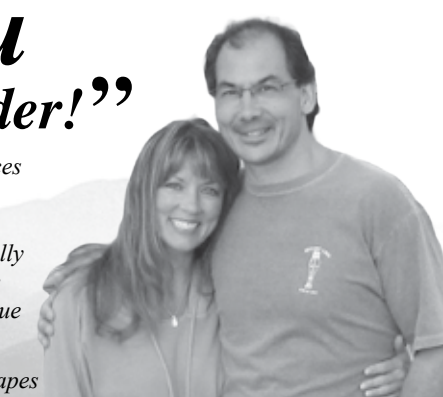
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HEALTH & BEAUTY

The Spa In Your Kitchen

– By Andrea Gaines

Today's health and beauty products are perfectly scented, perfectly tinted, and packaged to perfection. They are smooth as silk, and smell of coconut, lime, strawberry, vanilla, and mint. Rub them into your skin or brush them through your hair, and an otherwise stressful day can melt away into a pretty nice one.

Early, homemade health and beauty products didn't look much like they do today, but they had similar compounds, characteristics, and uses – natural astringents and invigorating textures for smooth skin, and nourishing oils and sweet-smelling scents for beautiful, touchable hair. It's fun – and very inexpensive – to make your own health and beauty products using some

Do a little research. Dozens of other common kitchen ingredients make for great at-home spa moments – kosher salt, oatmeal, honey, citrus, milk, yogurt, ginger – along with the herbs, flowers, and plants on your kitchen windowsill, including lavender, aloe, and rosemary.

towels, warm water, and a few things from your kitchen, to create your own private spa for the afternoon. Here are some ideas.

Do a little research. Dozens of other common kitchen ingredients make for great at-home spa moments – kosher salt, oatmeal, honey, citrus, milk, yogurt, ginger – along with the herbs, flowers, and plants on your kitchen windowsill, including lavender, aloe, and rosemary.

Spud Facial, For Fresh, Smooth Skin – Ingredients: Raw potatoes, loose tea, olive oil.

What's At Work Here? Potatoes contain the natural moisturizer known as lanolin, also found in sheep's wool. That, along with the moisturizing qualities of the olive oil and the light acidic qualities of the green tea exfoliate, add moisture to the skin while smoothing the surface.

How To Do It: Gently combine a cup of raw grated potato, the loose tea from a teabag, and a tablespoon of olive oil. Massage the mixture into your face with your fingertips, leaving it on for about five minutes. Then, rinse with warm water, and pat dry.

Tropical Treatment For Healthy Lustrous Hair – Ingredients: 1/2 banana, 1/2 ripe avocado.

What's At Work Here? Avocados have monounsaturated fatty acids that are great for your hair, removing dirt and impurities to reveal its hidden shine and luster. Some also say the vitamin E in avocado repairs the scalp and promotes hair growth. Bananas contain natural oils, B vitamins, and potassium, nourishing and strengthening the hair shafts.

How To Do It: Mash the banana and avocado together, blend through, and



leave on warm damp hair (wrapped in plastic and a towel) for 30 minutes. Wash the mixture out of the hair thoroughly with warm water, combing along the way. Then, shampoo and style as usual.

Brown Sugar Mani/Pedi For Polished Hands And Feet – Ingredients: 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup coffee grounds, 1/4 cup chopped mint, 1/3 cup olive oil.

What's At Work Here? Brown sugar has two great beauty qualities: it increases the surface humidity of skin, acting as a moisturizer; and it has natural glycolic acid, which acts as an defoliant. Coffee tightens and tones skin, helps with exfoliation, and has anti-inflammatory properties. Mint has something called salicylic acid, which exfoliates and helps with inflammation. Olive oil is an all-around great skin moisturizer.

How To Do It: Chop or mash the mint, and combine it with the olive oil and sugar. Cover your hands and feet with the thick paste, scrubbing as you go along. Cover your hands and feet with gloves or socks. After about 15 minutes, immerse your hands, then your feet, in warm water to remove the gloves and socks. Rinse and scrub your hands with warm soapy water, and apply your moisturizer of choice.



Dr. Mike continued from page 2

eat fruits and vegetables daily, get at least 7-8 hours of sleep each night, drink alcohol in moderation, schedule your annual physical, etc. A resolution without an action plan or roadmap is merely wishful thinking.

Develop a support system. If you are committed to making a change, share your plan with your family and friends. They can help push you and encourage you along the way. Some goals may be too big to face alone, such as losing weight or quitting smoking, so perhaps joining a support group in your area or online could be helpful. In a support group, you will find fellowship and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Talking to people who are struggling

to make the same changes as you can help you move forward to meet your goal more efficiently.

Reward yourself. Recognize the positive changes you have made and reward yourself along the way. Take pride in your accomplishments and share your progress with others. Once you pass certain milestones, recognize that moment with a treat. By rewarding yourself for meeting your goal, you will have something to look forward to, in addition to the self-satisfaction you will feel with your accomplishment.

Stay positive. Do not beat yourself up for being human if you struggle. Henry Ford once said, "Failure is the opportunity to

begin again, more intelligently." So, if you fall off track, be flexible, and do not lose sight of your goals. Evaluate your progress. Think about where you failed, and adjust your action plan or roadmap to something that is more attainable. Research has shown that people who are positive achieve their goals more successfully than people who are negative.

Research has also shown that 25 percent of us abandon our New Year's resolutions just a week into January, so being mindful and committed to your plan will be important. While several factors have been found to influence habit formation and change, discipline and self-control are the two most important – being

moderate, knowing your vulnerabilities, and delaying gratification will take great effort, but will matter a lot.

We could all benefit from making some changes in our lives, so take advantage of the tradition of New Year's resolutions to look back on the past year, and assess something about yourself to improve upon in the year ahead. Here's to a New Year and a new you in 2017!

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist in private practice. His new children's book, 'Ollie Outside,' is released through Free Spirit Publishing. Go to AshburnPsych.com or call (703) 723-2999 to learn more.

Crooked Run Is In It For Nature — New Conservation Easement Protects 41 Additional Acres

— By Andrea Gaines

People don't often look at conservation easements — the legal vehicles that set land aside for conservation — as money-makers. But long-time farmers Sam and Uta Brown, the owners of Purcellville's 96+-acre Crooked Run Orchard, do. And in late 2016, the Browns put their money where their mouth is, adding 41 acres to the conservation lands that make up their farm — protecting the entire 96 acres in perpetuity.

Virginia has some 46,000 farms. The average farmer is almost 60 years old. The average farm size is approximately 179 acres. And, over 90 percent of farms are operated by individuals or families. According to the State Department of Agriculture, farming is Virginia's biggest industry, "with nothing else a close second."

Farming is a popular occupation, but it's also hard. In the last 50 years, the state has lost somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 percent of its farmland; down from 13.5 million acres in 1960 to 8.3 million acres in 2012. But, farmers are a tough breed; and that toughness has produced generations of farmers like the Browns, determined to protect their land.

As an agricultural property, Crooked Run Orchard is, in fact, among the rarest of the rare, as are 19 other farms in Loudoun County — including Oakland Green in Lincoln. Crooked Run, is a Virginia Century Farm.

To qualify as a Century Farm, an applicant's farm must meet extremely strict criteria — a rare mixture of historical significance and personal family history. First, the farm must have been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years. Second, the farm must be lived on, or actually farmed by, a descendant of the original owner. And third, the farm must gross more than \$2,500 annually. Crooked Run Orchard has been in Sam Brown's

In the United States, land conservation is about both personal choice and the public good. From a fiscal point of view, conservation returns between \$4 and \$10 for every dollar invested — creating recreational opportunities, controlling flooding, enhancing air and drinking water quality, conserving income-generating wildlife habitat and farmland, and forming the economic basis for industries such as tourism and fisheries.

family for more than 250 years, since Sam Brown's ancestor, Mahlon Kirkbride, purchased it from Lord Fairfax in 1741, making it an economic and cultural jewel for the Purcellville community.

Uta Brown remembers a time when crawfish — a form of aquatic life sensitive to water quality — flourished in their creek. Pollution from the town has reduced the ability of these crustaceans to survive. But, that has not stopped the Browns from trying to build as positive a legacy as the farm can offer to future generations.

Said Uta Brown, "I want to leave something behind that protects all living things. This land will never be developed. It will be farmed, or it be allowed to go back to nature. It will do the things that open land, managed correctly, does naturally — help clean the air, help clean the water, and provide for wildlife. Students and interns will be able to come here for a hands-on experience — study entomology, maybe, or fruit diseases. I feel like we owe it to the people who want to do



Hughitt enjoying blackberry harvest at crooked Run Orchard this past summer.

good by Purcellville and Loudoun County." "Humans have a tendency to take everything they see," continued Uta. "When you own land, you have to know when to say no." And, that is how many town residents see things. Says farm customer Meagan Hawkins: "Crooked Run has been a special place for our family since we moved next door seven years ago. Buying local is so important to our

family, as is teaching our children how critical it is to protect the environment. Being able to bring our children to a family-run farm, within walking distance from our home, and hand pick the produce that will become our meals, is an invaluable opportunity for them. So thrilled to know that Crooked Run will be here for our family, and countless others, for years to come."

Remembering George Kakouras

Georgios "George" Evangelos Kakouras, of Purcellville passed away on Dec. 22, 2016. Born on February 22, 1938 in Gorianades, Greece he was the son of the late Evangelos and Elizabeth Kakouras.

Kakouras came to the United States from Greece in 1955 at the age of 17. He began working for his late uncle Nick Fragakis at the White Palace Restaurant in Purcellville, and later partnered with John Pilalas there. In 1982 he started George's Plaza Restaurant in Purcellville, where it is currently owned and

operated by his son Nick.

George was an active and dedicated member of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Winchester, where he served as a Chantor for over 30 years. He was also a member of the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Department for fifteen years, the Purcellville Business Association and the Purcellville Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years Maria Kakouras of Purcellville; two sons Van Kakouras (Cindy Laughlin) of Roanoke;

Nick (Mary) Kakouras of Hillsboro; two daughters Elizabeth (Andrew) Chiarel of Lexington, SC; Bessie (Tony) Linkous of Purcellville; nine grandchildren Martha, Maria, Emily, Donny, George, Maria, Peter, Evva, and Georgia; and two sisters and one brother of Greece.

Visitation was held on Monday, Dec. 26, at Hall Funeral Home in Purcellville. Burial took place in the Hillsboro Cemetery in Hillsboro.

The family would like to thank DaVita

Dialysis of Leesburg, for their wonderful care and concern during his illness. Also, they would like to thank the community for their ongoing love and support over the years. George will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and community.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be sent to the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 1700 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA 22601 or to the Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork Street, Winchester, VA 22602.

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BEALE STREET PUPPETS: DIG THOSE DINOSAURS
Wed, Jan 11 10:00 AM



(Ages 2 & up) The past is alive with prehistoric performers! Elvis-Saurus and Ted Pterodactyl lead in the Fossil Follies with our Madcap Mesozoic Marionettes! Silly is the word for this show, with colorful dinosaurs everywhere!

Tickets: \$5/person Pay at Door

THE IMMORTALS WITH LARRY MITCHELL
Sat, Jan 14 7:00 PM



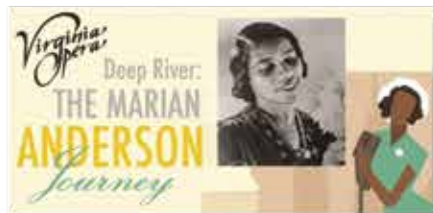
(Ages 10 & up) The Immortals are a group made up of the best music students at Loudoun Music Instruction. Joining the Immortals will be Grammy Award winning producer and guitarist Larry Mitchell.

Tickets: \$10/person Pay at Door

VIRGINIA OPERA: DEEP RIVER- THE MARIAN ANDERSON STORY
Wednesday, January 18 10:00 AM

Be a witness to Ms. Anderson's incredible journey for her rise to a pre-eminent spot among the world's concert artists in spite of racial attitudes of the times, which she met with courage, grace and determination. Presented in partnership with Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Tickets: \$8/person
Pay at Door



LAST HAM STANDING COMEDY IMPROV
Friday, January 20 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.lasthan.com

DANNY KNICELY'S 11TH ANNUAL CONCERT
Saturday, January 21 8:00 PM

Danny Knicely, Will Lee, John Flower and special guest Ricky Lee will perform music from an upcoming CD.
Tickets: \$20 All Seats in advanced, \$25 at the Door
www.dannyknicely.com

Brian Ganz Concert Jan. 22 – St. Andrew's Purcellville



Photo by Jay Mallin

Jan. 22, 4 p.m. Brian Ganz and CHO-PIN! *Music with a Cause* Sunday concerts at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Purcellville continues with a concert to benefit the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter. The concert will feature internationally renowned pianist and award-winning Chopin specialist Brian Ganz in a recital of works from

the Romantic composer's youth, including nocturnes, polonaises, mazurkas, etudes and a rarely heard set of variations on the charming German air, "Der Schweizerbub." maturity. Tickets are \$15, seniors \$12, ages 17 and under free. Tickets available on Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/hssrp4. Go to www.standrew-pres.org or call 540 338-4332.

Bluegrass Concert Lucketts Community Center



Larry Stephenson



Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper



Remington Ryde

The 43rd season of weekly concerts at the Lucketts Community Center will feature the following performers during the month of January: Saturday, January 7, The Larry Stephenson Band; Saturday January 14, Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper; Saturday, January 21, Remington Ryde

and Saturday, January 28, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers. Tickets for all concerts are \$15 at the door, show time is 7 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. Hot dogs, barbeque sandwiches plus other snacks and drinks will be available at the kitchen. The address is 42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg, 703 771-5281, www.luckettsbluegrass.org.

Carver Center Events January 2017

☉ **Computers for Absolute Beginners (Ages 55 and up)**

Tuesdays from 1/3-2/7, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost: \$48

☉ **Core and More (Ages 16 and up)**

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 1/3-1/27, 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Cost: \$80

☉ **Decluttering Paperwork (Ages 55 and up)**

Wednesdays, 1/4-1/18, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

☉ **Body Sculpting (Ages 15 and up)**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1/4-2/15, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$100

☉ **Monthly Lunch & a Movie – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Friday, Jan. 6, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Call 571-258-3407 to pre-register by noon on January 5.

☉ **Beginner Watercolor Painting (Ages 55 and up)**

Fridays from 1/6-2/10, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$20

☉ **New! Chair Yoga (Ages 55 and up)**

Mondays, on-going beginning 1/9, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

☉ **Inkle Loom Weaving (Ages 55 and up)**

Tuesdays from 1/10-1/31, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Cost: \$3.00

☉ **Jerry's Jukebox (Ages 14 and up)**

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 and 24, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. (note time change)

☉ **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration (Ages 18 and up)**

Friday, Jan. 13, 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

☉ **Lunch Bunch - Ford's Fish Shack, Ashburn (Ages 55 and up)**

Friday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please sign up by Wednesday, Jan. 18.

☉ **Advanced Beginner Watercolor (Ages 55 and up)**

Wednesdays from 1/25-3/1, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$20

☉ **Decluttering Clothing (Ages 55 and up)**

Wednesdays, 1/25-2/8, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

☉ **Alzheimer's Support Group (Ages 18 and up)**

Thursday, 1/26, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

☉ **Pickleball (Ages 18 and up)**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, on-going, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Janice Butts and Denise Amonson



Joe Mullens and the Radio Ramblers

Deadline Extended For Purcellville Sports Funding Application

The Town of Purcellville has extended the deadline to apply for the Annual Sports League Funding. The new deadline is Jan. 9 at 5 p.m.

Applicant organizations must serve the Town of Purcellville area, have citizens of the Town of Purcellville as players, and provide a letter to the Town from the IRS confirming the organization's tax exempt status in order to be eligible for funding. Priority consideration will be given to sports teams from Purcellville that have an open participation policy where all players are allowed to play.

There is \$5,200 allocated in the FY 2016 – 2017 budget. Applications can be found on line at www.purcellvilleva.gov/fundingapplication. Please send your application to, Town of Purcellville, Annual Sports League Funding, 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, VA 20132 or email mscoggins@purcellvilleva.gov.

WHS Varsity Gymnastics Takes First Place In Season Opener

The Woodgrove High School Varsity Gymnastics squad outscored teams from Loudoun Valley, Riverside, Park View and Forest Park high schools to take first place at its season opener at LVHS on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Woodgrove sophomore River Stone also won first place in the individual all-around.

Stone finished second place on vault and beam, third on floor, and fifth on bars. Senior Sarah Snare placed third on both bars and vault. Their scores, plus those of their teammates, propelled the WHS team to the victory.

The team also competed on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Flip for a Cure Invitational at Patriot High School in Nokesville. The girls placed fifth as a team; Snare placed fifth on vault and Stone placed third on bars, tied for third on floor and placed fourth all-around.

Woodgrove High School Varsity Gymnastics took second place in a six-team meet at Park View High School on

Tuesday night, Dec. 13. The Wolverines finished just 1.875 points behind Freedom High School, which won the Virginia High School League 5A state championship in 2016, and bested teams from Park View, John Champe, Rock Ridge and Briar Woods.

Woodgrove sophomore River Stone won the individual all-around with first place finishes on vault, bars and beam, and a second place on floor. Freshman Erin Keane finished sixth on beam and fourth on floor, and sophomore Erin Ramsey placed sixth on vault.

Woodgrove Gymnastics took second place behind Freedom High School in a five-team meet on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Freedom HS. The Wolverines outscored teams from Heritage, Loudoun County and Park View High Schools.

In the individual competition, Woodgrove gymnast River Stone, a sophomore, placed first on bars, second on vault, third on



Photo courtesy Woodgrove Gymnastics

Jodi Snare (9th), River Stone (10th), Erin Ramsey (10th), Kaycee Delitta (12th), Sarah Snare (12th), Coach Margie Barnes, Lauren Sutara (11th), Erin Keane (9th) and Dani Kimbrough (10th).

beam, fourth on floor and second all-around. Sophomore Dani Kimbrough placed sixth on vault and bars and third all-around. Freshman Erin Keane placed four on beam, sixth on floor and fourth all-

around. Freshman Jodi Snare placed fourth on vault, fifth on bars and fifth all-around.

The Wolverines will host Park View, Rock Ridge, Riverside and Loudoun Valley at Woodgrove on Jan. 5.

Kelly Burk, continued from page 1

Leader the tone she wants to set as mayor. That tone, in a word according to Burk, is transparency. "Government needs to act always in an open, honest and fair manner," said Burk, noting that everything a Leesburg Town Council, or Board of Supervisors – or mayor – does, sends a signal to the public. Even on things such as the replacement of a public official who leaves office early, how a body goes about things, makes a difference, she explained. For example, when former Mayor Umstatt was leaving her seat as Mayor for the Board of Supervisors, Burk, who was Vice Mayor at the time, wanted the Leesburg Town Council to stick with tradition and appoint a member of the public to that office, rather than tapping her for the seat. Burk was about to announce her candidacy for mayor during the next election cycle. Others on the Town Council were likely to run as well, and Burk reasoned that if she were a member of the public, she might have seen appointing her as giving one candidate a leg up on the competition.

Burk has seen a questionable level of transparency on other issues as well, such as when a development project comes before a legislative body for approval and gets denied, only to come back later in the same form, and by luck or circumstance, be approved. In this way, there is a subtlety and deep sense of fairness to what Burk wants to achieve as Mayor of Leesburg.

Burk is also very big on enhancing the presence of art in the Town. "Art to me is a significant factor in peoples' quality of life," said Burk. "I'd like to see us add art to places that are already here, and I also love the idea of pop-up art galleries ... I see them everywhere now." And, "music!" added Burk. "Loudoun County has amazing musicians. I'd like to cultivate that and support all kinds of [artistic pursuits]."

Burk is also very passionate about Loudoun County getting a hold of its exploding growth, including what should be built, and where. She feels strongly that the Transition Policy Area needs to be protected, citing its very important role in helping to save the rural west. With respect to Leesburg, she is focused on getting government to promote the right mix of residential and commercial development. On specific votes, she cites the recent approval of hundreds of new homes, with almost no commercial to balance it out. Said Burk, "While I am disappointed with this vote, the second in two weeks to allow over 700 new houses in Leesburg, my hope is the new council in January will demand more from any rezoning and development."

County Releases Interactive Development Map

The Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning has released an interactive countywide mapping system that will be of use to real estate developers and others. The initial phase of the map concentrates on residential development. Dubbed the Existing and Potential Development tool, it provides information on the existing use of structures and parcels, the location and number of housing units within residential projects that are approved but not completed, as well as ones that are completed, and the remaining residential potential of vacant parcels, as well as parcels not developed to their full potential, and approved projects that have not been

completed.

The County said in a release that the mapping system "can be used for land use, capital facilities, and transportation planning purposes, as well as fiscal, demographic, and market analysis." It said that it will also be useful for "land use scenario planning initiatives such as Envision Loudoun, the County's effort to develop a new comprehensive plan."

In the coming months, the map will also include non-residential projects. The mapping system can be accessed through www.loudoun.gov/DevelopmentMap. The information in the present map is current as of July 2016, and will be updated

quarterly starting this January. It is clear that the site was not designed for the casual observer. It notes up front that, "The tool is complex and contains a large quantity of data. It is strongly encouraged that you refer to the help documentation before using the tool. The app is best used on a tablet or desktop."

The map was developed at the behest of the Board of Supervisors, which in January 2015 directed the staff to determine the housing-development potential in Loudoun under the County's current land-use plan. The staff presented the results of its work to the Board in October.

Purcellville Launches Financial Transparency Platform

The Town of Purcellville announced the launch of its financial transparency platform through OpenGov, which is designed to bring visibility, openness, and accountability to their operations. The Town Council has emphasized its commitment to honest budgeting, responsible spending, and financial transparency and approved the contract with OpenGov in September.

This platform provides citizens the opportunity to view, filter, and analyze financial data both monthly and annually for Purcellville. Visitors to the site can analyze financial trends from Fiscal Year 2015 to current year, in areas such as including annual tax revenues, personnel costs, monthly operating expenses, and overtime costs. One of the benefits of the

platform is that visitors can download the data for offline analysis and even share it on social media.

"The Town Council has placed an emphasis on collaborative governance with full citizen engagement," said Mayor Kwasi A. Fraser. "We strive to be open and transparent about how we manage and spend our resources. The OpenGov platform takes the complexity out of the financial reporting process by democratizing our data in a meaningful and easy to understand way for our stakeholders. The more informed our stakeholders are about how every tax dollar and other streams of revenues are managed, the more engaged and confident they will be in our decision-making process on behalf of the

Town."

For a quick link and information about the site, visit www.purcellvilleva.gov/opengov. This site allows you to find commonly-requested reports. It also includes links to "Tips on Using OpenGov" and "Frequently Asked Questions about OpenGov."

When using the Town's OpenGov portal, use one of the saved "Views" to find easy reports, or use the customizable "Filters" to drill down into the specifics that you would like to see. The information provided is comprehensive and updated monthly.

Questions about the Town's information can be directed to Town Staff at 540 338-7421 or info@purcellvilleva.gov.

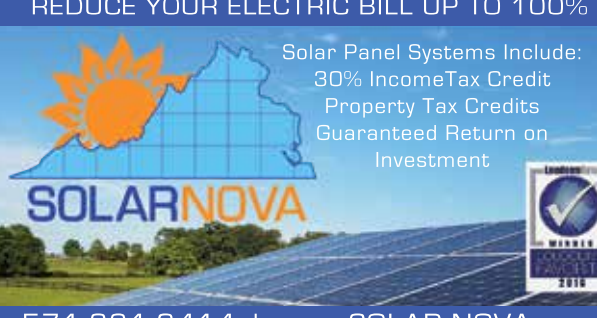
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55	56	57	58				59	60						
61					62						63			
64					65						66			
67						68					69			

ACROSS

- 1. North Atlantic fishes
- 5. Asset
- 9. Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 13. Circle
- 14. Blood line
- 16. One of three vessels
- 17. Caspian feeder
- 18. Man of many words
- 19. Bygone title
- 20. Izzard album title
- 23. Bowls
- 24. Game piece
- 25. Australian mimic
- 28. Interweave
- 33. Some votes
- 35. Army attack helicopter
- 36. He or she
- 42. Sitting spot
- 43. Islam denomination
- 44. First-aid item
- 46. Invigorate
- 52. Toupee
- 54. Thesis type
- 55. Source of grammatical debate
- 61. Animal house
- 62. Buoy
- 63. Came down to earth
- 64. After-lunch sandwich
- 65. Gold braid
- 66. Some male dolls
- 67. ___ Station
- 68. Discounted
- 69. U2 guitarist

DOWN

- 1. Posterior
- 2. Solar system model
- 3. More indifferent
- 4. Like tears
- 5. French native
- 6. Swag
- 7. Spur
- 8. Benefit
- 9. One who hasn't turned pro?
- 10. Microprocessor type
- 11. Analytic, for short
- 12. Empty
- 15. Take ___ (travel)
- 21. Bag
- 22. Public util.
- 26. Shag rugs
- 27. Indian metropolis
- 29. Waiting period, seemingly
- 30. Blood letters
- 31. French vineyard
- 32. Chinese dynasty
- 34. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
- 36. Fraternity letter
- 37. "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 38. Delicacy
- 39. Break down
- 40. Eyeball benders
- 41. Daredevil's trait
- 45. Percussion instrument
- 47. Samoan staple
- 48. Amount eaten
- 49. Stirred up
- 50. Amy or John
- 51. African menace
- 53. Distort
- 55. Hogwash
- 56. Excoriate
- 57. Bank claim
- 58. Like some wills
- 59. Enthusiasm
- 60. Egyptian fertility goddess

Answers on page 26

History's Enduring & Mysterious Places

"Above the alter is a trompe-l'oeil painting attributed to Lucien Whiting Powell, a local artist, around 1880. The painting is done in three-dimensional designs and creates the illusion of an apse. The artwork consists of two fluted pilasters topped by composite capitals supporting a modified Gothic arch containing a white dove with an olive branch sailing among puffy clouds in a blue sky."

(Detail from Wikipedia's romantic description of a painting inside Ketocin Church.)



Chainsaw tree sculpture at Bear's Den hostel, courtesy of www.yelp.com.



Photo courtesy National Trust for Historic Preservation



Ketocin Church: By Cecouchman - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27801421>.



Hibbs Bridge: By Cecouchman (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons.

- By Andrea Gaines

Trees in the shape of animals. Old stone bridges. Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers ... buried side by side. Grand, 19th Century Italian Renaissance-style structures with darkened windows.

These are just a handful of the things and places that dot the Loudoun County landscape – bits of history and more that endure, adding to our area's beautiful and sometimes haunting past.

You may drive by them routinely – to and from shopping or work or a nice dinner in western Loudoun. And, for that reason, they may be vaguely familiar to you. It's said we're in for a cold winter. But, the sun will surely be out, and giving us many beautiful days. So why not ... get up and about ... and beyond?

Ketocin Baptist Church & Graveyard*: Ketocin Baptist Church and its quiet old graveyard is bordered by Alder School Road on the north and Ketocin Church Road on the east near Purcellville. Also known as Short Hill Church, the current structure was built in 1854. But, with earlier church buildings having come and gone, the first grave in the cemetery dates to 1777, making this site an enduring center of community for worshipers struggling through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the wars of the early 20th Century. The church was built without a bathroom and functions that way today. But, a tiny, tiny group of spiritual devotees hangs on, recently raising \$15,000 for a bathroom and whatever services it can offer the community.

Bear's Den Rural Historic District*: With places such as Humming Hollow, Edna's Cabin, and Heart Trouble Lane, this area is both little known and well-traveled ... and quite intriguing. The well-traveled part is the hiking trail and old lodge known as Bear's Den, accessed by Blue Ridge Mountain Road off Rt. 7 heading west. The little-known part is the large historic area around it, which contains over 170 contributing

buildings, sites and structures late-19th- and early-20th Century homes and structures used as summer dwellings by wealthy Washingtonians. A fairly new addition to the romantic lore of the place is a chain saw sculpture carved out of a tree that depicts the true native inhabitants of the area's mountain forests, including bears and owls.

Hamilton Masonic Lodge*: When you hear the term Freemasons, all kinds of things come to mind. Secret societies. Upstanding philanthropic citizens. Tradesmen. Although its members think of themselves as exclusive rather than secretive, we still think of them with a bit of wonder. This sense of wonder is the same feeling you get looking from the outside into the historic Hamilton Masonic Lodge. The beautiful, three-story brick building with the towering belfry was built in 1873, and is recognized as a prime example of the Italianate style, popular from the 1840s to the 1890s. The building stands mostly unused today. But the masons' rich history – whose members included Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Paul Revere, the Marquis de Lafayette, and others – makes this lovely building worth a look.

Hibbs Bridge*: When you think of historic bridges, you don't often associate them with the modern kind of road known as a turnpike. But Hibbs Bridge on Snickersville Turnpike (Rt. 734) – built over Beaverdam Creek between 1810 and 1830 – was not only part of the first recorded turnpike in the U.S., but is also one of the few remaining two-span masonry arch bridges in the state of Virginia. Well used, this bridge has always been loved by locals. And, when state officials were debating about whether to tear it down, bypass it with a new bridge, or dismantle and move it, citizens choose "none of the above." The bridge had not had any major repairs since 1932, when in 2007 it was rebuilt "to spec," retaining as much of the old techniques as possible. Take a drive over it ... a nice slow drive across history. * Property/place has National Register status and/or additional historic designations.

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- By Hannah Hager

Cast off any notion of the New Year requiring a "new you." Instead, shed the skin of 2016 and jumpstart 2017 by taking on a new Big Spring Farm estate situated in the outskirts of Leesburg. This exquisite residence, sitting on 30 acres of land with views of the Potomac River, was custom-designed for relaxation and rejuvenation, which is all a family could ask for this time of year.

Elegance greets you in the two-story foyer with heart pine floors and a winding banister staircase. The dining room, with extra deep tray ceilings and a butler's pantry, is off to one side. Adjacent is the family room with a wood-burning fireplace meant to warm the expansive space with vaulted ceilings and exposed beam accents. In the event that you'll need more room to entertain or steal off for a private conversation, make a stop at the main-level wet bar while en route to



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the study boasting built-in bookcases. The family will surely find itself gathered the most in the chef's kitchen. It's built to be worn-in thanks to its expansive granite countertop workstations, a large center island with cooktop stove and endless amounts of cabinet space. In the morning, take your coffee in the breakfast nook lined with bay windows. In the evening, enjoy your aperitif

in front of the wood-burning fireplace in the kitchen's keeping area. Alas, when it's time to truly retire you will find the bliss you're looking for in the master suite. It's designed for comfort and light thanks to a multitude of windows and a tray ceiling. The best treat for the heads of the household, however, is the two private bathrooms and spacious walk-through

shower. The bathrooms on the upper level are just as roomy and boast their own en-suite bathrooms. Once the winter months fade into spring and warm weather returns, you'll be itching to enjoy the views of your estate from the flagstone patio and garden with its tightly trimmed hedges. So, the time is now to grab this estate and settle in for a sweet 2017.

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Answers to puzzle from page 25

1	C	O	D	S	5	P	L	U	S	9	A	R	A	12					
13	A	R	E	A	14	A	O	R	T	15	A	N	I	N	A				
17	U	R	A	L	18	R	O	G	E	T	19	T	S	A	R				
20	D	E	F	I	21	N	I	T	E	22	A	R	T	I	C	L	E		
23	A	R	E	N	A	S	24	D	I	E									
25	L	Y	R	E	B	I	26	R	D	27	P	L	E	28	A	C	H		
36	P	E	R	S	37	O	N	A	L	38	P	R	O	N	O	U	N		
42	S	T	O	O	P	43	S	H	I	A									
44	I	C	E	B	A	45	G	46	I	N	S	47	P	I	R	I	T		
55	S	P	L	I	T	56	I	N	57	F	I	N	58	I	T	59	I	V	E
61	L	A	I	R	62	R	A	I	S	E	63	A	L	I	T				
64	O	R	E	O	65	O	R	R	I	S	66	K	E	N	S				
67	P	E	N	N	68	L	E	S	S	69	E	D	G	E					



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