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First Look At Envision Loudoun Results

– By Andrea Gaines

On Feb. 23, the Loudoun County Planning Department presented to the Board of Supervisors the results of Phase 1 of Envision Loudoun, the County's ongoing effort to update and rewrite the County's Comprehensive Plan.

A fact-finding exercise for the Comp Plan rewrite, the information being gathered includes a full documentation and analysis of the market, housing and other business, employment, and lifestyle trends impacting Loudoun, along with input from citizens, public officials, and stakeholder groups about where they want the County to go.

Both sides of the growth debate seem to want more control and less unpredictability in planning and zoning policies. But, that is where the consensus begins and ends.

When asked "How will we know when we have succeeded?" one pro-growth participant said – rather bluntly ... "When higher density is approved." But another

participant countered with "... when the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors learns to say 'enough is enough' to developers."

A Carefully Orchestrated Effort

Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2001. While the intervening years have delivered on the dreams of some, they have shattered the dreams of others. The participant who said success will be measured by whether or not "the farms are still here," may be worried. The individual who wants "the type of growth that has occurred in Arlington County over the past 30-40 years," may be feeling pretty good at the moment.

Adding to the high-stakes is the belief of developers that obstacles to success include NIMBY attitudes and exclusionary zoning. While the other side include is concerned that the developer community has a lock on the planning process – because of its voting control over the ZOAG and the Envision Loudoun Stakeholders Committee.

"A Community-Based Vision ... For Loudoun County"

The perception that developers have an undue influence has put County leaders in a defensive posture.

For this reason, listening and learning participation rates are presented in a consistently strong, front-and-center manner at every opportunity, with the County reinforcing the huge effort it has put forth to get citizens involved. Highlights of that citizen participation include six public input sessions – some of which featured several hundred people, 1,400 online and in-person participants, and 5,000+ individual comments.

Also in the mix are the directives in the Comp Plan Charter – prepared by the BOS in 2016. While citizen input favors strong controls on development, the plan charter is less clear. Citizens want to preserve the Transition Policy Area – which today serves as a buffer between the suburban east and rural west. But, according to the

plan charter, "... the new plan will outline policies for addressing the most pressing issues Loudoun faces ..." including the future of the TPA.

A 24-Hour Streetscape vs. Dark Skies

Participants in Envision Loudoun were asked what needs to be done to make Loudoun County a better community in the future ... how success would be defined ... and what obstacles participants see to achieving success.

Some participants favored Fairfax-style development while others sought a virtual moratorium on new construction.

One pro-growth Loudouner favors projects that allow people to live where they work and work where they play, a nod to mixed-use developments, including town-center-style "24-Hour-Streetscapes." But, others want to support what they say is working. "We need to follow our comprehensive plan for maintaining a

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Purcellville Seeks Win-Win Options For Fireman's Field

– By Valerie Cury

Fireman's Field is 15.84 acres and is located at 20th Street and Nursery Avenue. It is made up of Haske Field, Fireman's Field, Dillons Woods (where special events are held) and the Bush Tabernacle.

The Town paid \$1.7 million for the property, has a 20-year note with zero percent interest and is 10 years into paying off the note. The land is in conservation easement (with the exception of Haske Field).

The Town of Purcellville currently receives little income from Fireman's Field,

"Looking at options here, we can stay status quo and just get nothing for the property, or we can think outside the box."

– Council Member Ryan Cool

and the Town Council is looking for ways to change that. This was a topic of discussion at the Feb. 28 Town Council Meeting.

Said Council Member Ryan Cool, reiterating that there is a tax-exempt status

on the property, "So, my job as an elected official is to not increase your taxes, but decrease your taxes." Cool continued, "It is paramount, it is my job to be a good

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**NATIONAL
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MOMENTS DAY**
is Saturday, March 18,
see page 24.



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ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

I'm a manager at a large tech company and my boss has directed me to fire someone on my team, but as a Christian, I just can't do it. It's true that the employee on my team keeps messing things up and is doing a really bad job. I put him on a performance plan that hasn't changed anything, but it feels wrong to fire someone when they're trying to do their very best. The employee in question is also the single bread winner of his family, and he has three young children. I guess it's true that I do complain to my husband about this employee all the time, and he's gotten sick of it, and last week we had a stupid fight over my not being able to do what I'm supposed to do at work. AUGH! I don't want to upset my boss, my husband or my employee, but I don't know how to make everyone happy. Your help is appreciated.
Concerned in Loudoun



Dr. Mike

at work is an upsetting one for you emotionally, the answer to your problem is actually quite simple – you need to fire your employee. This task will be less difficult for you when you separate out your emotions from your responsibilities and duties in your role as a manager.

So, let's think through things together here.

As a manager, you've respectfully tried to help your employee stay at the company with a performance plan, but he is still "failing" to meet your expectations in his work. Moreover, you write that your company is a large one, so you may have shareholders and/or board members; and, both your shareholders and board are relying on you to responsibly put the needs of the company ahead of a single employee who is underperforming.

Your position that you don't want to upset anyone – your husband, your boss or your employee – is not a realistic one, but again, I don't think you don't need to feel so alone or so badly about doing the right thing as a manager. Thus, another thought to consider is that you let your boss know how you feel about your

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It's County Budgeting Time

- By Andrea Gaines

On Feb. 15, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented to the Board of Supervisors a proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget of \$2.5 billion. Public hearings on the budget were held Feb. 28, March 2, and March 4.

The Board of Supervisors has now settled in for a series of six intensive budget work sessions, March 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, and 22. The County's goal is to adopt a formal 2018 budget by April 4. The County's new fiscal year officially begins on July 1.

The public hearings were fully televised on Comcast Government Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40, and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. They were also available on the County webcast system, accessible via www.loudoun.gov. The work sessions will be televised and on the County webcast system as well. Budget documents can be accessed at www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments.

Under the proposed budget, for every \$1 of county spending, 57 cents, or 57 percent, is earmarked for the Public School System, 13 percent to Debt Service,

11 percent for Public Safety & Judicial Administration, 5 percent to the County's Capital Improvement Program, 4 percent for both Health & Welfare and General Government Administration, 3 percent for Parks, Recreation and Culture, 2 percent for Community Development, and 1 percent Non-governmental costs. Debt Service and Capital Improvement Program costs apply to expenditures for schools and expenditures for other county needs.

BOS Chair Phyllis Randall noted in a late February e-newsletter to citizens that the proposed budget is based on an estimated equalized real property tax rate of \$1.135 and an advertised tax rate of \$1.140. The current tax rate is \$1.145. According to Hemstreet, the homeowners' equalized tax rate is to be \$1.140. This rate would fully fund "the County's critical needs and the LCPS budget."

Randall, a mental health professional by trade, also noted that "Behavioral Health and Human Services has not been funded in years past, despite our growing population. In Public Safety, talented staff leave for better opportunities. We can no longer continue to ask staff to do more with less."



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Protecting Free Speech

– By Dave LaRock (R-33)

As elected officials and members of the legislature, our most fundamental responsibility is to protect God-given constitutionally protected rights. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits the government, including governmental public colleges and universities, from infringing on free speech and the free exercise of religion.

I'm thrilled to report The Virginia House of Delegates passed a measure I presented, House Resolution HR 431, the Campus Free Speech Resolution, which is designed to ensure free expression at Virginia's public universities. This resolution advises public institutions of higher education to protect free speech, and it communicates the urgent need for the governing board of each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to develop and adopt a policy on free speech. Many already have adequate policies in place, but some do not.

On Feb. 21, about a week before the end of the 2017 Session, I met with the head of the Capital Police and the folks from the Department of General Services, the people who manage the physical assets



Dave LaRock

and facilities of the Commonwealth. We discussed policies which regulate use of the capital grounds, in particular those policies limiting outdoor meetings and protests which are forms of protected speech and expression.

The reason I asked these people to meet is this: The day before, I had walked over to the governor's mansion because I had been informed people were planning to gather to peacefully protest the outdoor celebration of Governor McAuliffe vetoing a bill to redirect funding from Planned Parenthood to bona fide providers of women's health services. I picked up a sign someone had left in my office that read "Planned Parenthood Lies" and headed over to the governor's mansion. When I arrived, the Capital Police told me and others we could not display any signs outside the gated entrance of the governor's residence.

You've probably heard the saying, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." So if the legislature is going to exercise authority over publically-funded universities, and it should, we need to also make sure our own house is in order as well.

The Campus Free Speech Resolution passed by the House expresses that some state-funded universities are imposing unreasonable restrictions on free speech.

What I also discovered this session is that the policies regulating the capital need to be revisited as well.

Virginia took a giant step forward in 2014 when a bill I co-patroned became law and effectively designated outdoor areas on the Commonwealth's public college campuses as public forums, where student speech is subject only to reasonable content- and viewpoint-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions. Under the law passed in 2014, college students at Virginia's public universities should not be limited to tiny free speech zones, or be subject to restrictive registration requirements.

There is more that needs to be done. Some policies are inadequate by virtue of their vague wording which could too easily be used to restrict protected expression. A policy banning "verbal abuse" or "hate speech" could be misapplied to prohibit protected speech. Hate Speech Codes are codes passed by colleges that restrict speech considered offensive to someone. These tend to be very broad and therefore unconstitutional.

Whether on college campuses or any public venue, free speech can be limited with reasonable time and place limits, but those limits must not be overly restrictive. Allowable limitations protect people, property, and allow normal activities to take place.

Virginia is the cradle of democracy, and we take seriously our responsibility to uphold free-speech principles. Each public institution of higher education and branch of

government in the Commonwealth should ensure free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation of all ideas and viewpoints. By passing these measures, we are communicating to universities and the public that students are in school to learn how to think; they are not going to college to be protected from differing opinions. This resolution will put down a marker as a precursor for next session when I will follow up with legislation to assure free speech is taken seriously. Speaking in support of the Campus Free Speech Resolution, Casey Mattox, director of the Alliance Defending Freedom Center for Academic Freedom said, "Today's college students will be tomorrow's legislators, judges, teachers, and voters. This resolution reminds universities of their obligation to model the First Amendment values that they are supposed to be teaching the next generation."

Delegate Dave LaRock represents the 33rd House District, including parts of Loudoun, Clarke and Frederick Counties, and the towns of Leesburg (partial), Purcellville, Berryville, Lovettsville, Round Hill, Hamilton and Hillsboro. LaRock serves on the Transportation Committee, the Science and Technology Committee and the Education Committee. Dave and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Loudoun for 30 years, building a successful family-owned general contracting business. The LaRocks reside near Hamilton with Laura, Abby, and John, the youngest of their seven children.

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Strategy Session Tug Of War

Grim pointed out that the residential portion of Vineyard Square (the John Chapman and Mark Nelis development on 21st Street) is 40 condos. "So we lost 39 availabilities, and that falls back to policy... that is 39 availabilities that we have lost. And that is approximately \$2 million."

– Council Member Kelli Grim

– By Valerie Cury

On Feb. 22, the Purcellville Town Council held a second Special Financial Strategy Session meeting with their two consultants, David Rose of Davenport, and Eric Callocchia of Municipal and Financial Services Group. During the previous meeting, the Council asked the consultants to return with alternative scenarios, given the broad agreement that growth will not reduce the debt and utility rate burden.

However, the follow-up meeting was contentious, with the consultants backtracking on the assertion that you can't grow out of debt, and pressing a familiar growth agenda. Members of the Town Council challenged the reversal, pressing the consultants to come up with innovative

alternatives for reducing debt and utility rate burdens on citizens, by reducing costs and monetizing the Towns substantial assets.

This meeting was a follow-up with instructions from the Town Council to bring forward multiple concepts for utility rate structures and tiers, and debt finance and consolidation options to tackle the two large balloon payments due in 2020 and 2021. The previous Lazaro Town Council incurred, and then refinanced, most of its existing debt and repackaged it in restrictive nonprofit bonds.

The Town debt is currently just under \$60 million. There are two types of debt: tax-supported debt consisting of the General Fund, and Parks and Recreation Fund, totaling \$18.1 million; and the self-

supported utility debt, consisting of the Water and Sewer Fund totaling \$41.3 million. The current Town Council has not added to the debt, but instead has lowered it by well over \$1 million.

The difference between the two debts is the tax-supported debt comes primarily from General Fund revenues, and the self-supporting utility debt comes from user fee rates and other charges.

Currently, the Fireman's Field income is restricted by the nature of the nonprofit bonds and the way the current management contract is structured. If the debt is not refinanced, the other option is to change how the ball fields and the skating rink are managed. The Town could pay a firm a flat

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Public Meeting Held On Proposed Senior Community Development

The owner of the Stuper property, in the Town of Purcellville, along with the contract purchaser – Buckeye Development – hosted a presentation and public input meeting at the Carver Center, Monday Feb. 27, on a senior living community being proposed for the 20-acre property along N. Maple Avenue and Hirst Road. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 residents, along with Purcellville's Mayor Kwasi Fraser and several Council Members.



The proposal includes active adult housing, continuing care, memory care, adult day care, medical care, and other potential complementary uses.

Jeff Lessans of Buckeye Development discussed possible apartments for ages 55 and older. He also discussed an assisted living center to include a memory care facility, an adult day care facility, and a possible child care facility.

Affordability was a main concern of the attendees, and the opinion that there is a need for something like this in Purcellville. Residents have to go to Ashburn, Winchester, or beyond for assisted living facilities.

Lessans said he was just in the early stages of the proposal, and he is open to more community input along the way. It was noted other Buckeye representatives that this type of proposal would not generate as much traffic as other uses.

Also, it would not add to the impact on the schools, and would contribute to a community need.

"We are excited to meet and work with the Town of Purcellville's citizens to gain input into our proposal for this land. We strongly believe in and promote community involvement during the land planning process to ensure we are addressing the community's needs and concerns prior to filing a development application with the Town. Our goal is to provide a quality senior living community that not only provides housing, but the opportunity for its residents and their families to have access to complementary services. However, it is important to us that the community is equally excited, and supports our proposal," said Ed Smariga, Buckeye's principal.

For more information contact Linda Erbs at Linda@lauercommercial.com or 703 850-3641.

Purcellville Emergency Meeting Postponed To March 10

At the end of the business day on Monday, March 6, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser called for an emergency meeting for 7 p.m. the same evening. The subject given for the meeting was to discuss an alleged threat a Town government employee made against a Town Council Member.

A majority vote is needed to proceed in a closed session meeting. However, in this case, the Town Council voted 4-3 against going into executive session. Council Members Doug McCollum, Ryan Cool, Nedim Ogelman and Chris Bledsoe voted against going into the closed session, and Mayor Fraser, Vice-Mayor Karen Jimmerson and Council Member Kelli Grim voted for the motion. The Council then voted unanimously to reschedule the meeting for Friday March 10, 7 p.m.

For meetings in general, Virginia's Freedom of Information Act requires the public body to give three days notice. But, emergency meetings are exempt from this rule and can be called and held on the same day.

Town Attorney Sally Hankins quoted the FOIA "emergency" definition from the Virginia code: "Emergency means an unforeseen circumstance rendering the notice required by this chapter impossible or impracticable and which

circumstance requires immediate action."

McCollum argued that the situation did not rise to be defined as an emergency. He asked Grim to recuse herself and not attend the meeting as she was either a complainant or a witness.

After the meeting, Grim told the Blue Ridge Leader that McCollum was wrong on all accounts. She declined to say anything further.

Mayor Fraser said, "The definition of emergency is subjective. If you ask any one of us on this council, we might each have a different definition of what constitutes an emergency." He continued, "I believe an alleged threat of bodily harm to a council member is an emergency."

Grim said that the situation required immediate action and previous councils have called emergency meetings for the purchase of properties and legal matters. She said, "They were far less urgent or critical matters, and the same town manager and a different town attorney did not object to them."

Fraser asked Town Attorney Sally Hankins if something is defined as an emergency, does the three-day rule to call a meeting apply. Her answer was no.

Tug Of War, continued from page 4

rate to manage the properties, allowing the Town to use the revenue for maintenance and debt reduction.

The recurring narrative of both consultants, along with Town Manager Rob Lohr, concentrated on growth as the primary means to paying down the Town debt. "You have a bunch of debt outstanding, no doubt about it," said Rose.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser asked the consultants to consider a variety of operational efficiencies as part of a solution to manage the town's high debt and utility rates.

Council Member Nedim Ogelman said, "So, you are saying if we grew a lot, that wouldn't increase the infrastructure costs?" Rose replied, "We'll talk about that later." Ogelman continued, "I don't think that you are necessarily capturing the whole variety of potential negative externalities ... Did you look at other things, like cutting our government expenditures?" He pointed out that the Town has roughly 9,000 residents and, "maybe we are operating like a Town that serves 25,000 people instead of 9,000 people." Ogelman was referring to a February statement made by Lohr who said he runs the Town as if it were a town of 25,000 residents.

Rose responded, "Whether you have one

town manager or seven town managers, that wouldn't have an impact on the Enterprise Fund." Ogelman replied, "It will have an impact on the General Fund. But, these are all parts of our debt. Can we cut some of the expenses? Can we bring these costs down?"

"Let's say you get additional houses, there are additional cars, there are additional other kinds of utilities that have to come in. There is additional wear and tear; there is additional stress on citizens, like traffic. You need additional staff to deal with the additional houses. I want to make sure that we are not looking at something as if there are no costs to it," said Ogelman.

"The second thing I want to say is I am sensitive to this issue because there is a narrative politically in our town that tries to push the idea that there are no solutions other than significant additional growth ... and I am not just willing to accept that on its face," said Ogelman. Rose responded, "Maybe it does require one or two new policemen or another public works person, and those things have to be taken into account."

Council Member Kelli Grim suggested using a portion of the Meals Tax to pay down the debt. "Two percent of the Meals Tax could be used for capital and maintenance, for example," said Grim. Rose answered, "You don't rob Peter to pay Paul." However, Grim pointed out that

the Lazo Council used one percent of the Meals Tax to pay for legal fees.

Fraser echoed this point saying that the Meals Tax could be used for the General Fund and the Utility Fund as long as it does not create a deficit in another fund. "Right?" he asked. Rose confirmed that it can be used for any fund. But, for years Lohr had been saying that the funds could not be mixed.

"When you are talking about the Meals Tax and this is robbing Peter to pay Paul concept, what is the analogy for chargebacks? Is that also robbing Peter to pay Paul?" asked Ogelman. Rose said that he wasn't "qualified enough to give an answer on that one."

Chargebacks are a portion of expenditures, charged to different funds, for staff work, since staff members do multiple jobs in different departments. Since the Town has separate funds and they are supposed to be self-supporting, the Town bills that way. The Town currently charges each fund \$500,000 (General and Sewer) for the chargebacks, which started in 2008.

Grim pointed out that the residential portion of Vineyard Square (the John Chapman and Mark Nelis development on 21st Street) is 40 condos. "So we lost 39 availabilities, and that falls back to policy... that is 39 availabilities that we have lost.

And that is approximately \$2 million. So if there is a policy that hurts us – there is a policy that allowed that."

Grim was referring to managements recommendation of charging a single tap fee for the 40 condos, instead of separately metered taps for each of them. Lohr said, "We never really dealt with condominiums, same way with apartments. Condominiums are relatively new in western Loudoun."

The growth scenario stuck throughout the whole meeting with Rose repeating that the Town has to grow. Ogelman said, "Of course, this all just assumes the closed system. That is to say your whole model is operating in the context of just water and sewer, not all other aspects of a town." "Absolutely," replied Callocchia.

"More houses bring additional service needs, and other infrastructure and capital improvement needs," said Ogelman. "But so, the real challenge we are facing is not how to deal with this closed system that has capital improvement costs and has scale issues. To me, the real issue is how do you look at the costs and potential added revenue from the whole system, and how can we overcome the challenges of getting that potential revenue, and being able to invest it in our sewer and utility. That is the real challenge that we are facing," said Ogelman.

Ready To Bloom In Round Hill



– By Hannah Hager

March is a month for the imaginative. It's not exactly the prettiest time of year to scout out properties when looking to set down roots somewhere new. Most of the lawns will appear naked; devoid of trees, the flower beds will be bare and the bushes won't be in bloom.

It takes curiosity and vision to see a new home's potential. This is not dissimilar of a skill required of anyone who is trying on the bones of new place to see how it fits within the whole body of your life.

Luckily, this 117-year-old home has a built-in track record. Not only has it been lovingly maintained through the centuries

Address: 35169 Harry Byrd Hwy, Round Hill
Bedrooms: Four bedrooms
Bathrooms: Two full and one half bathrooms
Year Built: 1900
Acreage: 4 acres
List Price: \$649,500
Agent: Marcy Cantatore
Phone: 540 553-7453

by conscientious caretakers, but it just so happens it sits on some of the most beautiful countryside in Virginia. With a Round Hill address, it's situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and is one of the last stops en route to the Shenandoah Valley. The address is the very definition of God's country.

The home itself is a reflection therein - you'll find yourself saying, "They just don't make 'em like they used to," and you'll be right. It's evident in the knotty pine hardwood floors and curved banister in the foyer and the exposed beam ceilings and stone fireplace in the family room. It's apparent in the wainscoting, the trim and even the light fixtures.

The details that tell the story of this turn-of-the-century home are evident, but they don't overshadow its general sentiment. The craftsmanship executed when updating, maintaining and modernizing the house is bar none. Put simply, it's hard to believe this house permits any kind of draft to pass through its windows or doors despite its

age. It goes without saying this is a balance that is hard to strike, much less upkeep.

White cabinets offset the stainless-steel appliances in the kitchen. French doors and updated floor-to-ceiling windows welcome an abundance of sunlight. The upstairs bedrooms are cozy and a second-story patio provides a private quiet space for enjoying a beverage of your choice. If you're feeling social, however, you could always join the others around the fire pit in your backyard.

It might be hard to envision these possibilities as you tread through the last of winter. But, good things come to those who wait ... and to those who see the potential of a place before it comes to full bloom.

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Photo by Sarah Huntington

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The BRL's Pulse On Social Media

What People Are Sharing In Cyberspace

Status Darling Dog

“My pit bull mix ‘Phoenix’ gets up early and then goes back to sleep right after breakfast. Her rather long tongue is her most darling feature – wide awake or fast asleep.”
– Kristen Beith



Status Current Events

“I’m sick of talking politics. Here’s my anecdote to the negative political commentary dominating cyberspace right now. Again, you are welcome.”
– Susan Cournoyer Everitt



Status Serious Fun

“As the rain let up, we carefully walked down to a vernal pool and saw male Spotted Salamanders ‘congressing.’ (A group of Salamanders is called a herd or a congress.)”
– Nicole Hamilton



Post your Darling Dog, Current Events and Serious Fun photos and stories (35 words or less + your name) on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeLeader/. Deadline for submissions for our April issue is Monday, March 27.



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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Wage Radio



– By Tim Jon

I will always remember – very fondly – the first time I ever set foot on the property at 711 Wage Drive Southwest in Leesburg, Virginia. It was a warm, sunny July morning in 1997, and I'd driven all the way from Minnesota – stopping along the way only to get my used car fixed and to take a couple of cat naps. I left behind pretty much everyone and everything I ever knew or did, and looked forward to a completely new life in broadcasting in Northern Virginia. As I pulled into the little parking lot at the end of Wage Drive, the image of the one-story, rambler-style building – sheltered under the huge evergreen on the east side, dogwoods out front and gone-to-seed apple trees out in the yard – forever-more created this fantasy for me of the old-time radio station – something out of my hometown in southern Minnesota – yet having the flavor of Mayberry – complete with Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Fife.



TIM JON

My activities – based out of this little brick building within earshot of the football field at Loudoun County High School – put me into contact with amazing individuals at every turn – exceptional people who made deep impressions – whose spirits I hope to carry to the end of my days. I had the great fortune – because of my opportunity as the last News Director at Wage Radio (1997-2007) to at least feel like I knew and served each individual in Loudoun County: The 10's of thousands of school kids enrolled in public education (not to mention the teachers, administrators and School Board), County employees - from the event organizers to members of the Loudoun Supervisors – all the Mayors in each of our incorporated Towns – as well as their Councils, leaders in business and technology, agriculture – and the growing army of personnel involved in local public safety; those were the larger groups. Others were unique individuals – with no peer in their community – and sadly – they are gone – at least in the physical sense: people like Colonel Michael Grenata (Veteran of World War I), B Powell Harrison (a true Virginia Gentleman who gave the term 'preservationist' a great deal of credibility), AV Symington (former part-owner of Wage and benefactor of Temple Hall Farm), and Frank Raflo (an irascible storyteller and

local politician).

So now, when I walk the grounds of this little brick building in southwest Leesburg, I hear the voices of those with whom I formed wonderful relationships, and I feel their spirits with every step I take; knowing them has made me a much stronger and resilient person than I was upon arriving here two decades ago; sharing experiences with outstanding personalities changed me in other ways as well: I gained a deeper sense of empathy for others (and their passions – be it love, fear or hatred), and the lesson of the importance of service to one's community left a stamp on me I'll carry for the rest of my days. I was able to lead a local theatre company for a span of 10 years (pretty much the same decade as my tenure at Wage) not so much due to my talent in theatre itself, but from many of the school-of-hard-knocks educational experiences I garnered as a very eager news director. Everyone I met taught me, "This is what life can be like!" for better, or for worse.

And today, as I dream (almost nightly) of my former days in local broadcasting, sometimes it's just the little things that stick out. I tried my best to quickly learn all the important names and faces in Loudoun County – but we all make mistakes; in one of my first stories on the County Board, I got former Supervisor Chairman Scott York's name wrong (I think I may have called him Dave) and he pointed it out to me at the next meeting – in private – and he simply laughed it off and let it go at that. I never forgot that – and I never got his name wrong again. On the other hand, I could be sitting down for an interview with (former) Congressman Frank Wolf, or (former) Governor Mark Warner, or even (former) Leesburg Mayor Jim Clem (one of the most memorable and colorful personalities in our local kaleidoscope – in the best of senses), and the station would get a call complaining about lack of news coverage on a power outage affecting perhaps one customer, or a traffic jam on Route Seven (traffic in Northern Virginia – you gotta be kiddin'!); but I learned – even more - that things that strike close to home grab people the most.

Now, in our little tour down Wage Radio Memory Lane I've neglected everyone whose names we omitted; I have not yet written that encyclopedia-sized volume. It's not just an empty brick building. It is filled with Spirits: sometimes my own.

Choosing To Forgive

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

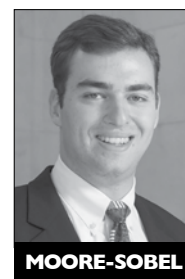
"Truly forgiving is the ability to say, 'Thank you for giving me that experience.'" James Arthur Ray vaulted into fame on the Oprah Winfrey Show back in the mid-2000's. Stunned hearing these words while watching *The Rise and Fall of James Arthur Ray* on CNN, they began to bounce around my mind, leading towards a contemplation of the concept behind forgiveness.

There are some famous examples of forgiveness that paint the halls of our cultural collective conscious. A particularly poignant example can be found in Germany circa 1947. In speaking of her internment in concentration camps Corrie ten Boom told a crowd, "When we confess our sins, God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever." Moments later, an opportunity presented itself to practice what she preached. A familiar figure approached – a brutal guard at Ravensbruck. Instead of extending his hand to inflict pain, he made a plea for forgiveness. Her initial hesitation led towards a startling realization. "Forgiveness is not an emotion ... forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."

Forgiveness is not a passive act, but rather an active one – a constant process towards resolving the feelings of bitterness and resentment that can follow us like a ghost. It is a conscious, often daily decision of making the choice to release the aggressor for the pain inflicted in the past. It takes something larger than ourselves to summon up the courage to carry out this act.

Interestingly, forgiveness can lead to positive health outcomes. According to the Johns Hopkins website, making the choice to forgive can reduce the "risk of heart attack" and can even relieve various forms of physical discomfort. Karen Swartz, M.D., director of the Mood Disorders Adult Consultation Clinic at The Johns Hopkins Hospital said, "There is an enormous physical burden to being hurt and disappointed." An emphasis was placed on the journey. "It is an active process in which you make a conscious decision to let go of negative feelings whether the person deserves it or not," Swartz went on to say. Apparently reaching this place eludes most of us. Over 60 percent of "American adults say they need more forgiveness in their personal lives."

My own personal journey with forgiveness has been complicated at best. The hurt in my life at times unintentionally built up, causing me to hold onto far more bitterness than one should healthfully possess. Over time, it felt as if true forgiveness had been meted out as I came to a passive acceptance of the past. Upon reflection, the pact made years ago was one of conditional forgiveness – predicated upon the outcome of life. With the achievement of personal and professional success, forgiveness would follow. Lulled into a sense of



MOORE-SOBEL

complacency based upon circumstances, the journey had seemingly come to an end.

Watching James Arthur Ray distort the true meaning of forgiveness, my blood began to boil. True forgiveness isn't being thankful for being hurt, especially at the hands of injustice. I am grateful that past experiences were used to mold my character, imbuing me with depth and empathy that may otherwise have not been achieved. A different concept entirely than the one articulated in this documentary.

Ray's own story has a tragic twist. His meteoric rise was snuffed out soon after it began. Just a few years later deaths at a retreat he led resulted in a prison sentence. His apparent unrepentant attitude towards the pain he caused others was as striking as his inability to explain his actions other than with words cloaked in arrogance. "There is a lot of hubris that comes with being a savior," he simply offered.

Oddly enough, Ray's words spoke to a deeper struggle stirring within my soul. A struggle over whether my attempts at reaching this important stage of forgiveness had eluded me. It was a thought that had been building, an idea that had been forming over the course of several months. Researching for answers, a plethora of solutions appear: Write a letter to your aggressor and burn it, keep a journal along with various other ways to move on after loss, conquer the past by moving towards the future. Others counsel that the past must be forgotten to bring about healing.

A few years ago, while interning at *Prison Fellowship*, I was given a shirt emblazoned with the words "Forgive/Forget". The word Forget crossed out emphasizing the logical fallacy lurking behind erasing memories. If the past is forgotten, an experience is rendered a complete waste. Memory offers one of the few avenues to achieve redemption. Great pains must be taken to remember the powerful lessons that can be gleaned from pain inflicted in the past.

Easier said than done, I know. Forgiveness it seems is a process with a timetable that varies. As of late, forgiveness has come slightly more easily, based upon the realization that relying upon conditional forgiveness can only lead towards a tacit acceptance rather than true healing. The key is desiring true healing and the willingness to work toward that authentically. Do not be mistaken, forgiveness is not offering a blank check; for, despite my newfound attitude, you can guarantee I won't be thanking anyone for inflicting pain anytime soon.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is no expert on forgiveness. His own journey has been full of many twists and turns, with plenty of opportunities to both forgive and be forgiven along the way.

Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life: Five Key Retirement Questions

Beyond asking yourself where you see yourself and even what your lifelong goal are, effective retirement and longevity planning begs some very big questions. Review the points below and consider how housing, transportation and health considerations all play a role in planning for your future.



AMY & DAN SMITH

Where Will You Live?

Whether you're bound for a dream home or planning to stay put, housing likely will be your biggest expense in retirement. While aging in the comfort of your own home would be ideal, modifications to the home—or your plan—could be necessary as mobility and transportation challenges arise. Points to consider:

- Do you want to stay in your home? Will it need to be modified?
- What housing options are available to you, and what will they cost?
- Would you want to downsize? Relocate to a pedestrian friendly neighborhood?
- 87 percent of adults age 65+ want to stay in their current home and community as they age. (AARP PPI, "What is Livable? Community preferences of Older

Adults," April 2014)

How Will You Get Around?

It may come as a surprise, but transportation is the second largest expense for individuals older than 65 and accounts for about 15 percent of their annual expenditures, according to the

bureau of Labor Statistics. That's why we make sure to account for it as a part of your long-term financial plan. Points to consider:

- How will you get to your favorite places in retirement?
- Who will assist you if you can't drive yourself somewhere?
- What transportation options are available in your area?

How Will You Safeguard Your Health?

Your health and your finances are intertwined in complex ways. Most expect Medicare to pay for their healthcare expenses in retirement. But, in reality, Medicare pays only 60 percent of healthcare costs* you will have premium, copays and deductibles. As you age, healthcare costs can add up. Points to consider:

- Do you have an existing condition? What

will treatment cost over the long term?

- Do you know what costs Medicare will cover?
- How will you pay for what Medicare doesn't?
- Have you considered Medigap?

Will You Have Enough?

Giving yourself every opportunity to save enough for a long, fulfilling life requires careful, detailed longevity planning—strategies for saving, investing and taking withdrawals. Making the right Social Security claiming decisions is vital to optimizing your retirement income strategy. Points to consider:

- When are you planning to retire?
- What sources of income will you have in retirement?
- How much income will you need in retirement?

Who Will Take Care of You?

As we all live longer, chances are you may, at some point, provide care for a loved one or receive care yourself. Becoming a caregiver can be not only stressful, but also can have financial consequences if it requires taking time away from work. And long-term care is not covered by Medicare.

Points to consider

- Do you understand the full impact of being a caregiver?
- How will you get the care you need as you age?
- Should you consider long-term care insurance?
- 70 percent of American age 65 in 2014 will need some form of long-term care.
- (Department of Health and Human Services)

As you continue planning for your future, your financial advisor can serve as your center point, helping you consider every facet of a long and happy retirement – form healthcare and caregiving to transportation and housing.

*Employee Benefit Research Institute, 2015

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Joy Or Suffering

– By Mary Rose Lunde

No one likes to suffer. When given the chance, many people would choose to laugh rather than cry, to sit in silence with their friends rather than talk through their feelings, because not even their friends "get them." It's no surprise that thousands of Americans choose rather to go to an impartial therapist than to confide in their friends, or even to turn to religious God(s) who they feel like are able to solve all of their problems simply because they are God.

I am not here to discredit anyone or to make a point, I'm here to shift the attitude. We all have our demons; we all have our struggles where we suffer. There's always that one relationship that could be better, always that one issue that could be adding to our stress levels that we wish was gone. No matter what, we won't be satisfied, even if we were without any problems. There's always something.

There is a beauty in joy, just as there is a beauty in suffering. We are so quick to judge everything as a potential problem that keeps us from a goal. How often do we overreact about misplacing something or messing up a single detail? Perhaps we need to think about the potential of things. We choose how to react; and maybe we should be choosing joy, instead of supposed suffering. I don't discredit suffering, but we aren't always the victims. Perhaps if we choose joy over the idea of suffering, we can choose kindness more often; and the world would have fewer problems. If anything, our lives would have fewer problems, because we are reminded of what



LUNDE

we have, and what we should be celebrating.

One of my friends was recently diagnosed with a disease which gives her constant stomach pain. She has to go to the hospital bimonthly

for infusions that only lessen her pain. Yet, when I went with her to the hospital, she smiled at me, and said something I'll never forget. When I asked her how she was faring and if she was hurting, she said, "Yes, I may be suffering physically but that doesn't mean that this illness can steal my joy." She chose to stay hopeful, and to make the best of her situation. She chose joy.

As amazing as her response is, she still hasn't been cured; and by medical diagnosis, probably never will be. I do believe that my friend carries the right idea, she will continue to stay joyful. And I hope that if she slips and falls into self-pity and discouraging thoughts, that she will lean on people that can lift her back up, and help her choose joy rather than suffering.

I often wonder why so many people get entrapped by suffering. And then I realize that I'm one of those people. Choosing joy is something that is continuous. We have to take our thoughts captive, and keep choosing joy despite our circumstances. Suffering may be present, but what we do in the presence of suffering is the key. It's our choice. Let's make it count

Mary Rose Lunde is a senior at Virginia Tech graduating with a double major in Literature/ Language and Creative Writing. Lunde tries to find joy even in the simplest things.

Makers Make The Break



Nothing beats the fun, inclusiveness and inventiveness of "makerspaces." Photo: Makerspace in Leesburg.

– By Adrea Gaines

About a year ago our newspaper reported that the Makersmiths organization was preparing to launch a new "makerspace" in Purcellville, rehabilitating a 9-acre, unused piece of Town property near the intersection of A and South 20th Streets. Thanks to a very successful Kickstarter campaign, which has raised over \$16,000, it looks like they have made the break.

With founding roots in our area, Makersmiths are, at their core, ordinary people who love to make things, invent things and enjoy the spirit and camaraderie of people who like to do the same. In the process they share ideas, resources and tools – everything from high-tech printers and cutters to specialty carpentry tools. Their 3,000 sq. ft. Leesburg facility features a variety of what are known as flex spaces, including a woodshop, a metal shop, a vehicle shop, a craft room, an electronics/3D area, a general classroom and others. Shared tools and equipment include "old school" items relating to wood working, metal working and crafts, as well as "new school" items now in great

demand. These include CNC machines – routers, grinders and milling machines run by computer instead of operated by hand.

Makersmith's Leesburg space simply cannot keep up with the demand for facilities such as this, and the organization's 20,000 sq. ft. Berryville warehouse is now bursting with donated equipment and supplies ready to be put to work by the group's growing local membership.

Makers are self-funding. The Kickstarter campaign is the latest success in expanding the organization – adding a new pioneer community to the wilds and wonders of western Loudoun.

Per a thank you message to donors from one of Makers' founders, Tom Hill, " ... we [now] have the startup funds to get Makersmiths: Purcellville open and functioning with basic utilities. There's more work ahead to make the place spiffy and get power up to full, but we took the first big step together."

For updates on Makersmith's Kickstarter campaign, and/or to contribute, go to www.makersmiths.org. The Makersmiths Facebook page is also a great source of information and fun.

Color Me Anything, But Color Me Beautiful – Thoughts On Garden Colors

– By Andrea Gaines



Where does your spring garden's color pallet lie – and what will your emerging annuals and summer blooms reveal? Will it punctuate its early displays with the warm yellow of a happy daffodil and cool purple of scattered crocuses, or the fresh and sassy vermilion of a shaded helioborus? Will orange-toned foxglove contrast with a sweeping, bright-white mock orange, or will you experiment with towering hollyhocks and dancing bachelor buttons?

As the cold white of winter fades and spring's color begins to emerge, we're all

out there combing the local nurseries for that dramatic new plant – something to cut for the house or boast about to our friends.

But, think about this, and, do something new. Focus on one of your favorite flowers and why you like their color. Then, let your mind wander a bit.

What if your garden were a sea of tall bright whites and various shades of green – relatively monochromatic but with the occasion splash of deep blue or red?

How about companion colors? Two colors close to each other on the color wheel, but different – a red and a pink, a blue and purple, a yellow and orange – or

dark and light colors of the same hue?

What if you went cool and pale – pinks, baby blue, light green and soft yellows. Or, what if you went out and a limb – spicy hot and a little wild – with reds, yellows and orange, and salmon.

If all of this is too far out – too much change – think about the cut flowers you tend to buy at the grocery store, the colors you like. Consider planting in these colors as a way to experiment with something new.

The most interesting and beautiful gardens surprise and satisfy. So, color it up. Color it something beautiful.

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Ladies Board Seeking Nursing Scholarship Applicants

The Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital is now accepting applications for nursing school tuition assistance. Scholarships are available to eligible students in various programs of study, including degrees at the associate, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels. Since the Nursing Scholarship Fund was created in 1959, nearly 1,100 scholarships have been awarded, totaling over \$1,500,000.

- Qualified applicants must:
- Reside or work in Loudoun County
- Be enrolled in or accepted into an accredited school of nursing
- Have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- Have completed 1 semester of nursing school or 30 undergraduate college credits.

Applications and more information are available online at ladiesboard.org or by calling 703 777-6357. The deadline for applications is April 11.



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Envision Loudoun continued from page 1

vibrant rural economy in Loudoun that includes all segments of agriculture,” said a rural-business promoter. Pointing out that within the state of Virginia, Loudoun is number one in wineries, grape acres, and berry production, the participant continued, “We need to recognize that we are doing a good job, and address small regulatory and zoning issues when they arise, but not lose sight of the fact that it has been a success!”

We also have the playful and oddly cosmic among us. Said one participant, “Keep Western Loudoun Wild and Weird!”

A Better Future For Loudoun – By The Numbers

Overall, a clear majority of participants see the balanced approach taken by the current comprehensive plan as a successful one. And, they want that balanced approach – as represented by a suburban east, a transitional middle, and a rural west – preserved.

When asked what kinds of things would make Loudoun an even better community in the future, over 23 percent expressed support for transportation improvements, often in relationship to specific developments. On that point, pro-development advocates and those supporting slower growth were often in agreement.

A nearly equal number of people – 22.5 percent – saw opportunities for improvements to the “Built Environment.” This broad category includes ideas and opinions relating to zoning policies and regulations, land use planning, and how development patterns succeed – or fail -- to protect historic places, sensitive environments, and small town character. In the category of the

Built Environment, data centers were the focus of dozens and dozens of comments challenging the negative impacts they can have on communities.

The preservation of our environmental and agricultural heritage was cited by 15.4 percent as the way to improve Loudoun; 11.6 percent cited lifestyle issues – including parks and recreation, and county amenities dedicated to the arts, youth, sports, and health; 6.4 percent cited gains in employment; 4.6 percent cited housing, including affordable housing; 4.3 percent cited community infrastructure assets, including the internet; and 4 percent cited greater services for seniors and others.

Next Step for Envision Loudoun

Most Envision Loudoun participants seem to agree that growth – whether you love it, hate it, or simply accept it – is not going away. The question will be, will the County take its cue from the citizenry to preserve a balanced approach between the old and the new?

In the coming months the County will continue to engage the public and various stakeholders, and hope to answer that question with something akin to a “vision” for all three policy areas – the suburban east, the transitional middle, and the rural west.

In defining what success would look like in this process, one commuter said, “When it doesn’t take 30 minutes to get from Brambleton to Rt. 50.” Another said, “When we have reduced the number of dirt roads by 80 percent.”

People love shorter commutes ... but as the county with more miles of dirt roads that any other in Virginia, we also know and love the idea of a slow and scenic ride.

So, what will Loudoun’s future look like?

Growth Concerns – Take Two

– By Andrea Gaines

The results from Loudoun County’s 2016 Annual Resident Survey – conducted by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia – was presented to the Board of Supervisors in early February. The survey gathers demographic information, evaluates citizen satisfaction with County services, and solicits citizen opinions on a variety of issues facing the County.

The survey is revealing.

It is here citizens share what attracts them about Loudoun County by answering the question: What single thing do you like best about Loudoun County? And, it is here that citizens share their concerns about what their future will look like, answering the question: What is the single biggest problem facing Loudoun County?

The answers to both questions show that the concern residents have about growth – also reflected in the County’s current Envision Loudoun process – is deep.

Some 17.9 percent of survey respondents said that the single thing they value most about Loudoun is its location/proximity to shopping/a major city, followed closely by the quality of schools (16.3 percent), and rural/open/country (14.8 percent).

When asked to identify the single biggest problem facing Loudoun County, over 36 percent – more than one-third – said that the problem is growth and development – “too much, too fast, not planned well.” A close second to that, at 32.5 percent, was traffic, followed by other things commonly associated with growth and development, including overcrowded schools, and road-maintenance issues.

Interestingly, taxes (too high, tax on wrong things) were identified by fewer than 5 percent of people as the County’s biggest problem, despite the increasingly clear connection between growth and higher tax rates.

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Purcellville Parent Challenges “Fly-By Drivers”

– By Andrea Gaines

327 school-age children died in school-transportation related crashes in the United States from 2003 to 2013. Local newspaper headlines report a Sept. of 2016 accident involving an LCPS school bus with six children aboard, another accident in Dec. of 2016 and a third hit-and-run incident in Jan. 2017.

No deaths were involved in the Loudoun County headlines cited here.

But, behind each school bus fatality is a devastated family. And, behind every near miss is the hidden agony of the concerned school official or shaken parent – both of whom know that next time they might not be so lucky.

Enter Purcellville parent William Baker, a father of four who, since October of last year has been sounding the alarm about “fly-by” or “stop arm” violators – drivers who fail to stop for school buses. And, although Baker says he has meet with tremendous apathy, he is not about to give up.

In a 2015 survey, the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation found that over 78,000 drivers broke the law by illegally passing a stopped school bus. The survey – recording stop arm violations identified by bus drivers themselves – translates nationally to more than 13 million violations in a single school year.

Baker is personally concerned about the bus stop at the end of his driveway on Purcellville Road. Two of Baker’s children, ages 6 and 8 catch the bus at about 7:30 a.m., and his 16-year old catches the bus at about 8:30. Since October of last year Baker has personally witnessed, reported and documented at least a half a dozen stop arm violations.

Although school officials express



concern, they have done nothing to address the problem directly, says Baker. He has also communicated with Barbara Comstock’s office, Dick Black’s office, Dave LaRock’s office and the Loudoun County Sheriff’s office. The LCSO has helped with extra patrols and following through with at least one offender. Several legislative offices have responded to Baker, and he is waiting to hear from others. He has also made contact with school bus safety advocates in Falls Church, which uses a Stop Arm Camera Program to catch potential offenders. This may be Baker’s most fruitful avenue; but the waiting and constant follow-up, is difficult.

After all, passing a stopped school bus is against the law in Virginia. If convicted, the driver can be charged with reckless driving (VA 46.2-859) – a class 1 misdemeanor which carries a maximum fine of \$2,500 and six months in jail. Alternatively, the infraction can be treated as a traffic law violation (VA 46.2-844), which carries a maximum fine of \$250. Both infractions also earn the driver heavy VA driving record penalties.

So, Baker persists, saying: “The problem here is my 6 and 8 year-old must cross that open lane to board the bus.” This parent is intent on making noise until he gets results.

John Champe High School Wind Ensemble Will Perform At National Festival



John Champe High School Wind Ensemble from Aldie has been invited to perform at the 2017 *Music for All* National Festival, the nation’s most prestigious festival for school instrumental music ensemble. The 26th annual Festival will take place in Indianapolis, March 9 through March 11 and come from 33 states.

JCHS Wind Ensemble is under the direction of Jonathan Phillip and was selected to perform by a panel of music educators by recorded audition.

Music for All is one of the nation’s largest and most influential organizations advocating in support of music education. The *Music for All* National Festival is comprised of the National Concert Band Festival, Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival, Middle School National Music Festival, Chamber Music National Festival and three national honor ensembles: The Honor Band of America, the Jazz Band of America, and the Honor Orchestra of America.

The goal of the John Champe band is to “Build Community and Musicianship.” In five years, the band program has grown to serve 230 students at JCHS. The

program supports three concert bands, percussion ensemble, Marching Knights, JCHS winter guard, the John Champe pep band, jazz band, percussion ensemble, and various small ensembles. They perform at competitions throughout Maryland and Virginia and have become a staple in the Middleburg Christmas Parade.

The concert programs have also seen great success. The JCHS Wind Ensemble was part of a performance clinic at the 2015 Virginia Music Educators Conference. This professional development conference in Norfolk helps music educators learn new techniques and focus on best practices in music education. The Knights have thrice earned Virginia Honor Band and had nineteen students successfully audition into All District Band this year.

JCHS Wind Ensemble is one of 59 high school and middle school concert band and percussion ensembles from across the nation selected to perform at the 2017 Festival. They will perform in concert, be evaluated by renowned music educators and participate in master classes and special events. Festival and tickets are available at www.musicforall.org/festival or by calling 800 848-2263.

Fireman’s Field, continued from page 1

steward of your money and not spend it where it doesn’t need to be spent.

He continued, “We spend \$284,000 on debt payment and we get back \$46,200. There is a potential revenue source. If we just want to take on debt, take tax dollars to pay down debt, that is a really easy job as a government. Because we have the unlimited ability to tax – which I think is the wrong ability to have as a government. Looking at options here, we can stay status quo and just get nothing for the property, or we can think outside the box. The reality is we do have a massive debt,” said Cool.

Some of the costs of Fireman’s Field included the purchase price of \$1.7 million, \$1.6 million for the parking lot and landscape, \$2 million for the Bush Tabernacle renovations, \$658,485 for the stadium storage upgrades and \$44,000 for the floor of the skating rink.

The current outstanding debt on the

property is \$3,630,860, financed at tax exempt status. This status limits the income the Town can receive from the property. But Town Manager Rob Lohr said the Town can either bring in a management company to run the entire complex (collect the revenue and then pay the company), or it can refinance.

Said Cool, “The purpose of this is to look at all options. “We have the opportunity to do that now. I would like to see some reduction or elimination of the Fireman’s Field Tax District (currently 3 ½ cents per \$100).” Cool recommended three options:

- The Town can take over and have staff manage Fireman’s Field. This would be too much of a burden on staff.
- The Town could solicit an RFI [Request For Information] to firms to see who is interested in the management.
- The Town could have a management company come in and manage Fireman’s Field.

Council Member Kelli Grim said that the

Town was headed in a positive direction. “We need to solve the tax exempt restrictions of the debt. Going out for an RFI does not eliminate the current management of the Bush Tabernacle. They can participate or expand or partner with another organization. We are not trying to exclude anyone. We are opening the broadest tent to overcome a situation that we didn’t create. We can’t sit and do nothing. If we continue on the path we are on, we the citizens will be poorly represented.”

Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson said that the County, who manages Fireman’s Field, charges everyone to use it and “they can’t tell us what they are charging.” She said, “The arrangement of the tax-exempt bonds we have, constrict how much we can charge someone to rent these facilities and that really hampers us.” Jimmerson said that if the Town could find someone who could manage the rental of the property, “we would actually get the income.”

In a social media post Mayor Kwasi

Fraser wrote, “My recommendation at our last council meeting was to determine via a Request for Information what opportunities may be available to the citizens of Purcellville to generate revenue in excess of the budgeted \$46,200 annual rent currently paid by Mr. Message’s organization [for the Bush Tabernacle] and \$0 rent paid by the County for the field. In addition, the town is responsible for all major repairs to the facility. Given that the citizens of Purcellville contribute almost \$284,244 annually to service our Parks and Recreation debt, that we have an upcoming 2021 balloon payment of \$1.6 million, and that we have a tenant paying \$46,200 annually for an 8,500 square foot facility which was renovated with \$2 million of our taxpayers’ money, we absolutely owe it to our citizens to determine if better opportunities with both economical and recreational value to our community exist.”

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Abernethy & Spencer Opens With Its State Of The Art Greenhouse

Abernethy & Spencer Greenhouses opened March 1, more than a year after a record-breaking January snowfall collapsed their largest greenhouse – a 45,000 square feet structure of steel and plastic that protected the majority of the nursery's plants.

The new greenhouse has drip irrigation, overhead misting, clean coal heating, and levered panels that open and close depending upon the weather. Electric fans keep fresh air circulated. These improvements are saving 40 percent in heating costs, cutting electricity usage by 50 percent, and reducing water usage by 60 percent. Tall, airy ceilings cast the rooms with diffused sunlight over the array of plants.

"We like to believe this place is magical... healing, in a sense. We are often being told that we're a destination-a 'field trip.' We know this place is special, and we don't take that for granted. We have a great staff, and we love to share our love of plants with our customers," said General Manager David Lohmann. "We are on 5 acres – we have over 1,000 varieties of perennials," boasted Lohmann, who is known for his candid opinions, and has a knack for identifying what grows well in Western Loudoun. "You'll always find something wonderful for your garden here."

In addition to all the plants that have been growing for the past year in the new greenhouse, there is a garden shop stocked with tools, soil nutrients, and garden accents. The greenhouses also have "resident pets," including tropical birds, chickens, ducks, a cat, and three friendly Labradors.

Abernethy & Spencer Greenhouses are located at 18035 Lincoln Rd. (Maple Ave.) Open 9-5 Monday – Saturday, 10-4 Sundays, March 1 until Dec. 23. For more information go to www.abernethyspencer.com, or email info@abernethyspencer.com.



Carter Center Events For March

- **Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting**, Tuesday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **Lyme Support Group**, Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Library Outreach Visit**, Wednesday, March 8, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Monthly Lunch & a Movie – Quiz Show**, Friday, March 13, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Jerry's Jukebox**, Tuesday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **St. Patrick's Day Party**, Friday, March 17, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$5.
- **Book Club**, Wednesday, March 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Free Blood Pressure Checks**, Thursday, March 23, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Lunch Bunch**, Friday, March 24, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mimi's Cafe, Sterling.

Emma Clifton Makes Dean's List



Emma Clifton of Leesburg, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2016 semester at Hillsdale College in Michigan. Clifton is a freshman with a double major in Latin and Applied Math. She has also been invited to join the national classical studies honorary Eta Sigma Phi and the national mathematics honor society Kappa Mu Epsilon. Clifton is pictured with the bust of Julius Caesar in the Classics Reading Room at Hillsdale College.

Vikings Runner-Up At The State Championship

The Loudoun Valley Vikings are the boy's runner-up at the VHSL 4A State Indoor Track and Field Championships at Roanoke College. During the 2015-2016 school year, the Loudoun County School Board approved Indoor Track and Field as a Tier 2 (self-funded) sport. The 7 boys competing scored 48 points, second only to William Fleming's 53.5 points.



Front Row - Jack Tracy, Kevin Carlson, Colton Bogucki, Jacob Hunter. Second Row - Jacob Windle, Akere Simms, Peter Morris, Chase Dawson, Coach Paul Hall, Coach Joan Hunter, Coach Marc Hunter

Artsy Things To Do Inside ...

– By Andrea Gaines

There is big news in the New York art world – and art worlds everywhere.

The great Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York – "The Met" as it is known – is releasing 375,000 images of "public domain" art from its incomparable collection ... in partnership with the website powerhouse Wikimedia.

Art lovers, educators, parents stuck inside with bored kids – or people who just want to expand their horizons – can now open up their computer, go to metmuseum.org/art/collection, and search away through



Reginald Pollack (American, 1924-2001)

some of the most cherished pieces of art the world has to offer.

We did a Met search and found this beautiful-in-blue image of a painting by Reginald Pollack, who lived for a time in Loudoun County. We searched through our favorites – old masters, impressionists,

sculptures, anything we could think of. So much to see.

Per the museum's website, "... images of the Met's public domain artwork will be freely available online to be reused for any purpose, without restriction under copyright law." What a treasure. Take advantage of it.

Donation Check Presented To The Hillsboro Charter Academy



Students and teachers from the Hillsboro Charter Academy accept a donation from the Short Hill Historical Society. Clockwise from top left: Amie Ware, Vice President of the Short Hill Historical Society, Julie Epstein, Hillsboro Charter Academy School Counselor, Nielson J., 2nd grade, Lucy K., 3rd grade, Stella R., 4th grade, Tabitha M., 5th grade, Gabrielle M., 4th grade, Miranda Beard, Music Teacher, Precyous Harris, Operations Manager, Maria Byrd, 4th grade teacher, Lexi K., 1st grade, Cate M., Kindergarten, Carrie Crossfield, Board Member of SHHS.

The Short Hill Historical Society presented a check for \$900 to the Hillsboro Charter Academy for their support of the 2016 Christmas in Hillsboro Craft Fair. The Hillsboro Charter Academy opened their doors to give more inside space for crafters. To thank the Hillsboro Charter Academy, the Short Hill Historical Society donated all of the funds from crafters who used the charter school to the school.

The Short Hill Historical Society, formerly the Hillsboro Community Association/Friends of the Old Stone School, a non-profit organization entering its 41st year, is dedicated to helping preserve and restore the Old Stone School and historic landmarks in the Short Hill area.

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LÚNASA Wednesday, March 8 8:00 PM

Ireland's finest traditional instrumental band takes the stage at Franklin Park featuring flutist Kevin Crawford, violinist Colin Farrell, uilleann piper Cillian Vallely, guitarist Ed Boyd and acoustic bassist Trevor Hutchinson. Lúnasa's musical arrangements have brought them to the forefront of Celtic Music.
Tickets: \$35 All Seats Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org



VIRGINIA OPERA: AN EVENING OF ARIAS AND DUETS Friday, March 10 7:00 PM

This delightful musical event, featuring arias and duets from your favorite operas and operettas, promises to inspire, entertain, and provide an unforgettable experience.
Tickets: \$10 All Seats Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org

MARK FORREST, INTERNATIONAL IRISH TENOR Saturday, March 11 7:30 PM

Mark Forrest, returns to Franklin Park Arts Center with an evening of inspirational and uplifting music and song. The evening's inspirational songs include Danny Boy, You Raise Me Up, God Bless the U.S.A., The Impossible Dream. Joining Mark on stage will be the musical ensemble Seasons, pianist John-Paul Kaplan, Irish dancers and a few more surprises.
Tickets: \$25 All Seats Reserved Seating www.franklinparkartscenter.org



VSA OF LOUDOUN MUSICAL: TARZAN March 17, 18 & 24, 25 7:00 PM March 19 & 26 3:00 PM

Washed up on the shores of West Africa, an infant boy is taken in and raised by gorillas who name him Tarzan. Apart from striving for acceptance from his ape father, Tarzan's life is mostly monkey business until a human expedition treks into his tribe's territory, and he encounters creatures like himself for the first time. Tarzan struggles to navigate a jungle, thick with emotion, as he discovers his animal



upbringing clashing with his human instincts. VSA Loudoun County is a fully inclusive visual and performing arts program that provides discovery opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities.

Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors & Kids www.vsaloudoun.org

MADCAP PUPPETS: MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO Wednesday March 8 10:00 AM

There's no business like monkey business! When Mr. Cleaver, the zoo manager, decides to send one of the monkeys to another zoo, it's time for their great escape!
Tickets: \$5/person Pay at the Door

COFFEEHOUSE: THE COMEDY CULT IMPROV Sunday March 5 6:30 PM

Join the spontaneous and talented crew of Loudoun Valley HS Comedy Cult Improv team. Coffee included, in a real mug.
Tickets: \$8/person Pay at the Door

COFFEEHOUSE: MEET THE ARTIST, LEANNE FINK Sunday, March 12 6:30 PM

"Art...inspires. It's for everyone." Leanne Fink's artistic philosophy will be put into action at this workshop. Coffee included, in a real mug.
Tickets: \$8/person Pay at the Door

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Saint Patrick's Day - Celebrate ... Authentically

Saint Patrick's Day is Friday, March 17. This very popular holiday has been around for a long time. For many, it is simply a day to enjoy a little brew ... sometimes "a little too much brew." For others, green attire is the big thing. This year, consider bringing some added authenticity to the day, with some insider knowledge about Saint Patrick's Day.

Did you know, for example, that well over 100 million people celebrate the day in the United States, and that more than 80 percent of them follow the tradition of wearing something green? Sounds kind

of simple, but, wearing green is actually a pretty authentic thing to do. Saint Patrick himself is closely tied to the color green. The shamrock plant and the three-leafed clover were precious symbols to his followers. The clover represented the Christian Holy Trinity. Saint Patrick's followers would clip clovers to their lapels during church services.

Parades are a big part of Saint Patrick's Day, too – all over the world. Some historians say that the first Saint Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in

1762 – over 250 years ago. Others say that South Boston – very Irish – holds claim to that bit of history. But, who really knows? So let's talk about something we can all agree on: Saint Patrick's Day food.

Food – lots of delicious food – is one of the most enjoyable parts of the holiday. But, the Irish themselves don't celebrate the day with the proverbial corned beef and cabbage. On this most special of days they celebrate with "The Irish Fry" – a dish of rashers (bacon), fried (red) tomatoes, black pudding (aka, blood sausage), and brown

soda bread. The Irish also love scones with salty Irish butter and Irish soda bread. The traditional soda bread, by the way, does not include raisins. The Irish call loaves of bread with raisins "spotted dogs." Roast dinners are popular, too – with roasted lamb, potatoes, carrots, and peas. For dessert, you will see apple tarts – and tea, rather than coffee.

Just for fun, our two roving reporters Tim and Robert, asked locals what they would be doing for Saint Patrick's Day. Whatever you do, enjoy the day – and your newfound knowledge. Cheers.

Question: What are your plans for Saint Patrick's Day 2017?

(Editor's note: As a family-run newspaper, we did a little editing when it came to the comments on the day's favorite activity – you know, the "little too much brew" part.)



"Wear green and possibly enjoy [a little too much brew]."
– Danielle and Ronnie



"I'm Irish, so I cook traditional Irish foods. My family has tried some other Irish customs, including pranks from the Leprechaun ... such as finding that the milk has turned green."
– Lynda



"In the past, I have gone to the DC Rock'n Roll Marathon."
– Ryan



"All we do to celebrate is wear green."
– Autumn and Frederick



"Find a nice Irish Pub, drink 'til you've [enjoyed a little too much brew], and have a good Irish meal, like shepherd's pie."
– Daniel (left)

"Get a McDonald's St. Patrick's Day green milkshake."
– Sam (right)



"Mom makes a traditional Irish dinner."
– Olivia

National Awkward Moments Day

Laughing At Yourself Is The Best Medicine

- By Andrea Gaines

No one knows who invented National Awkward Moments Day, Saturday, March 18.

That's no surprise, since it probably came about as the result of one stunningly awkward moment that the owner of that moment was hoping to forget.

We surveyed our readers and friends to ask them about their most awkward moments, sharing our own silliness to give others the courage to share theirs. As it turns out, lots of people assume that they are the only ones with a history of awkward moments.

That's not really true. Awkward moments are ... everywhere. Here is a treasure trove of the greatly embarrassing times that our



friends and readers shared with us:

Pad Thai It's Not: "So, I went by myself to my favorite Thai restaurant – feeling very proud of my courage and independence. I ordered something completely new off the menu. Why not, I thought. When my meal arrived, I did my best to look like I knew what I was doing – but, oh boy,

was that stuff hot! The waitress noticed my distress, and, approaching my table, whispered, 'You are eating the condiments tray ... your meal is not out of kitchen yet.'

Anne Klein She's Not: "Getting back to my office after a major marketing presentation for a big fashion company, I sat down at my desk, put my feet up,

and exclaimed, 'Whew! Glad that's over!' Pointing at my feet and laughing hysterically, my office mate screamed: 'You wore those to a fashion presentation?' Looking down, I realized I'd worn shoes from two entirely different pairs."

Slipping Wet: "Running through the rain to get to work, I arrived at my office, and ceremoniously yanked off my soaking wet coat ... only to find I had completely forgotten to put a dress on, and was standing there for all to see in a soaking wet slip."

Groucho Marx To The Max: "I tried to dye my own eyebrows at home to save money. I was watching my grandkids that day, and got distracted. Twenty minutes of recommended dying time turned into almost an hour. By the time I realized this and looked into the mirror, it was all over. Groucho Marx brows all the way."

Green Cheeks: "Getting ready to go out

shopping with my young son, I decided to put a face mask on for a few minutes. Running low on time, I put the mask – bright green in color – just on my forehead, nose, and cheeks. Arriving home after a full day of shopping, I looked into mirror and realized I had completely forgotten that the mask was still on ... and had been, all, day, long."

Flying Escargot: "I worked at a posh restaurant on Capitol Hill. One of my customers ordered escargot, snails in garlic butter. She was having trouble getting the snail out of the shell. I told her to 'hold the shell while I pry it out ...' That worked, but too well. Free of the shell the snail launched itself across the dining room, bouncing off another customer's forehead. Oh, la la!"

Remember that National Awkward Moments Day is Saturday, March 18. Have a good laugh at yourself – enjoy!



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Hidden Stars By Myles Mellor and Sally York

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ACROSS

1. Second baseman?
5. In this way
9. Comics sound
14. Locks
15. Anahat ____
16. Come in second
17. Sight from Taormina
18. Magazine type
19. Dog-____
20. Jay Ferguson hit
23. Start of a cheer
24. Burn up
25. When calm arrives
32. Nescient
34. Belgium village
35. So out it's in
36. Lassie portrayer
37. Bilked
39. Yeanling producer
40. Type of shirt or jacket
42. Perfectly fine
45. Gaudy scarf
46. Smoke
47. Faint flash on the horizon
54. Argus-eyed
56. Just lying around
57. TV's "American ____"
58. Asian perennial herb
59. Approach
60. Campbell of "Party of Five"
61. Small woods
62. Rank
63. Fed

DOWN

3. Hokkaido native
4. Manhattan ____
5. Compose
6. Appointed time
7. Unattractive tangelo?
8. Exhausts
9. Catches, in a way
10. Krypton, e.g.
11. Piecrust ingredient
12. One in a suit
13. Poet Hughes
21. "Likewise"
22. Dissembled
25. Doctor
26. Move, in a way
27. Start of a refrain
28. "____ bells!"
29. Woody
30. They may be seeded
31. Kind of room
32. Organic compound
33. Time piece
37. Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
38. Taking a side
40. ____ room
41. Tell tale activity
43. Old World herbs
44. Col. Sanders feature
47. Cord fiber
48. American journalist Lisa
49. It may be fixed
50. ____ rock
51. Footnote word
52. Astronomer's sighting
53. Secluded spot
54. Electric ____
55. Pathet ____

DOWN

1. Sharpen
2. Biblical verb

Answers on page 30

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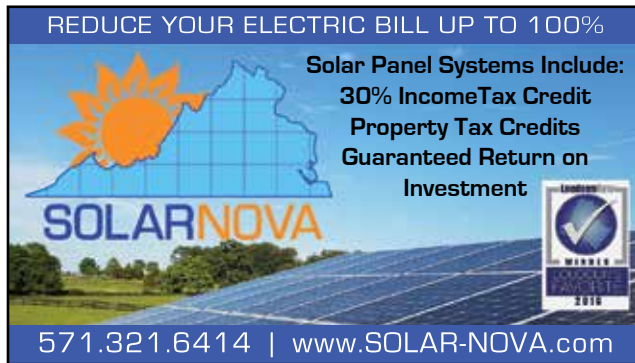
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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

employee, and perhaps he or she could help to support you better – maybe you'd benefit from some additional training in management, or by having a professional mentor (if you don't have one already) or by working with an executive coach.

Know that you are not alone in your struggle. Surveys in this area have actually shown that firing employees is one of the most stressful and upsetting task for managers, however, it goes with the territory. Also, know that you're not a bad Christian, in my opinion, because you, as a manager, are performe being placed in the role of having to fire an employee that is unable to adequately do their job.

I leave you with a quote I like a lot on this topic from Colin Powell:

"Good leadership involves responsibility to the welfare of the group, which means that some people will get angry at your actions and decisions. It's inevitable, if you're honorable. Trying to get everyone to like you is a sign of mediocrity: You'll avoid the tough decisions, you'll avoid

confronting the people who need to be confronted, and you'll avoid offering differential rewards based on differential performance because some people might get upset. Ironically, by procrastinating on the difficult choices, by trying not to get anyone mad, and by treating everyone equally 'nicely' regardless of their contributions, you'll simply ensure that the only people you'll wind up angering are the most creative and productive people in the organization." – Colin Powell

Dr. Michael Oberschneider, a Clinical Psychologist, is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological & Psychiatric Services. Oberschneider has been featured on CNN Nightly News, Good Morning America, the WTOP, and several other media outlets. He also received the recognition of "Top Therapist" (July 2009) by Washingtonian Magazine. In 2016, Oberschneider added Ollie Outside, a children's book encouraging screen-free fun. His office is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Ste. 240, Ashburn. To learn more call 703 723-2999.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Tasting Room Associate

Greenhill Winery and Vineyards is seeking Tasting Room Associates to join our team!

Tasting Associates are responsible for the overall guest experience at the winery. If you are outgoing, personable, enjoy wine and want to learn more then this job is for you! The hours of the position are part-time, to include weekend days (Saturday / Sunday or both). Our hours of operation are noon to sunset.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Greet all visitors to the winery and pour wines for tasting.
- Handle routine sales transactions to include operating cash register, mobile sales, and recording of credit card tips.
- Assist with display and re-stocking of retail items and wines.
- Assist with wine club shipments and special orders.
- Assist with special events as requested.

Wine knowledge is preferred, but not required; we'll train you! We provide great educational opportunities and a dynamic work environment!

Tasting Associates must be age 21+. The pay starts at \$11/hour plus cash tips, credit card tips, and club commission. Higher hourly wages for experienced applicants will be considered.

Greenhill Winery & Vineyards
23595 Winery Lane Middleburg, VA 20117
540-687-6968 info@greenhillvineyards.com

BAR BACKS

Greenhill Winery and Vineyards is seeking weekend Bar Backs to join our team!

We are looking for dedicated employees who have the ability to follow directives with minimal supervision. The ideal candidate must possess superior people skills, a professional demeanor under pressure, and have the ability to solve problems in a creative manner. Must be able to work in a team atmosphere and give exemplary customer service.

JOB DESCRIPTION

(including but not limited to):

- Replenish stock and ingredients throughout shift, including restocking wines on shelves and in refrigerator, preparing ice buckets, chocolate pairings, and retail items.
- Assist in setup and breakdown of large group reservations and private tastings.
- Clear glasses, bottles and dishware and wipe down seating areas after patrons leave.
- Maintain cleanliness of tasting bars and tables; replace soiled rags and remove trash.
- Wash and polish glasses throughout shift.
- Assist in ringing up customer orders as needed.
- Assist with special events as requested; represent winery at outside functions as needed.
- Perform other duties as assigned by manager.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Strong attention to detail.
- Ability to problem solve in stressful situations.
- Highly customer service oriented.
- Excellent hospitality, sales, organizational, and customer service skills.
- Must be available and willing to work weekends.
- Ability to lift, push and pull 50 pounds.
- Ability to stand on feet for 8 hours; occasional climbing, stooping, and twisting.
- 21+ an older.

HOURS:

Looking for weekend staffing.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Mary Long: mary@greenhillvineyard.com

HELP WANTED

Large family practice in Loudoun County seeking FT LPN's or MA's for our new site located in the professional building at Stone Springs Hospital in Aldie, VA. We also have openings in our Ashburn, Lansdowne, Cornwall and Purcellville offices. Pediatric and or family practice experience preferred but willing to train the right candidate. EHR experience highly recommended. We offer health, dental and vision insurance as well as direct deposit, 401k and many other benefits. **Please send your resume to lgray@imgdoctors.com or fax to 703-726-0804, attention Lisa.**

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Answers to puzzle from page 25

1	W	2	H	3	A	4	T		5	T	6	H	7	U	8	S		9	S	10	P	11	L	12	A	13	T
14	H	A	I	R					15	Y	O	G	A					16	P	L	A	C	E				
17	E	T	N	A					18	P	U	L	P					19	E	A	R	E	D				
20	T	H	U	N		21	D	E	R	I	S				22	L	A	N	D								
					23	S	I	S							24	I	R	E									
			25	A	F	T	E	R	T	H	E	S	T		29	O	R	M									
32	33	U	N	L	E	T	T	E	R	E	D							34	A	Y	E						
35	R	E	T	R	O					36	P	A	L		37	T	A	K	E	N							
39	E	W	E							40	C	O	L	L	41	A	R	L	E	S	S						
42	A	S	R		43	I	G	H	T	A	S	R	A	I	N												
					45	B	O	A							46	C	I	G									
			47	H	E	A	T			48	I	G	H	T	N	51	I	N	53	G							
54	55	A	L	E	R	T				56	I	D	L	E					57	I	D	O	L				
58	R	A	M	I	E					59	N	E	A	R					60	N	E	V	E				
61	C	O	P	S	E					62	G	A	M	Y					63	G	M	A	N				

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MOUNTAINS & POOL



Purcellville- Immaculate Custom home with 3 finished level on 3.5 acres with POOL!

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WILD TURKEYS & TREES



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SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN



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UNDER CONTRACT - HAMILTON



UNDER CONTRACT - LEESBURG



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