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APRIL 2017



Take Me To The Garden Show

– By Andrea Gaines

The 27th Annual Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival comes to town Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday,

April 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The award-winning event, estimated to attract 40,000 visitors over the two days, gets better and better every year. And, that's not just the vendors and organizers talking; that's

the truth, as evidenced by the many local, state and national awards the festival has received since its founding in 1990.

In many ways, the event symbolizes and offers much of what Loudoun County is

known for – great outdoor spaces, a great sense of community, exquisite landscapes, history and great local food and drink.

This year's show features more than 150

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Discover Purcellville Call For Artists

Discover Purcellville, a non-profit organization, extends an invitation to local artists to participate in this year's summer community art project "Painted Benches and Planters Around Purcellville."

Each artist will receive either a custom-made wood planter or park style bench to paint with their original artwork. Each finished piece will be sponsored by a local business and placed around Purcellville this summer for our citizens and visitors to enjoy. New this year will be cash prizes



awarded to the most popular pieces voted on by the public.

This year's project is a follow up to 2016's very successful "Painted Barrels Around Purcellville" which helped fund various other art endeavors in Purcellville. Please contact Michael Oaks or Kim Patterson as soon as possible to reserve your bench or planter 540-751-0707, or email reloveit@aol.com.

ZOAM 2016-0014

Closing a Loophole Or Opening The Floodgates



– By Andrea Gaines

From a residential and commercial point of view, the village landscapes of Loudoun's most rural communities have not changed much in the last 100 years. A special

category of zoning called Rural Commercial – developed some 40 years ago – makes this possible, enabling a former country store in the village of Lincoln to become a residence with small office spaces, and an old general

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ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

What do you think about the new fidget cubes and fidget spinners, and do they really help kids with ADHD? They're making their way around our neighborhood, but I couldn't find any good studies out there on either of the toys. But they're still being marketed on line as gadgets for kids with ADHD. Our nine-year-old son has ADHD, and he has trouble focusing in class and at home, when doing his homework. Do you think these things will help him to do better? Concerned Parents



Dr. Mike

Dear Concerned Parents,

I fully support the use of both the fidget cube and fidget spinner in the classroom and for homework, for children and teens with ADHD. And I've spoken with several private and public school teachers this past academic year who have shared only positive experiences with these devices for their students with ADHD. I've also heard from teachers that students with anxiety and stress seem to benefit from using these devices in the classroom to self-regulate and cope.

While I am also not aware of any well-done research studies on either the fidget cube or fidget spinner at present, previous research in this area has shown that some children with ADHD concentrate better when they're allowed to fidget. For these children, fidgeting is believed to help to activate the brain for information processing and learning. There is also research to support the position that doing two things simultaneously actually helps some children with ADHD to focus better on a primary task, especially when the secondary task involves another sensory modality. For example, listening to music (secondary task) alongside reading school material (primary task), can actually help children to focus better. Chewing gum while taking a quiz, doodling while listening to a lecture, or pacing during a meeting are other ways that one's attention and focus can increase via a secondary distraction.

I suggest that you purchase both products for your son to use at home when completing his homework. If he benefits from using them, you could

Continued on page 31



Bring your family members and friends and Brunch & Learn with Waltonwood Ashburn Tuesday, April 18th, at 10:30 a.m.

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Photo by Laura Lieberman

Keep Loudoun Beautiful Greater Lovettsville Area Volunteers Needed

The Keep Loudoun Beautiful spring clean-up takes place the entire month of April and greater Lovettsville needs volunteers. Bags, vests, gloves and grabbers are available at the Lovettsville Community Center during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. Contact Lovettsville area leader, Laura Lieberman, for details and to coordinate pick-up locations: laura.long.lieberman@gmail.com.

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March 14 Town Council Meeting: Nitty-Gritty Issues Big And Small

– By Valerie Cury

The Purcellville Town Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Items discussed at the Council's March 14 meeting included:

Revenue From Sale Of Town Property: The revenue from the sale of Mary's House of Hope, located at 781 South 20th Street, is \$300,000. Initiating a discussion of what to do with these funds, Council Member Nedim Ogelman said: "As we think about our debt and think about the tax burden on our citizens, particularly on water and sewer rates ... it would very much interest me to have the revenue ... from the sale of that property go towards paying off the debt [and] easing any immediate rate increases on sewer and water." Council Member Kelli Grim echoed this, saying there is "merit in a portion of that money going to wastewater ..." and supporting Ogelman's desire to pursue anything that will ease the tax burden on the citizens, since the money from the sale of the property is a net profit. Mayor Kwasi Fraser said he would like to see this as an exercise in risk management. "If possible, we can see if we were going to take 100 percent, 80 percent, or 50 percent out of what would be the risk, and that will

help us to make an informed decision."

Use Of Town Reservoir Property for Recreational Purposes: Also discussed was the possibility of initiating an "equitable policy" on the use of the reservoir property for recreational purposes. Said Ogelman, "When I was thinking about this equitable policy, I wasn't necessarily thinking that uses would increase." In previous discussions with the public, Ogelman continued, "... it was clear to me that we on Council and staff are allowed to go up there. That same right doesn't apply to all the citizens of the Town. I just think we need something that is ... equitable for all folks ... that whatever the Town is using the property for, it's to the benefit to all of the citizens and not just a few." Grim added, "It does call into question why staff, commissions, committees, and boards, and whoever they bring with them – are allowed to use it. This should be up for discussion."

Council Member Doug McCollum countered this, arguing, "There is a risk when you open it up to other people, whether it is the citizens of the Town or not." To which Ogelman answered, "It seems inequitable and unfair. I am looking for an equitable solution that still doesn't interfere with anybody's health safety and welfare."

This issue will be on the agenda for the first meeting in April.

Town Pedestrian Flag Pilot Program: The Town is initiating a pilot program for pedestrians on Main Street and 21st Street. Pedestrians who want to use the crosswalk at this location will be able to pick up a flag from a nearby receptacle and wave

it. Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson said that in Clearwater, Florida, they use a similar program. "They use the flags down in Clearwater Beach, ... The first time we went out there, we were just waving our flags, and people stopped. It was just incredible." Ogelman said, "I can see how this idea of shaking a flag would be a safer way to signal someone is going to be crossing."

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – The Definition Of A "Duplex": Town staff was recently asked to prepare materials clarifying the Town's definition of "duplex dwelling." The issue arose in response to two structures at 416 and 424 East G Street, and a recent Town Zoning Administrator's finding that two completely separate houses – connected in the back by an invisible underground wall – could still fit the zoning definition of a "duplex dwelling."

Jimmerson said, "It really is a roundabout way to build two single family homes, and slap a duplex label on it, whereas they would normally have to subdivide the lot and build two single family homes. It's more beneficial to the developer as opposed to the community. To have that little tiny wall underneath the ground connecting two buildings ... I have never seen anything like that in my life."

Grim confirmed with staff that the lot would have been too small for a single-family home. According to public records one of the properties has sold for \$415,000.

Fraser said, "That is my concern, you surmise that someone is able to circumvent the process, and put two homes on a lot that is meant for one duplex."

McCollum said the Town should have the creativity, and he didn't want the "cookie cutter approach."

In a vote of 4-1-2 (McCollum voting to leave the option, and Council Members Chris Bledsoe and Ryan Cool absent for the vote), Council voted to eliminate the option of a buried underground wall connecting the corners of two separate structures.

Ogelman said, "It's about being transparent in this process. And transparent not just to the developer, not providing the developer room for creativity at the expense of what citizens expect and believe they are getting through zoning."

Ethical Advocate: Council Member Kelli Grim introduced Ethical Advocate which provides customized, anonymous, and confidential ethical reporting services through its fully secure, encrypted website and toll free number available 24 hours daily. This will provide all Purcellville employees a safe resource to report fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement and unethical behaviors. Two former employees and two anonymous emails were sent to the Town Council soon after the recent alleged threat to Grim. Grim's report stated, "It is the duty of every local government employee to police the government itself, and expose any potential wrongdoing so changes may be made. However, the individuals that expose these abuses could be vulnerable to attack from those who have committed the unethical behaviors." Many localities, including Loudoun County, have implemented Ethical Advocate.

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View From The Ridge: Envision Loudoun – Bold Action Versus Business-As-Usual

– By Andrea Gaines

Everyone is talking about it. "Envision Loudoun," our local government's effort to reach out to the public for advice on how to rewrite and update the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Officials are to be commended for the huge effort they are putting into bringing citizens into the process, including two months of presentations and workshops which engaged 1,400 participants, generated what the county called "5,000 unique ideas," and comprehensive, well-written reports on the progress that's been made.

Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall deserves a lot of credit for her authentically open and inclusive style. People are paying attention.

But, the key to the County government's success with Envision Loudoun will, be, not how well it engages the public, but how effective local government is at harnessing that energy into bold zoning ideas and solutions. That is what Loudoun County – a rare, unique and wonderful place to live under constant business-as-usual pressure to overdevelop ... needs. Bold action. Bold action and innovation.

Loudoun County demonstrated its ability to act boldly when, from a zoning perspective, it divided the county into three

distinct policy areas – the suburban east, the transitional middle and the rural west.

It acted boldly by exploring policies aiming at preserving and transforming its agricultural economy, rather than simply paving over farms with new subdivisions.

And, it acted boldly when it downzoned parts of the rural west, and offered developers clustered housing options that raise property values while preserving open space.

Public input on both the Envision Loudoun process and Loudoun County's 2016 Annual Resident Survey show broad, consistent support for this kind of prudently protective zoning. But, as the Envision Loudoun process proceeds, behind the scenes the developer-dominated business as usual crowd continues to grind away.

So, will the BOS and the Loudoun County Planning Commission work with the public to force bold zoning solutions to the threat of overdevelopment, or will business as usual prevail?

For example:

- Zoning Ordinance Amendment 2016-0014 is moving through the approval process at the same time as Envision Loudoun. This amendment would permit townhouses, apartment complexes and other forms of multi-family housing with Special Use Permits in the RC

District, which includes nearly 400 or so properties in and around rural Loudoun Will Envision Loudoun accept or reject suburban-style residential development in the rural west?

- ZOAM 2016-0014 originated – as a challenge, really – to still rural areas in the Transition Policy Area that faced encroachment from the Suburban Policy Area to the east. Will Envision Loudoun act to preserve the Transition Policy Area – and the Rural Policy Area – from the dense suburban-style development spilling over from the east?

- The BOS recently approved ZOAM 2016-0002, requiring Special Exception approval any time a data center was proposed to be located near residential areas. ZOAM 2016-0002 was contested by business interests who favored allowing a data center to be located near a residential area without public input. Will Envision Loudoun accept or reject the idea that certain uses work in certain areas but not in others?

Will Envision Loudoun recognize, that when it comes to preserving Loudoun as a rare, unique and wonderful place to live under constant business-as-usual pressure to overdevelop, what we need is bold action. Bold action and innovation.

March 28 Purcellville Town Council Work Session From Everyday Business To Addressing Threats

“When someone is alleged to have said, and it was heard by witnesses, they want to punch you in the face, whether it’s me – because it was, or even if it were someone else – I am concerned.”

– Council Member Kelli Grim

– By Valerie Cury

On Veterans: Mayor Kwasi Fraser met with Sen. Dick Black (R-13) and members of the veterans’ community on March 11. Together, they are looking at the possibility of opening a veterans’ clinic in Purcellville. “The opportunity is here for a clinic because the nearest clinic is about 30 miles away; so we might have an opportunity to bring a veteran clinic into the Town of Purcellville,” said Fraser.

On Pullen House: Council Member Ryan Cool said that the Parks and Recreation Committee wants to tear down the Pullen house located across the parking lot from the Bush Tabernacle to install a playground, so that the Town has an identity. The Town bought the property around 2012 for \$180,000 in cash; and it would cost \$65,000 to tear down the house. With insurance, maintenance, and the cost of a playground, Cool said, “Citizens are talking to me about debt issues, and I am hearing a \$300,000 playground – just not hearing a lot of good feedback from the citizens.” Cool has

asked the committee to come back with a proposal. He requested putting this on the April 25 agenda. Cool wants to look at all options including selling the property, “so we can realize a profit there, so we can pay down debt. We can fix up a park already in Town.”

On Building Heights In C-4: The Council discussed the draft from the Planning Commission regarding the building heights in the C-4 District (21st Street, Hatcher and parts of Main Street in the downtown area). The commission and Council have recommended a height of three stories maximum, not to exceed 45 ft. Said Grim, “This is what our residents want to see, not more than three stories or 45 ft.”

Wastewater Fund Gets \$300,000: Council voted to allocate 100 percent of the funds from the sale of Mary’s House of Hope, which is \$300,000, to the Wastewater Fund.

Request For RFI On Fireman’s Field: Cool and staff worked on a Request for Information to find potential companies that would be interested in managing all or

a portion of the Fireman’s Field property which includes, the Bush Tabernacle, Fireman’s Field Stadium, Haske Field, and Dillon’s Woods Park. Grim said, “One of the most important reasons why we are moving in this information-gathering is because of our financial situation, where our restrictions have us tied until we can make a change. We have a balloon payment looming.” Cool pointed out that anyone can bid on this RFI – “they can respond to all or parts.” He pointed out that the RFI does not void any contracts.

On Threat: “I was elected to do the business of the people; I don’t like it when untruthful things are leaked or put out in the press,” said Council Member Kelli Grim, referring to an alleged threat of bodily harm being looked into by the Town Manager. “So, I would like to clear them up,” since some of it was quoted as coming from several “town sources.” Grim said she didn’t know who the sources were, but “when someone is alleged to have said, and it was heard by witnesses, they want

to punch you in the face, whether it’s me – because it was, or even if it were someone else – I am concerned.”

On Tape: Grim continued – referring to a second incident, “Secondly, I would like to request and ask that someone write Kelli Grim a ticket. When someone hands me a dash cam disk, and says I ran a stop sign, and I was speeding, then someone needs to write me a ticket, and not hold on to this disk for over a month.” Grim said she did not know why the disk was withheld for more than a month, or why it was being given to her now.

She pointed out that she couldn’t get a speeding ticket because dash cams in police cars are not hooked up to radar. Also, she said that the dash cam video was taken from the side and there was no identifying factor. “So, if you are going to accuse me of something that you are holding as evidence, then I would like to have the ticket, and have my day in court ... Politics is already starting, and I’m not even up for reelection for a while.”

Purcellville Encourages Public Input Re Budget Process

“The way I will be approaching this is, I will not stick to the status quo ... My goal is to be disruptive, be different.”

– Mayor Kwasi Fraser

– By Valerie Cury

On March 22 Town Manager Rob Lohr presented his proposed FY 2018 budget to the Purcellville Town Council. The Council seeks public input, ideas, and recommendations on the document. Members of the public can access it and all related details at www.purcellvilleva.gov/budget, including an Excel spreadsheet that allows users to make proposed edits to the budget and see how that impacts the tax rate. Said Council Member Nedim Ogelman, “This is what the Town Council is using, we want you to use it also.” Council Member Kelli Grim said that Town Council needs to make sure that the Town’s residents have full access to this document that shows Council proposals as well as citizen input.

Some on Town Council are at odds with the town manager’s proposed budget, which calls for a 7 percent utility rate increase. Said Ogelman, “When I was walking the streets, I heard two things clearly: People want slow growth and they want low taxes and rates.” He continued, “I think that translates to three things: Tackling the debt, finding efficiencies including finding the right size for our government – of course we know that good government doesn’t necessarily mean big government, and we need to manage expectations.”

Council Member Ryan Cool encouraged the public to go online and weigh in on the process. “I want to encourage everybody to be bold. Be bold in this thing. This is not just a rubber stamp.” Continuing he said,

“We are not here to make easy decisions; we are here to make tough decisions. We need to leave no stone unturned. We are talking about peoples’ money here.”

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, “The way I will be approaching this is, I will not stick to the status quo when I am reviewing this. My goal is to be disruptive, be different.” “I see a lot of lack of diverse revenue streams within the utility enterprise, so my approach is how do we become more creative with this? I need to look at this through the lens of being a fiscal steward with the peoples’ money. I’ll take risk, but it will be done in a measured and assessed fashion.”

The Town Council has set Budget Work Sessions to discuss the proposed budget, tax rates and utility rates. The first Budget

Work Session was held March 30, and focused on the Utility Fund, utility rates and the chargeback process.

The public is encouraged to provide comments to the Town Council on the proposed budget, tax rates, and utility rates, and to offer ideas about how they want the budget to look. Comments can be emailed to PurcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov. The Town also has a discussion board online where members of the public can suggest ideas, at www.purcellvilleva.gov/CommunityVoice.

The Proposed FY 2018 Budget, presentations, meeting dates, and online contact form can all be found at www.purcellvilleva.gov/budget. This page will be updated throughout the budget process.

On the web with daily updates at www.brleader.com



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Welcome Home To This Colonial In Lovettsville

- By Hannah Hager

All of us seek to put down roots in a pleasant, safe and prosperous area, and you'll find as much within this home in the Dutchman's Creek neighborhood in Lovettsville.

Today, Lovettsville has all the trappings of an all-American hometown - a pizzeria downtown, excellent schools and busy streets that settle into quiet nights. Its claim to fame is its boisterous Oktoberfest, which is a tribute to its German founders. It certainly is a picturesque backdrop on which to build a family.

Willkommen home to this lovely Colonial with two-story foyer with gleaming wooden floors. Cathedral and tray ceilings open up the living areas throughout and are the perfect accompaniment to the finishing touches featured in the study, the formal living and dining rooms, and the sun room.

This home is outfitted with all the trappings - the morning room pours in sunlight from three directions, creating a wonderful nook for you to take in the daily newspaper while the rest of the family bustles nearby in the eat-in kitchen. Located just off the family room, the kitchen has plenty of room to whip up meals with plenty of table space



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Bathrooms: Three full and one half baths
List Price: \$624,000
Agent: Lynne McCabe, Keller Williams Realty
Phone: 571-242-0232

and a center island. Not to mention, meal prep will be more enjoyable thanks to the extra refrigerator and double oven.

In the evenings, you won't be able to wait to relax in your master bedroom in your private soak tub. The suite will cater

to your every need with its double vanities and walk-in closet. The kids will be living large, too, in their bedrooms decked out with windows providing generous amounts of light. They'll have to share the Jack and Jill bathroom, but they'll be alright.

Summer is coming - the time is now to take advantage of your new home's back deck for hosting or front porch for watching. What do you say, shall we have a look?

Open House Sat., April 8, 1-4 pm, Sat., April 15, 1-4 pm, Sunday April 23, 1-4 pm.

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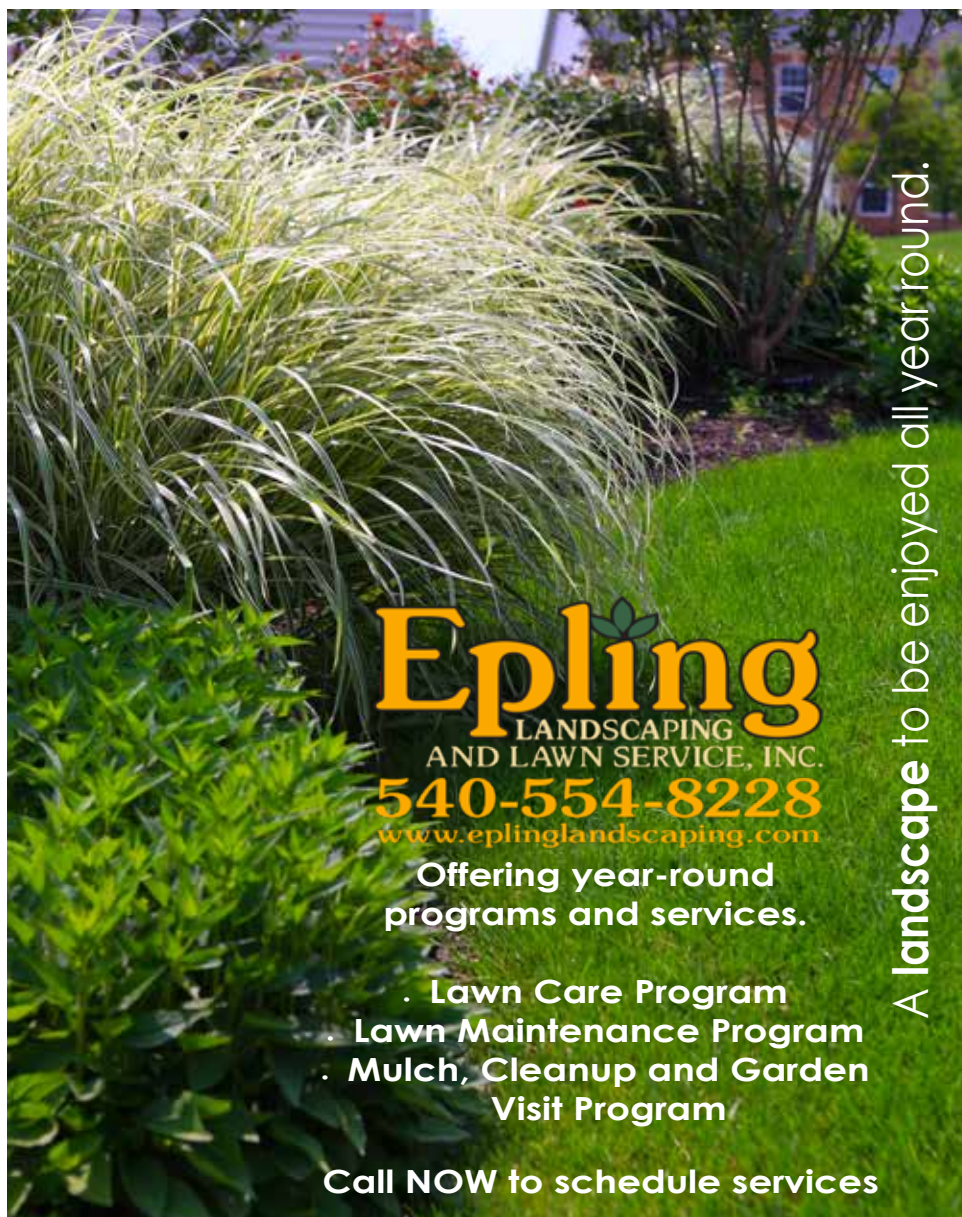
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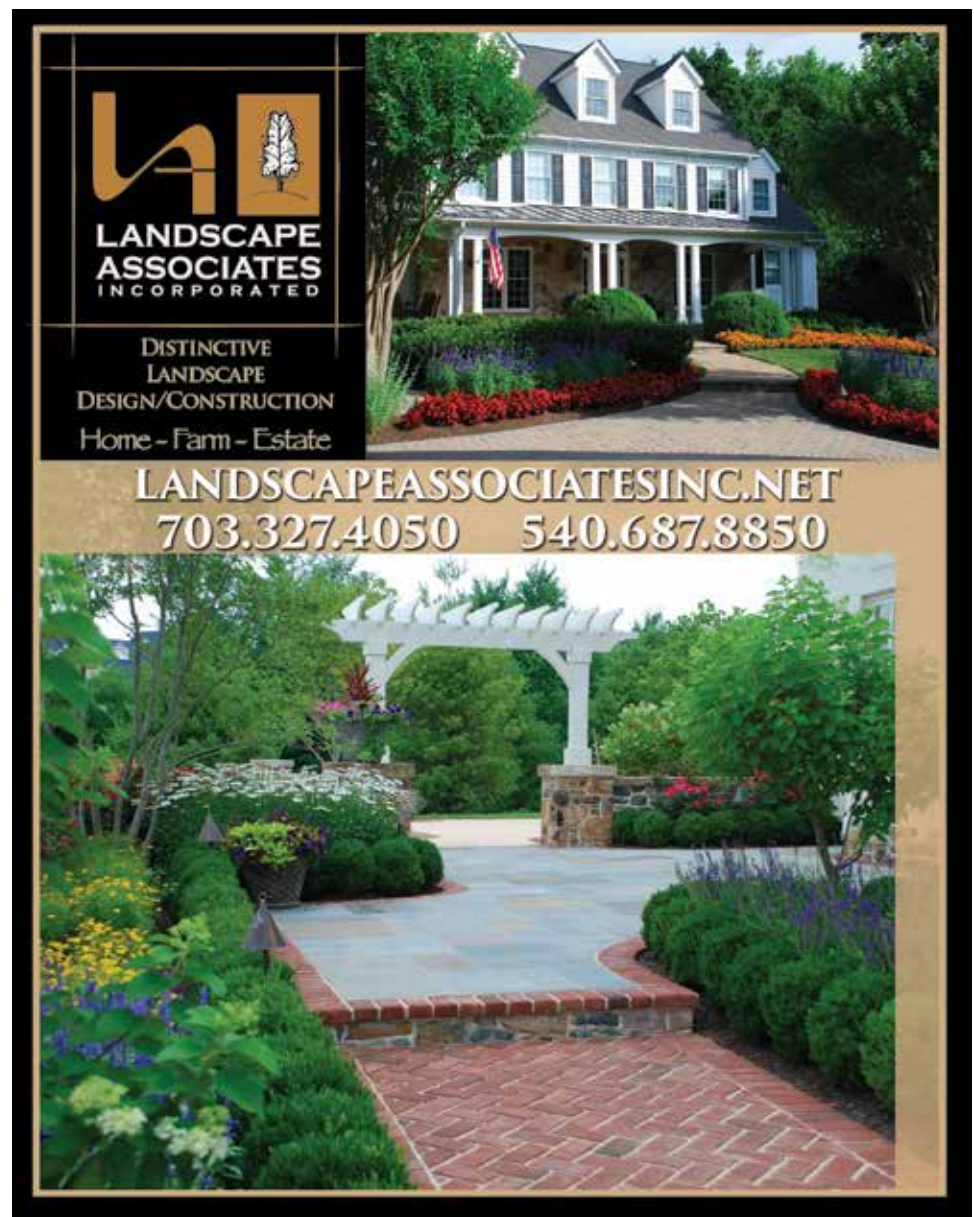
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Get Your Pilot Training On Earth Day ... Drop A Seed Bomb



– By Andrea Gaines

Local conservation groups love them. Local libraries offer classes in how to make them. And local schools and their curious students are lining up to use the idea as part of their nature curriculum.

A seed bomb – or earth ball – is a lump of dirt infused with plant nutrients and seeds, often with a hard clay coating. Nothing fancy.

Sometimes the lump is pressed into a mold you might use to make cookies. Sometimes it is rolled into a ball and dried – a simple ball of hardened mud to the gardener.

Simple though they might be, when the seed bomb is dropped onto a fertile spot – in your garden, a pot on your deck or

patio or an outdoor area – and left there to germinate, something magical happens. For this reason, the seed bomb technique is getting lots of attention from homeowners trying to increase their property’s yield of native flowers, plants, trees and shrubs – the food, shelter and varied elements of a habitat that sustain wildlife populations and help purify our air and water.

Over time, these dedicated seed bombers – nature’s pilots – get better and better at establishing the wildflower, plant or tree populations they are looking for.

For example, a butterfly enthusiast may mix Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Joe Pye Weed, Goldenrod, and Beebalm

seeds with earthworm castings and clay soil to make their seed bombs. Dropped in the right place, rained on a bit and warmed by the sun the seed bomb sprouts and establishes itself as a butterfly garden.

Seed bombs are a great way to establish trees, shrubs and vines in areas not subject to mowing, or, for areas that you want to stop mowing. They can also be used in gardens featuring annuals and perennials – even vegetable gardens – minimizing the digging, weeding and moving that can disturb already-established plants.

Seed Bomb Tips – Try It This Earth Day

When using seed bombs in natural areas, stick to native wildflowers, trees, shrubs

and grasses.

A hard clay coating will protect your seeds from birds and other creatures looking for a meal. A clay coating also makes things easy – drop the seed bomb directly on the soil surface and let nature take over.

See sample recipes for seed bombs online – some inventive folks use the equivalent of organic kitty litter and other common products to make them.

The website www.rodelsorganiclife.com, and local groups like the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (www.loudounwildlife.com) are great sources of information for seed bombs and all things Earth Day.

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Photo by Sarah Huntington

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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life: Famous Estate Blunders And How To Avoid Them

These celebrities' tales are a strong reminder to review your estate plan before it's too late.



AMY & DAN SMITH

There's a calm comfort that comes with estate planning: a sense that your family will be taken care of after you pass away (hopefully at a ripe old age). Sadly, it doesn't always happen that way. Skipping regular estate plan reviews can lead to forgotten details, and these can create confusion and havoc for your family—or suck them into a time-consuming court case to iron everything out. Unfortunately, that was the case for these high-profile individuals and their loved ones.

I Got You Babe (And Babe): Back in 1998, after Sonny Bono's untimely death in a skiing accident, we learned he never wrote a will. And a man claiming to be an illegitimate son attempted to get part of the Bono estate, as did ex-wife Cher, with whom he shared royalties on music they made together. His blended family became a public spectacle at a time of grief and uncertainty.

Avoiding the Oops: Resolve to write a will as soon as possible, and keep your beneficiaries updated. In our opinion, everyone over 18 needs an estate plan that

includes a comprehensive will (at the very least) and properly documents your wishes. Remember, life can be unpredictable, especially if you have a complex professional or personal life.

The Girl Without a Ring: Stieg Larson, author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, was devoted to his girlfriend of 32 years. When the Swedish author died without a will, his entire estate was divided between his father and brother in accordance with Swedish law. His beloved was left out, legally speaking.

Avoiding the Oops: Resolve to learn how estate laws affect nontraditional relationships. Learn and understand the laws that govern transfer of property in your chosen state or country, so you can protect the interests of those you love. And don't presume others will honor your wishes without a written directive. Beyond writing a will, asset titling is especially important when you're in a "nontraditional" relationship. Legally, your partner may not have the same rights a spouse would.

The Injustice of It All: Former Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger presided over his own will, penning a brief 176-word declaration. But the poorly executed document left his family with more than \$450,000 in estate taxes and court fees that could have been avoided.

Avoiding the Oops: Trust a qualified estate planning professional to help you write your will and other estate planning documents. To find one, ask for a referral or visit the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys or the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys. Most of us have limited expertise when it comes to complicated tax and estate planning, and even though dedicated software can help you create the necessary documents, it's still a good idea to have an estate planning attorney review what you have.

No Laughing Matter: Dark Knight actor Heath Ledger drafted a will naming his siblings and his parents as beneficiaries. Sadly, he didn't update it after the birth of his daughter, Matilda. When he passed away unexpectedly, there was great confusion about who were the rightful heirs of his estate, and the difficulties played out publicly.

Avoiding the Oops: Resolve to review your plan any time your life changes. Remember that every life event—births, adoptions, disability, deaths, marriages, divorces, even moving—should trigger a review and update your estate documents. If any of these events occur in the life of a beloved beneficiary, take note. That requires another look, too.

Learning from these celebrities'

experiences can help you avoid estate blunders of your own. Resolve to review your documents regularly and put new ones in place when appropriate. Don't forget to take into account any changes that could impact your plan, including changes in family, personal interests, wealth and tax law. And talk to your financial and estate planning professionals – you may not recognize a change, but your advisors might.

This material was prepared by Raymond Jamesforusebyitsadvisors. Investors should consult a tax professional for tax advice specific to their situation. The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer. The foregoing contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent firm, CFP, CIMA offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel. 703-669-5022, www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James.

A Community Together: The Ten-Year Remembrance Of 4/16/2007

– By Mary Rose Lunde



LUNDE

Time moves forward, whether we are ready to move on or not. It's been ten years since the massacre that shocked America. I'm talking about the event that started a standard of condolences from the president, tears and prayers from around the nation, and a darkness that still has a hold over communities. I'm talking about the Virginia Tech massacre. For me, it's a personal, since I attend Virginia Tech. I may not have been at Virginia Tech when the tragedy happened, but I remember where I was. Despite being only ten when it happened, I don't think I'll ever forget hearing the news for the first time.

Fast forward ten years, and I am about to be a Virginia Tech graduate. I walk around campus, and see the effects that that day had on all of our lives. We are more afraid, more willing to put up defenses, to lock our doors. We are a proud bunch, and we are a community of Hokies. Despite our many differences, we will come together as

Virginia Tech, and will continue to honor those who were lost.

I don't believe that it is a coincidence that the ten-year anniversary of the tragedy falls on Easter. I think Easter for so many people is a sign of hope. And I think that this remembrance is a sign of hope, a way to move forward. I know many people who were affected by the tragedy, and I can see a change in them. It has been ten years; and in ten years things change: Things grow up, atmospheres change, people change. I know I'm not the same ten-year-old that I was back then.

I am part of a new class called The Arts and Social Transformation, which focuses on striving for social transformation using the arts. To me, this is the first step of healing. My class was paired with The Moss Art Center's production of "(Be)longing," which is a play that is intended to take a step toward healing at Virginia Tech. I attended the play, and spoke with a daughter of one of the victims. It was cool to see the way she was so engaged in the topic. I could tell there was still pain in her voice but that she

was starting to heal. I believe Virginia Tech is taking steps toward healing.

This semester was the first time I set foot in Norris Hall in my entire time at Virginia Tech. I avoided it like the plague, and only went into the building because of the class. It was hard to walk into the room where the massacre happened because I could feel the solemn attitude that was still in that room. It was hard not to cry during that first class. I was tempted to drop the class that I had in that room, until I realized that having classes in that room was a part of healing – for not just me, but for Virginia Tech. Going back to normalcy while remembering the past, and not reliving mistakes, and preventing new ones. I don't know how long it will take for Virginia Tech to fully heal from that fateful day, but I hope that no matter what, Virginia Tech will continue to take steps toward healing.

Mary Rose Lunde is a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in Literature/Language and Creative Writing. She will be standing with other Hokies on 4/16/2017.

Featured Artist Gail Péan: "Homage to Mother Earth"

The Arts In The Village Gallery announces its Featured Artist Exhibit, "Homage to Mother Earth," with works by oil painter, Gail Péan. Péan has been celebrating Earth Day April 22 since its inception in 1970 and she portrays our earth through the collection she will exhibit in "Homage to Mother Earth." Péan's palette knife oil paintings bring imagery from nature to life with spectacular color and energy.

She is hosting a reception at the gallery April 15, 5-7 p.m. with live music by saxophonist Mike Girdy Sr. The gallery is located at 1601 Village Market Blvd., Suite 116, Leesburg, and the phone number is 571-444-8661.

Equine Fever Breaking Out All Over

– By Andrea Gaines

Here are some well-saddled numbers for everyone to celebrate this month. 15,000 (the number of horses in Loudoun County). \$208 million (the monetary value of said horses). And, 142,452 (the number acres of land in farms said horses share with the people, barns, paddocks, old oak trees, and corn stalks that call Loudoun County home).

Loudoun has no fewer than five major equine events in April, including the Spring Horse Trials (kicking off the season the weekend before the Blue Ridge Leader went to press), the Loudoun Hunt Point to Point

Races, the Middleburg Spring Races, and the Middleburg Hunt Point to Point. We have just one word for you ... go.

Loudoun Hunt Point to Point Races, April 16, Outlands Historic House and Gardens: This event – and course – features some of the most dramatic, challenging, and thrilling equine timber and hurdle races in the State of Virginia. Horses and riders from around the globe compete here. The race goes off rain or shine, and is, as always,



family friendly ... just like the horses. For times, details, and pricing, go to www.loudounhunt.com.

Middleburg Spring Races, April 22, Glenwood Park (in Middleburg): For this fun event, visitors are treated to six separate races – one every half hour. You'll see horses jumping over fences, horses jumping over hurdles, and horses jumping over timber. Time your visit to watch the last race, and you'll also see one lucky rider (horse) saunter away with

\$75,000. For times, details, and pricing – including reserved enclosure tickets, go to www.middleburgspringraces.com.

Middleburg Hunt Point to Point, April 30, Glenwood Park: Can't wait. The first race here is called The Journey's End Bowl. Yes – oh yes – this is the incredible sport of steeplechase racing at its absolute best. Glenwood Park always offers spectators great views. But, when it is steeple chasing you are watching, a great view translates into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. For times, details, and pricing – including special, tiered pricing, go to www.middleburghunt.com.



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Soul Lost In Translation

— By Samuel Moore-Sobel

“Greed, for lack of a better word, is good,” Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) tells us in the 1987 movie *Wall Street*. The newly released book, *Black Edge: Inside Information, Dirty Money, and the Quest to Bring Down the Most Wanted Man on Wall Street* by Sheelah Kolhatkar, seemingly seeks to disprove Gekko’s statement at every turn.



MOORE-SOBEL

Kolhatkar’s story is replete with interesting characters consumed by all sorts of moral inadequacies and ethical failings. The story centers around Steven Cohen, one the most successful hedge fund operators in the history of Wall Street. His hedge fund, SAC Capital, generated astonishingly high returns for investors, which inevitably drew scrutiny. The government’s journey to take him down, and Cohen’s attempts to seemingly avert justice, make for a story that is gripping from the very first page.

A third of the way through the book, Kolhatkar reveals the meaning behind her title. Jason Karp, director of research at Steven Cohen’s SAC Capital hedge fund, used a certain methodology to help illuminate the ways traders could gather information. “White edge” is publicly available information. “Gray edge” is a sort of halfway point, while “black edge” is

information that clearly crosses the line.

From Kolhatkar’s telling, successful hedge funds traffic in the use of the so-called “black edge.” Increased competition has effectively heightened the importance of inside information. In one particularly revealing scene, Cohen averts \$1.5 million in losses by selling 500,000 shares before the release of a Dell quarterly report, after he obtained advance information from an employee. Celebration breaks out – but not for long. “Each time the inside information worked, it raised the expectation for the next quarter ...” Kolhatkar writes. “The pressure to find more edge was that much greater. It was like a drug.”

Even though Cohen is at the center of the story, he proves to be an elusive character. He is portrayed as a rather petty man, perpetually worried about generating more personal wealth, and annoyed at the thought of paying taxes. His first marriage ended in a rather ugly divorce. A rather tempestuous second marriage culminated in Cohen being dragged onto a daytime television program, *The Cristina Show*, where many embarrassing personal details were revealed. One cannot escape the feeling that Cohen’s life is far from tranquil.

There is very little redemption offered in Kolhatkar’s telling of what amounts to the biggest insider trading case in American history. Even the “good guys” appear wanting. The SEC appears inept, unable to regulate Wall Street, or successfully mete out justice, because

of its lack of resources, its predilection for overly-cautious behavior, and a pre-occupation with political calculations. Even Preet Bharara, then U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, appears far more interested in media reaction, and a possible future run for public office, than in the pursuit of justice.

After reading this story, it would be quite easy to join the media and public obsession with demanding that justice be brought to Wall Street. Some argue stricter regulations are in order, others want to see more Wall Street traders behind bars. The question for all of us, though, is how have we contributed to the money-driven culture on full display in this book? As a culture, have we not espoused the pursuit of money, admittedly on a lesser scale? For example, we tell students to major in business because it is considered more lucrative. I cannot recall how many times I was told that I would never obtain a well-paying job due to my government major. The value of money often overrides all other considerations, including passion and a desire for meaning, when selecting a career path.

The pursuit of money is on full display when the author finally gets the chance to meet Steve Cohen by confronting him at an auction at Christie’s. The exchange is short and rather bizarre, with Cohen making it clear he won’t speak with her. “Are you buying or selling tonight?” she asks before he walks away. “Oh, selling,” he uttered.

“Selling.” Unsurprisingly, the night proves otherwise, with Cohen purchasing a bronze sculpture for a record-setting \$141.3 million. The words Kolhatkar penned earlier in the book suddenly come to life again: “As in other areas of his life, Cohen could usually buy whatever he desired.”

Yet this last portrait of Cohen seemed rather incomplete. After the last chapter had been read, and the final words digested, an elusive element remained, until I heard an interview with Elif Batuman speaking on an entirely unrelated subject. “Very few of the things that people say are a hundred percent pure manifestation of what’s in their soul,” she offered. Suddenly all was clear. The elusive element of Cohen’s character was the hidden essence of his soul. He is often presented as a lifeless character, making decisions based purely on quantitative reasoning, driven by a desire to accumulate money or power. His penchant for firing employees, even his most loyal ones, imparted the sense that everyone and everything was expendable. More generally, *Black Edge* is a story filled with characters who reside in an empty world – where the desire for money has replaced the deepest yearnings of the soul.

Samuel Moore-Sobel remains fascinated by any story involving the stock market. He believes in the power of investing despite the actions of a few nefarious traders.

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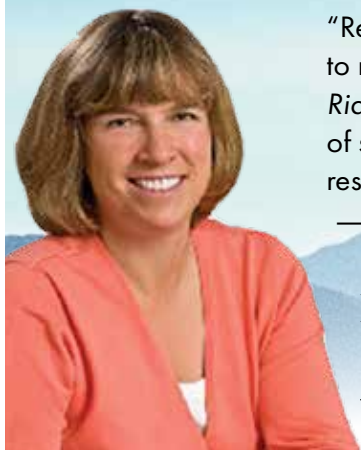
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‘God Had A Hand In It.’

– By Andrea Gaines

The letter started out simply enough: “Calling all family relatives of Capt. Fred Charles Ochoa, USMCR, 1918–1945 ... “

Ochoa and his plane disappeared in 1945. Not over the beautiful and dangerous skies of the South Pacific, where he fought during WWII. But – it was presumed – in the area surrounding the Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Virginia, where he worked as a test pilot upon his return to the U.S.

That was the story passed down in Ochoa’s family over the years. But many, including his niece Claire Ochoa Weaver, who had inherited a rosary of her uncle’s that was found near the crash site, was always curious about the details. Curious, too, were Loudouners from the village of Bluemont, including Kevin Embry, who, while growing up, had collected pieces of airplane in the woods behind his house. Weaver started researching the crash, and found newspaper clippings reporting that

in early August of 1945 a small plane had “crashed into the tree-tops on the mountain-side of the Jack Kelley farm, south of Bluemont.” This led her and her family to Loudoun. That led them to J.J. Kelley, an eye-witness to the crash, and to Kevin Embry’s father, Ron, who had kept all of the airplane parts that his sons had collected. And, to Ron’s wife Sheila, who knew that one day something very special would come of the pilot’s journey.

Then came the letter announcing a gathering, and a promise made by all – including Ochoa’s family, eyewitnesses to the crash, honor guards from the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office, members of VFW Post 2123, and more – to meet and pay homage to Captain Ochoa. On March 18, 2017 they did just that. Forty-five people shared a meal, and then walked a short distance up the mountain, and held a short ceremony to honor Capt. Fred Charles Ochoa.

Said Sheila Embry: “All I can say is that God had a hand in this. HE certainly did.”



As Ochoa’s niece noted, “Fred, age 26, had received a citation from President Roosevelt in the form of the Air Medal for meritorious achievement, as a plane pilot of Marine Observation Squadron 166 (VMO-155).”

Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: North Fork Road

– By Tim Jon

It’s difficult to be in a hurry when all the surrounding geography seems to encourage thoughtful, relaxing contemplation – maybe even a meditative cat nap thrown in for good measure; now - turn your TV off and take the music earplugs out for a couple of minutes and I’ll tell you about something new – and old – actually kind of timeless: see, whenever I found myself tasked with the responsibility of delivering the good, old US Mail on the Rural Route in Purcellville that includes North Fork Road, I inevitably felt that odd conundrum of trying to play ‘Beat the Clock’ in a slow-motion photography sequence - like being stuck in quicksand or something. Anyone who’s traveled some of our local dirt roads in an ungainly vehicle similar to a mail truck will empathize when I say that the speed limits along these corridors are pretty much irrelevant; you simply drive as fast as conditions allow – negotiating the washboard surfaces, blind intersections, patches of loose gravel, horse-trailer-pulling trucks, and tree limbs worthy of the term ‘widow-maker.’ The Virginia Department of Transportation (in its wisdom) states that you can drive up to 35 miles an hour on unposted, gravel roads; I don’t think I’ve ever even approached that limit on North Fork Road – or any other unpaved surface – while attempting to keep a mail truck ‘between the ditches.’



TIM JON



And – even if I could – there was always something about the scenery on North Fork Road in particular – that would put me in sort of an untimely, timeless, trancelike state that defied our usual “Hurry, hurry, hurry” motto. Limitless views of open sky, scattered fields of crops and other, indeterminate weeds and wildflowers, pastures of cattle and horses, thick stands of evergreen and deciduous forest – and that narrow stretch of dusty road reaching always a bit further east or west – seemed to belie the mission of “gettin’ ‘er done.” And that was always OK with me; I never once got back to the office in Purcellville wishing I’d hurried a bit more out on North Fork Road – and maybe saved myself a

handful of minutes, or whatever may have been the difference – to me, the actual time was relative in the extreme – I was paid – on those particular days – at least partly by my experiences garnered along the way.

And, in case you’ve never been so fortunate as to drive the entire length of North Fork, the road threads its way from Telegraph Springs Road in the West (and that’s another story, my friend), a handful of miles (it’s hard to say, what with the primitive conditions and sense of the unfamiliar) to ... well, just kind of an ‘End of State Maintenance,’ turn-around spot in the East. Now, the list of 21st-Century attractions along the way would be very brief indeed – in fact, a blank sheet of

paper would do. No; there are no shopping malls here – or even service stations or convenience stores – or the sometimes-ubiquitous ‘public open spaces.’

But, there are other draws here: Perhaps the cornerstone is the local Baptist Church – situated just west of its eastern terminus: the congregation dates back to the mid-1700’s, and their current facility presents the quintessential ‘country church’ setting – with an impressive stone retaining wall and adjacent field of centuries-old grave markers. Take a look, it’ll do you good. See? The entire setting speaks of eternity – or at least millenniums – maybe even eons. In fact, I think I was there forever, once. Or, maybe it was another spot along the road ...

And, on the subject of the expansion (and contraction, of course) of time and space – one might ask, “So - when’s the last time you took a drive out on North Fork Road?” I may very well answer: I really never left: It lives inside of me. Perhaps it has always been there. The blessing – and curse – of finding yourself attached to things – and beings.

So, if you – someday – decades, years, months, weeks from now - find yourself out on this narrow corridor of gravel, dust and good, old Virginia clay – look real close – you may just see just a bit of ‘yours truly’ somewhere, somehow, unmasked for a moment in the nearby scenery. And, I won’t be in a hurry. I couldn’t think of a better place to spend eternity – at least for a moment. I’ll have other places to be, as well.

Berryville Dairy Produces Rare Miniature Cow



“Agricultural geneticist Yu B. Tricked estimates that micro calves or “Little Bittie Berties,” as they are called, result from the mother cow’s lack of exercise and a diet deficient in protein.”

April Fool’s Day – falling on April 1 – has come and gone, of course.

But, the beauty of April Fools is that you can prank anyone you want any time you like, and call it a double-prank. If the above headline double-pranked you, we apologize. If it didn’t ... congrats!

Our two roving reporters Tim and Sebastian went out recently looking for the equally ridiculous, asking the question, “Have you ever been pranked on April Fool’s Day ... or,

have you pulled a funny prank, yourself?”

The responses were pretty funny, ranging from the harmless classic that’s-not-icing-in-your-Oreo-cookie ... to the more adventurous “your flight has been cancelled” ... to someone who decided that April 1 was a good day to get married.

We are waiting for the rather unpredictable outcome from that last one. In the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Have you ever been pranked on April Fool’s Day ... or, have you pulled a funny prank, yourself? ...



“My friend took my car, so I thought it was stolen.”
– Leslie



“I got married on April Fool’s Day.”
– Keith



“I called my sister (pretending to be working for the airline) and told her that her flight was cancelled.” – Jannie

“My brother called my mom and told her that my arm was broken.” – Annie



“I had a toy mouse tied to a fishing line that I taped to a drawer, so when it was opened, it would jump out at someone.” – Mark



“My girlfriend pranked me saying she kissed another guy.” – Anthony

“I knew someone who pranked his wife by showing up to the door with balloons like she had won the lottery. They got divorced soon after.” – Todd

“A few years ago, my husband wrapped his friend’s car in Saran wrap.” – Laura

“I decorated a co-worker’s office in a confusing manner.” – Jen

“I replaced my dad’s glass of lemonade with pickle juice.” – Lee

“I filled Oreos with toothpaste.” – Various pranksters

Grilled Cheese ... Please

– By Andrea Gaines

Wednesday, April 12th is National Grilled Cheese Day.

Sounds good to me. It’s the middle of the week, and everybody likes to shake things up once in a while. So, why not make a classic lunch sandwich for dinner – with a crisp salad and a nice cup of soup. One grilled cheese lover called this tender bite of a sandwich “a glorious cocktail of texture and fat.” I can relate to that. This beautiful comfort food – a simple combination of bread and cheese that has been enjoyed since ancient times – is loved by young and old.

Now, in terms of ingredients – including your choice of dairy – you really can’t make a bad grilled cheese sandwich. That being said, we humbly suggest one of three

combinations:

Monterey Jack with pesto and sweet, creamy avocado – on marbled rye.

Nutty Gruyere with fresh basil and steamed asparagus – on thinly-sliced sourdough; and

Sharp Cheddar with maple glazed Granny Smith apples – on hearty whole wheat.

Also, as we learned in our extensive research, cooking technique is quite important when it comes to a successful grilled cheese, so let us pass these four tips on to you ...

- Use mayonnaise instead of butter on the outside of the bread – this adds a crispiness and a little bit of tang.
- Use a bread that is sliced fairly thin, and, if you are adding vegetables or fruit, give them a thin slice too, or lightly sauté first, if needed (as with asparagus and apples, for example).



- Spread your mayonnaise on all four sides of your bread, and also give each side a light toast before adding your cheese and toppings.
 - Cook in a non-stick pan on a low heat, and swirl the sandwich around in the pan to make sure the cheese melts evenly and thoroughly. This also helps crisp the bread and prevents it from burning. Enjoy.
- P.S. At the Blue Ridge Leader, we aim

to serve. Here are some historical cheese tidbits to wow your friends with as they wait for their sandwich: Monterey Jack cheese may have gotten its name from a Monterey Peninsula Herald article cited by the FDA when the cheese was officially recognized. Although French varieties exist, technically, a cheese can only be called Gruyere if it is made in Switzerland. Cheddar is the second most popular cheese in the United States, behind mozzarella.

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And ... Don't Miss Historic Garden Week



Historic Garden Week in Virginia runs from April 22 to April 29.

For 2017, over 250 Virginia gardens, homes and historic landmarks will be on tour, treating visitors to all manner of splendor – including thousands of fresh flower arrangements designed and hand-crafted by members of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Local tour spots include properties in Leesburg, Warrenton, Old Town Alexandria and Fairfax.

For more information, go to www.vagardenweek.org.

Miller Spearheads *Operation Lifesaver*

Katelyn Miller is a 5th grade student at Kenneth Culbert Elementary School. She was inspired to spearhead *Operation Lifesaver* after her Music teacher, Elizabeth

Bland, had the students complete a One to the World Project last November. Each student designed a thank you card, as part of the school's Veteran's Day program, to

send to veterans, soldiers, and other service members.

Miller's cousin, Tristan Miller, who is a 2014 graduate of Briar Woods High School in Ashburn, joined the Navy and is currently aboard the USS Anchorage, in San Diego, California. When Tristan, visited home on a recent break, Miller came up with the idea to collect lifesavers, gum and cards to send to Tristan and his shipmates. Miller said, "I want them to know that we care about them and are so thankful for all of the sacrifices they make for us. The least I can do is ask my brothers, classmates, and neighbors to donate lifesavers, gum and cards to let them know we are thinking about them – especially when they are out at sea."

Operation Lifesaver drop offs, until April 28, are at the Loudoun Valley Community Center in the *Operation Lifesaver* Collection Box in the lobby, 320 West School Street, Purcellville, and Kenneth Culbert Elementary, 38180 West Colonial Highway, Hamilton. Miller will



Katelyn with her *Operation Lifesaver* collection box.

mail the lifesavers, gum and cards to the service members of the USS Anchorage. Contact aprilmiller@netzero.com with any questions.

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Western Loudoun Volleyball Summer Camp Launched

Western Loudoun Volleyball Club will be hosting its first ever summer camp June 26-29 at Foxcroft School in Middleburg. The coed, four-day camp will run from 9-5 each day and feature advanced skills training, game strategy and mental approaches to the game. The program will be managed by WLVC's Technical Director, Joe Norton, assistant head coach for the George Mason University men's volleyball program.

"WLVC is thrilled to offer this program for kids that play in the area and want to take their skills to the next level by working with other players who have the same mindset, while working closely with college level coaches who have experience growing fundamentals," said Matt Croson, director of Purcellville, based WLVC. "This will be a fast-paced, high energy program packed with learning and skills development, while also emphasizing fun." Go to www.wlvbc.org for more information.

Bulldogs To Compete In “You Be The Chemist Challenge”

Blue Ridge Middle School proudly announces the advancement of its team, coached by teacher, Andrew McClellan, to the state, “You be the Chemist” finals.

On Saturday, April 29, the Blue Ridge Middle School Chemist Team will participate in the statewide meet in Richmond. These students have been studying and completing practice problems for the past three months as part of the “You be the Chemist Challenge,” sponsored by Allied Chemical.

After winning a regional completion, the team qualified for the Virginia State Challenge. Coach McClellan said, “I am very proud of all of the 23 students that participated in the after-school club and of the 12 that qualified for the regional



challenge. It is encouraging to see so many students excited about science. We were lucky enough to have a retired chemist, Frank Zalar, affectionately known as Dr. Z, help sponsor the club. He was able to expose the students to a level of chemistry that they would not normally get until their sophomore or junior year in high school.”

Eaven Ojers, Katia Holguin, Nathan Clark, and Ian MacDonnell are BRMS Bulldog contestants of the team of 12 total students who will compete at the Math and Science Innovation Center in Richmond at the end of April. We wish them the best of luck.

Contact Andrew McClellan at 540 751-2520 for more information.

Catoctin Elementary Students Launch Drive For Pediatric Cancer Patients



Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk helps fourth graders from Catoctin Elementary place care package items in collection boxes.

Fourth graders from Catoctin Elementary School in Leesburg are collecting care package items for Team Mathias. The care packages will be given to pediatric cancer patients and their families. The donation drive runs through Thursday, April 6. The drive is part of Loudoun County Public Schools’ “One to the World” initiative to engage students in solving real world challenges.

At the Feb. 28 Leesburg Town Council Meeting, six students asked for permission to place collection boxes at the Leesburg Town Hall and Ida Lee Park Recre-

ation Center. In making their request, the students explained that the care packages cheer up kids undergoing treatment for cancer and help get their minds off their treatments. The care packages include items for all members of the family, even pets. Fourth grade teacher Sara Webber coordinated the student’s efforts.

The Town Council enthusiastically supported and praised the students’ effort. “I want to congratulate you and thank you for what you are doing,” said Mayor Kelly Burk. “I know it’s not easy to get up and speak.”

Donation boxes are located at the Leesburg Town Hall, Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, the Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, Catoctin Elementary School, J.L. Simpson Middle School and Loudoun County High School. Items being collected include coloring books, crayons, markers, playing cards, word puzzle books, Sudoku books, gift cards, fleece blankets, travel size games, Legos, books and toys.

For more information go to www.teammathias.org.



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Regional artists were given a large craft egg to decorate using their creative talents. Their creations are individual works of art that are auctioned off LIVE to benefit the Arts Center programs. Tickets: FREE



FRANKLIN PARK BIG BAND CONCERT Sunday, April 23 4:00 PM
For nine seasons the phenomenal 19-piece Franklin Park Big Band has captivated audiences with their repertoire from Benny Goodman to Maynard Ferguson. In addition this family-friendly concert will feature the band’s four singers featuring music of Doris Day, Ella Fitzgerald, Bette Midler and Adele.

Tickets: \$10/person, \$30/family Pay at Door Checks and Cash only

ALSO IN APRIL

COFFEEHOUSE: WRITERS’ NIGHT OUT
Sunday, April 9 6:30 PM
All writers, both novice and experienced, are invited! Tickets: \$8 All Seats

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Fri, April 14 8:00 PM
 Tickets: \$14 Adults, \$12 Students, \$10 Children

JULES & THE HAMMER BAND WITH TEDDY CHIPOURAS
Fri, April 21 8:00 PM
 Tickets: \$15 All Seats Pay at the Door

ANDREW McKNIGHT & BEYOND BORDERS
Sat, April 22 8:00 PM
 Tickets: \$15 Advance, \$20 at the Door

LOCO IMPROVFEST
Fri, April 28 7:00 PM
Loudoun’s first annual teen improv comedy and theatre festival. Tickets: \$5 All Seats Reserved Seating

PAUL REISLER & THREE GOOD REASONS
Saturday, April 28 7:00 PM
An intimate concert of great folk-jazz sounds from songwriter and instrumentalist Paul Reisler, founder of Kid Pan Alley as well as Trapezoid, singer and songwriter Lea Morris and the virtuoso saxophonist Marshall Keys. A concert for all ages.



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New STEM And Classical School For Students

Opening With Classes In Purcellville, Hillsboro And Winchester

Dr. Amy Messegee, Thomas Messegee and John Siman, have joined forces to start the Loudoun STEM and Classical School. The school, focusing on homeschool students will offer both STEM and Classical courses in a wide range of subjects including math, science, Latin, literature, philosophy, Spanish, German and music. They are currently accepting students for the 2017-2018 school year and their class offerings are as follows:

- Math: Algebra 1 through AP Calculus AB
- Science: Chemistry, Physics, and Biology
- Latin: In a unique 5-year sequence taught as a living, spoken language
- Literature: In a unique six-year sequence
- Philosophy: In a 3-year sequence
- Other Languages: Ancient Greek, Spanish, and German
- Music: Guitar, and Songwriting with Beginning Vocals

Thomas Messegee, who holds a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering and has over 35 years of industry experience, will

be leading many of the math, German and science classes. He said, "We have planned an inquiry-based approach to learning math and science with a focus on asking questions and pursuing your own curiosity in addition to the regular material."

John Siman holds a Masters Degree in Classics and can speak Latin and Ancient Greek as living languages. "The way we teach Latin and Ancient Greek is as a living, spoken language from day one. No one else can offer that level of understanding, said Siman."

Dr. Amy Messegee has a Ph.D. in Mathematics, and will lead math, Spanish and science classes. Said Messegee, "We have put significant planning into each class with a focus on how to encourage independent inquiry, academic curiosity and love of learning."

For more information go to ClassFocused.com/LSCS, or call 571 723-5645.

Six Loudoun Country Day School Students Advance To State History Competition



Left to right: 7th graders Maria McDonald, Julie Cross, Amelia Miller; 8th graders Sophia McMahan, Danae Flannery, Noora Samadi.

Loudoun Country Day School was represented by nine seventh and eighth grade students on Saturday, March 4, at the Northern Virginia District level of the annual National History Day competition. Six students will go on to the state level competition on April 22 at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond for original documentaries and web sites that they produced in their seventh-grade history or eighth grade civics classes.

Assistant Head and eighth grade civics teacher Tim Beauchemin developed this program over seventeen years ago, and has had students win in many categories through the years. Seventh grade history teacher John Krebs worked with his students on the

National History Day projects as well.

Here are the winning entries and students who will go on to the state competition:

- Amelia Miller: Placed second for her web site on Susan B. Anthony in the individual web site division
- Julie Cross and Maria McDonald: Placed first for their web site on John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in the group web site division
- Sophia McMahan: Placed first for her documentary on Margaret Sanger in the individual documentary division
- Noora Samadi and Danae Flannery: Placed first in the group documentary division with their documentary on Cesar Chavez.

Crossfire Wins Second Place

WLVBC U16 Team Crossfire competed in the Baltimore Elite Invitational on March 25. Team Crossfire went 8-0 in pool play, reaching the Gold Bracket Finals. Crossfire ended in second place, silver finish, after a very hard fought three set match 25-18, 18-25 and 18-20.



Pictured left to right Back Row: Assistant Coach Bryan Koons, Taylor Gryder, Maddy Davis, Katherine McCauley, Sydney "Big Syd" Johnston, Suzanne Tunder, head Coach Judd. Front Row: Lauren McCloskey, Hailey Walcott, Shelby Koons, Spencer Toohill

Career Expo Set For April 15 At Tuscarora High School

On Saturday, April 15, the Town of Leesburg will host its fifth annual Career Expo for students and recent graduates. The event, free for job applicants, will be held at Tuscarora High School, 801 North King Street, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Career Expo is aimed at high school students, college students, and recent graduates. More than 70 employers will participate, seeking to fill more than 1,500 positions with an average hourly rate of \$10 to \$15. Job seekers can avoid the at-the-door registration line by registering in advance at www.leesburgva.gov/careerexpo. The website also has a list of the participating employers.



Ron Circe, Manager of Banshee Reeks

Carver Center Events for April 2017

- **Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting**, Tuesday, April 4, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **Inkle Loom Weaving II**, Tuesdays, April 4 through April 18, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Lyme Support Group**, Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Services for Seniors**, Monday, April 4, and Monday, April 18, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Monthly Lunch & a Movie – Eye in the Sky**, Friday, April 7, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Library Outreach Visit**, Wednesday, April 11, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Jerry's Jukebox**, Tuesday, April 11, and Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Decluttering Paperwork**, Wednesdays April 12 through April 26, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Earth Day Celebration**, Friday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **Book Club**, Wednesday, April 26, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Lunch Bunch**, Friday, April 28, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Leesburg Public House.
- **Spring Senior Play Performance**, Friday, April 28, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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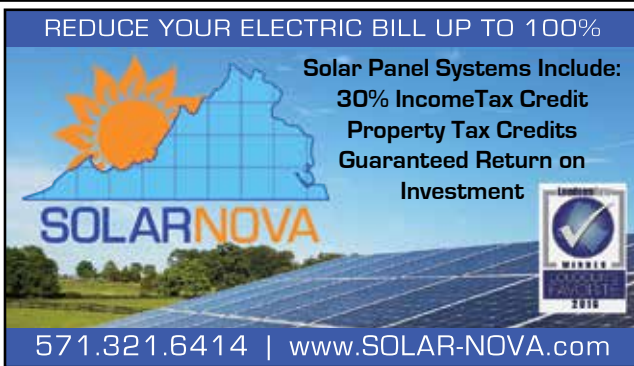
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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

share that with his teacher to see if he or she would allow your son to use the devices in the classroom.

Dr. Mike,

Our 15-year-old son has decided to wear shorts to school this entire winter, and it's driven my husband and me crazy. This past week was very cold, and it's been upsetting for us to watch him stand at the bus stop in shorts freezing every morning. How do we break through to him that shorts are for summer, and pants are for winter? Every time my husband or I say something, he gets mad and tells us that he's not cold and to leave him alone.

Concerned Parents

Dear Concerned Parents,

Being miserable but cool is part of being a teenager (sometimes). Actually, the behavior you are concerned about, and the need to be cool or to fit in, often starts in middle school when peer-to-peer comparisons in identity formation and self-awareness begin to kick in.

Your son is not defying you by wearing shorts in winter as much as he is attempting to separate from you to begin to try out his own ideas and ways of being in the world as a young man. It's actually his developmental task at 15 years of age to say no to you, and begin to come up with his own yes-moments for himself alongside his peers. While he tells you that he's not cold, his behavior and fashion statement is really being fueled by his developmental need to individuate or to become independent from what you want for him – at 15 it's just as important for your son to do what he believes is right for himself as it is for himself as it is to manage your expectations.

Let your son make the decision on shorts for the winter without saying another word. It's his body, and at 15, he needs to learn how to take care of it, and to be in charge of it. Life

and peer relations will teach him what works and what doesn't, and he will adjust accordingly. With spring here, your son's days of being cold but cool at the bus stop are coming to an end.

Dr. Mike,

We recently had a birthday party at a kid's bouncy house place in Sterling for our four-year son. My husband and I were surprised that so many parents dropped off their son or daughter, and left. Some of them asked if it was okay, but others just dropped off their kid, took off, and then came back at the end of the party. My husband and I thought this was rude, and we resented having to chaperone a bunch of kids a lot more than we wanted to. What's wrong with parents who can't stay at a birthday party with their four-year-old?

Concerned Parents

Dear Concerned Parents,

There isn't a developmental hard-and-fast rule on when you can drop off a child at a birthday party; some four-year-old children can manage being at a party with other children and adult chaperones, while others would not be able to. I appreciate your frustration, and in my opinion, four years of age is too young for parents to leave their child unattended at a party. Children who are in the first grade separate from their parents for much of the day during the school year, and thus, I think that's a developmentally more appropriate age to drop your child off at a party with adult supervision. I recommend that you make your intentions for parental involvement crystal clear on your invitations.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He has been featured on CNN Nightly News, Good Morning America, and several other media outlets. He is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn. For more info call 703 723-2999.

By Degrees By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
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59						60				61			
62						63				64			
65						66				67			

ACROSS

1. Marine tunicate
6. Ruler until 1917
10. Sorcerer
14. Cover
15. Intoxicating
16. Bonanza finds
17. Indifference
20. Goes down
21. Embarkation location
22. Pronouncement
23. Middle Eastern tree
24. Large fruit
25. Villain
29. Ballad
30. Remote
31. Over ____
34. Fill the bill?
37. Sitting out the game
41. Grazing land, var.
42. S-curve
43. Unrivaled
44. Back
46. Like some angels
47. Feminist Lucy
50. Sour
53. Geosphere
54. Ruhr Valley city
55. ____ up
59. Warmth givers
62. Modeled
63. "Tobermory" writer
64. Midsection
65. Copycat
66. Duff
67. Emulate Demosthenes

DOWN

1. Thecae
2. ____ ferox
3. Bounce
4. ____ the bill

5. Volcano output
6. Literary alias
7. Traffic stopper
8. Bone cavities
9. Kind of flour
10. 60's dance
11. Of a neighborhood
12. Bas-relief medium
13. Krupp Works city
18. Old weapon
19. Russian assembly
23. LP player
25. Yawp
26. Wings
27. Small boat
28. DeLuise
29. Lixivium
31. Baby carrier?
32. Dug into
33. "____ Cried" (1962 hit)
34. Form of ether
35. Unpopular spots
36. Accordingly
38. "Hardly!"
39. Jezebel's idol
40. Wright wing
44. Defense against charges
45. Greek cheese
46. Pastry dough, var.
47. Pronunciation symbol
48. March
49. Gonzo
50. Apply butter
51. Anorak
52. Round trip?
55. Military award
56. Hipbones
57. Energy
58. Punta del ____, Uruguay
60. Medicinal amt.
61. Wee hour

Answers on page 32

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- 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:

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

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Answers to puzzle from page 31

1	S	A	L	P	A	6	T	S	A	R	10	M	A	G	13		
14	A	L	I	A	S	15	W	I	N	Y	16	O	R	E	S		
17	C	O	L	D	H	18	E	A	R	T	E	19	D	N	E	S	
20	S	E	T	S	21	P	I	E	R	22	U	K	A	S	E		
					23	H	E	N	N	A	24	M	E	L	O	N	
25	B	A	D	D	I	E				29	L	A	Y				
30	A	L	O	O	F	31	E	A	S	Y			34	E	A	T	
37	W	A	R	M	I	38	N	G	T	H	E	39	B	E	N	C	H
41	L	E	Y			42	O	G	E	E		43	A	L	O	N	E
				44	A	45	F	T			46	F	A	L	L	E	N
47	S	T	O	N	E	50	S	P	O	I	L						
53	C	R	U	S	T	54	M	A	R	L		55	S	I	Z	E	
59	H	O	T	W	A	60	T	E	R	B	O	61	T	T	L	E	S
62	W	O	R	E		63	S	A	K	I		64	W	A	I	S	T
65	A	P	E	R		66	P	R	A	T		67	O	R	A	T	E

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Farm Hand's Scavenger Hunt ... For The Perfect Easter Egg Basket

– By Andrea Gaines

Easter Egg Hunts are a highlight of the spring season. This year, hunt, not just for the eggs, but an entire Easter basket – everything you need to create a fun, beautiful and delicious centerpiece for your Easter table.

Your supplies can be found in one of our area's wonderful country stores, from chocolate bunnies to marshmallow chicks to jelly beans. You can also get the whole family involved by scavenging ordinary things from that box of left-over craft supplies ... your neighbors a local farm ... even your own pantry, refrigerator, and yard.

Start with one dozen hardboiled eggs – sourced from a local farm if you can. Then, set off on the hunt!

Scavenger Hunt Items (see Special Clues For Farm Hands, below);

- A wicker basket or any old container with character
- 2-3 used candles (used birthday cake candles are perfect)
- 1 cup of white vinegar
- A small bouquet of fresh flowers & herbs (look for things with small flowers and leaves)
- 1 large bag of “nesting” material –



- raffia, corn husks, small twigs ... or any combination thereof
- Easter candies – jelly beans, chocolate

- eggs, marshmallow chicks
- 4 tablespoons of turmeric or chili powder
- 2 large red beets
- 1 head of red cabbage and one bunch of spinach
- 6 rubber bands
- 6 pieces of used string, ribbon or fabric
- Cheesecloth
- 4 old mason jars/glass containers
- Gold paint
- 1 goose or duck egg

Special Clues For Farm Hands

Before you dye your eggs, draw flowers, hearts, stars – whatever you want – with your old candle (old birthday cake candles work great!) ... put two rubber bands on an egg (one around the middle, one top to bottom) ... or, press a small flower, leaf or sprig of herbs on the egg, and wrap the egg in cheesecloth as it is dyed.

Dye your eggs like a farmer. Chili

powder or turmeric will give you yellowish orange eggs. Red beets, pink to red eggs. Red cabbage, pale blue eggs. Spinach, light green to olive eggs.

To create your vegetable dyes, chop into small pieces and let simmer in 2 cups of water and 2 tablespoons of white vinegar for 30 minutes, then strain out the vegetables. For the chili or turmeric, simply stir into 2 cups of boiling water; no vinegar needed. Fill a glass container with the dye, add your hardboiled eggs, and set aside overnight, or until desired color is achieved.)

The candle wax, rubber bands, etc. will reveal your beautiful designs. Cut your fabric strips into bows to decorate your eggs and/or your container.

No Easter basket is complete ... without the golden egg (hence the gold paint, above). We suggest a goose or duck egg, but that's up to you.

Have a lovely Easter.



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Garden Show, continued from page 1

crafters, vendors, displays and exhibits ... first-class entertainment, including special things for children ... a beer garden ... a People's Choice Landscape Competition ... and nationally known speaker Barry Glick of Sunshine Farm and Garden.

Produced by the Town of Leesburg in partnership with the Loudoun County Department of Parks and Recreation, Loudoun County Public Works, the Leesburg Police Department and Leesburg Utilities, this is a family-friendly event, but organizers do ask that your leave Fido (and other pets) at

home. The festival takes place in the heart of downtown Leesburg. Portions of three roads – King Street, Market Street and Cornwall Street – are closed for the event. Free parking is available in multiple locations: the Town of Leesburg parking garage on Loudoun Street, between Wirt and King Streets, the Loudoun County parking garage on Loudoun Street, between Church and Harrison Streets, and Ida Lee Park. Very close by, there is a free shuttle operating between Ida Lee and the festival throughout the day. For details go to www.flowerandgardenfestival.org.

ZOAM, continued from page 1

store in Philomont to lease out its top floor as an apartment, etc. Uses change, but the character of the place, does not.

But, a newly-proposed zoning ordinance amendment backed by developer interests on the Zoning Ordinance Action Group would change all that, giving developers by-right permission to build multi-family “dwelling units” on the 400 or so, mostly rural properties zoned Rural Commercial, threatening the character of the small communities where they are located, and the rural countryside around them.

ZOAM 2016-0014 will do three things:

- “Establish a maximum density of no less than 4 dwelling units per acre for residential uses in the RC zoning district.” [A residential unit can be a single-family detached dwelling, a single-family attached dwelling, or a multi-family dwelling.]
- “Establish a process by which such maximum density may be increased.”
- “Clarify which types of dwellings (single family detached, single family attached, and/or multifamily) are included under the Permitted use ‘Residential uses’ in the RC zoning district.”

Real estate interests see the ZOAM as closing a loophole, since the RC does not now contain any residential-unit cap. Individuals who support a mix of zoning densities in the Transition Policy Area, and even lower densities in the the Rural Policy Area, see this as setting up a scenario where mini-Ashburns – dense mixed-residential/commercial centers – are sprinkled throughout the County. And, this is not so far-fetched. The ZOAM originated in an effort to address projects on RC land in some of the last truly rural places in Ashburn and Arcola, including Wellers Corner (22 dwelling-units on just over one acre),

Walnut Creek (four dwelling-units on less than 3/4 of an acre), and Stubble Corner (two multi-family residential buildings, and nearly 10,000 sq. ft. of commercial and parking space on just under 3/4 of an acre).

In an email to the County dated March 28, Purcellville Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson said, “While I understand the County is making an attempt to rein in what they perceive as unlimited residential uses in the RC Zoning District, allowing 4 units per acre in the Rural and Transition Policy areas of the Blue Ridge and Catoctin Districts ... has the potential to open up vast amounts of development in those districts.” The rural and transition districts are labeled as “low-density rural districts,” noted Jimmerson, and four units per acre is not low-density. In addition, as opponents of the amendment point out, the ZOAM assumes “maximum density may be increased.”

Supporters of the ZOAM argue that natural and man-made limits on the availability of well water in the rural parts of the County will make building up to four units per acre impossible. But, according to Jimmerson, while residential structures “may be prohibited from having a septic system in many parts or our rural districts ... this kind of action could set in motion future pressure for public utilities – specifically Loudoun Water – to be extended to ... the Rural and Transition Policy areas ...” Indeed, many pro-growth planners and developers in Purcellville, including the current Town Manager Rob Lohr, seem to see public water and sewer – and developer demands for the same – as inevitable in Loudoun’s now-rural areas. That, say opponents, does not close a loophole, but opens the floodgates.

At the March 28 Planning Commission public hearing, the Planning Commission forwarded the ZOAM to its April 10 special public hearing for further public input.

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