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Today's 200,000 Acre Solution A View From The Ridge

A more comprehensive rural strategy from our Rural Economic Development Council should encourage not only winery, brewery and other tourism-based businesses, but also new incentives to help save our vulnerable traditional farms.

– By Malcolm Baldwin

Loudoun County – often cited as among the fastest-growing counties in the nation, and one with a thriving rural economy based on farms, vineyards, horses and tourism – is losing farmland to housing development at an ongoing rate. The most vulnerable Loudoun farms are our large traditional farms.

This trend was first recognized in 1998 in a rural task force report entitled *The 200,000-Acre Solution*, yet by 2012 those 200,000 acres of farmland had dwindled

to 134,000 acres, despite the recognition Loudoun's political leaders, residents and business leaders give to our valuable rural attributes. Our two western Loudoun electoral districts – Blue Ridge and Catoctin – attract tourists to our wineries, breweries, B&Bs, restaurants and events, yet farmland continues to be lost.

Loudoun County's government leaders can and must act effectively to arrest this continued loss of farmland, aptly described as that frog in a slowly heating pot of water, about to die from its boiling temperature (housing development) unless the heat gets

turned down, which can be done.

Loudoun still has 87,130 acres in 1,119 parcels of 20 acres or more in our agricultural Land Use Assessment program, nearly all in Blue Ridge (60 percent) and Catoctin (40 percent). This acreage includes horse farms (mostly in Blue Ridge), crop lands, cattle and sheep, hay and grain, with only a small percentage – 738 acres – in vineyards that help serve the approximately 45 wineries in Loudoun. This program allowing lower property taxes for these farms does not permanently

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Lohr Honored At Employee Luncheon

On June 14, as part of the Town of Purcellville's Annual Employee Appreciation and Awards Luncheon, Town Council and staff took the opportunity to recognize and celebrate Robert W. Lohr, Jr. After almost twenty-five years with the Town, he will be retiring from his position of Town Manager as of June 30.

As part of the program, the inaugural Robert W. Lohr, Jr. Management Excellence Award was presented. This award was established in honor of Lohr's dedication and commitment to service and organizational excellence.

Along with the Town's celebration of staff for their consummate dedication and hard work, a portion of the program turned the table and allowed staff to bestow their gratitude and congratulations to Lohr. Staff acknowledged the immeasurable



From left to right: Council Members Doug McCollum, Kelli Grim, Retiring Town Manager Robert W. Lohr, Jr., Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Vice-Mayor Karen Jimmerson.

positive impact that he has had on staff during his tenure with the Town. The Interim Town Manager Alex Venegas said, "We could never pay you back for all the

coaching, knowledge and support you shared with us over the years. Not only is the community by far in a better place than

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Purcellville's Annual Wine & Food Festival – July 15, 2-8 P.M

The annual Purcellville Wine & Food Festival will again be held at Fireman's Field Saturday, July 15. The festival, from 2-8 p.m., will showcase wines, foods, beers, ciders, and other delectables from Purcellville and Loudoun County. The festival will feature vendors, musicians, and activities for adults and children.

The vendors will include Bogati Winery, Corcoran Vineyards, Hiddencroft Vineyards, North Gate Vineyard, Otium Cellars, Old 690 Brewing Company, Jack's Run Brewing Company, Art of Sin Trading, Christopher Mize Studio, Country Pride Cheese, Jacqueline Hanley Designs, Pink Buggy Designs, Plank Eyewear, Southpaw Express, VinoWine, Zia Design, Finn Thai Restaurant, Gluten Free Loudoun, Grapevine Restaurant, Petit Lou Lou, and Sherri's Crab Cakes. Openings for other vendors are still available.

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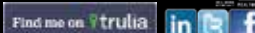
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ASK DR. MIKE

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike, Our kids are 8 and 10. We are getting sick of their entitlement. My husband and I joke that we made a mistake by moving to such a privileged area; but it's not funny when your kids are never happy with what they have. Our younger son doesn't have one fidget spinner, he has a large and expensive collection of them. Our older son can't just have a few video games, he's got an Xbox, a Play Station, a Wi-U, and dozens of games for each system. Our kids can't just have friends over, they have to go out and spend a lot of money on Top Golf, the Zone, the Alamo, Sport Bounce, etc. Going to the Bethany Beach isn't fun this year because the expectation is now Disney, Europe, Hawaii, or Atlantis because that's where all of their friends are going. Any thoughts on how to reign it in? - Worried in Loudoun

wonderful place to raise children, but abundance can also lead to the sort of problems you are experiencing. With a median annual income of about \$116,000, that's bound to happen for a lot of folks.

It's easy to get caught up with the idea of trying to keep up with the Joneses; but you are responsible for you children, and they will learn what you model and teach them - whether you are poor, middle class, or wealthy. At 8 and 10, your boys are old enough to have responsibilities, and to learn the value of hard work, and a dollar, and the importance of giving to others. Perhaps making the following small changes in your home is all that is needed.

I'm a huge fan of chores for children. Age appropriately, your boys could help you with tasks inside the house. At the very least, your boys could be responsible for making their beds and keeping their rooms straightened-up. Chores not only teach children how to be more responsible, they also give children a sense of belonging, as well as a sense

Dear Worried in Loudoun, I hear ya. Loudoun County is a

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Two New Police Officers Sworn In



From left to right: Officer Matthew Hays, Chief Cindy McAlister, Officer Jeremy Boyd and acting Town Manager Alex Vanegas

The Town of Purcellville Police Department announced the graduation and swearing in of two new officers: Jeremy S. Boyd and Matthew P. Hays. Boyd and Hays were sworn in as Police Officers on June 21, and they graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on June 22.

Officer Boyd is a lifelong resident of Loudoun County. He graduated from Park View High School in 1990 and is best known for his family's past roller skating business in Sterling. Boyd is an avid golfer, a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu enthusiast, and an ardent family man. He is married with three children and spends the majority of his spare time with

his family and horses. He loves helping others and is proud to serve those in the community of Purcellville.

Officer Hays graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Liberty University. For the past three years he has been employed in the banking business with Fauquier and Middleburg Banks. It was experiencing a bank robbery that brought him to a career in law enforcement. Hays is married and an uncle to three. In his spare time, he teaches middle school and high school students Sunday School at his church in Marshall. He loves sports and is a part time sports league commissioner for adult sports in Fauquier County.

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Envision Loudoun – Branded For Growth

– By Andrea Gaines

The Envision Loudoun Comprehensive Plan rewrite process reveals nothing if not the intent on the part of the County's leadership to get everyone's ideas on what the Loudoun of the future should look like. A second round of Envision Loudoun public input sessions was held from June 5 to June 15 throughout the County. The County is also asking for more input through online surveys.

But, as the process reaches its mid-point this summer, many are openly questioning whether the public's desire for innovative zoning solutions to the County's skyrocketing growth rate, support for agricultural lands – and shared sacrifice in the preservation of Loudoun as a special place – has the power to impact what the County's new Comp Plan will look like.

The Public Wants Managed Growth – But Where Is It?

Throughout a first series of public input sessions held at the end of 2016 and into 2017, citizens expressed a clear preference for what they want to see: a slowdown, and, depending on the locale, a virtual cap on growth.

The second series of public input sessions held in June reinforces this point, as did Loudoun County's most current Annual



“The vision statement read like a box-checking exercise with an underlying message ... to develop aggressively,” said Purcellville Council Member Nedim Ogelman.

Resident Survey (2016). When asked to identify the single biggest problem facing Loudoun County, over 36 percent – more than one-third of survey respondents – said that the problem is growth and development – “too much, too fast, not planned well.”

Loudoun County residents east and west know that between the thousands of new residential units that have been added in the

last 10 to 15 years, and the thousands more approved and/or already in the pipeline, Loudoun County is at a tipping point with little room to move without changing its identity.

Four Little Words –

“Land Available For Development”

The draft Vision Statement presented at Envision Loudoun's June public input

sessions makes no mention of the County's long-standing Suburban, Transition, and Rural Policy Area growth management strategy, opting instead for a much more general proposition. Loudoun County sees itself, reads the statement, as a place that “Continues to flourish as a prosperous and inclusive community with a well-deserved reputation for great places, natural and built as well as historic and new, in a variety of settings. The County will foster economic innovation, fiscal strength, and sustainability.”

Not only was the word transition or the term Transition Policy Area missing from the big picture concepts presented to participants, but another phrase – land available for development – had worked its way in. 6,761 acres were presented as “available for development” in the TPA (30 percent of that area), and 1,208 acres were presented as “available for development” in the SPA (2 percent of that area).

Since the TPA today sets strict requirements for open space – and is intended to act as a buffer zone between east and west – the BRL reached out to County staff for comments about why all unbuilt lands in the TPA were positioned as “land available for development,” without a clear context for the TPA's original purpose. A staff member responded, stating that he did not want to predefine the TPA for this exercise. The area's original definition is “in the past,” and he said staff wanted to encourage the public “to look to the future.” The Envision Loudoun process is

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

Letters To The Editor

A Shout Out To Wildlife Mothers



Dear Editor:

Oh mamma! This is a letter to the editor in support of all of the wildlife mothers out there this summer raising their babies despite difficult odds. I hope all of us will make a place in our yards and woods and meadows for them!

I watched this possum mamma as she rested in violets, pussytoes, plantains and other vegetation that is my rebel “lawn”: a sanctuary for rabbits, deer, foxes and her.

My back would ache if I carried such a load. A rest would be welcome. She got up to move, with all six little ones clinging

well. With a steady gait, off she went - down the walkway, across the driveway, back into the forest of fallen trees and tangles - the wild place of home. I love opossums.

Nicole Hamilton
Waterford

The Suburban Effect

Dear Editor:

I have been to Envision Loudoun's public input sessions a few times the last several weeks, and I want to comment on the statements made by county officials that our “rural policy will not change.” In an effort to control growth while also accommodating it, Loudoun is setting up a future where residential development on our once rural, natural lands – while less dense – will still strike a monotonous, suburban tone.

One house every few thousand feet ... filling an entire valley ... is a bad idea. This is not what people come to Loudoun for, and that includes homeowners new to the county in the now well-established developments near towns such as Purcellville, Leesburg

and Lovettsville, and smaller villages such as Lincoln, Philomont, Paeonian Springs and Waterford. They don't want Loudoun to be Fairfaxed ... either.

If we want a truly rural future, large open spaces, stream corridors and forested areas must be protected. The arbitrary rule of lot size may do more harm than good. If Loudoun is to house more people, focusing density in places that can absorb that density, makes more sense. Our rural policies should not remain untouched. They should change, to reject the suburbanization of western Loudoun County.

Open spaces and scenery are what makes Loudoun beautiful. Residential development as far as the eye can see is not in keeping with who we are. Forcing large lots creates useless, environmentally-unfriendly manicured fescue devoid of intact nature and more roads; the equivalent of a barren wasteland covering once agriculturally valuable land.

Instead of enforcing a 5, 10, or 20-acre minimum lot per house rule, consider a different idea. Limit lot sizes and protect open space. For example, make it a requirement that builders keep 20 acres of

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Life, Liberty And, Pursuit Of Happiness... Why I Serve

– By Delegate Dace LaRock (R-33)

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, a holiday Americans also call Independence Day, allow me to frame some of the efforts I make on behalf of my constituents in light of the spirit which led to the birth of our great nation.



Del.

Dave LaRock

America's Declaration of Independence boldly proclaims, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Speaking on Life, morality dictates we value life; that includes life that is given to men, women, disabled, healthy, convenient and inconvenient; this right extends before and after birth, and is not tied to our appearance or station in life. The 20-Week Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which I have sought to pass numerous times, seeks to ban the practice of taking the life of a 20-week unborn child in an unjust and, frankly, a cruel way. Governor McAuliffe went public with a promise to veto this bill even before it was sent to a committee.

One of the most basic charges of

government is the physical protection of its citizens. The recent murder of a young girl in Sterling, allegedly by an illegal immigrant MS-13 member, is likely due in part to government failure to provide adequate protection. In the 2017 session, I was part of an effort to provide some protection in the area of immigration. House Bill 2000 passed the legislature and provides that no locality shall adopt any ordinance, procedure, or policy that restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Governor McAuliffe vetoed that bill.

Speaking on Liberty, God-given liberty should not be violated. A robust exchange of ideas is absolutely essential to the preservation of a free society. For that

reason, I introduced, and the legislature passed, the Campus Free Speech Resolution which was printed and distributed to all state-funded colleges and universities in Virginia.

A quality education provides the opportunity for a person to expand their freedom through hard work. Some children, especially in poorer parts of the Commonwealth, and children who have unique challenges and or disabilities are denied this opportunity by those who oppose the freedom of education choice which presently exists for only those who can afford that freedom. My Education

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No More Growth. There. I Said It.

– By Charles Houston

My economics teacher, Dr. Griffiths, had a face that unfortunately looked like a fish.

But, he was a darn good professor, with an Economics 101 course that began with the most fundamental of doctrines: The law of supply and demand. When supply is low, prices rise. When supply rises, prices fall. And, when demand is high, prices also rise.

This principle applies as much to fish (sorry, professor) as it does to houses. It applies equally to Loudoun County houses in the east and those in the west. And, it can make money for Loudoun's existing residents, about 80 percent of whom own their houses.

We face a tsunami of people who want to move to Loudoun County. So why not advocate for a major reduction in the pace of new development ... to encourage the value of our homes to go up. Why not participate in Envision Loudoun or, better still, why not call or email your supervisor to say, "No more growth."

Something very important is being swept under the rug in the Envision Loudoun

process, and it is this: Loudoun's current residents ... not the people who might want to move here, and not the developer-driven housing market ... are in charge of determining our zoning policies. This is not a county-wide version of the NIMBY, or not-in-my-backyard, movement. This is how you use your right to determine your community's future, by influencing the zoning policies that define it.

Reducing new development is technically very easy. In the west, for example, one might do away with AR-1 zoning in favor of AR-2 provisions that do not allow as many houses. The same principle applies in eastern Loudoun's Suburban Policy Area and in the Transition Policy Area: Fight rezonings that would create more residential land, fight special exceptions that would allow more houses ... fight anything that increases residential density.

The National Bureau for Economic Research posits a 10 percent rise in home values when the supply of new homes is restricted. Other studies show about the same increase from New York to San Francisco to San Jose, where a University

of Chicago analysis said prices rose by 9.5 percent when supply was held constant.

Apply that factor here, and that's almost a cool \$50,000 for the owner of an average Loudoun house. It doesn't matter whether you're in the east or in the west, this money is there for the taking. Well, not exactly. You need to make your opinion known, loudly.

I will be honest about my motive in writing this. It's not about the \$50,000; it's about the ridiculous growth that threatens to overwhelm the character of Loudoun County. Growth's proponents seek to divide Loudouners into a slow-growth camp and an expansionist camp. I want to show that this is foolish, and that we have the same interests; the County that we love.

The growth issue also intersects with another problem Loudoun faces, and that brings us to the emotional issue of affordable housing. If economic laws worked perfectly, then building more houses would cause their prices to fall, making them more affordable. Unfortunately, this does not work in Loudoun. So many people want

to move here, that an effect called demand-pull inflation kicks in, and prices go up. Advocates for affordable housing argue that unleashing growth will somehow – poof! – create homes that teachers and firemen and deputies can afford. Wrong. In fact, there is so much demand for expensive homes here, developers have no incentive to build anything at a tolerable price.

The average home value in Loudoun is \$471,000. Yet, according to Zillow, the average asking price is \$575,000. Developers are economic animals and want to make as much money as possible. Need more proof? There are today only a handful of new houses on the market for under \$400,000 in Loudoun.

Now, believe me – I know. Housing affordability is a complex, difficult issue with no easy answers. But, when it comes to growth, eastern Loudoun and western Loudoun should still have the same goal: Less of it.

Charles Houston developed office buildings in Atlanta, and has lived in Paeonian Springs for 20 years.

Winner Of The Most Incredible Story Award (Purcellville Election Season Is On!)

Purcellville Town Elections are not until May 2018, but it appears that the election season has started early. Here is an absolutely wild post from social media. What it lacks in veracity it makes up for in creativity.

"Dear Purcellville and Loudoun county friends ... We are a baseball family. Our son grew up playing baseball at Fireman's Field, and continues to love playing there with the American Legion team, who host the Mid Atlantic Championships at our field many summers. The Purcellville Cannons are drawing full house crowds in their second year at our prestigious field.

Did you know that our current Mayor Kwasi Fraser and his town council, are in the works to sell this field to a Spanish company who will tear down Fireman's Field, as well as Haske and the smaller Tball field??? This is why they ousted our favorite Town Manager and have been having secret, closed door meetings."

Mayor Kwasi Fraser and the Town Council are not selling Fireman's Field.

Fraser has stated his commitment to preserving Fireman's Field in perpetuity at numerous Town Council meetings., as this is not the first time someone has tried to create this scenario. Fireman's Field is in permanent conservation easement. This false hood was used in the last election. There is no Spanish company. No secret meetings.

Enhanced Broadband Coming To Purcellville

– By Valerie Cury

Vice Mayor Karen Jimmerson and Council Member Nedim Ogelman have been looking into alternative broadband options for the residents and businesses in Purcellville. Both residents and businesses have been asking for enhanced broadband Internet options in the Town.

Jimmerson gave a second update on the activities she and Ogelman have been pursuing, at the June 13 Purcellville Town Council meeting. They have spoken to County communications experts as well as various industry leaders. Said Jimmerson, "Our mantra remains that Purcellville will not be a spectator in the Internet of Things

era and broadband economy. We want to be an enabler in it, as the hub of western Loudoun. Our businesses and citizens deserve and need to experience the fastest, most consistent, and most reliable possible access to the Internet."

The proposed project would be divided into three phases, with Phase 1 starting at Fireman's Field. The antenna at this location would potentially be tall and skinny, and would look like one of the light poles – set among the existing light poles in this location, so as not to look out of place or invasive. Through this phased approach, the Town is striving to provide the best broadband access to the

Continued on page 27



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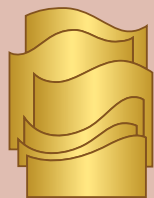
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Wine And Food Festival, continued from page 1

Live music will be provided by The VooDoo Blues, King Street Kats, and Virginia Southpaws.

The new "Arts in the Garden", sponsored by the Purcellville Arts Council, will include demonstrations of visual and performing arts by McCoy & Addison, Mink's Miracle Medicine, and Julia Kasdorf.

Activities will include a moon bounce, face painting, vendor giveaways, and plenty of space to run and play.

Tickets are available online for \$20 (\$30 on the day of the festival). Purcellville residents will get 50 percent discount on the general admission price. The entrance ticket includes a wine glass, two tasting tickets (each provides at least three one-ounce tastings from a vendor), and access to all vendors and

activities. Designated drivers and all patrons ages 16-20 can get in for \$5, which includes unlimited water. Children 15-years-old and under will be admitted free.

The festival will also have a limited number of VIP tables available for \$350. With reserved seating starting at 1 p.m., each VIP table will have chairs for eight, eight signature wine glasses, 16 tasting tickets, four bottles of wine, and eight souvenir bags.

Festival sponsors include Best Western, Dental Smiles, Dulles Greenway, Harris Teeter, Loudoun Farms, Sengpeihl Insurance Group, Allstate Insurance, Valley Energy, and Visit Loudoun.

To purchase tickets and for information on becoming a vendor or sponsor, go online to PurcellvilleWineandFood.com.



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Anatomy Of A Sunflower



– By Andrea Gaines

Nothing is as simple and summery as that big yellow ray of light known as the sunflower.

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Modern seed production gives the home gardener fantastic sunflower varieties to choose from. For color, there is "Lemon Ice" (a pale, citron-yellow), "Strawberry Blonde"

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US farmers' plant somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.5 million acres of sunflowers each year. Depending on the variety, this cash crop can mature very quickly. Early-bloomers are ready to

Continued on page 32

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Heritage High School



*Front row (left to right): Jake Hebert, Amber Lambie, Emma Leone
Second row (left to right): Katherine Aylward, Chris Baer (side profile)
Third row: Ryan Boyd*



Jordan Ward

Briar Woods High School



Emily Marilla Coryell – Our Lady Of The Hops



– By Andrea Gaines

When it comes to great food, today you can source just about anything you'd want right here in Loudoun: from the turkey that graces your Thanksgiving table, to the peaches that go into your pies, to the cheese for your cheese and crackers. You can also buy wine made from county-grown grapes. And, now, thanks to third-generation hops maven Emily Marilla Coryell and others, you can sip an ice-cold beer made with Loudoun County hops, too.

To everyone at the farm, she is known to Marilla – a treasured, old-time German name that means – appropriate to anyone with connections to craft beer – “bittersweet.” Coryell runs a three-acre hops yard operation called Dragon Hops, just outside of Philomont. And, she has a message: “Watch out ... Purcellville and Loudoun County are going to bust out as Virginia’s leader in hops!”

This never-say-quit grandma, along with her son Jamie and a third hard-working partner named Ryan, manage the farm and the crop’s “hops poles” as they are known. They tend to and harvest the hops. They keep the machinery in working order. And, they grind and process the hops into pellets, from which beer is brewed.

Sometime late this summer, they will take their business to the next level, opening the Dragon Hops Brewing Company in the old Town Hall building on Main Street in Purcellville. Coryell was also contacted by Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser recently, with the invitation that she tour some town-owned land known as the Aberdeen Property. The Town is trying to find ways to keep the 189-acre property – and its houses, barns, sheds, and silos – in agricultural use. Fraser asked Coryell what kind of economic value can be generated from the land through partnerships with her and other farmers. “There is significant potential,” said Coryell. “I know some of it can be used for the hops industry.” She continued, “The Town can easily become the center for everything agriculture pertaining to brewing, which is the

biggest, newest and fastest growing agriculture industry in the US.”

Hops are the flowers or seed cones of the hops plant. They come in many varieties, which pleases both the home brewer and the dozens of small brewers in our area. Dragon Hops Brewery, for example, plans to delight its customers with a green ale, an IPA, a dark lager and a pilsner. Each of these brews will have Dragon Hops’ signature flavor profile, giving every sip an added bit of local flavor and romance.

Perishable and extremely sensitive to many environmental variables, hops are tricky to cultivate. But, they have met their match in Coryell.

She grew up in a hops family. Her grandfather was in the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) during WWII and in the war’s aftermath. According to Coryell, hops were one of the crops postwar Europe used to help rebuild the local economies destroyed by the conflict, and her grandfather developed special expertise in their cultivation.

Family lore identifies a Maryland gentleman from the late 1700s named Daniel Reiman who was a home brewer. And, Coryell “was taught how to brew” by her great grandmother Lilly, who always said that “brewing was

women’s work.”

Coryell is part *Farmer’s Almanac* and part *Scientific American*. “Hops are picky about where they’ll grow. But, if you are good at agronomy [the science and technology of producing and using plants for food, fuel, fiber, etc.] you can make hops work here.” Coryell continued, “You see, hops is a specialty product, not a grain. A single hops plant will send out many, many rhizomes and shoots, so we use a V-trellis to capture them and send them skyward.” Switching from learned agronomist to plain talker, she then said, “The good thing ‘bout hops is that it’s tall! It doesn’t need to spread out. It grows up and up, instead of taking up space like other crops.”

You really have to admire her, Our Lady of the Hops, and all of the farmers bringing this specialty product to market. This, is darn hard work.

In the case of hops, soils need to be tested regularly for nutrient content, PH, and other predictors of crop health. The hops themselves must be tested for acid content, which imparts the signature bitter taste to beer. Watering systems need to be maintained and monitored. For eco-centric Coryell, this means capturing rain water and getting

Continued on page 32

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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life You Can't Retire From Taxes

Your Income Will Affect The Outcome

– By Amy and Dan Smith

At first (perhaps second and third) glance, everything about Social Security seems complicated. There are myriad ways to determine when to file and how in order to maximize your household benefits. Then you have to calculate what you'll owe in federal income tax. Help from your advisor and a knowledgeable accountant will help with the specifics, but here are some guidelines to help you better understand your tax obligations in retirement.

The Conditions

You'll generally have to pay your regular federal income tax rate on your Social Security benefits if you have other sources of income (e.g., wages, self-employment, interest, dividends and other taxable income that is reported on your tax return). This includes income from retirement accounts such as your 401(k) or pension, but doesn't include Roth IRA's because



AMY & DAN SMITH

you've already paid taxes on that money. If Social Security is your only source of income, then it's quite likely you won't have to pay taxes or even file a tax return. The rest of us, though, will have to pay Uncle Sam something. The good news is that no one pays federal income tax on more than 85 percent of his or her benefits. That means everyone gets at least 15 percent of their benefits free of federal income tax. And if you're under the threshold outlined below, your benefits won't be taxed at all. The IRS uses something called combined income (sometimes called provisional income) to determine what amount is subject to taxation. Here's the formula:

$$\text{Adjusted Gross Income} + \text{Nontaxable Interest} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ Of Social Security Benefits} = \text{Combined Income}$$

Here's where it gets more complicated, and professional help comes in handy.

You'll note that the chart says "up to," but what does that mean? If you're in the 50 percent camp, the amount you include in your taxable income will be the lesser of either 1) half of your annual benefits or 2) half of the difference between your combined income and the IRS threshold. Things get more complex for those paying taxes on 85 percent of their benefits. The IRS offers both a worksheet in Publication 915 (irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf) and specialized software to help retirees calculate their Social Security tax liability.

Bottom Line

Very few of us enjoy paying taxes, but when it comes to retirement, it's a sign that you're not entirely dependent on Social Security as your only source of income. Know, too, that if you owe, you can make estimated quarterly tax payments or choose to have federal taxes withheld using IRS Form W-4V. Talk to your advisor and accountant about how to pay your federal-

and possibly state-income taxes without disrupting your financial plan.

Changes in tax laws or regulations may occur at any time and could substantially impact your situation. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional. ©2017 Raymond James Financial Inc. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, 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. Any opinions are those of Amy and Dan Smith and not necessarily those of Raymond James. Raymond James does not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete and does not provide legal advice. Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Material prepared by Raymond James for use by its advisors.

Inspiration To Soar Towards MORE

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel



MOORE-SOBEL

In an effort to capture the pearls of wisdom and seeds of hope offered by *Phoenix Society* and its caring and compassionate Executive Director Amy Acton, this month's column features a continuation of a deeply moving conversation that helped bring deeper healing to scars formed long ago.

The organization is in the middle of a capacity campaign, with a goal of raising \$6 million by year's end. The excitement in Acton's voice is palpable as she describes this effort to scale up the programs. The goal, she makes clear, is to reach burn survivors even in the remotest parts of the country. "How do we bring new models to reach burn survivors up in South Dakota?" Her motivation is derived in part from the voices of others describing their continual pain. "We still hear every year at World Burn Congress of people suffering needlessly when it is really about connecting them to the resources that are already there."

The Phoenix World Burn Congress, a conference sponsored by the organization each year, is a safe place for burn survivors to share their stories. "It's all about the people," Acton says. "There is a vulnerability and the ability to be vulnerable...because of the incredible depth of storytelling, people will

find something there that will help them take the next step forward."

Phoenix Education Grants scholarships serve as one of the vehicles assisting students in taking that important first step. Established in 2001 by Barbara Quayle, a burn survivor and teacher, it was "dedicated to her mom -- Peg," Acton tells me. The scholarship serves as a way for students to feel emboldened and encouraged to pursue their goals. "It is a nod to education as a key to helping people understand that they can be more."

As a 2012 PEG recipient, I can tell you firsthand that the award had the desired effect. I still remember the sheer joy felt upon hearing the news. The award went far beyond the money, serving as a form of validation. Having never met a fellow burn survivor, being awarded a PEG felt as if the organization was saying I belonged; and that, despite the pain of the past, the future was bright.

Yet scholarships are not the only way this organization connects with students. "School re-entry is not a standard of care -- when people go back to school there are often no resources offered," Acton says. *The Journey Back*, an on-line curriculum for teachers, students, and caring adults, helps fill the gap by guiding future interactions with burn survivors. The idea is to help educate others on how to respectfully ask a student about scarring, "not promoting

the silence that you probably experienced," Acton says.

Her words cause me to ponder my own re-entry into the world after my accident in September 2009. The painful stares, the insensitive remarks, and yes, the silence -- that deafening silence which often greeted me upon entering a room. If this program had been offered in my high school, what would my life have looked like in the aftermath of this traumatic event? I have learned in the intervening years that the effects of a burn injury can be long-lasting, manifesting later in adult life in seemingly unrelated ways.

I ask if one of the areas affected includes romantic relationships. "I think that's very perceptive -- a process that a lot of us do go through. Finding the broken person who can relate, and bonding over that." A familiar pattern can emerge -- gravitating towards and building a relationship based on shared, albeit different, traumatic experiences, while giving far too much of oneself away. "Throughout our work, we try to help people understand the impact of trauma on relationships, and the necessary work we have to heal that, and the long-term impact if we don't." The organization has partnered with Boston University to gather data to help bolster its efforts. "The data is going to help us target the resources to the right people."

Perhaps attaining a place of healing can

help mitigate the long-lasting effects of our scars. "I think it's individual," Acton says, "but I think the hope is that we transform the experience into MORE THAN." The image of the Phoenix is one of rising from the ashes -- symbolizing the growth that can be achieved. "To me, it is about going above and beyond the burn," Acton says. Perhaps the process is aided through the practice of sharing with others. "[The] foundation of what we do, I think, is connecting people through shared experience," Acton says.

Suddenly a realization occurred: namely, that the trajectory of my life might not have been as altered by trauma as I once believed. Majoring in Government, interning on Capitol Hill, writing a column -- all of those interests would have remained despite the injuries sustained. It is an important lesson. To reflect upon the experiences of the past without getting lost in them, while treasuring the things in the present that help make us who we are. "Little pieces of me heal every day," Acton tells me. May we all strive to do the same in our daily lives, sharing with others while listening closely in order to impart healing and hope.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a passionate supporter of Phoenix Society. He strives to live a life that reflects a "MORE THAN" attitude. He can be reached at sams4j@gmail.com.

Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Greenway Park

By Tim Jon

I really hadn't any specific expectations when I planned this little outing, other than figuring to come upon a fairly pedestrian neighborhood playground nestled in the midst of this (to most of the rest of the universe, anyway) upscale neighborhood. Greenway Park gave me a nice surprise that morning, even though I must have driven by the place numerous times in my decades of living just a couple of miles from the place; you see – adjacent to the manicured lawn and children's play area, I followed one of the narrow paths leading into the woody, tangled swamp which – to all appearances – hadn't sustained a blow from an axe or trim from a lawnmower, at least since the completion of the surrounding development.

The early sunshine had gotten the local birds out of bed, and it seemed the redwing blackbirds, cardinals and sparrows either welcomed my presence or cursed my existence – or maybe they were just glad to be alive – their feathery orchestra kept at it the whole of my excursion; I was quite taken aback, though by something a little



TIM JON



more 'wild': the presence of enough deer tracks to indicate a small herd was using the overgrown acreage as a shelter for at least part of their daily schedule (even the mere representation of something this large and totally undomesticated has always been irresistible to me) – and I imagined a pretty good assortment of other critters among the fertile, muddy undergrowth as I made my way around the wet, sunken center of this natural little oasis. Now, as nice and refreshing and stimulating as I found this cool, early-morning walk (just a bit out of the living-room safety zone) – I admit that I was very thankful to be enjoying that very pivotal time of year prior to wood tick worries and the accompaniment of squadrons of mosquitos; so, no - I don't

think you'll find me in that jungle-like environment during anything like the height of 'bug season.'

I did find myself thinking, though, "Boy! How cool is it, that – in the heart of Northern Virginia, where every square inch of land seemingly must account for some kind of profit for someone – that sufficient (and sufficiently sensitive) foresight was given to allow this small, but precious little area to 'go wild,' for Mother Nature to have at it for all she's worth?" And, if you want to answer the question for yourself, you can find Greenway Park just off Greenway Drive and Shadetree Way in Southwest Leesburg – a bit west of the intersection of Meade Drive and South King Street; you can park your car in the little lot, walk down the gentle slope and look for the informal walking trail into the woods – just stay out of the water and look out for thorny branches and brambles – many – as I palpably discovered - at about eye level.

You just may find what you need for what ails you in there. I often have, in these types of places.

And, so – having left my house that morning expecting to find nothing but an assortment of well-kept, modern

playground equipment and some adjacent public open space, the conditions in Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia proved otherwise, and offered a new discovery of adventure – right in the heart of modern civilization; now, I probably spent less than 30 minutes in those swampy woods, and walked a total of maybe three-quarters of a mile, but it seemed much more expansive in both space and time. It's often occurred to me that there may be something, after all, to the effect produced in certain (often) small, magical places scattered across the geography of our lives – elaborated upon quite eloquently by that highly unconventional author, Ambrose Bierce, in his story "The Difficulty in Crossing a Field." No - I've never disappeared while exploring our various local vortexes, but – after living in these parts the better part of 20 years, very little would surprise me. Not much, that is – except things like finding a wild, little place where I may not have predicted to locate one – like Greenway Park.

So – in answer to my earlier question about the choice for setting this acreage aside for wild things – I would reply, "Yes, Virginia, it's Very cool, indeed."

Generation Of Fear And Hope

– By Mary Rose Lunde

The world is a scary place. Every day the news is of violence and crime. Even the comments range from trolls to those who confuse positive feedback with harsh criticism. I don't think anyone who was born after 1994 remembers a time of peace for the world. There hasn't been a time in my life--and I'm about to turn 21--in which I have completely felt safe for a full day.

What will it take for the world to become as it was before atom bombs were threats, before hate crimes were common occurrences, before justice systems were unjust, and more? These are common now; fear is the automatic response. We can't even live in our homes without fearing an impending burglary. With dramatic shows playing on our fears of 'what if' scenarios which very well could happen, it's no surprise that the world has become one of fear and complacency. I'm curious: What it would take to step away from this normality?

People say that we're a new generation, and that we've inherited the problems of the previous generation. Honestly, I'm not surprised then that we've inherited an earth of many problems. I'll probably provoke some people by writing this article, but I want to be honest in calling people to stop putting up with being okay with fear. We can't move forward, if we don't stop being afraid. We can't move forward, if we don't understand that this isn't okay. The amount of news reports about some tragedy won't stop, unless we stop being complacent.



LUNDE

My roommate, Corrie, and I had a conversation the other day in which we discussed how much fear there is in the world. I had to be the bearer of bad news, and told her about 17-year-old Nabra, a young Muslim girl who was innocently walking with her friends when she was chased and killed. This news sparked our conversation about how neither of us has been in a world where there wasn't some sort of horrible tragedy or act of mal-intent that was reported in the news daily. It was frustrating to both of us because we hadn't done anything wrong. And who's to say we couldn't be the next victims?

To say it would be easy to give up and succumb to the fear of something bad happening, is not a stretch. I think that this is where potential existential crises and depressive breakdowns can come into being. It's dangerous to think this way. And then comes the way back into the world through a word filled with meaning: Hope, the four letter word that almost everyone takes for granted, until it is snatched from them. This is the only thing that keeps the world spinning: hope that there has to be something better. There has to be that one thing that is worth living for. Perhaps it is God, or a book, or even something as simple as a sunrise. There has to be something. And that's what I'm asking everyone to see. Find the hope that keeps your world spinning, and you'll be able to move past whatever bad news hits you.

Mary Rose Lunde is a recent graduate of Virginia Tech. She hopes that the world will change for the better.



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Into The Wilds ... Of Assateague Island

– By Andrea Gaines

At a distance of about 180 or so miles, Assateague Island National Seashore is a not what you'd call an easy day trip for the Loudouner longing for the sound of the surf. But, if you are game for a really rewarding two, three, or four-day foray into something quite different ... consider this truly exquisite place.

Assateague Island is 48,000 acres of protected beach, pine forest and salt marsh straddling the eastern parts of the north/south border between Maryland and Virginia.

People come here not just for the views or the waves or the bird life or the camp fires or the trails. They come here for the ponies. The approximately 300 now wild descendants of domestic animals brought to the island in the late 1600s.

The ponies are the economic lifeblood of the area, and no wonder. They are stunning. Arresting. Appearing as if out of nowhere but perfectly comfortable in their habitat.

Wary of humans, they keep their distance, affording visitors the opportunity to see them in as close to a wild state as anywhere in the United

States – grazing in the saltmarsh, running on the beach, swimming with their babies, sparing and cavorting with each other.

Visitors can find ample overnight accommodations in nearby Ocean City, Maryland or on Chincoteague Island in Virginia. Camping-savvy visitors will enjoy the many, many opportunities to pitch their tent or park their camper. Other activities include canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, fishing, swimming and sunning. The island and surrounds also has wonderful visitor center exhibits and programs.

The National Park Service has been actively filling the ditches that crisscross the wetlands on Assateague since 2008, restoring this important habitat and the plant, mammal and fish species that depend on it – and feeding our own bellies and spirits along the way. This makes Assateague a great place to experience the benefits of the natural protection programs of the future.

And, one more tip: the National Park Service turned 100 years old on August 25, 2017. This August marks the end of a 1-year celebration of that birthday, making this summer a great time to visit Assateague Island.

For more information go to www.nps.gov/asis.



Photo credits NPS.

Envision Loudoun, continued from page 6

not conducive to discussing the past ... staff didn't want to give the public a purpose for the district.

Branded For Growth

Wary managed-growth advocates are increasingly uneasy and outspoken about what they see as the pro-growth tenor of the Envision Loudoun proceedings. Are all of the undeveloped lands in the Transition Policy Area, for example, to be the dumping ground for the growth knocking so loudly at the door?

Purcellville Town Council Member and former Town Planning Commissioner Nedom Ogelman, who attended the Envision Loudoun Workshop in June, said, "The vision statement read like a box-checking exercise with an underlying message ... to develop aggressively." With respect to the many areas of Loudoun County worth protecting – and the overwhelming and sustained citizen support for limiting growth in the Transition Policy Area and elsewhere – Ogelman expressed surprise at the Vision Statement's lack of depth and responsiveness to citizen concerns. "The whole thing," said Ogelman, "seems generic and unambitious, as if it has an underlying agenda of grow, grow, grow."

The term "Envision Loudoun" is the branding concept developed for the County by a team of consultants* led by Kimley-Horn and Associates. The company is well known in planning, zoning, and engineering circles, having worked on some of the most high-profile growth- and development-related projects in the country.

For municipalities looking for management heft – and engineering, environmental, and

regulatory expertise – KHA and others like it fit the bill, helping fast-growing counties like Loudoun navigate the complicated Comprehensive Plan process while avoiding public relations pitfalls.

Loudoun County has used various parts of the company's expertise many times. For example, the County awarded Kimberly-Horn a 2013-2017, \$1,745,000 contract for "Consulting Services for Transportation and Urban Planning, Design and Engineering" related to the Board of Supervisors' transportation initiatives.

As previously reported, between 2000 and 2015, the BOS and the Loudoun County Planning Commission approved 65,700 residential units for development. Some of these numbers are reflected in a report developed for the County's Envision Loudoun consultants, who say that current zoning policies provide for the addition of 51,000 new residential units, 29,000 of which are already approved and in the pipeline. 51,000 new residential units may be built by-right, of which nearly 30,000 are already being built.

A George Mason University study, touted by developers as a much more accurate reading of our future, predicts a "severe housing shortage under current planning and housing policies," indicating a need for 18,300 additional homes – above current growth projections.

From a messaging perspective – or perhaps to help brand the whole process as an opportunity to rethink the County's three-part rural, transitional, and suburban zoning/density scheme – pro-growth advocates had argued that specific references to the TPA and other zoning terms had no place in a County Vision Statement.

But, managed-growth proponents saw this as wordsmithing, free-floating language that could be used to justify crafting a new Comp Plan that focuses first and foremost on simply meeting market demand, with everything else, including Loudoun's identity as a truly unique place, secondary.

Next Steps For Envision Loudoun

Two comments collected in the first round of public comments show the deep divide between pro-growth forces and those who want growth ... tamed. When asked "How will we know when we have succeeded?" one participant said – rather bluntly ... "When higher density is approved" while another said " ... when the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors learns to say 'enough is enough' to developers."

Mid-point in the process, while this divide has not been bridged, the public's desire to fashion a new Comprehensive Plan, while protecting itself against excessive growth, is making a dramatic showing – challenging both the County's leadership and the development community to work harder to save the Transition Policy Area and the rural west.

The question now is where Loudoun will go in terms of specific zoning policies – not just lofty Vision Statements – to make it all happen.

A detailed schedule for late summer and early fall Envision Loudoun events can be found at www.envision-loudoun.org.

**The Envision Loudoun team includes Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. (Northern Virginia office), teaming with McBride Dale Clarion, PlanningNEXT, Clarion Associates; NelsonNygaard Consulting Associates, Inc.; and TischlerBise.*

What Rural, Suburban, And Transitional Densities Look Like

Loudoun's Rural, Suburban, and Transition Policy Areas framework produces a wide variety of lifestyle choices for Loudouners – from outlying homesteads that have been in families for generations, to single- and multi-family small town properties, to new developments with hundreds of homes and/or apartments and condominiums.

The 200,000-acre Rural Policy Area supports 14,296 residential units. The current Comp Plan states, the "Rural Policy Area land use pattern and design strategy is fundamentally committed to retaining the rural area as an essential asset of Loudoun County," and is focused on "rural scale agriculture, tourism and environmental protection."

The 60,000-acre Suburban Policy Area supports 86,568 residential units. The current Comp Plan states, "each of these communities are intended to be self-sustaining communities framed by open spaces and roads." Policy guidance for this area "has focused on creating compact and walkable development, high quality design standards, and protection of open space."

The 20,000-acre Transition Policy Area was established as a zoning buffer between the suburban east and the rural west. The area is primarily residential with some industrial. The land-use vision for the area is open space, and large lot or clustered development (to protect ground water). The TPA has 5,543 residential units.

A fourth zoning category called Joint Land Management Areas covers 25,123 acres taking up 19 percent of the County's land mass.

Letters, continued from page 6

contiguous (connected) open, natural land surrounding each structure in a subdivision – to protect open space. Instead of 20 houses over 400 acres, you get 20 homes on 10, surrounded by 200 acres of open space. By making these areas contiguous, you also provide opportunities for foot and bike travel, and for wildlife corridors and protected watersheds. (This planning principle could be applied to areas of Loudoun that need to be rebuilt or revitalized, too. Example: convert empty lots into greenspace, and link them to renovated properties via walking corridors.)

Just outside of Purcellville there is a sign for a new housing development that

will soon replace farmland. The sign promotes home sites delivering idyllic country living. But, what will be left of the country when the beautiful old hedgerows, tree-covered stream beds, meadows, and rustic farm fencing are gone?

For new developments like this, the county can require – to the delight of the new neighborhood to be – that builders keep contiguous green space and other rural features, offering a landscape that is immediately more pleasing to look and immediately more valuable – with tons more benefits for everyone.

This kind of rural policy has more benefits on which I'm able to elaborate; benefits to the environment, to our rural vistas, to our health, and to our need

to manage the costs of the new public services, from road construction to water and sewer. So much land would be saved.

Maybe this is a rural-rustic version of a town center. Maybe it is historically how small towns were formed and used to be. Maybe it replicates the qualities of those beautiful scenic European settlements our own original village structure is based upon. Maybe it is how the entire county, east and west, revitalizes and preserves its historic areas.

Please consider making these changes to rural policy. Don't suburbanize western Loudoun.

*Christopher Griggs
Purcellville*

Lohr, continued from page 1

you found it, but so are the many people's lives that you touched over the years."

In addition, the Town Council recognized Lohr's long standing dedication and commitment to the community. They unveiled a bronze plaque, in honor of Lohr, which will be prominently displayed in the front foyer of the Town Hall. The plaque recognizes all seven Town managers throughout the Town's history many of whom who also served in multiple roles in addition to that of Town Manager.

Said Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, "Mr. Lohr leaves an indelible impression on us all as a leader, manager, mentor, and friend. For almost a quarter century as Purcellville's manager, Rob has guided the Town through many opportunities and challenges and leaves us in a better place and well equipped for optimal success on the road ahead. We thank Mr. Lohr for his dedication and commitment throughout his career and wish him and his family all the best in his retirement."

200,000 Acre Solution, continued from page 1

protect them from development should a land owner want that.

What Is The Value Of – And The Threat To – Our Traditional Farms And Rural Landscapes?

Our traditional farms provide meat and vegetables for local consumers and restaurants through farm markets and supplies to local farm-to-table restaurants, but, do not have the production needed to meet growing demand for local produce, including demands from local schools. Loudoun's spring and fall farm tours draw more than 9,000 visitors. The US Department of Agriculture estimates annual market sales of agricultural products in Loudoun at \$37 million. Our farms also avoid taxpayer costs by keeping their land from housing development that – as Loudoun's Commissioner of Revenue has noted – cost more for schools and public services than they pay in property taxes.

Well beyond County cost savings, however, is the uncalculated value of farm landscapes and scenic vistas that attract tourists, not to mention values that artists and residents appreciate. Loudoun's traditional farms still lie at the heart of our rural economy, sustaining the businesses and quality of life that Loudoun residents celebrate as unique and invaluable.

However, the Rural Economic Development Council's 2013 *Rural Business Strategy* cites declining sales and income from these farms. Cattle, hay, corn, soybeans and other traditional crops do not profit from their scenic values unless the farmers also engage in tourism.

Few farms in northern Blue Ridge or in Catoctin are being sustained for the future through conservation easements permanently prohibiting development. Of the 56,000 acres in Loudoun that the PEC estimates are in conservation easements (not including developer-granted easements),

some 90 percent of protected acreage lies in Loudoun's horse country – the southern portion of the Blue Ridge District. In Catoctin, the highly scenic views that large farm vistas provide to tourists while driving west on Rt. 9 into and beyond Hillsboro are in no case protected by conservation easements. Under the applicable zoning rules, those farms could be developed into housing clusters with as many as four houses per 20 acres.

Our traditional farmers are getting old. The average age of Virginia farm owners is about 60, with more than a third over 65. Few traditional farmers' children are able or willing to continue farming, so family economics often favors sale for development upon the retirement or death of the principal farmer. That fate could await roughly half of the traditional farmland that currently supports Loudoun's rural economy.

What Can We Do To Save Our Traditional Farms Or Their Lands?

Action to arrest farmland loss requires an agreement that business-as-usual will not suffice, and that we can and must make policy reforms that draw on practical experiences elsewhere, tailoring them to meet Loudoun's needs.

We must first acknowledge the inadequacy of the County's present farmland policies. Our existing Comprehensive Plan presented good intentions and policies to "support voluntary participation in programs that provide assistance and reduced tax burdens to the farm community," but these measures no longer suffice.

In 2004 the Board of Supervisors defunded the Purchase-of-Development-Rights Program (PDR), with some Supervisors calling it welfare for the rich. PDR programs exist in 21 other Virginia counties, but so far our Supervisors have shown no interest in reviving it in Loudoun.

Although it is a no-brainer that we should

not raise farming costs, the Commissioner of Revenue over the past two years has placed an increased emphasis on capturing tax revenue from agricultural structures and has sought higher taxes on farm structures that state law allows but doesn't require. The result: higher costs in the hundreds and sometimes the thousands of dollars for our farmers. One Catoctin farm owner reports their old barn, assessed at \$16,000 for a decade, shot to an assessment of \$78,000 in 2017. Another complains of the \$165 zoning department permit required for a tiny, moveable chicken coop.

We increase farming costs ... but this year the County reduced its overall residential property tax rate by two cents.

Current land use valuation and Agricultural and Forestal District programs need to be reexamined and reformed, along with other existing regulations, to encourage our farming industry. A more comprehensive rural strategy from our Rural Economic Development Council should encourage not only winery, brewery and other tourism-based businesses, but also new incentives to help save our vulnerable traditional farms. For example, we need incentives for long-term farm land leases that will encourage investment in lime, fertilizer and other measures to improve hay quality that will help counter high-quality hay imports from Pennsylvania. And aspiring young farmers need practical help to afford leasing or buying farm land in the County instead of moving elsewhere to farm.

We should also examine the practical land conservation tools applied elsewhere. One such tool is the Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), now adopted in Virginia's Stafford and Frederick counties and widely used just across the Potomac in Maryland, where Montgomery County preserved, years ago, some 50,000 acres of its farmland through the application of

TDRs. The housing development rights on these farms were sold by the farm owners to developers in Bethesda seeking, with county approval, greater density there. The result: no public expenditures (unlike PDR programs now unpopular with our Supervisors) and permanent conservation easements on Montgomery farms. They now flourish, and last year a Montgomery County task force analyzed TDR programs and offered recommendations that Loudoun Supervisors and others should carefully consider.

TDR programs have also been applied in other Maryland counties and have long been used in New Jersey to preserve 50,000 acres of its Pinelands. Loudoun has attractive development-rights "receiving" areas – where higher-density development should be focused around our new Metro stations, and where greater development and density is needed to be economically viable.

Actions over the next several years will determine whether Loudoun simply loses its traditional farms, leaving clustered housing developments to mar its landscape, lower tourist attraction, increased County costs and a lower quality of life. Positive action will take County Supervisors' and County staff leadership. It will require an active effort by our Rural Economic Development Council to spur this dedication, complementing its other effective programs by focusing as well on farmland sustainability. Otherwise the frog boils, and Loudoun's treasured rural environment slowly dies.

Malcolm Baldwin completed his 35 years in environmental law and policy, with government and nonprofit groups, including 15 years working in developing countries, and since 2003 has been a sheep and vineyard farmer at WeatherLea Farm, Lovettsville.

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Discover Purcellville Receives Design Excellence Award

The Town of Purcellville, Discover Purcellville, the Economic Development Advisory Committee, and the Purcellville Arts Council were recognized on Tuesday, June 6, at the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Meeting for the "Painted Barrels Around Purcellville" project. As a joint effort among these groups, with specific leadership by Michael Oaks, Kim Patterson, and Hillary Coley of Discover Purcellville, local artists painted 34 wine barrels with scenes of Purcellville, rural Loudoun, and community activities. The barrels were placed around Town at sponsoring businesses and organizations over the summer of 2016. The barrels were auctioned off, raising over \$36,000 for charity and ongoing art and culture programs in Purcellville.

The Loudoun County Design Cabinet is a partnership of local architects, planners, and engineers who promote high-quality ecological, urban, architectural, and landscape design in Loudoun County. Each year, the Design Cabinet recognizes high quality design projects throughout the County as part of its Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Awards. These awards are then presented publicly at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

The "Painted Barrels Around Purcellville" project was awarded a Design Excellence



From left to right: Board Chair Phyllis Randall, Michael Oaks, Kim Patterson and Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser.

Award for the "Details" category, which recognizes projects that show design excellence or whimsy demonstrated in the form of minutiae or finishing touches which visually delight or offer a sense of

continuity with Loudoun's history.

Michael Oaks of Discover Purcellville said, "We are incredibly proud to receive this award from the Loudoun County Design Cabinet. The 'Painted Barrels

Around Purcellville' project truly was a community effort, and I recognize all of the artists, businesses, and volunteers who supported this great effort. I am especially appreciative of the Town's EDAC and Town Council for their promotion and support of this community project."

Said Mayor Kwasi Fraser, "It is an honor to have such creative and community-focused individuals in our Town who wish to improve the quality of life for all citizens, businesses, and visitors. I specifically recognize Michael Oaks, Kim Patterson, Hillary Coley, EDAC, and the Arts Council for their tireless effort in this project. We are excited to have such great partners in our community."

In 2017, the "Painted Barrels Around Purcellville" project is being followed-up with "Painted Benches and Flower Planters Around Purcellville." Thirty benches and twenty flower planters have been individually designed and painted for placement around the community. These custom-made art projects demonstrate an even bigger and better project than the wine barrels and will continue to promote the great community spirit of Purcellville. If you visit the Town of Purcellville between June and October you will see these great pieces of art throughout the Town.

Two Cannons Players Selected In MLB Draft

The Purcellville Cannons Collegiate Baseball Club has announced that two of its current players, Tyler Ratliff and Will Reed, were selected in Major League Baseball's recent First-Year Draft.

Tyler Ratliff, a powerful athletic shortstop out of Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School, was taken in the 17th round by the Texas Rangers; and Will Reed, a strike-throwing right-hander who starred at Purcellville's Loudoun Valley High School, was picked in the 20th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"We couldn't be prouder that Will and Tyler were drafted by MLB," said the Cannons' team president and on-field manager Brett Fuller. "Not only are they great ballplayers,

they're both fine young men, and we're proud that Will and Tyler joined the Cannons along their path to the pros."

Reed, a second-year Cannon and fan favorite, was held out of action this summer in anticipation of the MLB draft. A year ago, the Purcellville native dominated the Valley League, with seven saves and four wins in 14 appearances, striking out 35 in 22 innings.

"Will is an impressive pitcher as far as his mechanics," Fuller said. "The way he anchored our bullpen down the stretch last season is something I won't forget."

Ratliff, another second-year Cannon, got into four games this season, collecting four hits and three RBIs in 12 at-bats. Last



Left to right: Tyler Ratliff and Will Reed. Photo: Matt Gusmerotti.

summer, the 6-foot-2 shortstop had four homers, 22 RBIs and a .400 batting average, all team-leading totals.

"Tyler's both a great athlete and a great

baseball player. He projects like a guy who can go far in the pros. We were very lucky to have him here in Purcellville these past two seasons," Fuller said.



Painted Benches And Planters Around Town – Huge Success

Michael Oaks, Kim Patterson and Hillary Coley Founders of Discover Purcellville a nonprofit, recently established the Painted Benches and Planters Around Purcellville project. This is his third art project starting with the painted barrels, then the painted Christmas decorations and now Painted Benches and Planters Around Purcellville project.

They had 30 custom wooden benches made and 20 custom made wooden planters. Fifty artists volunteered their time to create art work on them. Each one is sponsored by a local business. Said Oaks, “The response this year on the painted benches and planters has been phenomenal and we have had more sponsors than pieces. The response from the public has been overwhelming,

ever since they have been placed at their sponsored location and since NBC 4 came out to Purcellville and ran a story about this project on their news broadcast.”

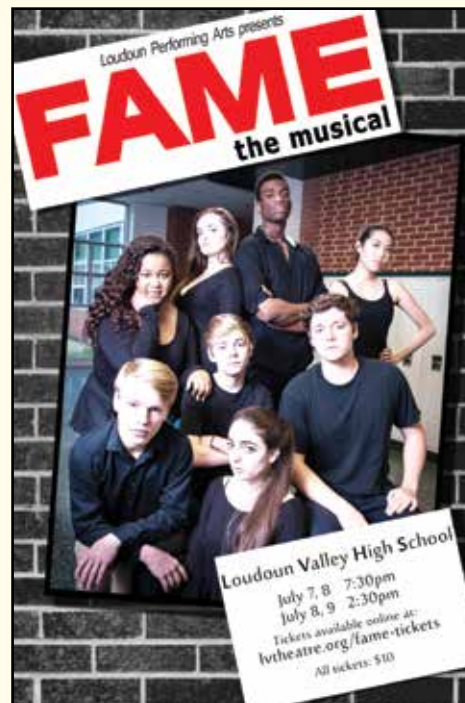
The benches and planters will be on display until the end of October and the auction will be held Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. at the skating rink. More info at www.discoverpurcellville.com

Come To The Loudoun County Fair



The Loudoun County Fair has been part of the history and tradition of Northern Virginia for many years. In its 82nd year, the fair is one of the longest running annual events in Loudoun County. Over the years it has grown to a large-scale community event aimed at educating the public about local agriculture and livestock while providing families with a week of affordable entertainment. The fair runs from July 24 - July 29.

Senior’s Day is Tuesday and Children’s Day is Wednesday. Activities include livestock judging and club demonstrations, a daily carnival, fair foods, 4-h club dinners, which are open to the public, equine exhibitions, a demolition derby, touch a truck & tractor, a free petting zoo, rodeos, monster trucks and much, more. Every day there is a different set of activities. The location of the fair is at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds, 17558 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg. Go to loudouncountyfair.com for more information.



Fame

Performing Arts, a newly established summer stock theatre company for high school and college students founded and run by award winning director Dolly Stevens is doing Fame this summer. This show, based on the 1980s hit movie Fame, tells the story of the gifted students who attend the High School of Performing Arts. This diverse group of students attempt to follow their dreams while dealing with all the challenges of growing up.



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Joshua's Hands Announces Three Scholarships



Grace Kopf



Jacquelyn Noel



Pierina Rossini

Joshua's Hands was established in 1999 in memory of Joshua Guthrie, who was an enthusiastic community volunteer. Joshua's years of service were cut short by his death at the age of 16. Joshua's Hands seeks to continue to be his hands of service in the community and to encourage others to serve.

In addition to its annual Fall Festival, American heritage education programs – which includes its Valiant Warrior Quilts, community service and teen safe driving education, the organization offers *A Servant's Heart Scholarship*. The scholarship is essay-based and open to all seniors in Loudoun County. To date, the organization has awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships. It recently announced the awarding of three \$1,000 scholarships.

Jacquelyn Noel (Loudoun County High School) will attend Virginia Tech in the fall to study animal and poultry sciences. Jacquelyn learned service from her family, community mentors and those she has served. Her willing hands and servant heart have involved her in projects with 4-H, Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Keep Loudoun Beautiful, Backpack Buddies and more. In her essay she wrote, "Throughout my life I've been fortunate to have many people who have

shaped my understanding of what it means to have a servant's heart... They have taught me how to see the joy in any situation."

The winning essay from Freedom High School was written by Pierina Rossini, who creatively structured her essay as a letter to her younger sister. Her words about life and service were both inspiring and challenging. She stood in the gap promoting the value of service while acknowledging the benefits of service in her own life. She was able to play the role of both mentor and mentee. In her essay she wrote: "Please be open to giving your time to others, but don't do it expecting something in return. Volunteer just for the sake of helping and let everything [else] work itself out because I promise it will, and you will thank yourself for it later."

The Loudoun Valley High School winner was a video submission by Grace Kopf. Through International Service Club she traveled to Jamaica twice to build houses, deliver donations and meet the needs of people she didn't even know. In her video she commented that these trips changed her and made her a better person. She summarized what she learned this way: "Everyone deserves our love, our help, our friendship, our guidance...but most importantly, they need to realize that they are not alone."



Berry And Walker Awarded Eagle

Boy Scout Troop 711 awarded the rank of Eagle Scout to Roberto "Beto" Berry and Alexander King Walker on June 25. Pictured from l to r: Roberto "Beto" Berry, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Alexander King Walker. Berry's project was raised gardens at Philomont Community Center promoting agriculture and nutrition. Walker's project was Audio and Hospitality Rolling Storage Boxes for Grace Bible Church, which meets at Loudoun Valley Community Center.

Fisher Earns Eagle

Josh Fisher of Troop 163 Eagle Scout pictured with his parents awarded Eagle Scout. His Eagle project was to build and install seven-foot-high shelving system in a home at Evergreen Church used for storage and short-term shelter for homeless families.



Eagle Scout Rhodes Receives Honor



From Left to Right: In early June, Purcellville Council Member Nedim Ogelman presented Eagle Scout Landon Rhodes a proclamation from the Town of Purcellville at Rhode's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Rhodes relocated the sand volleyball pit and added proper drainage at Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg. The project took in excess of 150 hours.



Irish Sessions At Corcoran Brewing

Irish session at Corcoran Brewing Company located at 205 E Hirst Rd, Purcellville; enjoy traditional Irish jigs reels and hornpipes played on fiddles, whistles, banjos and guitars. For more info call 540 441-3102.

Leesburg Veteran Gets A New Roof

Frank Watkins and his wife Lou Etta, of Leesburg, have a new roof and a freshly painted home thanks to Paul Davis Restoration, Home Depot, The Roof Center, Sterling Glass, Katchmark Construction, The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, Loudoun Cares, Loudoun County Veterans Services, ERS, CORE and Ashburn Art.

Mike Ball, Loudoun County Veteran Services Coordinator, reached out to the Watkins last December to offer free outdoor holiday decorating for local veterans. Watkins, who served in World War II, while appreciative of the holiday gesture, made it known that he desperately needed a new roof.

"We are thankful to Mr. Watkins for his service and recognize that the greatest generation sacrificed much. We are honored to play a role in helping to create a solution for the Watkins' family home repair needs," said Co-Owner Kevin Sullivan of Paul Davis Restoration. "Community outreach is most gratifying when many hands come together. This has truly been a neighborhood effort.

Loudoun Cares Champions Aid Vulnerable Loudouners

While at the end of June Loudoun Cares concluded its initial month-long "Loudoun Cares Champions" tax-deductible fundraiser to bolster its efforts to assist Loudoun's most vulnerable, residents and businesses can still donate to Loudoun Cares through its website, loudouncares.org.

The Loudoun Cares flagship program, Information and Referral Helpline, provides the County's most vulnerable residents with resources they need, including food, clothing, shelter, and utility relief. A second Loudoun Cares program, the Online Volunteer Center, matches those seeking volunteer opportunities, with organizations looking for volunteers. Loudoun Cares also runs the Claude Moore Community Builders Program, which provides leadership training for high school students who then work with local nonprofits. Several students have received Presidential medals in recognition of their extraordinary volunteerism.

Sue Khalil, executive director of Loudoun Cares, said, "Increased community participation in these vital programs has sparked a call for program expansion."

Delegate Greason Given School Readiness Champion Award

Loudoun County's Delegate Thomas Greason (R-32) received the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's first-ever School Readiness Champion Award, recognizing his significant support of school readiness initiatives to benefit young children in Virginia. Delegate Greason is a member of the Commonwealth's School Readiness Committee and of the House Appropriations Committee and serves as chairman of the House Education Innovation Subcommittee. Kathy Glazer, president of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, said: "Through his unwavering support of school readiness initiatives in the halls of government, he has significantly elevated the conversation about early learning as the pathway to school, life and workforce success."



From left to right are: Kathy Glazer, president of VECF; Delegate Tag Greason and Reggie Jones, outgoing board chair of VECF.

The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation is a public-private partnership established in 2006 to develop and promote innovative school readiness initiatives that ensure quality early learning outcomes across the Commonwealth.

Let's Recycle – It's Free

Most of us have gotten into the swing of things recycling at home. It's another thing, however, to extend your recycling commitment to the larger home or community events you might be holding



over the summer – from that big, backyard cookout, to that local sporting event or community gathering.

Enter the Loudoun County portable outdoor recycling bins loaner program.

Free to local residents, businesses, homeowner associations, event planners, and others, the program allows Loudouners

to borrow anywhere from 1 to 50 County bins for use at their event. Placed next to an ordinary, everyday trash can, the bins give guests an easy and recognizable way to recycle ... instead of adding to the burden

in our local landfills. After the event, the host or party planner simply drops off any recyclables that were collected to one of ten convenient county recycling centers.

For more information and to reserve the recycling bins, call the County's Solid Waste Management Division at 703-771-5514.

Carver Center Events For July 2017

- **Friday, July 7, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Lunch & Movie -- *La La Land***
Please pre-register for lunch by noon on July 6 by calling 571-258-3407.
- **Tuesday, July 11, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting**
Non-board members warmly welcomed.
- **Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Lyme Support Group**
- **Wednesdays, July 12 through July 26, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Decluttering Clothing**
This class will teach you to determine what remains in your closet and what leaves.
- **Thursday, July 13, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Summer Supper Club**
The Anvil, Harper's Ferry, WV. \$6. Ages 18 and up.
- **Wednesday, July 12, 12:45 p.m. to 2 p.m., Introduction to the Dulcimer**
The Carter Center has 12 dulcimers for use in the class, Age 55 and up.
- **Friday, July 14, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**
Stephen Hood, Health Educator from the Loudoun County Health Department, will give a presentation.
- **Friday, July 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lunch Bunch**
Cheesecake Factory, Dulles. Please sign up by Tuesday, July 18. \$4. Age 55 and up.
- **Monday, July 24, 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., Summer Treats**
Enjoy visiting a local ice-cream parlor to beat the heat.
- **Wednesday, July 26, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Book Club**
Discussion led by Purcellville Library staff. Books available on site.

Envision Loudoun Online Engagement Is Open Let Your Voice Be Heard

Loudoun County has opened its online engagement tool which is available at envision-loudoun.org/envision-the-future-online-input/. The online interactive comment and mapping exercises mirror those completed by the hundreds of people who attended the series of workshops held throughout the county in June. This particular online engagement tool for Envision Loudoun is scheduled to be available through July 12, and is designed to help the county's Envision Loudoun project team engage with as many residents, business owners and other stakeholders as possible.

For more information, visit: www.EnvisionLoudoun.org, or email the project team at: envisionloudoun@loudoun.gov.

Broadband, continued from page 7

community – with the least disruption to the small town feel and character. Jimmerson and Ogelman have been working on strategic locations to avoid antennae placement based solely on functionality. This project would also generate revenue for the Town, much like the one that is on the Town water tower.

Phase II would put a cell tower at the wastewater treatment plant. This cell tower would allow for remote reading of water meters throughout the Town. And this location would benefit citizens on the south side of Town.

Phase III would possibly be near the train station on 21st Street, and could be concealed

by a roof on one of the taller buildings. Council Member Kelli Grim said that it's a positive step for the Town, and it pays for itself.

Jimmerson said that it is only a few years down the road when there will be true competition from the national wireless providers in the broadband arena. "They will be offering broadband speeds that rival the best existing wired speeds available in Town today. Large national wireless carriers have recently announced that they have achieved over 1GB per second in their most recent 5G tests. Even if they only delivered half or a fourth of that speed, it would still be better than most residents and businesses in Purcellville have available to them today," she said.

Sheriff Chapman Named D.A.R.E. Law Enforcement Executive Of The Year

Francisco X. Pegueros, President and CEO of D.A.R.E. America, and Karl C. Colder, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Washington, D.C. Division, announced that Loudoun County Sheriff Michael L. Chapman has been selected as the 2017 DEA/D.A.R.E. Law Enforcement Executive of the Year.

The DEA/D.A.R.E. America Law Enforcement Executive award is presented to a senior law enforcement officer who evidences an extraordinary commitment to drug prevention and enforcement. The award has been given annually since 2000. Sheriff Chapman joins a small group of sheriffs and chiefs of police who have been honored by their selection to receive this award.

Sheriff Chapman, who was first elected sheriff in 2012, directs operations for the largest sheriff's office in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office employs approximately 800 people (close to 600 sworn deputies), and provides all field operational, court, and detention services for a population close to 400,000.

"Sheriff Chapman has demonstrated exemplary leadership through the implementation of several educational and drug prevention programs since taking office in 2012, to include the expansion

of D.A.R.E. to all middle schools within Loudoun County," stated Pegueros. "He also delivered programs to the parents throughout the County about the dangers children face on the Internet, and on how parents can work with their children to identify predators or others who might do them harm."

Partnering with the Washington, D.C. division of the DEA and Loudoun County Public Schools, Sheriff Chapman also developed a drug awareness training program that was presented to parents of school-aged children through a series of public forums held at Loudoun County schools. The drug awareness presentations educated parents about the significant increase of prescription pill, synthetic drug, and heroin abuse in the region. "The guiding synergy behind this effort helped prepare parents to talk to their children about the dangers faced by experimenting with drugs," stated Special Agent in Charge Colder.

Sheriff Chapman will be presented the award by a senior executive of the DEA and Pegueros at the annual D.A.R.E. America International Conference in Grapevine, Texas, to be held July 11 through July 13. The award includes \$1,000 to be used for a program designated by the recipient.

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center Holds Career Workshops

Revitalize your job search by attending career readiness workshops at the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center in July. Whether you are looking for work, changing careers or would like to brush up on techniques for success at your current job, the Workforce Resource Center has a workshop to fit your need.

July workshop offerings include:

- **30-Second Commercial:** 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 11
- **Orientation to Center Services:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 12
- **Resume 101:** 9 a.m., Friday, July 14
- **Navigating LinkedIn for New Users:** 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 19
- **Your Transferable Skills:** 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 25
- **Successful Phone Interviewing:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 26
- **Resume 101:** 12:30 p.m., Friday, July 28

All workshops are offered at no cost. For descriptions of each workshop and to register, visit www.loudoun.gov/wrcworkshops.

The Workforce Resource Center's mission is to connect job seekers and employers to meet their employment goals. The center is open to the public and located at the Shenandoah Building, 102 Heritage Way, N.E. in Leesburg. For more information about the Workforce Resource Center, contact Shelly Rodriguez or Karen McClelland at 703 777-0150 or visit www.loudoun.gov/wrc.

House T&I Committee Passes Comstock Aviation Provisions

Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R-VA) released the statement below after the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee reported favorably the 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform and Reauthorization Act, a reform measure that provides a six-year reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The legislation includes a number of Comstock provisions and priorities, including a provision to create the Remote Air Traffic Control Tower Pilot Program. Currently, Leesburg Executive Airport is home to the first installation of this innovative technology, which is undergoing a certification process. Another included Comstock provision adds the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region to a list of areas from which the FAA Administrator must choose to study health effects of aircraft noise.

Said Comstock, "Our aviation infrastructure needs updating and this legislation will help meet the demands of the aviation sector for the 21st Century. Nearly two years ago, I saw first-hand the unveiling of the remote air traffic control tower at the Leesburg Executive Airport, the first of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. This new and

innovative technology is essential to the future of aviation. With Loudoun County being a driving force for technology in the region, it is only fitting that our regional airport leads the way as well. Remote air traffic control towers put reliable, safe technology in the capable hands of our air traffic controllers at smaller airports across the nation." The Leesburg Executive Airport is an economic engine for the region that contributes \$78 million to the local economy annually and 634 jobs, according to a 2011 study.

"I was also happy that the committee included my provision to have the FAA consider studying the health effects of aircraft noise in the Washington, D.C. region. Between Reagan National and Dulles International Airports, my constituents in Northern Virginia are greatly impacted by aircraft noise. Our office has worked with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to address aircraft noise for our constituents in the past, but inclusion of my amendment, as well as other provisions included in the base text of the bill, will make progress toward reducing aircraft noise for everyday Americans," said Comstock.

Identity Fraud Protections Go Into Effect On July 1

Attorney General Mark R. Herring and the Virginia Department of Taxation are reminding Virginians and Virginia employers about a new measure that goes into effect on July 1 to protect personal information and prevent identity theft and the filing of fraudulent tax returns. Under new legislation passed by the General Assembly, Virginia employers must notify both the affected employee and the Office of the Attorney General if an employee's tax identification number in combination with the income tax withheld for that person has been breached.

"Far too often, employees whose payroll data information is stolen are completely unaware that they're victims of identity theft until it's too late," said Attorney General Mark Herring. "These new measures will safeguard Virginians and their personal information and help limit the damage these criminals are able to inflict."

"Stolen payroll data information too frequently ends up in the hands of fraudsters who file false tax returns using valid taxpayer personal information," notes Tax Commissioner Craig Burns. "This phenomenon is in part responsible for the annual increase in the number of fraudulent refunds denied by Virginia Tax and can make the filing of returns by legitimate

taxpayers whose data was compromised more difficult and time consuming."

Criminals use stolen payroll information to file false tax returns in victims' names, which results in unsuspecting victims being unable to file tax returns with the IRS or their state tax departments, and they must work to clear up the crime and confusion. Tax agencies in turn often unknowingly issue tax refunds to the criminals.

Over the past two years, there has been a rise in the incidence of breaches of W-2 and associated payroll information. In 2016, the Office of the Attorney General received 566 data breach notifications, and in just the first six months of 2017, there have been 455 data breach notifications.

When a business becomes aware of a data breach, it should immediately contact local law enforcement. After determining the Virginia residents impacted by the breach, the business should notify the affected citizens and the Office of the Attorney General without unreasonable delay unless law enforcement says otherwise.

The Office of the Attorney General urges victims of tax fraud and tax identity theft to report the incident to their employer, the IRS, the Virginia Department of Taxation, and their local police department.

The BRL's Pulse On Social Media

What People Are Sharing In Cyberspace

Status Cute Cat



The catnip plant has a substance called nepetalactone. Nepetalactone mimics the scent that aphids put out, which, in turn, attracts things that like to eat aphids, keeping that pest off the catnip plant. Who knew that catnip is not catnip at all ... but aphidnip. Hmmm.

Status Current Events



Fake news, internet hoaxes, website spoofing – you named it and the internet has it. And, then, there is something called “clickbait” – provocative images and headlines designed to boost advertising revenue by getting you to click on something. Here’s one of the silliest. Photo caption: Nothing happens when the woman places the cup over the egg – except instructions on how to make a really good meringue for your lemon meringue pie ...

Status Raktivists Rise



A “ractivist” is a person who practices random acts of kindness. With all of the negative news around, tapping into this very positive spirit isn’t such a bad idea. Here, one kind person left a small amount of cash on a store shelf with a note that read: “To whomever finds this \$. It is a blessing. Meant for you. A gift with no strings attached. Have a great day!”

Send us your ideas for what people are sharing on media. Post your photos and stories (35 words or less + your name) on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeLeader/. Deadline for submissions for our August issue is Monday, July 24.

Get Out Of The Doghouse ... With Two Perfect Summer Foods

– By Andrea Gaines

July 17 is National Get Out of the Doghouse Day. In the spirit of pure whimsy – or maybe just because the summer heat is starting to get to me – I propose that we all assume that sometime this month we will have gotten ourselves into the doghouse with somebody, and need a creative way to get ourselves out.

Experts say that if honesty ... and flowers ... and being good listener ... and getting down on your hands and knees fails to turn the situation around, turn to something else – FOOD! Something sweet. Something savory. Something I-can’t-resist delicious. Two other silly days celebrated in July – National Mac’n Cheese Day, July 14, and National Peach Ice Cream Day, also on July 17 – will help us out here.

Seriously.

If I were mad at someone, and they offered to make me their very own special version of mac’n cheese, followed by homemade peach ice cream, I’d rush into their arms and declare that they were forgiven, forever ... especially if they were using cheese, cream and herbs grown right here in Loudoun County, and they followed the same formula with homemade peach ice cream featuring fresh, ripe fruit from a local farm.

We did a little research, consulted our favorite food experts – including local growers – and came up with these tips and ideas for the perfect Loudoun County version of mac’n cheese and peach ice cream.

We hope you enjoy. In the doghouse or not,

July is the perfect time to enjoy and experiment with these two summer classics.

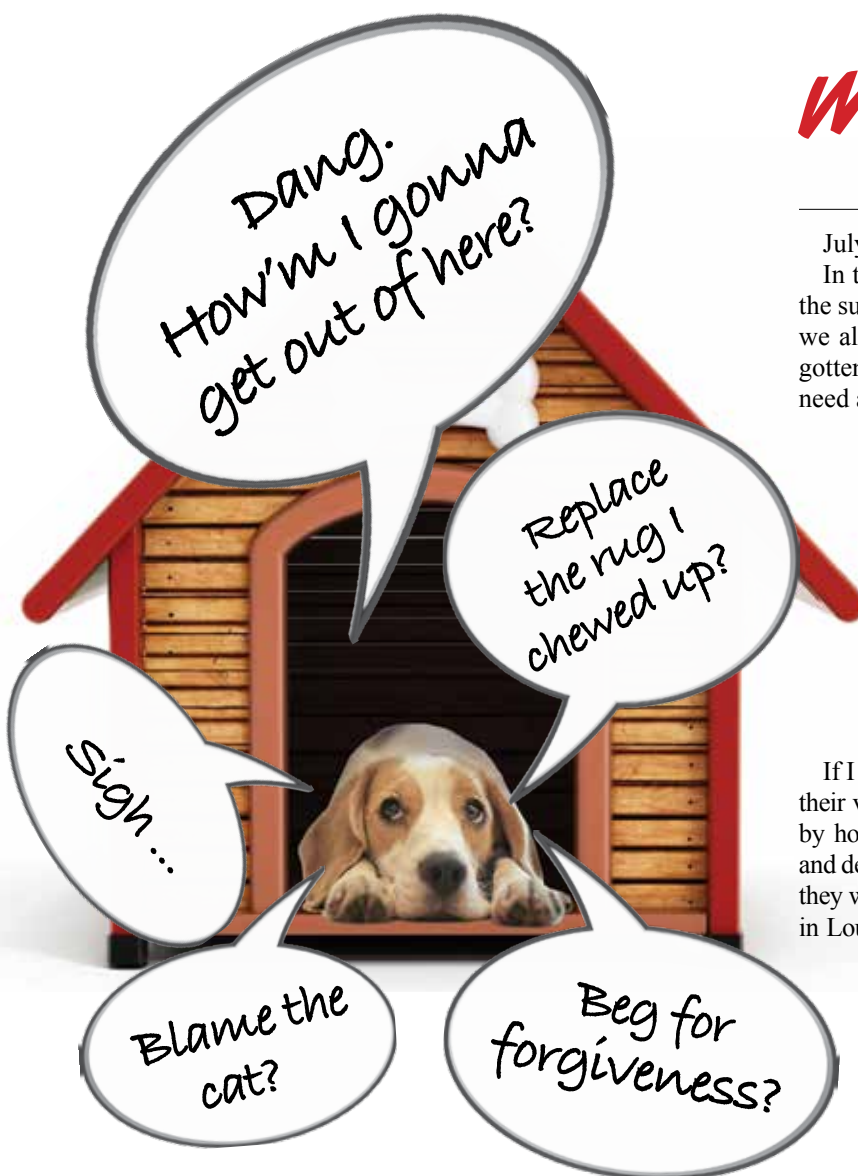
Blue Ridge Mac’n Cheese

- Consider these fundamentals for this cheesy dish:
- Use a high-quality noodle that is meant to “hold on to its cheese.” Our suggestion: cappalletti, little hat shapes that are folded in on themselves.
 - Cook your noodles for just the right amount of time – not too mushy and not too al dente.
 - Use a basic béchamel sauce (flour whisked with butter) as the base for your cheese sauce.
 - Combine a local sharp cheese such as cheddar with a mild cheese such as Monterey Jack.
 - Add a blend of fresh herbs such as basil or tarragon to the sauce before baking. (Parmesan cheese works great as a crusty topping.)

Perfectly Peach Ice Cream

The key to really great peach ice cream is to get the base right, and to make the best use of the natural sugars and flavor present in truly ripe fruit. Some tips:

- Try buttermilk in the base as a substitute for your half & half or cream, or use half buttermilk and half of the dairy you would traditionally use.
- Try using your peaches in three ways – as a cooled puree worked into your base, as cooked, semi-mashed chunks added as the ice cream begins to set, and as uncooked, diced fruit that is folded in at the very end. Adding the appropriate amount of sugar to the base – and lemon and sugar to the fruit – has a role here. Consult your favorite recipe for guidance.



What Loudoun Village Has More Horses Than People?

(Hint ... Hint)

– By Andrea Gaines

Want to have some fun over one of the warm and wonderful weekends sure to visit us in July? Why not take a drive, a bike ride or stroll through one of Loudoun County's charming historic villages?

Dozens of these special places have come and gone in Loudoun's 250+ year history, now little more than an intriguing name on an old map – communities such as Watson, Neersville, Gumspring, Pleasant Valley, Mountsville and Frying Pan. But, many, many remain, and with beautifully preserved features from the past, just as enjoyable today as they were yesterday – from general stores to lunch stops to old cemeteries.

To make things interesting, we've described five communities below, without saying their names. Any one of them would love to host you for a visit, if just to wave and smile as you walk, drive or bike by. Hints are provided. So, why not head out – by whatever transportation method you prefer – see which hints intrigue you, and set your destination?

Destination 1: Here's a hint. This charming place – founded in the 19th Century by Quakers – bears a name that, in French, means "beloved mountain." It has an old-fashioned country store that doubles as a great sandwich place, and features a

working United States Post Office. It is located near the corner of Jeb Stuart Road and another road ... named after a candy bar.

Destination 2: This spectacularly small, spectacularly "colorful" place has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984. Hint: A country fair by the same name has been in existence since 1968. This community's country store boasts about a 100-year-old maple tree under which visitors can "catch up on gossip old and new." You can buy fresh eggs and/or order your own laying hens (really!) from here, too.

Destination 3: In the mid to late 1800s, when this neat little place was settled, the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad made eight stops here every day. Its name has origins in the Ancient Greek term for a man who was considered the doctor to the gods. Hint: you can travel here by bicycle ... very easily.

Destination 4: Early property deeds referred to this place as Butterland (Evidently, at the time, King George's taxes were sometimes collected in pounds of butter vs. coin). This village is very important historically, and is (hint) home to an 8,000-acre Civil War battlefield. Horses like it here. In fact, some say the place has more horses than people.

Destination 5: You can fill up your car

here. And, this place is also home to several really nice art and history venues. But, I like to come here for something much more basic, a simple, down home country diner breakfast. Hint: The owner of the diner loves the country

song "Stand by Your Man." (Name that diner and you'll understand the hint.)

Did you match these descriptions with the place and the photos? (See below.)



Destination 3: Where is this sweet little Post Office located?



Destination 1: This village's firehouse is named after Stanley Lickey, Sr.



Destination 2: This village is the home of the historic Snickersville Academy.



Destination 4: It is said that this place has more horses than people.



Destination 5: Could the Country Classic "Stand By Your Man" have been written here?

LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS

For Seniors with Physical Limitations or Memory Loss



Our licensed adult day centers provide:

- ◆ A safe, social environment with therapeutic activities
- ◆ Respite for caregivers needing support & free time
- ◆ Reasonable sliding scale fees

Offering engaging activities, individualized personal care, nutritious lunch and snacks, exercise, medication administration, health monitoring and limited transportation.
Open weekdays from 7:30AM – 5:30PM.

Purcellville Carver Center (off S. 20th St.) 200 Willie Palmer Way 571-258-3402	Ashburn (off George Washington Blvd.) 45140 Riverside Parkway 571-258-3232	Leesburg (near Leesburg Airport) 16501 Meadowview Ct. 703-771-5334
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Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday

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

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So is our **teaching approach.**



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TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE COMMITTEE, COMMISSION AND BOARD VACANCIES

The Purcellville Town Council is accepting applications and will be conducting open interviews for appointments to fill a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals as well as for possible vacancies on the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Citizens interested in serving on any of the above committees should complete and submit an application along with a letter of interest and/or resume outlining your qualifications by Friday, July 14, 2017. An online application can be found on the Town's website at <http://purcellvilleva.gov/forms.aspx?FID=78> or you may pick up an application at Town Hall during regular business hours.

Information about each of the committees can be found on the Town's website. The Town accepts applications on an ongoing basis for vacancies which might occur in the future on each of our committees.

If you have any questions concerning the vacant positions or the appointment process, please do not hesitate to contact Diana Hays, Town Clerk at dhays@purcellvilleva.gov or by phone at 540-338-7421.



Senior Planner

The Town of Purcellville is seeking an experienced urban planner to join our Community Development Department. This position will engage in a wide variety of urban planning activities ranging from review of site plans, assisting applicants through the planning process, developing ordinances, providing support to the elected bodies and the daily departmental operations.

Candidates should possess a Bachelor's degree in urban planning or related field and a minimum of three years professional planning experience. A Master's degree in a related field may be substituted for one year of required experience. Strong verbal, written and computer skills. Supervisory and/or GIS experience a plus. Must possess strong analytical skills, be able to work in a fast paced environment and have the ability to work both independently and as a team player. AICP certification preferred.

Salary: \$55,000-\$65,000 DOQ

The Town of Purcellville also offers a comprehensive benefit package that includes medical and dental insurance, State VRS retirement and life insurance, a deferred compensation program, paid annual, sick and personal leave and paid holidays.

Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to Sharon Rauch, Human Resources Manager, 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, Virginia 20132. For an application, visit our website at www.purcellvilleva.gov. Position open until filled.

The Town of Purcellville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LaRock, continued from page 7

Savings Account bill will pass someday soon. Governor McAuliffe has vetoed it twice, and Lieutenant Governor Northam has vetoed it once.

Speaking on the pursuit of Happiness, a common and flagrant violation of one's right to pursue happiness is over-taxation and its close cousin, wasteful government spending. Fiscally responsible governance allows the pursuit of happiness by avoiding the taking of the fruit of a person's labor. Too many politicians refuse to acknowledge spending limits, instead accumulating massive debts which violate the basic freedom of current and future generations.

I introduced a bill, modeled after successful initiatives in other states, to curb welfare fraud in Virginia this past session. Passing this into law would assure that public assistance dollars are available to those whose needs are real. Governor McAuliffe vetoed this bill after it passed in the legislature.

Closer to home, I am making every effort to promote awareness of the movement to raise the sales tax in the area served by Metro to fill a huge gap, and of the need to reform Metro business practices. This proposed tax would place a hugely disproportionate burden on Loudoun and should be rejected

Sunflower, continued from page 13

harvest within 60 days – early July in our area. Extremely popular and attractive in supermarkets, roadside stands and farmer's markets, cut sunflowers can fetch anywhere from \$4 to \$6 per stem. And, in many parts of the country, including northern Virginia, sunflowers bloom on and on – close to or right up to Thanksgiving.

And then, there is the striking anatomy of the sunflower.

Part of what is known as the Composite Family, sunflowers are made up of hundreds and hundreds of inflorescences – small flowers that appear to the naked eye to be one large flower. Like many flowers of this type, sunflowers have ray flowers and disc flowers. Ray flowers, or florets, are what you recognize as the long, tapered petals around the face of a sunflower. The disc flowers are the small tube-like structures that make up the face, or

Lady Of The Hops, continued from page 16

it out into the hops yard, instead of relying on scare ground water. Organic farmers like Coryell also need to find innovative ways to keep pests away, and sometimes that means picking off certain bugs and other crop marauders by hand. And, when the crop is ready, it needs to be quickly harvested, dried, ground into pellets, wrapped, vacuum sealed, and frozen, if needed – all in about one day.

The challenges faced by hops farmers, however, don't seem to bother Coryell or Loudoun's other hops pioneers, including Denise and James Rowell of Hamilton Hops, Pete Barker of Ogham Hardwoods, Susan Purcell of Capava Hops, Jim Freeman of Stable Hand Hops, Janelle Zurchmeide of Dirt Farm, Fabioli Cellars, Ralph and

for that reason. While many families may not even notice having to pay more for what they purchase, those who earn less and are on fixed budgets are hurt by tax increases.

Quoting from the Declaration of Independence, "But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." I understand this to mean, as our Founding Fathers and those who have gone before knew well, it is our responsibility to guard our precious freedoms. That is why I serve.

Delegate Dave LaRock was elected in November 2013 to represent 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 31 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.

center. Ray florets cannot reproduce. That's the job of the disc flowers, which, technically and in the case of the sunflower produce thousands of little fruits – or sunflower seed.

And, sunflowers have other superpowers built into their fascinating anatomical features. First, they exhibit a movement known as heliotropism or solar tracking. This is a plant scientist's way of saying that a sunflower's buds and young flowers will face east in the morning as the sun comes up, and change direction to follow the sun as it makes its way across the horizon during the day. Sunflowers are also highly-effective "phytoremediators." Phytoremediators are plants that can remove heavy metals, pesticides, petroleum products and other contaminants from the environment, breaking them down into harmless elements and/or storing them in their own tissues, so they can be disposed of safely. Not so simple after all, that big yellow ray of light. Perhaps, just, simply, beautiful.

Renee of Sage Hill Hops, Chris Griffin at Black Hops, and others.

Coryell – whose grandson and "gran bebe girl" could be the next generation to pick up the hops mantle – says that her new grandson's first words were "hop poles." She is enthusiastic about how small producers like her can enrich the County's rural communities, whatever they raise, tend, or grow.

Author's Note: I meet so many extraordinary people writing for the Blue Ridge Leader, so I must add this. As a follow-up to our interview, Coryell – modest and sweet beyond words – actually apologized for, well, "yacking at you non-stop" were her words. The pleasure is all mine, Marilla. The pleasure is all mine!

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have popcorn and refreshments provided by the Lovettsville Lion's Club. Each concert will have wine from a local winery available to purchase. The lineup is as follows:

- July 8 – Kubo and the 2 Strings
- July 15 - U.S. Navy Band: The Commodores - Creek's Edge Winery

- July 22 – Lego Batman
- July 29 – Lenny Burridge Duo – 8 Chains North
- August 5 – The Sandlot
- August 12 – Flatfoot Sam - Creek's Edge Winery
- August 19 – Beauty and the Beast (2017) !

- August 26 – The band - Southern Charm – Otium Cellars
- Bring a chair or a blanket or two, and invite your friends and family to the Lovettsville Town Green this summer. If you are interested in getting involved, visit signup.com/go/mmTdsOl to sign up.

Full-Day Kindergarten May Get A New Friend

– By Andrea Gaines

The Loudoun County School Board has delayed until August discussions on giving policymakers several new tools to make full-day kindergarten available to more school children. This includes expedited review and decisions on targeted boundary line adjustments to free up classroom space.

Boundary line adjustments, although welcome in certain circumstances based on the new public school classrooms and other resources made available to the students they serve, can also cause major kitchen table disruption for commuting parents, stay-at-home moms and dads and kids themselves.

Loudoun's pounding-at-the-door growth rates produce boundary line adjustments at an above-normal rate. Per the Loudoun County website: "In a fast growing county such as Loudoun, change happens. New schools generate the need for boundary adjustments for school attendance zones. Empty fields are transformed into schools, shops, or a new neighborhood. Roads are widened. Some of the changes have been planned for decades; some only approved in the past year."

Ideas circulating at the School Board on the issue include giving LCPS Superintendent Eric Williams the power to speed up the boundary line adjustment process in select situations. For example, if a new development is causing overcrowding at a particular school, the Superintendent could propose that the affected boundary line be adjusted. For full-day kindergarten programs, the Superintendent would have the option to shift boundaries to make room for the tots in select schools.

LCPS policymakers say that at least five schools in Loudoun will need to turn away full-day kindergarten students unless boundary lines are adjusted, including schools in Leesburg and Ashburn. The possibility of putting in place a sped-up boundary line adjustment process in certain situations does have detractors on the board. But, most believe select new policies are worth discussing.



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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

of pride in giving back. Research has shown that children who grow up doing chores do better in life, socially and academically, than children who do not.

Summer is a great time to teach children about life beyond their needs and themselves. Family volunteer work is a great way to help your children to give back to the community, and to learn to be more grateful for all that they have. Beyond volunteer work, Serve Camp is a great, hands-on camp experience here in Loudoun, where the focus is not on getting, but giving, and how good that can feel. Your boys are old enough to participate in Junior Serve Camp, which should help them to mature emotionally, spiritually, and socially.

Here are a couple links to get you started in helping your children to having a fun, balanced, and unspoiled summer: www.teenservecamp.com and www.loudoun.gov/volunteer.

Dr. Mike,

My fiancé and I have recently moved in together, and I've been frustrated as our families are blending, and our parenting styles are not. I have a 9-year-old son from a previous marriage, and he has an 11-year-old son. My soon-to-be step-son has manners that do not meet my expectations, and are not what I want for my son. He makes crude jokes, and uses bad language. He has poor table manners and generally misbehaves. He lives with his mother most of the time; and my fiancé doesn't want to spend the limited time he has with him correcting and nagging him. My role as "stepmom" is new; but I already see bad habits forming in my son. How can I influence change?
— Frustrated in Loudoun

Dear Frustrated in Loudoun,

I appreciate that you're in a delicate situation, inasmuch as you not only need to maintain your role as mother to your child, but now have to navigate your way through your new blended family dynamic.

As a child psychologist, I frequently see situations of divorced dads (and sometimes divorced moms) focusing more on fun and games during their weekend visitation time, to compensate for the time they missed out on during the week. I also often see situations like yours worsening with a parent overcompensating to ensure the child doesn't feel threatened by the new step-child who has that parent full-time.

Have a frank conversation with your fiancé to share your concerns so that the two of you can agree on the ways in which you will co-parent your two children. If you can be consistent on how you engage, reward, and discipline your boys, you will be off to a great start.

I also encourage you to be sensitive to your soon-to-be step-son, since your presence and involvement in his dad's life could be a contributing factor to the boy's misbehaving. Blended family dynamics and adjustments can be complicated, so it's especially important for adults to be patient.

At 11, your soon-to-be step-son doesn't have the emotional resources to manage the many changes in his life and attendant feelings, which is likely why he is acting-out. I think you need to recognize that your soon-to-be step-son is just a child who is probably still coming to terms with all sorts of things. Even if he enjoys being with you, and your son with his father, I also wouldn't be surprised if he likely feels threatened by you and your son and the time you both get to spend with his father that he doesn't get.

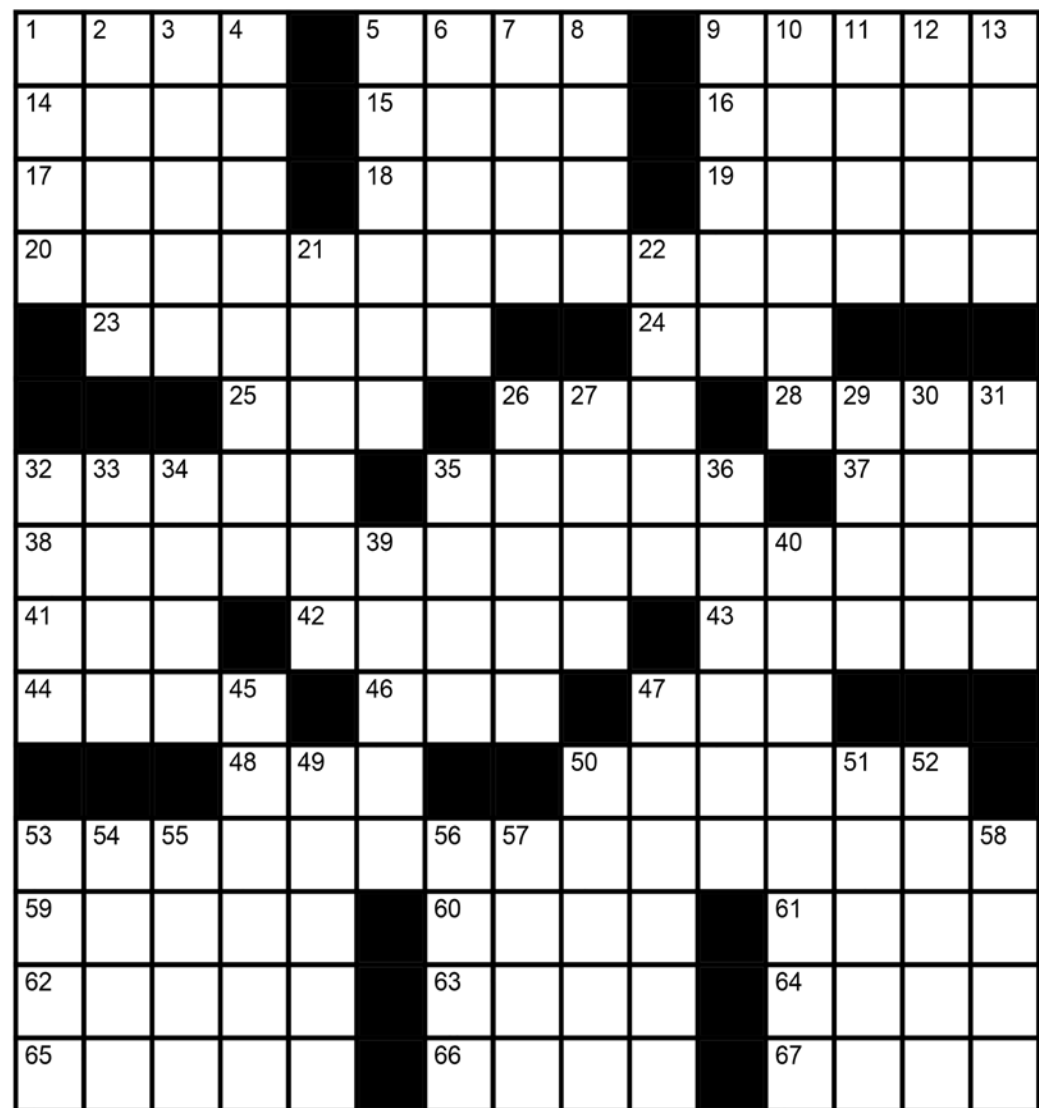
Your current and ongoing adjustment-changes and -dynamics should not impact your parenting approach with your own son, however. You should hold him to the behavior levels and manners you expect.

It's my hope that you'll earn your soon-to-be step-son's trust and respect, which will then allow you to take on a more active and meaningful role in his life. Take plenty of deep breaths, try to be patient, and recognize that remarriage and blended family dynamics can be difficult. If things don't improve, I recommend that you seek out a good family therapist.

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 can be reached at 703-723-2999, and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

Valuable Items

By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

1. Groban or Brolin
5. Like some piano keys
9. Receptacle
14. Celebes buffalo
15. Push
16. Bizet work
17. Foot
18. Get to
19. Orbital point
20. Valuable books
23. Second shot
24. Appoint starter
25. Cable network
26. Kind of hour
28. One of the Pillars of Islam
32. Brown fur
35. Companion of Artemis
37. Go right
38. Valuables
41. Modern address
42. Wretched
43. Afflict
44. Plain
46. Preschoolers?
47. Pitcher, of a sort
48. Self center

50. The bear is its symbol

53. Valuables
59. Certain ridge
60. Big show
61. Bibliog. space saver
62. Fervors
63. Staff leader
64. Final Four game
65. Simplifies
66. Groove made by a cutting tool
67. Catch-22

DOWN

1. Cooler
2. Way to walk
3. Amiens is its capital
4. Commonly used
5. City in Northern California
6. Modern ____
7. Look like a wolf
8. Desideratum
9. Neotropical mammal
10. Snooty
11. Tender in Tijuana
12. Burnett of CNBC
13. "O, gie me the ____ that has acres o' charms": Burns

21. Sampler
22. Mind set?
26. Ordained
27. Mysterious: Var.
29. Census data
30. Prefix with god
31. Witty remark
32. Hightail it
33. Unit of pressure
34. Pot over a fire
35. One of the Ringling Brothers
36. Strip
39. Billiards bounce
40. Most unsteady
45. ____ nut tree
47. Overflow
49. Hypothesis
50. More malodorous
51. Ensepulcher
52. Insect-eating lizard
53. Labyrinth
54. Organic compound
55. Salty septet
56. Eat like a bird
57. Bridge toll unit
58. Berth place

Answers on page 38

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Answers to puzzle from page 34

1	J	2	O	3	S	4	H		5	E	6	B	7	O	8	N		9	C	10	U	11	P	12	E	13	L			
14	A	N	O	A					15	U	R	G	E					16	O	P	E	R	A							
17	I	A	M	B					18	R	I	L	E					19	A	P	S	I	S							
20	L	I	M	I	21	T	E	D	E	D	22	I	T	I	O	N	S													
					23	R	E	T	A	K	E							24	D	I	S									
																		25	U	S	A									
																		26	W	E	E									
																		28	H	A	D	30	J							
32	S	33	T	34	O	A	T										35	O	R	E	A	D			37	G	E	E		
38	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	S	I	T	E	M	S															
41	U	R	L							42	R	A	T	T	Y			43	V	I	S	I	T							
44	D	R	A	B						45							46	R	O	E										
										48	E	G	O					50	R	U	S	S	51	I	52	A				
53	M	54	U	55	S	E	U	M	56	P	57	A	I	N	T	I	N	G	58	S										
59	A	R	E	T	E													60	E	X	P	O				61	E	T	A	L
62	Z	E	A	L	S													63	C	L	E	F				64	S	E	M	I
65	E	A	S	E	S													66	K	E	R	F				67	T	R	A	P

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