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BOS Scraps County Vehicle Decal – Fees Stay

The Town did discuss eliminating the decal but the County Treasurer opposed this and required all vehicles within the County to have a physical decal.

– By Valerie Cury

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in late July to get rid of the required County vehicle decals, keeping the annual \$25 licensing fee. The annual vehicle decal fee, which could increase to \$30, will still remain as a license fee and will be implemented July 1 2018 (FY19). The County will also start the process to take on the tax billing and collection of personal property and real property taxes for the towns of Leesburg, Lovettsville, Hillsboro and Round Hill.

The Town of Purcellville has had a permanent vehicle decal for residents of the Town. In 2008, it was changed from an annual decal to a permanent one. The Town did discuss eliminating the decal but the County Treasurer opposed this and required all vehicles within the County to have a physical decal. If the Town eliminated the decal, the County would have billed for it and kept the revenue for itself. Now that the County

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Purcellville Town Council Meeting July 11

**Protecting Key Assets ...
Paying Down Old Debt**

– By Valerie Cury

Fireman's Field

The Town of Purcellville received four responses as part of a Request for Information process for companies that could manage and preserve all portions of the Fireman's Field Complex. The RFI emphasized, "It is important to note that several members of the Purcellville Town Council and community have expressed a desire that any proposal maintains and/or improves upon many of the existing activities and events as the Town Citizens and greater Purcellville Community view this Fireman's Field and Tabernacle complex as having significant community and historic value."

The four RFI's received were from: Purcellville Teen Center, Inc., Lifeview Real Estate, LLC, Play to Win, LLC, and ECHO (Every Citizens Has Opportunities). Council and staff are working on the next step, the final draft of a Request for

Continued on page 7

"We Love This Town" – Discover Purcellville Giving Back

– By Andrea Gaines

Every time you walk into the Re-Love It Consignment Shoppe in Purcellville – owned and operated by husband and wife team Michael Oaks and Kim Patterson – you see something new. Right now, sandals and breezy dresses abound. And, just in time for these warm-weather fashions, Patterson is promoting the opening of her nearby Top Coat Nail Spa, where customers can complement their summer look with

perfectly manicured hands and feet.

You'll see a similar attention to detail – and the special role a business can play in a community – at the Dominion Tea Tasting Room in Purcellville. Owned and operated by "passionate and informed tea drinkers" David and Hillary Coley, they know how to set the stage for a beautiful Loudoun County moment. "Experience the exquisite flavor of Bai Hao Silver Needles or Dragon Well [tea] ..." urges their website "... before heading off to great wineries, breweries,

restaurants, antique shoppes, and pick your own farms ..."

Importantly, Oaks and Patterson and the Coleys not only work tirelessly to promote their own businesses, they are also the force behind the new non-profit known as Discover Purcellville, a merchants association whose mission is to promote Purcellville itself, to the six million people in the greater DC Metropolitan region.

A few years ago Oaks and Patterson

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SOLD-15 ACRES WITH BANK BARN



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SOLD- 3 ACRES, BARN & ROUND PEN



Williams Gap road listed for \$699,900

ASK DR. MIKE

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

appreciate your opinion on this as a child expert. Help in Loudoun

Dr. Mike,

Our family was recently at a BBQ with close friends and the topic of Trump came up. Most everyone there can't stand him, but a few people were defending him. The discussion became very heated, and while I felt justified in my position that Trump is horrible in so many ways, my husband pointed out that the conversation upset our 4 and 6-year-old daughters. On the car ride home, my older child asked me why I always talk badly about Trump, and my younger one said, "because he's a bad man." I don't have a problem with this, but my husband, who actually voted for Trump thinks that I go too far when I Trump bash and that we need to protect our children from these sorts of topics. What? As a mother of two girls, a wife and a woman, I actually feel very good about telling my girls about how bad Trump is, but now my husband is telling me that I've gone too far by teaching my kids about what's right and wrong? I'd

Dear Help,

I was recently rumbling through some old boxes from my childhood when I discovered a poster presentation that I did in the 5th grade on our 39th president, Jimmy Carter. It respectfully outlined President Carter's life and career accomplishments; from his earlier days within the United States Navy after high school and later work as a Georgia peanut farmer to his political climb from governor to the highest political office in the land. I received an "A+" on the assignment, and I remember fondly how my mother helped me with my research and presentation, and how much the two of us had fun putting it together.

It wasn't until I was older that I learned that my parents were Republicans and that they had actually voted for Ford and not Carter. As a teenager and young man, I recall having great political discussions, sometimes very heated ones, with my mother - I would

Continued on page 34

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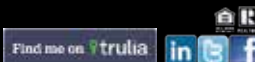
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Gillespie Announces Public Safety Plan In Leesburg Campaign Stop

On July 27 – on the lawn of the courthouse – Virginia gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie released his plan to improve public safety in Virginia, by eradicating gangs, reforming the criminal justice system and rewarding those who serve and protect. Gillespie is the former Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. He was a candidate for the United States Senate in 2014, served as counselor to the President in the Bush Administration from 2007 to 2009 and secured the Republican nomination for the governorship of Virginia in June of this year.

While in Leesburg, Gillespie called for more funding and education for anti-gang efforts, higher pay for law enforcement officers, and the reinstatement of Project Exile. Project Exile is a federal program started in Richmond, Virginia in 1997 to move the prosecution of illegal technical gun offenses to the federal court system, which provides minimum sentences of ten years for specific gun-related crimes. This imposes much stricter sentencing than the Virginia state system.

Gillespie said proper execution of the program would improve public safety, as it did when started in 1997 to curb robbery and murder rates. His platform includes securing funding for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force and a ban on sanctuary cities in Virginia. Funding for



the Witness Protection Programs would be a priority. The Youthful Offender Program expansion is also part of his proposed program as well as ensuring the continuation of school resource officers in schools.

Additionally, his platform includes a review of VITA (the Virginia Information Technologies Agency) and improved cybersecurity, combining this effort with a review of the Commonwealth's Homeland Security Preparedness. Gillespie said he would oppose repealing the state's truth-in-sentencing policies.

John Adams, a former federal prosecutor, who is the Republican candidate for Attorney General emphasized the importance of Project Exile. He said it was an "unbelievable success," with the murder rate dropping drastically in Richmond during its implementation.

Also attending the press conference were, Loudoun Commonwealth Attorney Jim Plowman, former Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, Delegate Randy Minchew (R-10) and supporters.



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A Late Summer Surprise In Aldie

– By Hannah Hager

Fair warning before visiting this exquisite estate — once you cross the threshold it'll be nearly impossible to turn back. It's got everything you could ever need or want and it's done to pristine perfection.

You'll experience the immaculate detail from the first moment in the foyer as a medallion on the tile floor serves as a visual display to the open floor plan culminating in a spiral staircase that leads the eye up past the etched columns to the cathedral ceilings.

No matter whether you're sipping on lemonade in the summer or coffee in the winter, you'll find a cozy place to park it with

your pals. There's no shortage of entertaining space in the formal living room complete with a stone-trimmed, wood-burning fireplace, as it also leads to a quaint sunroom.

The hardwood floors in the private study glisten from the sunlight streaming in through the windows. The atmosphere's the same in the family room, which is offset by another stone fireplace, but chances are you'll spend just as much time in the immaculately appointed kitchen. It's a chef's delight with its deep mahogany cabinets and miles of granite countertop space dotted by stainless steel appliances.

A second solarium brightens up the rear of the home and also happens to overlook



the sparkling, infinity-edge swimming pool in the backyard. Not to be 'overlooked' however, is your private view of the rolling Blue Ridge Mountains while you spend the remaining days of summer taking a dip or lounging on your patio.

Columns, wainscoting, tray ceilings ... the master suite has this and more. Rest assured it will be your personal oasis — whether you're in bed, in the sitting room

Address: 22077 Oatlands Road, Aldie
 Acreage: 26 acres
 Footprint: 9,000 sq. ft.
 Bedrooms: Five bedrooms
 List Price: \$1.75 million
 Agents: Hurst-Hensley,
 Middleburg Real Estate, Atoka Properties
 Phone: Kimberly Hurst 703-932-9651,
 Kim@AtokaProperties.com, Jane Hensley
 571-550-2728, 123JHensley@gmail.com.

or the en suite with his and hers vanities, you'll be nothing short of closed off from the rest of the world. What a treat!

Of course, there's plenty of space for the rest of the family in the remaining four bedrooms and the lower level that is finished off with recessed lighting and the home's third fireplace. Don't let the summer set on this estate.

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Traffic Plagues All of Loudoun ... But Differently

– By Charles Houston

Introduction

Nobody likes traffic. And, since well before the automobile and the construction of modern roads, the pesky phenomena has been studied by engineers, statisticians, psychologists, epidemiologists, environmentalists, philosophers ... and real estate developers.

An easily observable thing, with accurate, hard data, here are some surprising conclusions about one aspect of traffic – induced demand – along with my observations on it from my several decades developing office buildings.

Induced Demand

One aspect of traffic problems is called “induced demand.” It is very real and it affects every part of the county, though in somewhat different ways. So what is it ... and why is it important?

Well, first, eastern Loudoun suffers from another traffic phenomena called “latent demand” – traffic created when people decide to combine trips, to travel at off hours, to take alternate routes, and so on, to avoid congestion. This is important, because study after study has found that almost as soon as new lanes or roads are built to meet latent demand and alleviate congestion, people are induced – encouraged – to get on those roads and fill

them to capacity. Offer people a resource, and if they need it, they take it, even if to shave 30 seconds off a 30-minute commute, or make shopping more convenient. Enter *induced demand*.

Thanks to induced demand, the new capacity that was supposed to turn travel into a magic carpet ride, vanishes. And, sooner rather than later, traffic is worse than it was before. You can see the beginnings of the induced demand phenomenon on Route 7 westbound from Leesburg. More road capacity, leading to more traffic.

Solving this paradox requires out-of-the-box thinking. For example, many studies have found that traffic actually flows better when lanes are removed! Motorists then find alternate routes or establish new driving patterns, and everything works out just fine.

Now, I’m not suggesting that we narrow Loudoun County Parkway or Gloucester Parkway. But, residents, Supervisors and VDOT must start thinking differently.

Too often, new lanes or roads are built to placate voters. That won’t help. What about peak-hour tolls, such as on the Greenway. What about investing in more and better buses headed to Metro. Or, maybe just stop – get realistic – about new residential development.

Hmmm. Stop residential development. How would that work?

Well, again. Inherent in the concept

of induced demand is the realization that people are intelligent. I like that. Their intelligence is demonstrated by an odd fact: Dangerous roads are usually safer. Really. When drivers come across something new or something perceived as dangerous (roundabouts, blind curves, etc.) they show intelligence by slowing down. A great example was Sweden in 1963, when that country switched from driving on the left to driving on the right. Experts projected chaos, but the opposite happened. Drivers paid attention, slowed down, and there were fewer wrecks than before.

How does this relate to Loudoun’s traffic problems? How do we encourage our planners and politicians to think outside the box and to show imagination when thinking about traffic?

Mea Culpa, But, No More

Western Loudoun suffers from a specific form of induced demand: “build it and they will come” traffic.

It’s simple. If you build new roads, widen existing ones or asphalt historic rural lanes, developers will jump to build new subdivisions, which will immediately fill up with the throngs who want to move here.

These new residents will promptly clog the new or improved roads and traffic will be back where we started. Overall, “building it and having them come” also

Continued on page 12

County News Bytes

• Former Detective Sues Sheriff, BOS ...

Law enforcement officer Mark McCaffrey has filed a four-count civil complaint in the Circuit Court for his 2015 dismissal by Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman. The complaint alleges that Chapman failed to reappoint McCaffrey “on the sole basis” that McCaffrey supported a rival candidate for Sheriff during the 2015 election. The suit names the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the County along with Chapman, claiming these parties share responsibility with Chapman as a “local constitutional officer.” McCaffrey seeks \$3.5 million in compensatory damages from all parties, \$2.5 million in punitive damages from Chapman and \$350,000 for state constitutional violations.

• Round Hill Expansion Plan ...

The Town of Round Hill is holding a series of public information meetings on a Boundary Line Adjustment proposal. Round Hill is currently comprised of 236 households. The proposal would impact 1,290+ additional households and properties located in Joint Land Management Areas outside of Town limits, including public facilities such as the Round Hill Center, the Western Loudoun Sheriff’s Station, the site of the future Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department and two future Town parks. Details can be found at www.roundhillva.org/town-of-round-hill-expansion/.

• Short Hill – Tunnels Under Hillsboro? ...

It is a little over one year since AT&T withdrew its application to build a 3.5-acre facility atop Short Hill Mountain. An ongoing FOIA blackout, and repeated nothing-to-see-here statements from AT&T and the County have kept citizens in the dark about the status of the project, including whether underground work – now hidden from view literally and figuratively – relates to the establishment of a data center. Citizens remain concerned that SPAM-2016-0067, now being characterized as work on a “telephone switching station” will ultimately be approved, and could include just about anything, including “tunnels under Hillsboro,” taking the issue out of the public purview, entirely.

• New Envision Loudoun Summaries Available Mid-Aug. ...

The County has targeted Aug. 14 to release to the Stakeholder Committee summaries of the most recent public comments taken as part of the Envision Loudoun process. The public input sessions were held in June and July of this year, supplemented by online comments. The Stakeholder Committee meets twice per month, with upcoming meetings scheduled for Aug. 14, Aug. 15, Sept. 11 and Sept. 25. Detailed schedules and agendas for Envision Loudoun, including Stakeholder Meetings can be found at www.loudoun.gov and www.envisionloudoun.org.

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Decal, continued from page 1

has eliminated the decal requirement, the Town of Purcellville can pursue eliminating it as well.

At the BOS July 11 Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee Meeting, Supervisor Ralph M. Buona (R-Ashburn) said, “I would not want to be on the Purcellville Town Council because when their residents figure out they are the only people in the County with a decal on their windshield they are coming out with pitchforks. I would.”

Supervisor Tony R. Buffington Jr. (R-Blue Ridge) referring to the Town decal said, “I am getting ready to move to the Town of Purcellville and I am already upset about it.”

All Town residents receive tax bills from both the County and their respective Town and have different due dates. Commissioner of the Revenue, Robert S. Wertz Jr., said that the adoption process would require a uniform process and procedures by the Towns. For the participating Towns, their residents will receive one bill for both the County and Town taxes.

One Tax Bill

For the County to take over the tax billing for the Towns legislation would have to pass the General Assembly, specific to Loudoun County, to allow the County to implement the new billing system. Currently, no other jurisdiction in Virginia does this. A Memorandum of

Understanding between the Towns would have to be negotiated as well.

County Treasurer H. Roger Zurn, said, “This will be a major undertaking.” The County would incur expenses to implement the program and the Towns would pay an annual fee for the billing service of 1 percent, 1.25 percent, or it could potentially go higher – as indicated in the July 11 Board business meeting.

Clark Case, Director of Finance and Administrative Services for the Town of Leesburg, said that the County taking over Leesburg’s billing would save the Town money and it is efficient. This was echoed by Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance. Round Hill Mayor Scott Ramsey said that he would like to wait and see. He wanted to make sure the agreement has safeguards, a back-out clause and a guarantee on the cost.

The Town of Purcellville made a large investment in Munis software several years ago. One of the tax modules included a \$50,000 financial software that may provide tax efficiencies to billing. Several members of the Town Council wanted to see what savings could be gained from this new software system and observe the success of the County consolidation before making that leap. Also, the Town provides customer service to its residents and if the County were to take over the Town’s billing Purcellville residents would have to go to the County with questions or visit a County office.



Town Council Meeting, continued from page 1

Proposal.

Fireman's Field is located at 250 South Nursery Avenue, and is 15.89 acres. It includes the Bush Tabernacle/Skating Rink (on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places), Fireman's Field Stadium and Ballfield, Haske Field and T-Ball Field, Dillon's Woods Park (with gazebo and pavilion), and parking lot. The property is in permanent conservation easement (with the exception of Haske Field and the T-Ball Field) with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The Town Council is looking for a firm to operate and manage the complex "with the purpose of generating public revenue for the citizens of the Town while fully and in perpetuity preserving the character and Town ownership of the entire property."

Why The Change?

The total investment in Fireman's Field has been \$6,037,457, with a current debt profile of \$3.8 Million in principle and interest. The current cash payoff of the entire balance of the Parks & Recreation portion of the Build America Bonds is \$2.1 million. The current yearly debt payment is \$284,245 with a final payoff in 2037 with a balloon payment in 2021 of approximately \$1.8 million.

There is also ongoing upkeep to the property – such as replacing the floor of the Bush Tabernacle/Skating Rink – general upgrades to the complex, and tree care and landscaping.

Former Mayor Bob Lazaro weighed in on the issue, disagreeing with the Council's outside management strategy and saying in a social media post that privatizing Fireman's Field is "not a good thing for the youth of our community." Said Lazaro, "It is a win-win now with all the majority of

improvements paid off in 2021 [referring to the balloon payment]."

But, according to Council, the way the current debt is structured, limits the amount of revenue the Town can generate – while restructuring it will give the Town more financial flexibility.

In 2013, the Lazor Council restructured the debt on Fireman's Field (and other properties,) limiting the Town's ability to generate revenue due to IRS-imposed private use restrictions associated with the tax-exempt nature of the debt.

The current Council recognizes the need to remove the restrictions to allow the Town broader opportunities to generate additional revenue. One of the positive outcomes would be to reduce/eliminate the current Fireman's Field tax.

Since the Town has a sufficient fund balance to pay off the balloon payment on the Build American Bond for Fireman's Field debt, this would allow the Town to restructure the remaining debt over a 15- to 20-year payment process, reducing annual debt service payments by approximately 50 percent with a debt conversion that is break even.

Said Council Member Kelli Grim, "Currently we are in a very negative situation that we are working to improve. We have a valuable treasure that has the potential to be an income-producing asset. It has not been well maintained as much as it could be. The way it was packaged in our debt financing was not wise. We need to be revenue positive. We have a floor at the skating rink that needs to be replaced and the cost is on us. Previous Council raised the citizen's taxes by 17 percent. We are moving in the right direction."

Council Member Ryan Cool said that the four words that the Council is talking about are, "preserve, maintain, enhance and revenue." Cool put an emphasis on

enhance because he said the property needs enhancements, such as new scoreboards and bleachers. Noise abatement needs to be addressed as well as traffic, he said. Cool also emphasized that anything currently booked at the skating rink would not be cancelled. Council Member Karen Jimmerson echoed, "We will honor all commitments." When reached for comment, Jimmerson stated, "The majority of users of Fireman's Field are County residents who don't pay the tax to maintain and pay the debt therefore to minimize the debt burden on town residents we must be more creative. The County was unable to provide us revenue information they receive from the various sports organizations that use the facility. We owe it to residents to take back full control and still maintain the services and access to these facilities for all."

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "I keep on hearing little dollars. This is not little dollars. This is taxpayer's money. Today our taxpayers are paying 3½ cents per \$100 of assessed value on the property, just so we can maintain Fireman's Field and the Tabernacle. We have a debt burden on that field and facility that the taxpayers are paying.

The police station is 4,318 square feet. We are paying \$118,000 a year for 4,318 square feet and that is \$27.43 per square feet.

The Capital One Bank is 3,089 square feet and they are asking \$12,000 per month. That is \$46.62 per square feet.

The Tabernacle, where we put \$3 million investment [renovations] over a 9-year period – that is an 8,500-square foot facility – the rent that we are getting on it is \$31,200 a year. That amounts to \$3.65 per square feet. For me to look at the citizens and say you have this prime real estate asset and you are charging \$3.65 per square foot – I can't sleep at night knowing that. That's not fiscally responsible or prudent." The most recent IRS 990 form

for the current management company of the Bush Tabernacle shows gross receipts of \$287,780.

The Town's Aberdeen Property

The Town Council will also be looking to use outside management for the Town-owned 189- acre Aberdeen property on Short Hill Road. It was purchased in 2009 for \$2.19 million and includes two wells, two homes and a small barn. There has been no activity on the property since the purchase and the two wells are not connected to the water plant.

Said Council Member Nedim Ogelman, "We want to release the restrictions that hinder revenue on the Aberdeen property ... We have shifted from grow the government and search for tap fees, to looking for ways to be more efficient in our government and in trying to look for opportunities and monetizing some of our assets. We are always balancing a budget that doesn't depend on developers, but is dependent more on the Town's other assets. That is exactly what we are addressing ... The narrative of growth being the only solution to respond to those kind of issues is narrow."

Cool said, "There's been some talk recently about some not sound financial practices and approaches the Town has taken." He asked the representative from Davenport [financial consultants] if his company felt that "what has been presented here is sound financial practices and will it put the Town in a good position." The consultant's answer was "Yes, we do." Cool asked if Davenport thought the Town was marching from solvency to insolvency, and, he asked, is the Town financially strong? "Yes," he replied, the Town is financially strong and "solvency is something the credit agencies watch very closely ... actions the Council is contemplating ... are "financially reasonable."

Letter To The Editor – Fight Pay For Pave

Fight Pay For Pave Save Philomont's Greggsville Road

Dear Editor:

Neighbors and lovers of western Loudoun are urging all to stand and fight: There is still time to prevent Greggsville Road's south side (between Jeb Stuart and North Fork) from being paved.

Supervisor Tony Buffington is the only one who can tell VDOT NOT to pave.

Here's what you can do: Call, call, call Supervisor Buffington's office and ask to

speaking directly to his chief of staff, Shevaun Hochstetler at 571-258-3748. Call the office at 703-777-0210. Email, email, email Supervisor Buffington at Tony.Buffington@loudoun.gov. Make him hear us.

Here are key points to make: Citizens demand a Philomont community meeting with Supervisor Buffington. We feel his office has ignored our emails and calls requesting a meeting. Paving can still be stopped.

In June 2017, 80 percent of the residents of the south side of Greggsville Rd. (largely agricultural properties comprising 250 acres) signed a petition against paving.

Paving destroys the rural landscape – leveling, straightening, grading, taking down trees, increasing erosion and otherwise taking the rustic character out of our rural roads. Save our rural landscape from those who are trying to suburbanize it.

Paving makes roads less safe. Road safety is critical. Speeds will double on the straight, widened and flattened road. Protect your neighbors who live on the road and the many walkers, horse and bicycle riders who enjoy it.

Bit-by-bit paving fragments the rural landscape and promotes traffic speeds

inappropriate to western Loudoun's farms and small villages.

This paving project is unfair. A subdivision resident with a Greggsville address has donated \$163,800 to Senator Dick Black, who earmarked state funds to pave Greggsville. Don't let this kind of political corruption drown out our voices. Send a message that money isn't all that "talks."

Save Greggsville Road and Fight Pay for Pave ... now.

*Madeline Skinner
Philomont*

I Don't Want To Say Goodbye To Summer (Or Zucchini, Or Bad Jokes, Or Fairies Or Marshmallows)

- By Andrea Gaines

As we look ahead to the long, hot, thunderstorm-prone days of August, we can also look forward to some very inventive, very weird National Day Celebrations.

Last month we tempted our readers with the perfectly ridiculous irrelevance of National Get Out Of The Doghouse Day, which was celebrated by our great country on July 17.

This month we have four equally silly days for you to consider adding to your appointment calendar: August 8, National Sneak A Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's



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"Zucchini. Bad Jokes. The Tooth Fairy. S'mores.

I like to think that celebrating one of these days could be a way, not just to show how educated you are about this silly thing called National Days of Celebration, but as a way to mark the moment, and make the point, that what is really on your mind is that you really don't want to say goodbye to summer. At least not yet."

Porch Day, August 16, National Tell A Joke Day, August 22, National Tooth Fairy Day, and rounding out the month on August 30, National Toasted Marshmallow Day.

Zucchini. Bad Jokes. The Tooth Fairy. S'mores. I like to think that celebrating one of these days could be a way, not just to show how educated you are about this silly thing called National Days of Celebration, but as a way to mark the moment, and make the point, that what is really on your mind is that you really don't want to say goodbye to summer. At least not yet.

You have run out of ways to give away the zucchini that is taking over your garden. Some people appreciated your gift. Some people asked what the heck you suggest they do with it.

You have heard your child tell that bad summer school joke ... again, and again, and again. Still not funny, but you pretend it is hysterical!

Little teeth have been lost - sometimes when they were meant to fall out, and sometimes, not.

And, marshmallows have been roasted and savored, with melted chocolate and graham crackers.

Looked at this way, the National Days of Celebration that take place in August sure do sound like the perfect way to mark the last days of summer.

Throw a party to include a Zucchini Contest. I'll leave the details up to you. Maybe the loser is forced to take everyone else's extra zucchini off their hands ... forever.

Have the kids in attendance describe what the tooth fairy really looks like. (Has anyone actually seen a Tooth Fairy?)

At your next August gathering, tell your absolute worst jokes, over and over. There is no more memorable laughter than that which follows a bad joke.

And, finally, stoke up that fire pit or campfire. Share your most creative s'mores recipes. And, imagine how good they would taste with homemade cinnamon, chocolate or vanilla ice cream.

Savor these last days of summer. And, cheers!

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and we're continuing to have strong showings now that summer schedules allow buyers the time to spend more time exploring the market for their dream home. If you've considered selling, let's see if we can match your property with the right purchaser. Contact us for a no-obligation, free consultation about highlighting your home in the current real estate marketplace.



Stately home on 26 ac with pool and views, just south of Leesburg, \$1,750,000



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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life

Creating The Financial Plan For Those With Dementia

- By Amy and Dan Smith

To help guide you through the process, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

AgeLab developed a five-topic framework to discuss financial planning and Alzheimer's disease.

These five topics cover distinct financial-management issues and caregiving plans. Ideally, you will have these conversations with your loved one and that person's financial advisor in the mild decline state of Alzheimer's, or even before the diagnosis. If the disease has progressed beyond this period, you – or the designated power of attorney – may need to have these discussions solely with the advisor. It is important for your and the advisor to understand the source and destination of your loved one's finances so you can help when the individual may no longer be able to communicate his or her wishes.

Assets

The first thing to do when meeting with a financial advisor is to ensure he or she has a complete view of your loved one's assets and how they are managed. The advisor should also clearly understand your loved one's real estate situation, especially with



respect to home ownership.

Many older adults incorrectly believe Medicare will cover their long-term care expenses. In reality, Medicare covers care in a skilled nursing facility only for the first 100 days, so people often need Medicaid to cover long-term care costs.

Income and Insurance

After reviewing assets, the focus should shift to your loved one's income status and insurance policies. You and the advisor should work with your loved one to identify all existing income sources, including benefits, where more income could be generated – such as disability payments, Social Security, annuities, and pensions – and how these payments could be affected by other changes in family circumstances such as the death of a spouse.

Also, review your loved one's insurance plans to ensure they fit current and future needs and discuss whether additional policies should be considered to fill in coverage gaps.

Intentions

It is imperative to understand your loved one's wishes and how to ensure they are fulfilled. This can involve legal arrangements that people with dementia can make with their families.

These arrangements include where your loved one wants to live as the disease progresses, how the person wants care

to be managed and delivered, and how the individual wants to ensure his or her finances will be safe.

It is difficult for most people to think about disease progression, but talking about this early after diagnosis, in the mild stage of cognitive decline, can help you and other family members learn your loved one's wishes and help reduce stress later.

Banking Administration

As your loved one's financial skills erode, he or she will need more help managing day-to-day financial affairs, including tracking expenses and paying bills. Though you may have taken over these responsibilities, you should allow the financial advisor to help ensure your loved one's banking and fiscal responsibilities are being met, both practically (e.g., bills are being paid on time) and legally.

Care Management

Finally, you and your loved one must discuss how to finance and facilitate care, especially when the disease progresses and caregiving demands intensify. You should talk with your loved one about his or her preference for long-term care (e.g., in-home care, nursing care, assisted living, etc.) and how to pay for it.

Your loved one may be involved in these decisions in the mild stage of cognitive decline; however, you may need to work directly with the advisor if the disease has

advanced to the point where the person can no longer participate in discussions.

Being a caregiver can be overwhelming, and the stress associated with this critical role can make it difficult to take action. Transamerica's Caregiver's Guide to Financial Planning in the Shadow of Dementia, written in collaboration with the MIT AgeLab, was created to help you feel confident when making decisions for, or with, a loved one living with dementia. Work with your financial advisor before taking final action.

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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Downey Mill Ruins

– By Tim Jon

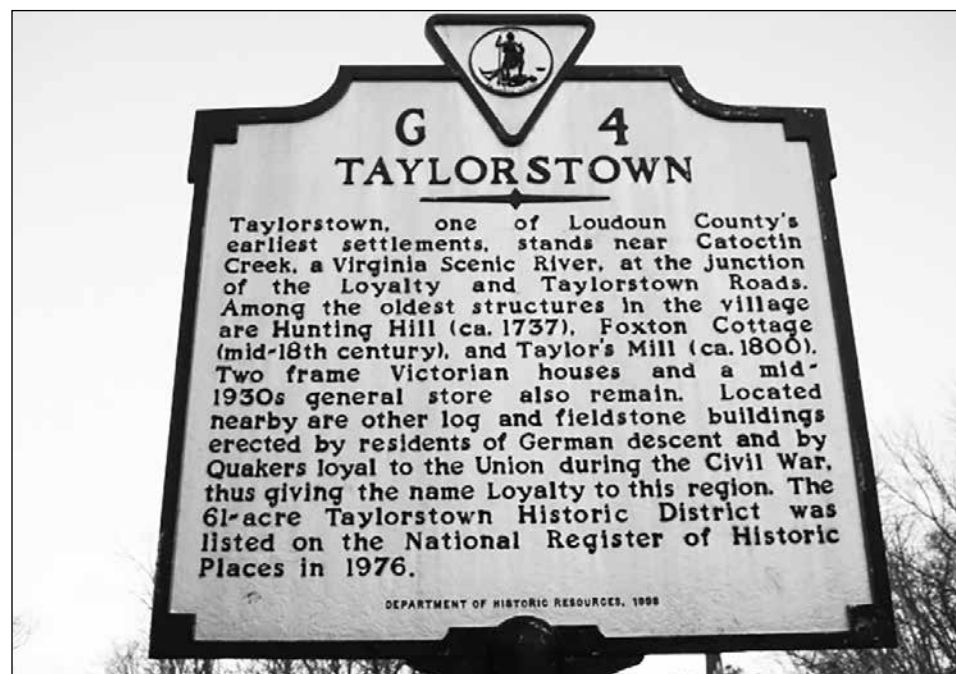


TIM JON

I have to thank my buddy, Stu for this one; he suggested I take an early-morning drive up to an interesting site toward the northern edge of the County; it turned out to be well worth the trip – it was just the kind of brooding, moody (if not downright somber) historic place in which I like to ‘find myself’ from time to time. I’m not even sure if I’d ever heard prior reference to the Downey Mill Ruins at Taylorstown; the formidable stone walls were quite visible from the primitive road bearing the same name – what remained of the original structure looked large enough (to me) to almost have been a fort in long-ago Colonial days.

A pre-dawn chill helped form a mist over the adjacent Catoclin Creek, and those huge, stone walls seemed to be giving me a cold shoulder as I walked among them; moss-covered timbers lay strewn about like discarded matchsticks in the scale of this setting: no mere tinker-toys around here. And – recalling the morning’s events I’m sure that my drive through the Village of Waterford and the intervening countryside helped to create the journey and destination effect so often produced in some of my favorite Loudoun County experiences. I’m convinced that the trip can inform the event itself – in sort of a chemical, emotional process.

Now, before you jump in your car and head all the way up here, I feel a need to stress that, if you’re expecting a well-preserved, easily-recognizable mill



structure – you’re far better off going in the opposite direction and visiting the well-kept Aldie Mill down on Route 50 – of which I’ve previously written. No – the Downey Mill ruins are just that- the remaining walls give testament to the combined strength of stone and mortar – but the inevitable decay of the wooden components have gone the way of time, water and gravity. But the ruins won’t be ruined for some time – at least not entirely; all else being equal, I’d wager they’ll still be around for a few more generations – maybe much longer.

This having been my first visit – and – probably owing to the time and temperature – I had no company during my inspection; I found myself wondering, though – how many (even long-time locals) know of the

place, or stop by for a look. I always feel an urge to keep some of these really evocative sites all to myself (as if I could!), yet I’m, at the same time, tempted to ‘market’ their attractions.

I’m struck – as well – that this particular site made such a deep impression on me, while offering scant factual information about itself; I’m not the historian to put together the nuts and bolts story of the ownership, construction, practical use, possible transfers of management and possession, and final demise of this once (obviously) thriving enterprise. And that may be just as well; this little plot of land adjacent to Catoclin Creek evidently saw a great deal of activity during some very turbulent times for our County and Country; the Civil War

(and quite possibly Revolutionary times, as Taylorstown formed prior to the official birth of our Nation), days of slavery and the Reconstruction.

But whatever times of trouble and strife occurred within (or without) the walls of the former structure, the place appears – to me – to have found a great sense of peace in its current state of slumber; the Great Depression, two World Wars and other global crises have not – to my finding – upset its restful sleep. Today’s residents along Downey Mill Road and the surrounding community of Taylorstown are evidently benevolent neighbors to this crumbling skeleton; the only damage I found amid the ruins came from Mother Nature’s elements, and Father Time. And even their process seems patient and slow, as if savoring the energy still available at this one-of-a-kind site.

The structure enjoys good company amid the Village fixtures, as well: over 60 acres of the Historic District bear status with the National Register of Historic Places, two of the oldest private homes in Loudoun County stand just up the street (would you believe the early 1700’s?), the Taylorstown General Store remains at the corner of Loyalty and Taylorstown Roads, and another Mill – constructed in the early days of our country by one Thomas Taylor (and bearing his name) still serves as a residence and familiar local landmark. So – at least in this little Northern Virginia community – much of what has come before is still with us – at least in partial evidence.

So, thanks, Stu; I guess even (some) mail carriers have pretty good taste.

Traffic, continued from page 6

has enormous impacts and societal costs.

For example, the Brookings Institution said this about Atlanta, Georgia’s growth and resulting traffic: “Farmland and forests have been replaced by asphalt and subdivisions ... along with environmental degradation.” This was the result of decades of public decisions to grow as much and as fast as possible, a sentiment shared by both its public officials and citizens. And, by developers – developers like me – at the time.

There was strong, upper-middle class housing demand directly north of Atlanta. The area’s main road, US 19, had been the travel route for locals, then a series of commercial strips for the surrounding subdivisions and finally a very congested “thoroughfare” for commuters heading to the city. Given Atlanta’s love affair with growth, the obvious answer was to build a new expressway, Georgia 400, which it did in 1971. They built it and it was quickly filled with cars. So many that GA 400 was widened in 1989, and then doubled in width in 2005. Still more people

came. The highway is 20 percent more heavily travelled than the Dulles Toll Road. And, now there’s serious talk about building a new expressway parallel to it.

I was partially to blame.

As soon as GA 400’s alignment was set, our commercial development firm tied up key intersections and lined up corporate tenants. At one intersection we built one of AT&T’s largest office campuses. The next interchange became home to Kimberly-Clark’s largest campus – about like Westfields, for those of you who know Route 28. Next came a project for HBO, and finally the crown jewel: The world headquarters for UPS. To the north, a related company opened a regional mall, and by no means were we the only developer in on the bonanza.

The GA 400 market has more office space than Tysons and Reston combined, in an area just a little bit larger. Those millions of square feet of offices drew about 140,000 employees, most of whom wanted to live near work. Government built the road, we developers built the commercial projects, and workers moved into the

area by the tens of thousands. And, they all drove. Today, that part of Atlanta is quite like Loudoun: About the same total population, the same average price of a home, the same density of subdivisions, but with even more traffic.

North Atlanta’s experience proves that by encouraging growth, on purpose or by activating latent demand, Loudoun’s problems can get much, much worse. Folks in eastern Loudoun should be especially worried.

Atlanta was not constrained geographically. No ocean, no everglades or bayous, no mountains ... nothing but pine trees and uninspiring farmland stretching for miles in every direction. That’s not the case here. Loudoun is constrained by the mountains to the west and river to the east and north, so that puts developers’ eyes on the beautiful and historic rural country side of western Loudoun.

Atlanta never had such an asset to protect; we do.

Western Loudoun already has latent demand in the subdivisions already there, as well as latent demand from West Virginians. Adding lanes to Route 7 or Route 9, or paving or widening the rural

road network won’t help; anything newly built will promptly be consumed by existing *latent* demand that morphs into clogging traffic – and induced demand.

I dread the tsunami of people who want to move here. We can help them do that by building new roads and rezoning more farmland, but why on earth would we ever want to do that?

This is no longer a traffic issue but a political one. How big do we want the county to be? It was already too big in 2007 when voters tossed out a pro-growth Board of Supervisors, and Loudoun’s a lot bigger now. I hope voter anger has grown proportionately.

The sixteenth century scientist-philosopher Blaise Pascal, observing Paris’ congestion of horse-drawn carts and carriages, had the simplest answer, “Stay home.” I hope the Board has a similar message to the explosive growth we can’t sustain and the asphalt arteries that sustain it: “Stay away.”

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

The Importance Of Reading

– By **Mary Rose Lunde**

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” This is the first sentence of the classic novel *Pride and Prejudice*. If you didn’t recognize it, it’s probably because you either didn’t read the book, or the last time you read it was because of high school. And let’s be real: you used Spark notes, and only read the book because it was mandatory to pass. Unfortunately, this is true for a majority of Americans who have not picked up a book to read unless someone has told them they had to.

Many Americans do not take advantage of the gift of reading, and choose to spend their time elsewhere. Since they were little children, reading has been tasked as a chore, and as just something to do for school. It isn’t until high school when things become more interesting, and the classics are introduced. But since many students grow up hating to read, they are not intrigued.

They say the first line of a book is the one that either draws you in or pulls you away. Well, I say that it is also the way that the world works when it comes to reading. If someone isn’t introduced to reading with a book noteworthy enough to be remembered, then that person will not continue to read, and often will not respect reading.

When students enter high school, they are often more intrigued by all the science and math or history, than books written decades before they were born. They are reading whatever the current trend is in books. (When



LUNDE

I was in high school dystopian novels (*Divergent*, *Hunger Games*, etc.) were all the rage along with plots of half-bloods, vampires, and werewolves.) They aren’t interested in what happened in the past, and the marks of feminism in an Austen novel. All they want is to be current, and to focus on their “more important” subjects that they believe will matter in their college careers.

It is sad, because they don’t understand that reading is vital to everything that they will be doing in college. In honesty, you can’t succeed in your studies without successfully being able to read what a sentence is talking about. All majors in college require reading and being able to understand what is being said in a textbook.

Reading is important because it helps you succeed in life. It involves all of the subjects, and should be appreciated and thought of as fun, rather than a chore. It teaches you about the past, structures the world, explains theories, and academic papers. There are so many reasons why reading needs to be prioritized and appreciated.

It is not the lack of books that causes the lack of reading. There are plenty of books for all to find something they’re interested in. It is because reading isn’t prioritized or as respected as other subjects. Reading needs to be encouraged as a pleasure, rather than made a mandatory chore. Reading is the way to success. Perhaps it is time for us to start reading.

Mary Rose Lunde loves reading, and is starting her Masters in Literature at Virginia Tech.



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Perfect Timing

– By Valerie Cury

Time passes, and is oft forgot ... even by a clock. Purcellville's well-known four-faced clock on 21st Street, next to the train station, is now working thanks to a team including one Purcellville area resident with a good deal of mechanical – and never-give-up attitude.

The stately antique-style timepiece was purchased by the Purcellville Preservation Association (currently known as Purcellville Historical Association) in 2005 and given to the Brownell family in recognition of Brownell's contributions to the downtown area. This timepiece was put on property owned by Bruce Brownell's management company, Western Loudoun Development, LLC which is operated by Jason Brownell and his sister Kelly Howard.

"Over the years, The Town has received many complaints and concerns as to why the Town would not keep this clock properly operational," according to a Purcellville June 28, 2016 Town staff report. The clock has not been gifted to the Town of Purcellville and is currently owned by Jason Brownell. The memo gave options from \$2,000 to \$18,000 to either replace the clock, remove the four faces, fix it or move the clock to another location.

Enter long-time Purcellville area resident Joe LaFiandra. He has always loved that landmark clock – working or not. He recently spoke to Mayor Kwasi Fraser because he thought he could get it working. LaFiandra has a degree in electrical engineering and has worked on the design and production of electronic equipment for over 40 years.

"I wanted to take a shot at fixing this clock that has not been in working order



L to r: Jackie Miller and Joe LaFiandra.

for many years," said LaFiandra. "The clock is a prominent feature on 21st Street and it would be nice to see it working. I approached Mayor Fraser with the idea, and he said it would be worth trying." LaFiandra, who donated his time on this project, started work in June.

The clock's controller had already been replaced. LaFiandra ran some tests on the controller. The purpose of the controller is to send the signal to move the clock hands, keep accurate time, and compensate for power loss and daylight savings changes.

The tests showed up as normal, so LaFiandra had to gather more information on the clock, since he had only an incomplete parts list and wiring diagram. The original manufacturer, The Fancy Street Clock and Light Company, was no longer in business, requiring LaFiandra to determine if there was a failure in either the clock mechanism, in the wiring or a



Photos by Sarah Huntington
L to r: Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Joe LaFiandra, Jackie Miller and Chad Sager with RCD, Inc. Electrical Services.



Chad Sager with RCD, Inc. Electrical Services

problem with the new controller.

LaFiandra studied the manual and contacted the representative of the manufacturer of the controller, and worked through its trouble shooting procedure. "I went through the whole program which took several days and realized that the controller wasn't activated to send the signal to the clock," he said. "Essentially, it wasn't programmed properly."

In the end, LaFiandra reprogrammed the controller to send the signal to the clock. "This may sound easy," he noted, but he

had to make sure the entire system was working as a whole. He connected the controller and "bingo!" the hands started moving. All the hands were moving except they were not keeping the same time due to the long inactivity.

The next challenge was to get the hands working simultaneously – a feat that was accomplished with the assistance of RCD, Inc. Electrical Services in late July. Said Mayor Fraser, "I would like to announce that the Brownell Memorial Clock located at the Purcellville Train Station is now working. A team led by Joe LaFiandra and with the assistance of Town staff members Bob Dryden and Sean Gray, have restored the clock to an operating condition."

Fraser continued: "This effort was accomplished without any additional cost to the Town. Further work has to be done to correct the clock lighting. Jackie Miller of RCD, Inc. Electrical Services in Purcellville has also volunteered his time and expertise in the restoration of the clock."

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August Love For Lawns And Trees



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watering.

– By Paul Arbogast

Our lawns and trees have given us love all summer. It's now time to give some of that lovin' back, and prepare both for a safe winter and a great spring.

So, while you enjoy Summer 2017's last warm days, do some planning. Up to 45 percent of your property's value lies in its outdoor green areas, and mature trees and a well-landscaped yard can increase the value of a home by up to 20 percent. They need your help in the fall.

TLC For Lawns ...

- The ideal time to fertilize your well-established lawn is in early fall. Deep fall fertilizing will allow your grass to draw on the nutrients it needs all winter lawn ... and make you the envy of your neighbors come spring. **Tip:** "TLC" is also the brand name of a fertilizer produced by the Town of Leesburg as a by-product of sewage treatment. I highly recommend it. Slow release. Won't burn. Really good.
- Between now and late September is also the perfect time to establish new lawns and fix bare patches. **Tip:** In the fall, germinating seeds grow fast with the continued warm weather, and have less competition from weeds trying to do the same thing.
- Aerating your lawn – now, while you seed and fertilize – is a time-tested way to help grass recover from hot weather stresses. This lets oxygen, seed and fertilizer penetrate deep into your lawn, fostering a root system best-equipped to protect it from heat stress and cold. **Tip:** Never fertilize and lime at same time, as lime takes nitrogen out of your soil.

TLC for trees ...

- **Watering.** Trees and shrubs need a regular spring, summer, and fall watering regimen that reaches deep into their roots. **Tip:** Young tree and shrubs, in particular, desperately need regular watering, even now.
- **And, More Watering.** Dry spells really tax trees, so you may notice that

your deciduous trees – maples, birches, dogwoods, etc. – will lose their leaves early this fall. In preparation for winter, trees stop photosynthesis and conserve water, turning from green to yellow, orange and red and shedding their greenery. Water now to prevent late summer tree damage, but, ease off when your maples, birches, dogwoods, etc. are in full leaf-shedding mode. **Tip:** Evergreens, which must support their greenery all year long, need really thorough fall watering – right up until the ground freezes.

- **Planting.** Late summer and early fall is a great time to plant balled, burlapped and container-grown trees, as soil temperatures are perfect for root growth. **Tip:** Think now about the evergreens you might want to bring in, and plant them by early October. Deciduous trees can be planted up until mid-November.
- **Winter Friends.** Now it's time to bring in a winter tree's three best friends: pruning, cabling and bracing. Pruning frees your tree of broken/rotting branches so it can better protect itself from the weather to come. Cabling and bracing reduces the stress that can result from high winds, ice and snow. **Tip:** Check your trees now for stubs and other signs of old damage to prevent rot from reaching into the trunk of the tree.

Ok. That's it! Go back to your summer lounging now, and contact me if I can be of any assistance – Paul.

Paul Arbogast of Arbogast Lawn and Tree, Inc. started his business in 1994. He does tree trimming, stump grinding, tree removal and tree planting. Three generations of the Arbogast family work together, and pride themselves as being the "good, honest, local and professional source" for all of your lawn and tree needs. To schedule an appointment and get your late summer/early fall lawn and tree TLC going, call 540-338-5714 or e-mail arbogast6@aol.com.

The Meaning Of Home

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel



MOORE-SOBEL

A quaint home, tucked away in a quiet corner of Portsmouth, Virginia. It has a large tree in the front, casting shade on visitors who pull up to the curb to take in the view. An old car sits in the port out front. The distinctive red brick lining the front of the house and the splashes of white (including the shutters and doors) give off an aura from a bygone era.

What is the value of a home? Beyond the numerical value assigned when one is sold or when a quick Google search is completed. What is the intrinsic value of a home? Think about your home for a moment. What will your memories be of the current place you live, decades after your life has brought you far from the place you now call home? Will it play prominently in your memories, or will it recede with the passage of time, only to be recalled in rare moments of introspection?

"Real estate has meaning," my mother told me years ago. I have been reminded of this fact in our recent travels. As we made our way back home from my sisters' soccer tournament, we were close enough to stop by the childhood home of my paternal grandmother. I had heard about this residence for years from my Aunt Jackie. She spoke of it fondly, giving off the distinct impression that her years there encompassed some of the happiest of her childhood.

She had visited more than 20 years before – encountering a woman named "Mrs. Lovingood" – who apparently shut the door in my aunt's face upon her first request to see the house, only to change her mind after a few seconds had passed. My aunt tells the story over and over – sharing memories of the home she loves. When we informed her of our planned visit, you could hear the excitement in her voice. "Ask Mrs. Lovingood if she remembers me," she said.

Years later, standing in front of the house, I could see the reason behind her strong affections. Beyond the well-built structure, it serves as a tangible symbol of the American Dream. My great-grandfather, a Jewish immigrant from Poland, had built both a successful shoe store in the center of town and a beautiful home, raising two daughters in 1950's America. This was proof he had made it, achieving what so many others had come to America longing to gain.

Our visit sparked Mrs. Lovingood to come out and speak with us – although she informed us she is now Mrs. Carringer (a name I do not fancy quite as much). She has lived in the home since 1964, creating a lifetime of memories with her own family. Our visit prompted my aunt to write her a letter. In her response, Mrs. Carringer (a.k.a. Loving) seemed tickled by all the interest in the house.

Back in the car we go, traveling 20 minutes south towards Hampton Roads. We arrive at a home just two blocks from the water. It is a distinctive house, well-kept and cared for by the current owners. A corner lot with a screened-in porch, the home has a peaceful quality that adds to its mystique.

This was the childhood home of my maternal grandmother. I have seen the house before, having been taken there by my grandparents on a trip to Hampton more than a decade ago. My mother gets animated as she talks of memories of her grandmother. My gaze turns towards the water just down the street. "That was too far for Grannie," my mother says, referring to her grandmother's love of the sea. This was rectified when the next house was built in Yorktown with picture windows showcasing the Poquoson River as the front yard.

As we leave, my mother makes another prescient observation. "Your grandmothers grew up 20 minutes apart in different worlds..." I ponder the implications of this statement. How ironic that my parents would find each other in another part of the state when their mothers grew up in such close proximity to one another. My mother's grandfather, a prominent and well-respected banker in Hampton. My father's grandfather, a successful businessman in downtown Portsmouth. Both hardworking, attempting to make a living to provide for their families. Sometimes the world feels like a very small place.

Driving back towards our own home, I pondered the symbolism contained behind these inanimate structures. These places contain memories for sure, sparked immediately for my aunt and my mother the moment the homes came into view. Yet it seems to me they also serve another purpose. To remind of the sacrifices that ancestors made. To allow for a slight pause in the daily rumblings of life, to reflect upon the past which can help inform the future. It serves as a reminder of where we came from, and helps spur us on towards what it is we hope to build.

I wonder if my great-grandparents had any way of knowing that their great-grandchildren would get to see the results of their hard work and sacrifice? When these places of residence were being built more than 70 years ago, did they have any idea that their homes, and by extension, themselves, would live on in the imagination of future generations? Homes mean something, for the memories we create and the lives we impact. May all of our homes be places of warmth and love, impacting others for generations to come.

Samuel Moore-Sobel possesses a deep appreciation for the past. He hopes to live up to the example set by his ancestors by living his own version of the American Dream.



Stay Cool!

Cool Tip ... run through the sprinkler while watering outside.

Cool Tip ... fall asleep with a damp top sheet over you.

Cool Tip ... wear light, loose, cotton clothing.

Cool Tip ... ice your drinks and the air – put your ice bucket in front of a fan.

New – And Way Cool – For The LCPS 2017-18 Year

81,622 students will be part of the Loudoun County Public School System's 2017-2018 cycle. The year starts up on Thursday, August 24, 2017, and ends on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. Parents and kids won't see much difference in the coming year's traditional month to month calendar. But, according to LCPS Public Information Officer Wayde Byard, the year will be filled with very positive change.

Brambleton Middle School – the county's 90th public school – will open this year.

Full-day kindergarten is coming into its own, and will now cover 82 percent of children. This is up 33 percent from the 51 percent of children covered in 2015-2016.

Budget reallocations and improved staffing will provide students with expanded mental health services.

To date, 15 LCPS schools that have served as pilot sites for personalized learning, 10 more will be added in 2017-2018.

Computer science immersion models will be tested/trialed in three elementary schools; Meadowland, Moorefield Station and Round Hill.

Good luck, students!

From the LCPS Website:

- **August 24** First day of school
- **September 4** Holiday (Labor Day)
- **October 9** Holiday (Columbus Day)
- **October 23** Student Holiday (County-Wide Staff Development)
- **November 3** End of the Grading Period
- **November 6-7** Student Holidays (Planning/Records/Conference Days)
- **November 22-24** Holiday (Thanksgiving)
- **December 18-January 1** Winter Break (Classes Resume January 2)
- **January 15** Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- **January 26** End of grading period
- **January 29** Moveable student holiday * (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
- **February 19** Holiday (Presidents' Day)
- **March 26-30** Holiday (Spring Break)
- **April 2** Student Holiday (County-Wide Staff Development)
- **April 6** End of grading period
- **April 9** Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)
- **May 28** Holiday (Memorial Day)
- **June 13** Last day of school/End of Grading Period

Stay Cool Back-To-School

– By Andrea Gaines

Temperature-wise, our area hits its peak in July, with an average maximum daily temperature of almost 90 degrees. August comes in at over 85 degrees and September, just over 80.

Having braved this late summer/early fall weather pattern before, parents and kids – the back-to-school crowd – will be busy, looking for ways to beat the heat while demonstrating an equally cool mental approach to what can be a very frantic time. Retailers, for example, are offering all kinds of deals on kid's clothes, school supplies and hi-tech gadgets. But, what's essential, or cool ... and what's just hype?

With both the continued warm weather – and the modern, with-it parent and child duo in mind – we offer these cool back-to-school ideas for kids and parents.

- **Reorganize and/or stock up on your re-useable water bottles and containers.** Children have higher hydration (i.e. cooling) requirements per pound of body weight than adults. Take a moment this month to inventory your "mobile agua" bottles and beverage containers. Recycle the ones too old to reuse, and buy new ones if needed. Making a fresh supply of water available to kids wherever they are – at school, at home, in the great outdoors, etc. – will keep everyone cool and collected.
- **Dress Kids For Warm To Cool Temps.** Taking the layered approach to your child's back-to-school wardrobe is a great idea, with light-weight shirts that can be worn over sleeveless tanks, vests that can be worn over T-shirts, and hats and visors that can shield the sun and wind, or be easily removed. Zip-off pants that convert to shorts, or visa-versa, are a cool idea, too.

- **Go Back To School With Simplicity In Mind.** Backpacks are a staple for today's school child. But, be careful. Doctors and physical therapists advise that kids carry no more than 10 to 15 percent of their body weight in their backpacks. Yet, studies show that the average 2nd – 4th grader carries 5 lbs., the average 6th grader, over 28 lbs., and some kids, up to 30 lbs. Do they need everything that's crammed into that backpack? Take a look. Can certain things be eliminated altogether or shared? Can you lighten their load?

- **Know The Latest Trends In Kid Snack Foods – Banana Sushi anyone?** Good nutrition never goes out of style – is always, cool. Right now the internet is on fire with a school snack called banana sushi. A banana, coated in chocolate, peanut butter or yogurt, and then rolled in sesame seeds, nuts, cereal, raisins, you name it. The treat can be made the night before and frozen. Slice it up in the morning in sushi-sized portions. Perfect for your child's lunchbox or snack pack.

- **Consider A Parent/Child Weather App.** Weather information at your fingertips is a great way to follow your child through the school day. If your child is old enough to have their own mobile device, a weather app can be a great way for the two of you to connect, and learn about weather dynamics. There are lots of free and/or inexpensive weather apps out there. Experts suggest getting one that 1) relies on radar, 2) provides not just local but regional forecasts, and 3) provides constantly updated – versus cached – info.

Stay smart, take your time, explore your options. Make your back-to-school time the coolest, ever.

Carver Center Events — August 2017

- **Wednesdays, Aug. 2 through Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Decluttering Paperwork.**
- **Mondays and Wednesdays, Aug. 7 through Aug. 30, 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m., Body Sculpting.** Classes for ages 16 and up. \$67.
- **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Aug. 8 through Sept. 1, 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., Core and More.** \$80.
- **Thursday, Aug. 10, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Summer Supper Club.** Travel by Carver bus to Alexander's, in Buckeystown, MD. \$6. Please sign up by Aug. 7.
- **Fridays, Aug. 11 through Aug. 25, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Beginner Watercolor.** \$10.
- **Mondays, Aug. 14 through Aug. 28, 12:30 p.m. through 2:30 p.m., Intermediate Watercolor,** \$15
- **Wednesdays, Aug. 16 through Aug. 30, 12:30 p.m. through 2:30 p.m. Advanced Beginner Watercolor.** \$10.
- **Friday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lunch Bunch.** Travel by Carver bus to John's Family Restaurant, in Rippon, WV. \$4. Please sign up by Tuesday, Aug. 15.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 23, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Book Club.** Monthly book discussions led by Purcellville Library staff. Books available on site.

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earn the right to advance to the prestigious American Legion World Series in Shelby NC. Post 34 Leesburg is the reigning Mid-Atlantic Champion. For more info go to www.valeigionbaseball.com.

Loudoun Centre Theatre Present *Disney's High School Musical*

Loudoun Centre Theatre proudly presents *Disney's High School Musical*! Matinee and evening performances of this movie musical will be August 18-26, at Franklin Park Arts Center, 36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville. Get your tickets at www.thelct.org/highschoolmusical.



Bright And Down To Earth Bataoel Is In-It-To-Win-It

— By Andrea Gaines

His campaign website is a sophisticated mix of dramatic color and simple black and white type.

He makes no bones about enjoying “the classics,” traveling with “his beautiful wife,” and “spending time outdoors with his two terriers, Charlie and Wexley.”

And, at 35 and having run a successful business he is “ready to give back,” introducing himself – not just as the first candidate for Mayor of Middleburg to announce – but as the person you will surely see in the mayor’s seat when Mayor Betsy Davis retires next year.

Bataoel and his wife Nelina Loiselle moved to Middleburg in 2010. A well-established policy wonk, he has worked at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Potomac Institute for Neurotechnology Studies, and others. And, both he and Loiselle have degrees from Maharishi University, and other more conventional places. She, from Georgetown University and he, Missouri State.

He and Loiselle are also the creators of an energy conservation business called Above Green, helping private clients get the coveted LEED certification – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – for their buildings. And, behind it all is Bataoel’s interest what I call the “mainstream mystical” – how an individual’s personal approach to health, human potential, consciousness, livelihood and personal relationships can impact government, business and social institutions.

Bataoel currently serves as head of Middleburg’s Economic Development Advisory Committee. But, despite his rather simple and traditional political agenda – keeping Middleburg small, maintaining low utility and tax rates, investing in the town’s historic assets, filling commercial vacancies, and promoting the town’s equestrian community – Bataoel seems to be a different kind of candidate.

First, he wants to maintain Middleburg as a small, vibrant place – bringing in visitor dollars, without functioning strictly



Vincent and his wife, Nelina

as a “tourist town.” This, he says, requires “win-win decisions that are good for both the community and for visitors.” One example – the new oyster bar he helped bring into town. Another – his efforts to attract local investment for vacant and neglected buildings.

On utility rates, said Bataoel, “I believe the major fiscal challenge is our water rate. Our residents pay twice as much as any other municipality in Loudoun or Fauquier. It’s ridiculous. We have to find a way to deliver that service at a better cost to the customer.” On another issue critical to village folks – their animal friends – Bataoel is right in synch. “Charlie and Wexley love Middleburg,” he says, referring to his own dogs. “They support my candidacy. Their priority is to keep Middleburg a dog friendly Town, and they’d like to see more fire hydrants installed.”

The mayor’s salary is a modest \$6,000 a year – just \$115 a week. So, the love of this place – and what you see as its future best potential – is obviously the driving force behind Bataoel’s candidacy.

Several Middleburg Town Council members are rumored to be considering a run, joining Bataoel as candidates. But, none have announced, at least yet. So, right now the modest Middleburg stage is all his.

His work on the LEEDS process – which flips the economic table to turn environmentally conscious-development into an asset – and his personal interest in exploring how an individual’s approach to life can influence the social, economic and cultural world around them, will sure make things interesting.

For details go to the Bataoel campaign website, www.middleburg2018.com.

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In late July the Purcellville Town Council had a ribbon cutting for Top Coat Nail Spa in Purcellville. Top Coat is organic, eco-friendly natural nail spa. They are open Tuesday-Saturday and can be reached at 703 297-7919 or TopCoatNails@aol.com. From l to r: Vice-Mayor Nedim Ogelman, Council Member Karen Jimmerson, Michael Oaks, Kim Patterson, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Council Members Kelli Grim and Chris Bledsoe.



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Short Hill Historical Society Announces New Website

The Short Hill Historical Society's new website is up and running. The address is www.ShortHillHistoricalSociety.org. One of the sections of the website includes information about the organization's projects such as restoring the Wright

Brothers' Mother's sign; building an inventory and history about homes, landmarks, families, and individuals in the region; creating walking and driving tours of the Short Hill area using information already gathered; and

updating the book entitled, Memories of a Mill Town. Another section provides information about events including the organization's signature event, the "Christmas in Hillsboro Historic Homes Tour" as well as the new series called

"History Talks, Trips, and Treasures." The first event in the series featured Eugene Scheel and the next one will be held September 14 at Old 690 Brewing Company featuring local award-winning author Linda Sittig.

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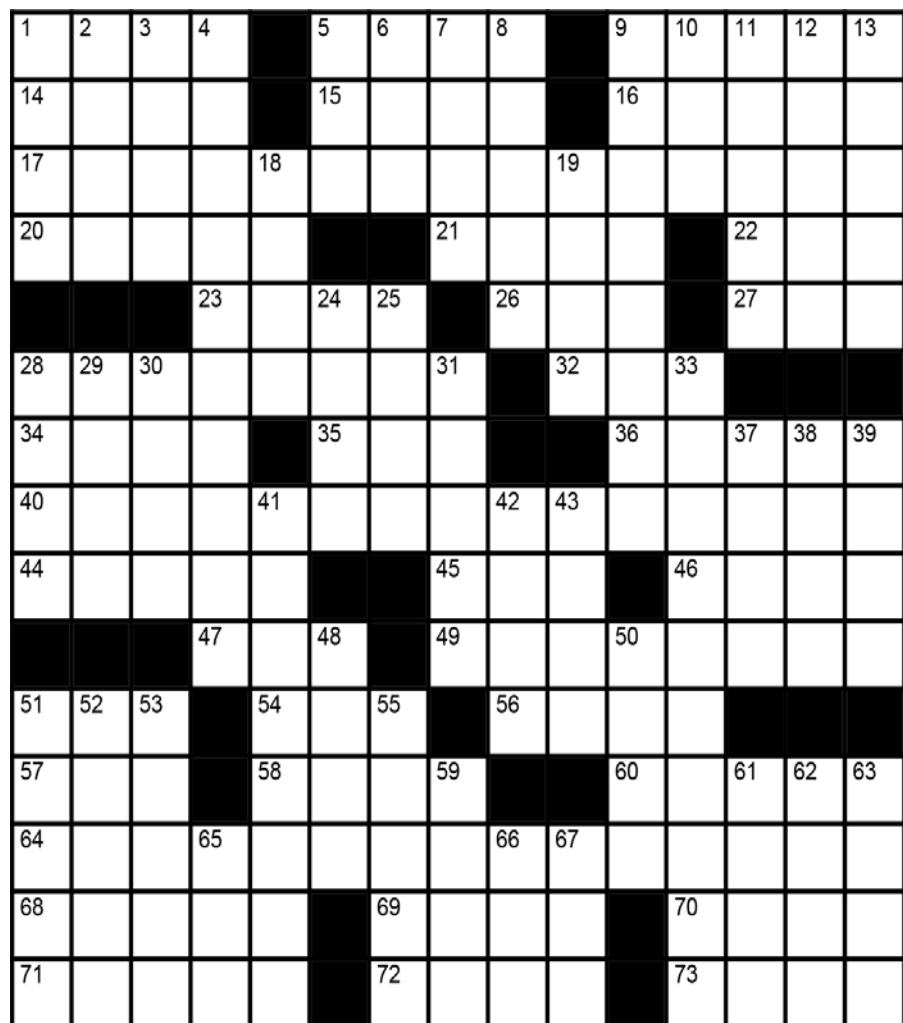


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Fighting Words

By Myles Mellor and Sally York



ACROSS

- 1. Auricular
- 5. Liq. measures
- 9. Deity to many
- 14. “‘Tain’t nothin’!”
- 15. Unit of distance, in astronomy
- 16. Flat paper?
- 17. Some are marches
- 20. Permeate
- 21. English satirist
- 22. Cheer starter
- 23. Ukraine’s capital
- 26. A shot
- 27. Rough stuff
- 28. Dreamy-eyed
- 32. Girl in a gown
- 34. Rah-rah
- 35. “Gimme ___!” (start of an Iowa State cheer)
- 36. Stir up, in a way
- 40. Follows a 1960’s slogan
- 44. Polished
- 45. Roth ___
- 46. Next in line?
- 47. Meet
- 49. Entrusts
- 51. School of thought
- 54. Veteran

56. Sibyl

- 57. Mozart’s “L’ ___ del Cairo”
- 58. Set apart
- 60. Port of old Rome
- 64. Debate strenuously
- 68. Venusian, e.g.
- 69. Skinny
- 70. Biblical heirs (with “the”)
- 71. Bead material
- 72. Anatomical network
- 73. Nestling hawk

DOWN

- 1. Stone of many Libras
- 2. Stereo knob
- 3. Letter before kappa
- 4. Songbirds
- 5. Govt. property org.
- 6. Lending letters
- 7. Reindeer herder
- 8. Sharpen
- 9. Sidekick
- 10. Majors in acting
- 11. It’s catching
- 12. Out of bed
- 13. 1946 Literature Nobel-ist
- 18. Spiny shrub

- 19. Type of column
- 24. Card catalog abbr.
- 25. Trattoria order
- 28. Butts
- 29. Like an oxeye window
- 30. Huckabee
- 31. Kind of center
- 33. Annoying
- 37. Actor Wilson
- 38. Aforementioned
- 39. Muffs
- 41. Snowfield lander
- 42. “Aeneid” figure
- 43. Specify
- 48. Cargo boat type
- 50. Feline line
- 51. Resident of the 29th state
- 52. Cochlea canal
- 53. Word with kingdom or marker
- 55. Walking ___
- 59. Sea flier
- 61. Low part of a hand
- 62. Suggestion
- 63. Solicits
- 65. Sonnet ending
- 66. Poetic adverb
- 67. Other side

Answers on page 26

Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

argue and defend my idealistic views against her more conservative ones. But as a younger child, my parents did an excellent job of protecting me from political disagreements and fighting, and I’m thankful for that.

Fast forward 40 years, to President Trump and the current horribly vitriolic climate between conservatives and liberals. And while I fully appreciate your struggle as a woman and as a mother on the topic of Trump for your girls, I encourage you to think about your motivations when speaking poorly about President Trump in their presence. Just because you might be hurt, angry or offended by President Trump doesn’t mean your children need to be, especially at 4 and 6 years of age.

I also encourage you to think about the sort of information you are sharing with your children and what they can handle at 4 and 6. Developmentally, younger children don’t have the intellectual capacity to appreciate the grey hues or the complexities of deeper ideas, and they instead tend to be more black and white in terms of how they process information. For younger children you’re either right or wrong, guilty or not guilty, bad or good, etc. In addition to being concrete in their

thinking, younger children are also very impressionable when it comes to what they’re exposed to in forming their opinions, and they can become upset if the information is too hard for them to manage.

So, while I agree with you that as parents it’s our job to teach our children about what’s right and wrong, the teaching, however, needs to be age appropriate and we as parents also need to be aware of our own emotional triggers.

At the end of the day, in my opinion, younger children need to feel safe and secure in the world, and they need to be supported to believe in themselves and others and they need to view their country and president favorably. With maturity, they’ll have plenty of time to form an opinion on and later tackle the larger issues of the world such as, climate control, immigration and the economy.

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.



**TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE, VA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

**OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION
OF PURCELLVILLE’S HISTORIC FIREMAN’S FIELD
COMPLEX**

RFP# TC-2018-07

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The RFP describes the properties and their current uses and further details the scope of services and expected activities. It is available on the Town’s Bid Board <http://purcellvilleva.gov/bids.aspx>.

Questions must be in writing and emailed to Kathy Elgin, Procurement Specialist, at kelgin@purcellvilleva.gov. Questions must be received by August 14, 2017.

Responses are due by 10:00 AM, Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

This RFP does not guarantee award of a contract.

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Answers to puzzle from page 22

1	O	T	I	C		5	G	A	L	S		9	A	L	L	A	H							
14	P	O	O	H		15	S	P	A	T		16	L	E	A	S	E							
17	A	N	T	I	W	18	A	R	P	R	O	19	T	E	S	T	S							
20	L	E	A	C	H		21	P	O	P	E		22	S	I	S								
					23	K	I	E	24	V		26	P	E	R		27	O	R	E				
28	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C		31		32	D	E	B									
34	A	V	I	D		35	A	N	I		36	G	O		37	S		38		39	E			
40	M	A	K	E		41	S	L	O	V		42	E	N	O	T	W	A	R					
44	S	L	E	E	K				45	I	R	A			46	H	E	I	R					
					47	S	I	T		48		49	C	O	M	M	E	N	D	S				
51	I	S	M		52		53	P	R	O		54		55	S	E	E	R						
57	O	C	A		58	L	O	N	E		59		60	O	S	T		61		62	I	63	A	
64	W	A	G	E	A	W	A	R	O	F	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	
68	A	L	I	E	N			69	I	N	F	O		70	M	E	E	K						
71	N	A	C	R	E			72	R	E	T	E		73	E	Y	A	S						

Discover Purcellville, continued from page 1

launched Purcellville's annual Halloween Block Party. Discover Purcellville grew out of that effort, and, with the support of the Coleys it is spreading the economic love around to promote Purcellville and western Loudoun.

Said Oaks – in typical, “pay it forward” fashion – “We love this town. This town has given us so much. Discover Purcellville is about giving back. That’s all. Just, giving back.”

In June, Patterson, Oaks and the Coleys received a Loudoun County Design Excellence Award for the 2016 Painted Barrels Around Purcellville project, along with the Town of Purcellville, Discover Purcellville, the Town Economic Advisory Committee and the Purcellville Arts Council. The awards are given each year in various categories by the Loudoun County Design Cabinet – a group that promotes “high-quality ecological, urban, architectural, and landscape design ...”

One of the organization's current activities is the “Painted Benches and Flower Planters” project. The colorful, fanciful and just plain fun painted planters and benches will be on display around Purcellville through the end of October, and auctioned off to help fund Discover Purcellville's ongoing charitable activities at a November event at the Purcellville Skating Rink.

A 501 (c) 4 organization, Discover Purcellville came on the scene with last year's highly

successful painted wine barrels exhibit. The barrels were later auctioned off and raised over \$36,000 for charity and local arts and cultural programs. Recipients have included the Loudoun Valley High School basketball team, and Woodgrove High School's girls' softball and track and field teams, all of whom have won state titles in recent months. Discover Purcellville is currently working on a website to highlight attractions and businesses in and around Purcellville so visitors know that there is a lot to do and see west of Leesburg.

Membership in Discover Purcellville is available to all local small business owners, companies that do business in western Loudoun, and residents of Purcellville and surrounding towns. The organization holds regular meetings and encourages businesses and individuals with an interest in promoting the area's unique economic base to join in and/or request information on sponsoring community events and/or outdoor art displays and other efforts.

For details on membership in Discover Purcellville, call 540 751-0707, email dpurcellville@gmail.com or go to www.discoverpurcellville.org and/or www.facebook.com/Discover-Purcellville. For tickets to the November 11 Painted Benches and Flower Planters Auction event, go to www.brownpapertickets.com.

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