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# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN TODAY

SEPTEMBER 2017

## Building On The Momentum

### An Interview With Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser

Mayor Kwasi Fraser has one of the most thoughtful demeanors of any politician you've ever met; perhaps because he's not a politician at all. Fraser's LinkedIn profile describes him as a "Business Development Professional and Change Leader" yet, watching his actions during a Town Council meeting or his simply shaking hands on the street, we see an everyday man who believes he has something very special to offer his town.

In 2014, Fraser, garnering over 60 percent of the vote, was elected mayor and, in 2016, was reelected by over 70 percent.

His platform is very straightforward. Before the 2014 election, Purcellville had accumulated over \$60 million in debt and was pursuing a policy of aggressive growth. Since then, Fraser, along with the new majority, has steered the Town toward the path of debt reduction, fiscal accountability, and increased transparency. Liberating Purcellville from the decades-old status quo policy of growing its way out of debt, Fraser has placed its citizens back in control. For instance, the Town is now in the process of reestablishing historic standards. In addition, key Town assets such as Fireman's

Field will now be protected and managed in ways that ensure sustainable futures.

Says Fraser, "I ran on a simple message of putting citizens first which harkens back to the formation of our republic; of government for the people by the people.

Purcellville's citizens deserve a Town government that places their interests above all else, and we are committed to getting there."

**Blue Ridge Leader:** You pledged to make Town government more transparent. Have you achieved that?

**Mayor Kwasi Fraser:** Transparency began with liberating the Town's financial documents from difficult to navigate PDFs. We installed OpenGov software that has increased availability and accessibility to how the Town spends our tax dollars. A simple to use online application, this software provides a clear and interactive breakdown of the Town's finances and our monthly check registry. In addition, meeting minutes are all searchable via our website. Citizens now have access to each Town Council member and myself via a single email letter link. Having launched a more user-friendly website, we have



Photo by Matt Gusmerotti

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser throwing first pitch at a Cannons game.

added an official Facebook page for social media engagement and a citizen polling application to obtain continuous feedback.

**BRL:** You've said that Purcellville can't grow its way out of debt. What actions have you taken to better manage the Town's finances?

**KF:** When I first became Mayor, Purcellville was in debt over \$60 million, with the majority owing to an upgrade to our wastewater treatment plant, which was

Continued on page 17



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National Days, September

## KID'S KITCHEN TAKEOVER



– By Andrea Gaines

Sprinkled throughout the month of September are four National Day celebrations that we thought would be fun to combine into one fun weekend event for your family. National Grandparents Day – Sept. 10, National Kids Take Over The Kitchen Day – Sept. 13, National Pancake Day – Sept. 26, and National Coffee Day, Sept. 29.

There are no rules here at the Blue Ridge Leader when it comes to what national days we choose to highlight, and how they are celebrated. So, how about this.

Continued on page 18

## Leesburg Is Going To The Dogs – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Swim



On Saturday, Sept. 9, Ida Lee Park will hold its 9th annual Dog Swim at AV Symington Aquatic Center. Come on down to the pool with your four-legged friends for them to enjoy a swim and play off leash.

The pool will be open for the dog-only swim from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dog handlers must be 16 years or older and are limited to two dogs each. Handlers are responsible for their dogs. All dogs must be at least 6 months old, legally licensed, vaccinated,

and wearing a visible dog license.

Children 9 years old and younger will need to remain in the snack area of the pool deck. No food will be allowed.

The fee is \$5.00 per dog, payable at the front entrance. Registration is currently available online through WebTrac or by visiting the front desk at Ida Lee Recreation Center. Walk-up registration on the day of the event is welcome. For more information, go to [www.idalee.org](http://www.idalee.org) or call 703 777-1368.

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## ASK DR. MIKE

- By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike,  
I commute to DC for work from Leesburg, and I spend over an hour in the car every day - each way. I leave very early and really don't mind the drive, but rude drivers stress me out. For my DC exit, cars illegally pass me on the shoulder up the ramp while I more slowly wait my turn to exit correctly from my lane. On the way home, cars illegally fly by me on the left while I stay in my lane on the right and then those same cars sneak into my lane at the very end to exit faster. My blood pressure goes through the roof with these jerks, and while I know I shouldn't let them get to me, they do. I've started putting the nose of my car out to block them, but this doesn't make me any less angry. Your thoughts?  
- Angry Driver in Loudoun

Subaru into a Jeep three times. While I fully appreciate that woman is upset, ramming cars in retaliation or blocking them from passing are not good solutions. There are only three options to the problem: remove yourself from the situation, change the situation

or accept it. Acceptance is probably the best of these options since you can't get out of your lane during your morning or evening commute and you can't change or control the behaviors of other drivers.

Mindfulness is a very effective way to achieve a state of acceptance during stressful situations. Mindfulness is the concept of being 100 percent present in the moment while accepting all aspects of what that moment is or what it brings - without criticism, blame or judgement.

Here are a few things to consider: be more consciously aware of what you see, hear and feel as a driver. When you sit in the car, feel your body fully in the seat, your hands fully on the steering wheel, and your feet firmly on the pedals. When you look through the windshield or out your windows, take in everything you see.

Dear Angry Driver,

This summer, a driver in Washington State became so upset by cars passing her illegally on the shoulder that she finally decided to take matters into her own hands by intentionally ramming her

Continued on page 26

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## Umpire Kushner Calls 'Em As He Sees 'Em At 2017 Little League World Series

Purcellville's Randy Kushner umpired the 2017 Little League World Series in August. Before the series began, Kushner said in his first blogpost, "This adventure actually began back in 1995, when I umpired my first Little League game. It has been a great ride. Who would have thought in a million years [that] I would be given the opportunity to be part of this great spectacle viewed by millions from around the world?"

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected as one of 16 umpires to participate in the 2017 LLWS. So many have come before, and many will come after, but for me and 15 of my new umpire friends, 2017



is our turn to take the ride, and capture the memories forever..."

Kushner started umpiring at a game that he went to watch, and volunteered to help out when the umpire didn't show. And has been umpiring ever since.

He lives in Purcellville with his wife and two sons.

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# Envision Loudoun Round II: What, Where, When?

– By Andrea Gaines

Last month, County officials released a preliminary report summarizing the results of a second round of Envision Loudoun Listening & Learning workshops. The workshops represented a mid-point of sorts in the ongoing effort to rewrite the countywide Comprehensive Plan, as planning officials gathered feedback on the draft vision, goals, and objectives developed as an outgrowth of a first set of Listening & Learning workshops.

While the public has been actively engaged in the Envision Loudoun process, and is quite clear in its desire to – at minimum – not look like Fairfax in ten or twenty years, ensuring that this sentiment survives the journey from public input to County law is proving to be more elusive than County officials might care to admit.

As one very thoughtful Envision Loudoun participant noted in round two: “ ... The hollow core of the public input process was underscored by the announcement at the beginning of the meeting that over 5,000 public comments had been compiled and evaluated by consultant staff. It was an indication of the premium given to the quantity of data, not the character of that data ... nowhere in the process was there an opportunity for the participants to express their preferences among a defined set of paths to alternatives futures ...”

In other words, while planning officials and decision makers have lots of raw numbers to look at, a path forward has yet to emerge. Observers of the process see lots of activity, lots of data collection, lots of varying opinions. But, the big questions looming at the start of the process, including what kind of development Loudouners should expect in the coming years, where it will go and on what timeline, remain unanswered.

The draft vision and goals statement developed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors reads: “Loudoun county 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.”

Per the recent report released by the County, when asked “Given what you have heard, do the vision, goals and objectives move us in the right direction? Why? Why not?,” only 13 percent of round two participants identified themselves as generally “supportive” of the draft statement. It covered the right topics, said participants. It was comprehensive and otherwise “going in the right direction.”

18 percent of participants were identified as “not supportive” of the statement – indicating that it was “vague,” not unique enough to Loudoun, and/or not sufficiently specific or precise. Here there seemed to be a good deal of confusion as to how the statement might apply to different parts of the County, including the rural west.

32 percent of participants were identified as “supportive” of the statement, “with changes.”

And, 36.5 percent – the largest number of participants – were grouped into a category identified as “other.” These individuals did not say whether they supported or disapproved of the statement. Rather, when asked that question, these individuals addressed another subject, with the most common – in descending order – being transportation and traffic, the natural environment, development, housing, the impacts of development on the landscape, and support for natural resources/ the environment.

Planning officials characterized these preliminary results in this way: “ ... Given the fact that 81 percent of comments were either ‘supportive,’ ‘supportive with changes,’ or ‘other,’ no changes are recommended for the overall Vision, Goals and Objectives draft at this point.”

The report goes on to say that in the final report, the 1,700+ comments gathered in round two will be used to aid in the development of the new Comprehensive Plan.

But, how and to what end? ... people following the Envision Loudoun process may wonder.

For example, under the current Comprehensive Plan the County is divided into three main zoning areas – the Suburban Policy Area to the east, the Rural Policy Area to the west, and the Transition Policy Area in the middle, acting as a natural buffer between the east and the west.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors choose not to address any of these policy areas in its draft vision, goals and objectives statement, and it did not go unnoticed by the individuals who participated in round two. In round two – as in round one – support for this three-part growth management strategy is strong, clear and sustained, particularly with respect to the protective effect a lower density Transition Policy Area can have on the rural west, and the logic of concentrating higher densities in the suburban east.

Per the reasons behind citizens’ lack of strong support for the statement, a large number of people were critical of the process, feeling that the open-ended format was preventing the County from getting down to the what, where and when of growth. One described the process as having “lots of info,” but “general, vague, no specific goals, nothing measureable, how do we get there?” “Sounds good but no meat,” said another.

Finally, participants are quite consistent in their belief that there is both great opportunity and great peril in where the Envision Loudoun process may take us.

Said one: “The impression [I get] from reading the Vision, Goals, and Objectives is that the County considers building and development as the only path moving forward.” Said another: “If there is any place in the country that can do great things – it is Loudoun.”



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# A Philosophical Discourse On The Nature Of (Bogus) Property Rights

– By Charles Houston

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”* Those familiar words are the preamble to the Declaration of Independence.

One problem: The idea is wrong.

The signers of the Declaration of Independence and proponents of human, natural, moral and other rights should have done more research, perhaps by reading Aristotle. In about 450 B.C., the Greek philosopher wrote that rights are merely basic agreements between men and their governments. History has proven him correct. With the Magna Carta (1215) English lords wrestled power – and rights – from the monarch. While the Declaration of Independence gloriously spoke of inalienable rights, our Constitution itself (1787) had to be amended two years later to give us the Bill of Rights. It is government which grants us the rights of free speech, free assembly and so on. While our government gives Americans a wide spectrum of rights, even some Western Europeans find various rights abridged, such as freedom of speech to utter certain

unpleasant things. At a far extreme, North Koreans have precious few rights at all.

Mao said “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” In many countries, guns – or brute political force – are used to take away rights from the people. Thankfully, a civil society grants its citizens wide arrays of rights. Among such privileges are property rights, a timely topic which now puts us face-to-face with Loudoun County politics.

Philosophers sometimes talk about positive and negative rights, and it is the government that must strike a balance between them. I can play an electric guitar outside at midnight (if I had a guitar and if I knew how to play one) but my neighbors also have a right not to be disturbed by my amplified screeching. The government must find a balance in that situation, either by telling me to unplug the guitar, or by telling my neighbors that its sounds are simply experimental music to be appreciated.

Nowhere is finding this balancing more evident than with property rights. Many people, including some of our Supervisors, believe that one should be free to do whatever he wishes with his property and they have used that excuse to justify votes for paving rustic roads, allowing new, traffic-generating land uses, and easing the

way for more subdivisions. Please pass this along to Supervisors: The County *already* limits property rights through its zoning ordinance. (So much for ideological purity.) Using property in some ways is permitted; using it in other ways is prohibited. No one in Loudoun County has the unfettered right to do anything he wishes to do with his property. The zoning ordinance seeks to provide the right balance between privileges and limits, in order to benefit the most people.

Several Supervisors have extolled property rights as if they are limitless. The mere existence of our zoning ordinance disproves that idea. Another Supervisor told me that he wants to vote as “the neighbors” wish. That statement provokes an immediate question: Just who are “the neighbors?” Is it a small, vociferous group that wants its section of a road paved, or are “the neighbors” the residents of a much wider area, such as those living within, say, three or four miles? (For example, a key part of rural Loudoun County’s beauty is the interconnected system of unpaved roads and lanes, and disturbing one of them can harm the entire rural countryside, not least by establishing a dangerous precedent. Thus, decisions like this

demand listening to people from a wide area.) Or lastly, does “the neighbors” really mean the entire citizenry of the County?

On land use issues, the strongest case is that “the neighbors” whose wishes must be considered are either those in a wider geographic area, or all the present citizens of Loudoun County. It is wrong that a small group of people on one stretch of road, or a farmer’s heir who wants to sell out to a rich developer, can determine what happens without hearing from the broad community. I understand that politicians want to please people; that is how they get reelected. What the politicians need to understand is that far more people have a stake in these decisions than just small cliques. Simply because one-wheel squeaks, it should not always get their grease.

That brings us full circle to the Declaration of Independence. Local government must adhere to its philosophical assertion that all men are created equal. *Our* government should not grant special privileges to a powerful few, but make decisions to protect that which makes Loudoun County unique.

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

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Please include your name,  
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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.*

## View From The Ridge – Condos And Canned Tuna

– By Andrea Gaines

If Loudoun County were a grocery store, and new housing units represented the number of canned tuna units on its shelves, developers would be telling us – warning – we were about to run out of tuna salad.

A new study commissioned by the Dulles Area Association of Realtors warns that Loudoun’s housing inventory is running dangerously low.

**Quote:** “Loudoun County added 762 new homes to the market in June [2017] – the lowest number of ... new listings in five years. This signals little respite from the market’s consistently low supply of homes.”

**Quote:** “Fewer buyers signed contracts to buy homes in July compared to last year – new pending sales decreased 9.1 percent to 607. This is a sign that low inventory is likely suppressing sales, as both limited choices and climbing home prices sideline prospective buyers.”

**Quote:** “Condos saw a substantial year-over-year decline in new listings (-25.2 percent) yet an increase in sales (+5.3 percent), tightening their supply to just under 1.5 months. The median sales price of condos reached the second highest on record at \$299,900.”

Now. Drive around just about anywhere in Loudoun right now – east, west and right in the middle, in the Transition Policy Area – and you might find yourself wondering, *What the heck are they talking about? This place is under water with new construction.*

This is true. And, here’s why.

Loudoun County’s 2000 Census put our population at 169,599 residents. The forecast for 2020 is 414,700. We are the second fastest growing county in the country with populations of 100,000 or more.

Loudoun County had 109,442 housing units in 2000, and is projected to have 143,982 by 2020 – an increase of more than 30 percent.

Loudoun County has added an average of over 3,400 residential units per year for the last seven years 7 years.

Hmm. Thousands of new residential units per year – year after year – and we’re running low?

This proposition, this dire warning, is throwing a real monkey wrench into the Envision Loudoun process, the County’s working partnership with the citizens to rewrite our County-wide Comprehensive Plan.

The public – in overwhelming fashion – is saying no to unbridled growth. In tuna salad parlance: “Plenty here there and everywhere. I’m sick of the stuff.”

The developer community – with one voice, over and over again from every angle – is saying grow, grow, grow. In tuna salad parlance: “Stock up or no tuna salad for you.”

Oh but it was true – or fair, or equitable or good planning – that the number of housing units a developer thinks he or she could sell should dictate the number of housing units written into Loudoun County’s Comprehensive Plan.

The people of Loudoun County are less

concerned about “housing inventories” – the number of cans of tuna on the shelf – than they are about their combined quality of life. Between the ever-present need for more schools – and school boundary line adjustments ... the limitless demand for more roads – and the taxes to pay for them ... and the everyday hardship of sitting in traffic – wondering if you’ll ever get home, Loudouners don’t want more growth ... they want relief.

Housing demand in Loudoun County is driven by a potential homebuyer’s desire to live in the Loudoun of today, not the Loudoun of tomorrow – with tens of thousands more new homes already on the horizon.

Through the Envision Loudoun process, the residents of Loudoun County have taken a good long look around themselves and said, enough is enough.

The county’s leadership needs to not only listen, but to agree, and to act.

When the Comprehensive Plan is rewritten it needs to put meaningful controls on growth, preserve the three-part suburban east, transitional middle and rural west that has served the county so well, and protect the best of the County’s rich cultural, historical and economic assets – from the high tech corridor that underpins eastern Loudoun, to the residential and commercial innovation developing in the middle, to the vibrant agricultural and tourism assets of the west.

Hold the tuna salad. Please.

## Election Day Is Coming Tuesday Nov. 7 – Are You Ready?

Loudoun County voters will have a healthy list of candidates to choose from on Nov. 7.

In addition to two local races, and the statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, voters in the 10th, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 67th, 86th and 87th Districts will choose who will represent them in the Virginia House of Delegates. Voters will also see two referendums on the ballot.

### Local Races

Round Hill will be choosing a new member of the Town Council for an unexpired term to end June 30, 2020. As of press time the single candidate is Michael B. Hummel. In Leesburg voters will choose a new member of the Town Council for an unexpired term to end Dec. 31, 2018. The two candidates are Vanessa Richardson Maddox and Joshua P. Thiel.

### Statewide Races

In the three-way Governor's race, Democrat Ralph S. Northam, Republican Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie and Libertarian candidate Clifford D. Hyra will face off to replace Democrat Terry McAuliffe who will exit the Governor's Mansion after one term. Northam currently serves as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor. Gillespie was a counselor to President George W. Bush and is very active in the Republican Party, having served as Chair of both the Republican Party of Virginia and the Republican National Committee. Hyra is a lawyer and patent attorney.

In the Lieutenant Governor's race, Democrat Justin E. Fairfax and Republican

Jill H. Vogel will vie for the seat now held by Northam. Fairfax is a former Assistant United States Attorney who also ran for Virginia Attorney General in 2013. Vogel currently represents District 27 of the Virginia Senate.

In the race for Virginia Attorney General, Democratic incumbent Mark R. Herring is seeking a second term and is being challenged by Republican John D. Adams. Herring served in the Virginia Senate prior to becoming Attorney General, and spent the early part of his political career on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Adams worked in the George W. Bush White House as an associate White House Counsel, and is also a former federal prosecutor.

### Virginia House of Delegates Races

In the 10th District – which includes localities with precincts in the 10th include Clarke, Frederick and Loudoun Counties – voters will choose between Democrat Wendy W. Gooditis and Republican incumbent J. Randall Minchew.

In the 32nd District – Loudoun votes will choose between Democrat David A. Reid and incumbent Republican Thomas A. "Tag" Greason.

- In the 33rd District – which includes localities with precincts in Clarke, Frederick and Loudoun Counties – Republican incumbent Dave A. LaRock is challenged by Democratic candidate Tia L. Walbridge.
- In the 34th District – Virginia House of Delegates battle – the 34th District, which includes parts of Fairfax and Loudoun Counties – incumbent

Republican Cheryl A. Buford is being challenged by Democrat Kathleen J. Murphy.

- In the 67th District – which includes localities with precincts in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties – voters will choose between Republican incumbent James M. "Jim" LeMunyon and Democratic candidate Karrie K. Delaney.
- In the 86th District – which includes localities with precincts in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties – voters will choose between Democratic incumbent Jennifer B. Boysko and Republican Linda C. Schulz.
- In the 87th District – which includes localities with precincts in Prince William and Loudoun Counties – voters will choose between Democratic incumbent John J. Bell and Republican Subba R. Kolla.

### Public Referendums

The two public referendums to be decided on Nov. 7 address public safety and school project issues.

**Referendum 1: "Public Safety Projects ... QUESTION:** Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$15,660,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct and equip the replacement of the Round Hill Fire Station; and the costs of other public safety facilities approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?"

**Referendum 2: "School Projects ... QUESTION:** Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general

obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$81,761,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design and construct the C.S. Monroe Technology Center/Douglass School Renovations; the costs to design and construct High School Stadium Synthetic Turf and Track Resurfacing; the costs to install Division Security Improvements at 60 schools; the costs of School Bus Replacements and Acquisitions; and the costs of other public school facilities as requested by the Loudoun County School Board?"

Deadline and details on voter registration, polling information, voter identification and absentee voting can be found at [www.Loudoun.gov/vote](http://www.Loudoun.gov/vote).

## Weigh in on the election.

Send us your letters to the editor on the topic of your choice to [editor@BRLeader.com](mailto:editor@BRLeader.com).

Please send by Monday, Sept. 25 for our October issue.

## Public Hearing Sept. 12 To Restore Historic Protections

Mayor Kwasi Fraser and members of the Purcellville Town Council have initiated text amendments to the height standards in Purcellville's C-4 commercial zoning district. The proposal seeks to undo a controversial 2008 change that increased allowable building heights in historic downtown. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. All interested parties are invited to attend.

The building heights in this district – which includes the historic Nichols Hardware streetscape – were raised as a special accommodation for the mixed use residential/commercial development known as Vineyard Square. The change was resisted by Purcellville's Board of Architectural Review as incompatible with the integrity of historic downtown, but overruled by the Mayor and Town

Council in office at the time.

Under these changes, basic building heights were set at 35 to 45 feet, but went up from there, allowing for the construction of buildings as high as 60, 65 and even 75 feet. Special rules allowed for the maximum height level as long as 50 percent of a building's facade was lower. These rules gave the zoning administrator the power to grant "an administrative modification" of the height limitations as well, if the developer, for example, was able to show this would "better accomplish the intent and purpose of the district."

The proposed text amendments would retain a basic building height of 35 to 45 feet. Public or semi-public buildings (a school, a church, a library, for example) can go up to 60 feet. No 65, 75 or higher buildings. No "administrative modifications."



# HURST-HENSLEY HAD AN AWESOME AUGUST...

and we're excited about the properties we've been preparing for the fall market. We've got homes ranging in age from not-yet-built to more than 200 years old, each one with something special, so please contact us for a showing. 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.



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Georgian colonial on 19+ acres with spectacular views, pond & pool. \$1,875,000



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Remarkable historic home and guest house on 47+ acres in Lincoln. Offered at \$1,575,000



**FOR SALE**  
Stunning renovated c.1777 stone house on 20 rolling acres in Round Hill. Offered at \$1,120,000



**FOR SALE**  
Brick/stone home in Philomont, 6+ ac, 7 fireplaces. Unique layout perfect for home plus guest rental. \$1,095,000



**FOR SALE**  
11+ ac home with main-level master, in Middleburg, \$949,000



**FOR SALE**  
Fully renovated c.1720 home on 13 creekside acres in Purcellville. Offered for \$899,000



**FOR SALE**  
Waterfront home on 13+ acres on Goose Creek in Middleburg. Offered for \$690,000



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123JHensley@gmail.com

# Purcellville Tag Sale Set For Oct. 7

Purcellville's 14th Annual Tag Sale is set for Saturday, Oct. 7. This Purcellville tradition is an opportunity to pick up countless treasures and unique finds. Vendors will have stations up and down Main Street.

To register for a prime vendor location on Main Street, go to [www.purcellvilletagsale.com](http://www.purcellvilletagsale.com). The fee is \$20. To register a sale location off Main Street, the fee is \$10. Vendors who register by Sept. 25 will be on the Purcellville Tag Sale map.

Lead organizer Joylyn Hannahs says, "I've been to this Purcellville event every year since it started. It is absolutely my favorite town event. We look forward to seeing everyone out and about on October 7."

Event sponsor Michael Oaks of Discover Purcellville and Re-Love It says, "This year we're bringing back the tradition of vendors on Main Street. Main Street will be the big draw. We're anticipating a great event." Discover Purcellville is the Town's sponsor of other events such as the

Halloween Block Party and artists' barrels, benches and planters around Purcellville. Purcellville Town Council Member Karen Jimmerson is providing her support as well, and said, "Having the event on Main Street showcases the diverse range of businesses we have in Purcellville. The Tag Sale is a fantastic opportunity for our businesses, together with our community."

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "Since its inception, the Purcellville Tag Sale has been recognized for its positive economic impact and community enhancement. It's a pleasure for the Town Council to partner with Discover Purcellville, Joylyn Hannahs and our entire community to make this year's Purcellville Tag Sale a success. Fraser encourages everyone to participate in the Purcellville Tag Sale - Loudoun County's largest yard sale.

For more information, go to [www.purcellvilletagsale.com](http://www.purcellvilletagsale.com), or contact Joylyn Hannahs at [jh@hannahs.com](mailto:jh@hannahs.com). More information about Discover Purcellville is available at [www.DiscoverPurcellville.org](http://www.DiscoverPurcellville.org).

**14th Annual  
PURCELLVILLE  
TAG SALE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th  
8 AM - 4 PM**

**COME SELL SHOP**

Sellers can register for space at prime locations on Main Street or sell from their yard or garage at home

**For More Information & Register  
Visit [www.purcellvilletagsale.com](http://www.purcellvilletagsale.com)**

**Register by  
September 25th to  
be on the Map**

**@purcellvilletagsale**

**Rain Date Sunday, October 8th**  
Free parking available on all public streets with curb and no markings, in Town Parking, lots and at both Loudoun Valley HS and Emerick Elementary.



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You want a kitchen as convenient as it is beautiful - that means being mindful of your walkways and making sure you have enough space for daily activities. If you are thinking about installing a kitchen island, plan your floor space accordingly. Allow ample room for your cooking zones and make sure to consider how many people and guests you will have in your kitchen at once when planning your space.



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# Boulder Oaks – A Home With A Great Family Foundation

– By Hannah Hager

Boulder Oaks, a circa-1987 contemporary home in Middleburg, epitomizes modern family living. Realizing this is quite the claim – considering the outdated undertones most of us associate with homes built in the mid-eighties – you can rest assured Boulder Oaks has withstood the test of time. What's more, its modernized living spaces are a testament to the owner's good taste.

You'll lead a balanced lifestyle between indoor and outdoor living at Boulder Oaks. Its back deck is a luxurious living space of its own accord, but there are no less than three means of egress into the home. The first



is through the sunroom with skylights and fireplace that open up into the main deck area. Between these two areas alone you'll have no shortage of entertaining space.

If you prefer, however, pop outside the breakfast nook to enjoy your morning coffee on one of the side decks or exit through the master suite to the other deck for a nightly glass of wine. No matter the route you



go, you'll feel the home's dedication to appreciating the great outdoors.

Sunlight and warmth are priorities throughout, including in the kitchen with its white cupboards, wooden countertops and stainless steel appliances. It's just as cozy in the family room, too, where you'll relax by curling your toes into the white carpet while sitting in front of the wood-burning fireplace.

**Address:** 38528 Lime Kiln Road, Middleburg  
**Bedrooms:** Three bedrooms  
**Bathrooms:** Two full baths  
**Acreage:** 13+ acres  
**List Price:** \$690,000  
**Agent:** Marcy Cantatore  
**Phone:** 540-533-7453

Attention to detail is seen in nearly every room of the house, including in the cabinetry and shelving in the bathrooms and bedrooms.

Take a trip down Lime Kiln Road where early civilizations produced stabilizers for floors and building mortars. Once there, you'll realize Boulder Oaks is a place where you can set down roots and start a sturdy foundation for your family.



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# Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life Funeral Arrangements – Organ Donation – Cremation

– By Amy and Dan Smith

Some of the stress of saying goodbye to a loved one can be relieved through advance planning for final wishes. Communication of those wishes is important. The instructions for the funeral service and ceremony for disposal of remains should, if detailed, be reduced to writing. There are online resources for recording that information, but an informal writing is usually sufficient. Reliance upon a will or a living trust for communication of such detail may not be wise as often the will or trust is not consulted until after the decedent is laid to rest. However, if an elaborate or unusually expensive event is desired, such provisions should be set forth in the will or trust so that the executor or trustee can cover the expense. If the costs are considered unusual for a person of the station of life of the decedent, the Commissioner of Accounts may not approve the expense as an allowable estate deduction. For example, a client may want a destination gathering of family and friends as a celebration of life



AMY & DAN SMITH

after his demise. The expenses for such can be authorized in the will or trust.

After death, someone must be recognized as having the authority to make the many decisions which are required to be made. The Virginia Code specifically provides for the appointment of an agent to make arrangements for the funeral and disposition of remains in a signed and notarized writing. This appointment may be a separate writing or contained in another document such as an advance medical directive. Funeral homes welcome such an appointment! Otherwise, the law requires that “next-of-kin” make the decisions. This can be problematic in identifying the appropriate people and especially when relatives are not in agreement. The next-of-kin would be the decedent’s surviving spouse, if any; then, in order, the adult children, the parents, the adult siblings, and the adult nieces and nephews of the decedent. Court action may be required to resolve disagreement among the “next-of-kin.”

Organ donation is accomplished by registering online at [DonatelifelifeVirginia.org](http://DonatelifelifeVirginia.org) or signifying your intention when your driver’s license is renewed. Your driver’s license will have a heart icon showing beneath your picture if you registered when

renewing your license. An agent under an advance medical directive can make an organ donation for the principal unless the directive specifically prohibits the gift. The custom in Virginia seems to be that the next-of-kin can prevent the donation even though the decedent had authorized it and even though the Virginia Code appears not allow the decedent’s election to be overturned.

Cremation may be requested in a will or otherwise indicated by the decedent prior to death. However, the practice is that the remains will not be cremated without the consent of the agent, if one has been appointed, or, if not, the next-of-kin regardless of the expressed desire of the decedent. Before cremation of remains, the medical examiner must give permission and there must a visual identification of the decedent by the agent or next-of-kin.

A note of interest to those readers who may be eligible, or who have loved ones who qualify, for burial in Arlington National Cemetery: in the absence of a surviving spouse, the oldest child of the decedent must authorize funeral arrangements.

*The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended*

*to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer. The foregoing contains general information only and is not intended to convey investment advice. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, an independent practice, offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services are offered through Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC. Amy V Smith Wealth Management is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel.703-669-5022, [www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com)) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Any opinions are those of Amy V Smith and not necessarily those of Raymond James. The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. Raymond James and its advisor do not offer tax or legal advice. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.*

## BRMS Teachers Convey Lessons From Writing Institute

Two Blue Ridge Middle School teachers recently returned from a writing workshop at Columbia University, and conveyed their lessons learned to the rest of the BRMS faculty. Sixth grade language arts teachers Laura Kelly and Roberta Pomponio attended the university’s five-day Teachers College Summer Writing Institute, which focused on the central role of curriculum development and planning in the teaching of writing.

The institute in New York City was led by author and Reading & Writing Project director Lucy Calkins. At the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, LCPS had provided all middle school English teachers with copies of her (Units of Study in Argument, Information, and Narrative Writing) toolbox, which was an integral part of the institute.

The institute featured keynote addresses by celebrated authors, world renowned teacher-educators, and other experts in the field of literacy and learning. The institute also included small-and large-group sections that were designed to help teachers establish rigorous models of best practices.

During the BRMS staff development days in August, Kelly and Pomponio shared writing strategies learned at the institute with all the teachers at Blue Ridge. The



From left to right: Roberta Pomponio and Laura Kelly.

school’s aim is to use writing in all courses to strengthen students’ critical and higher-level thinking.

Their attendance was made possible by a financial grant from Blue Ridge Middle School’s PTO. The PTO supports the professional development of BRMS teachers, which enhances the school’s best practices for middle level learning and supports the school district’s mission and vision for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners.

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## Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Raflo Park

– By Tim Jon

There's something really cool – to me, anyway – about taking a walk along any body of water: it's relaxing and a bit stimulating at the same time, and I always feel a sense of reassurance from that fairly constant, at least partially predictable, standing or flowing liquid. I got all this and more at Raflo Park in Leesburg; the additional input came from the artistic exhibits I found sprinkled along the way.

The Town's Commission on Public Art recruited a group of talented spirits to erect a collection of intriguing objects loosely scattered across the space. What with the upscale, urban-style landscape developing across the street, the overall effect tends toward a more sophisticated atmosphere than previously encountered in this little environment.

Not that my morning visit came about from anything more than a visceral desire for a new experience – and maybe some cool pictures – at a familiar address. I recall my first visit to Raflo Park – I believe in the fall of 1997 – as the 'new' News Director for Wage Radio – attending a public event concerning mental health issues – particularly suicide prevention; I was very touched – at that gathering – by the honest goodwill extended by those involved in the program (many had lost a loved one in one of these tragic cases). Those folks helped teach me that – through the media – I could offer some valuable services in making people aware of the importance of education and open communication as tools in saving as many fragile lives as possible. I'm sure I'll never know if my efforts led to any direct prevention or intervention, and that's fine; I'm still – these many years later – glad that I tried to help.

It's also quite natural that as I visit this particular spot in Leesburg, I should pay emotional homage to the man after whom this three-acre Park is named. Frank Raflo served as both Mayor of the Town and County Board Chairman (back in the day, as 'they' say), but – in my opinion – his personality far exceeded the bounds of either of these public servant titles; Frank also lent his talents as storyteller, local historian and government official to the familiar airwaves of Wage Radio – formerly located at 1200 on your AM dial. Frank's irascible voice was as unmistakable then as it is hard for me to believe it is now gone – save in the memory banks of the sometimes-questionably sane individuals like myself.

I believe all those who loved and still fondly remember Raflo will agree: if he didn't like something, he had no



TIM JON



hesitation in informing anyone who'd listen. I humbly recall being on the receiving end of his critiques on multiple occasions – as Frank would invariably let me know that my news coverage lacked his quintessential insight. And, now – I'd probably agree with him on most of the charges. We both expressed our own beliefs at the time – and a couple of decades can work wonders on arguments of little consequence.

I'd like to think that – someday far in the future – we may again square off on matters of local history, humor, and favorite personalities. I'll even have a few new stories for him by then.

And – would Frank approve of the objects d'Art scattered about 'his' Park? I'd like to think so; his was a creative soul, after all; local legend has it that he came up with the idea for the Leesburg Halloween Parade – as a means of keeping the Town's youth safe (not to mention out of trouble) each year on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. It takes an artist to come up with that kind of thing.

Now, on the morning of my last visit to Raflo Park, the Canada Geese were nesting along the bank of the Town Branch, and I wondered what other kind of aquatic life might be found in and around those waters; the series of culverts running under the pavement and traffic of Catocin Circle drew my attention as great places to explore for crayfish and minnows – if one didn't mind getting a bit messy while fumbling around on slippery, submerged surfaces in the dark. I decided that my days of scouting out these types of places ended some time ago, and headed back to the relative sanctuary offered by the recently-installed sculptures. So – Frank – until we verbally spar again – enjoy your Park: you certainly earned it.

## Missing My Face

– By Samuel  
Moore-Sobel



MOORE-SOBEL

"I miss my face," I told the audience. It has been a phrase on the tip of my tongue as of late, a statement that has likely always been true but never quite realized. Strong emotions sometimes collect over time, brimming over years after their expected emergence. The past has a way of casting a shadow on the present, receding for a period of time, only to return with a vengeance.

The first of this month marks the eighth anniversary of the day my life changed forever. It was a seemingly normal day, featuring a beautiful blue sky accompanied by warm weather. It had been a rather pleasant weekend, spent with family and friends in anticipation of the upcoming start to the school year. My biggest worry – a little more than six weeks before my sixteenth birthday – concerned school subjects such as biology and the undertaking of my first Advanced Placement (AP) class. In retrospect, life contained a sense of sweet simplicity that has certainly been lacking ever since.

Recently I found myself in front of an audience for the first time in years. The story I tell had been shared before in similar settings. Invited to speak at schools and conferences in the intervening years after that momentous September day, the story became something to embrace. A sort of healing was achieved through sharing how the glass jar filled with sulfuric acid exploded onto my face and arms, causing me to sustain second and third-degree burns. "You'll be out on the circuit one day," a teacher at my high school told me after listening to one of my presentations. "I've been to enough of these conferences and I know you will get there ... just give it a few years and you will see."

Yet within a few years, my desire to share lessened. As time marched on from September 2009, my desire heightened to turn the page on this experience to prevent being completely defined by it. I wanted to be more than the scars I carry on my face for all to see, more than the emotional wounds I have taken great pains to conceal. That is, until a bold statement reignited within me a passion to share.

"I don't think what happened to you was all that traumatic," someone told me recently. This person's words stopped me in my tracks. Racing through the halls of my mind, I wrestled with the implications of such a remark. Had I failed to explain the nuances of this experience, to show the inner parts of myself that had sustained deep scarring? Perhaps I have not let enough people share in my journey of grappling with the implications of losing my face.

We all have invisible scars. They may not be as visible as some of mine, but they are often

lurking just beneath the surface. Who among us has refrained from experiencing moments of great pain? Incidents that hurt us deeply, resulting in the loss of faith in humanity. Past experiences are ones we carry with us on a daily basis, weaving in and out of the narrative of our lives in an often-unpredictable pattern. We cannot always smooth out the rough edges formed by pain and suffering; however, we can control how we respond to the waves of this world.

Weeks after my life nearly came to an abrupt end, my response formulated into a resolve to write. My desire to share is not motivated by narcissistic tendencies, but rather is borne out of a desire to share the seeds of hope cultivated within my own life in an effort to help others. This story is unequivocally larger than me, connecting with others deeply, as evidenced by the reaction of the crowd on that night a few weeks ago. Every single participant approached me afterwards, sharing their stories in turn. Speaking of their struggles with mental and physical maladies alike – some conventional and others not so much. "Your words were exactly what I needed to hear tonight," one person told me after receiving an unfavorable diagnosis hours before. "You gave me courage to share my own invisible scars," offered another. Something good can indeed blossom out of tragedy.

After years spent finding the words to assist in expressing the innermost workings of the mind and soul, my mother and I are nearing completion on our own manuscript. As we begin our journey towards navigating the publishing process and speaking to crowds both large and small, it is the stories we hear from others that spur us on in our quest to share our scars. September 1, 2017, marks the official launch of our website and blog – tools to be used in the sharing of lessons learned along our journey. For hope is not an automatic response. Hope must be cultivated, nurtured, and encouraged.

September 1 will always be a celebration of life for me and my family. A day dedicated to the creation of new memories, a celebration and reminder of God's providence. My eyes and organs were inexplicably preserved, ensuring that my life on this earth was not prematurely snuffed out. Every year we choose to healthfully grieve over what we lost, while pressing on with a sense of both gratefulness and celebration over the life possessed in the present.

So this month, take a moment to share your scars with someone in desperate need of a road map leading towards survival. Revisit past experiences, parsing out the seeds of hope that can be planted in the lives of those traveling in your orbit. You too can make a difference by impacting others for good – even if you spend the rest of your life missing your face.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is grateful for the gift of life and for the ways in which hope sustains. To find out more about his story, please visit [www.holdingontohopetoday.com](http://www.holdingontohopetoday.com).*

## Focus On: Loudoun Valley Floors And Loudoun Carpet Care

Loudoun Valley Floors opened its Purcellville location in 1991. It's the go to business for any and all flooring needs. The four owners are: Matt Ange, Keith Fleming, Steve Jacobus and Rich Iwerson. Three of the four owners (Matt, Keith and Steve) are born and raised in Loudoun County, and Rich moved to Loudoun 30 years ago. They have a wealth of knowledge in every aspect of the flooring business – from start to finish. The company specializes in carpet, hardwood, laminate and luxury vinyl. They also refinish hardwood floors and install



hardwood stairs. Their motto is, "Honesty, integrity, punctuality and quality." To learn more, go to [LoudounValleyFloors.com](http://LoudounValleyFloors.com).

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## The Importance Of A Service Dog

– By Mary Rose Lunde



For most of us “normal” humans, going about our daily lives is done with ease. Our menial tasks such as doing laundry, or the dishes, or even eating are often taken for granted. It isn't until you've met someone who has some form of disability that you start to understand that there are many people in America and all over the world that struggle to live their daily lives. For instance, diabetics are in constant fear of their glucose levels falling to dangerous levels that could lead to coma or even death. People who struggle with debilitating seizures fight to wake up and return to normal functions. Children diagnosed with autism struggle to interact with the world. Veterans who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder may shut down after hearing a fire truck's alarm ringing in the distance.

These four types of people struggle with their daily routines, which may be disrupted often without notice. Although there aren't cures for any of these conditions – diabetes, autism, PTSD, and seizures – there is one thing that can lessen the physical, emotional, and mental pain often caused by them: a dog. Some people discredit the use of dogs to help serve a person struggling with normal tasks; however, it is scientifically supported that dogs are intelligent enough to learn how to aid their humans, and provide them with a better quality of life. If you don't believe me, look up the dog who serves an autistic kid who learned how to interact with the world, or another kid whose dog showed him how to take a nap.

Or you could watch the countless videos of veterans who have service dogs who help keep them calm when they are bombarded by their own memories. Once you meet a person whose life was given a new purpose because of these service dogs, you have seen all the proof you need.

So how does a dog learn how to serve its master with these conditions? For starters, not all dog breeds are preferred for these tasks. Just as police dogs are usually German shepherds, service dogs are often golden retrievers, golden-doodles, Labradors, and Labrador retrievers. These breeds have a higher intelligence for learning the skills necessary to comfort and stay calm, while improving people's lives and helping with their specific needs. The process of training service dogs starts when they are puppies. Often when the dogs are old enough, they are given to puppy raisers (mostly volunteers), who keep the dogs for up to a year, and teach them how to best serve their human companions.

Service dogs are serious workers, and should be appreciated and given the respect they deserve. When they are in their vests, they should not be approached unless their owners give approval. They should not be distracted, since that could cause harm to their owners. Above all, service dogs are hardworking dogs who deserve to be acknowledged for the hard training they have endured and the work they do to improve their owners' lives.

*Mary Rose Lunde is a first year Masters student in Literature at Virginia Tech. She is currently training a service dog named Sheryl that will someday serve a person who needs her.*

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# Preserving In Place To Forever Remember

– By Andrea Gaines

Historic preservation takes place one person at a time, or, in the case of Loudoun residents Paul and Lee Lawrence, two people at a time.

Over the last several years the couple has purchased and protected four historic properties in the area, including the Mountville Methodist Episcopal Church South building, an old enslaved laborers structure in Upperville and a farm and abandoned house that was once part of a tiny spot no longer on our maps ... a place called Circleville. They have also put hundreds of acres of land under conservation easement.

Theirs is a model that preserves properties in place to forever remember what happened where and when ... clearing brush and other obvious signs of neglect, restoring stone, stucco and structure, repairing lighting and uncovering what has been walled over.

History ... can be raw. But, when the details of a particular property are laid out before us, we see both the struggles people went through, and the beauty and hope they experienced as they endured hardships in search of a better future.

The Lawrences seem to understand this. They are passionate about all of western Loudoun, and in particular its history and historic places.

The Circleville farmland and house was one of several original Quaker settlements in the area. As abolitionists, Quakers limited



Paul and Lee Lawrence with "Pip" on left and "Emma" on right.

the size of their farms to properties that could be successfully run without slave labor. And, members of this particular Quaker community helped the local black community build one of the first legal black churches in Virginia – Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in the nearby village of Lincoln. Nelson Talbot Gant, a slave born on the Woodburn estate near Leesburg and freed by order of his owner's last will and testament, won a landmark case that enabled him to buy his wife's freedom with the help of this Quaker community. The Mountville Church is located approximately 3 miles southeast of Circleville. Ezekiel Mount, for whom the village of Mountville was named, worshiped at this church



The now restored Mountville Methodist Episcopal Church South was built in 1852.

along with his slaves, who were restricted to the balcony above the church sanctuary. We have Mount to thank for the sharp dogleg curve Snickersville Turnpike takes as it winds past old Mountville and heads south toward Aldie and Rt. 50. Mount moved a single apple tree from his farm into the planned path of the road, and the state, prohibited from running roads through any and all "orchards," was forced to send Snickersville Turnpike around it.

The simple log cabin-type structure Lee Lawrence saved from probable demolition, sits on a rock embankment on Rt. 50 just as you leave the Village of Upperville. Perhaps the people who used it for shelter, or a place to warm themselves by a fire knew some of the people who worshiped with Mount. Maybe they had heard the story of the apple tree that altered the course of a road, or a man named Gant and his struggle to win his wife's freedom.

These are the snippets of history the Lawrences hope will remain in our consciousness, thanks to the investments in historic preservation they have made; preserving in place what happened at Circleville, the church in Mountville and the old structure on an obscure rock embankment outside of Upperville.

Paul and Lee Lawrence were recognized as Preservationists of the Year in 2016 by the Loudoun Preservation Society and the Loudoun County Joint Architectural Review Board. The Mountville MECS restoration project was the recipient of a Loudoun County Design Cabinet "Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Award," in the makeover category, in 2017.

Our reward is being able to drive or walk or ride our horses by Circleville, the slave quarters and the church in Mountville, and know something of what happened there.

Thank you, Lee and Paul, for all that you do. Thank you.

*Paul Lawrence serves as counsel to the law firm of Waters Kraus & Paul, with a legal practice focusing on class action and whistleblower litigation. Lee Lawrence edited, annotated, and published the book entitled "Dark Days in Our Beloved Country: The Civil War Diary of Catherine Hopkins Brown," is working on a second book and has written extensively about the abolition efforts of Quakers in the nearby village of Lincoln.*

*Interview, continued from page 1*

more than 45 percent underutilized. Prior to that time, the approach to reducing debt had been heavily dependent on growth and increases in water and sewer fees. Once elected, my approach was one of finding ways to better monetize the \$125 million in Town owned assets, to find cost savings, and to increase operational efficiencies. Recently, we cut \$325,000 in annual expenses from the Utility Enterprise Fund and raised over \$300,000 from the sale of an underperforming asset.

During my term as Mayor, our debt has decreased each year – without the massive growth that would have changed the character of our Town and forced double digit percent increases in water and sewer rates. Our citizens will not receive any increase in water and sewer rates this Fiscal Year, and our financial consultants confirm that this will have no negative impact on our fiscal outlook. Pending a successful restructuring, our debt is projected to be below \$55.7 million by October 1, 2017. This includes taking action to insulate our citizens from the balloon payments due starting in 2021. This debt restructure will not only free up cash and lessen the debt burden but also will eliminate the revenue generating restrictions on our existing tax-free bonds. With these restrictions eliminated, we will be in a better position to realize optimum non-tax revenue from the majority of our underperforming assets. Many will argue that costs will continue to rise, and that may be true. However, those increases do not necessarily have to be paid by our taxpayers if we are able to get additional non-tax revenues from water

tower leasing, better management of Town assets, water reclamation and bulk water sales, and selective timber cutting, among other initiatives.

**BRL: What steps have you taken to ensure that planning and zoning reflects the desire of the citizens?**

**KF:** We are moving forward with a Comprehensive Plan revision which upon completion will better reflect our citizens' views regarding growth. For example, our Planning Commission is working to lower height limits in the historic C-4 District and to increase setbacks that conform with Purcellville's character. Our citizens, also county residents, have the power to hold our Supervisors accountable to ensure they adhere to the zoning in Western Loudoun. Developers should engage all impacted citizens to arrive at a place that does not compromise the character of Western Loudoun.

**BRL: What is new and significant in the budget the Town released in June 2017?**

**KF:** As first proposed, this budget would have pressured the Town to grow significantly to avoid double digit increases in water and sewer rates. That was unsustainable. So, the Town Council adopted a budget which reduced utility fund expenses by \$325,000 – or about 3 pennies on the tax dollar which is not a onetime reduction; it is annual.

In addition, regarding the General Fund, there will be no increase in tax rates, significant cost cutting without compromising services, and operational enhancements. We have instituted a 3 percent pay raise to staff, maintained a projected surplus with no negative impact on financial health, and maintained a strong bond/credit rating.

With respect to the Utility Enterprise Fund, we have guaranteed no increase in water and sewer rates, reduced chargebacks by \$325,000, and also realized cost savings without compromising services.

**BRL: What are the most common complaints you receive from the citizens?**

**KF:** By far, excessive growth rates and high water and sewer bills are the most common citizens' complaints. Priority wise, we will ensure citizens are heard on all proposed development projects.

Also, we will continue to encourage developers to seek advance feedback from our citizens. This will ensure that our residents maintain control over whatever development product is being proposed. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan is and will remain our guide in responding to development requests.

Water and sewer bills are too high – absolutely. But, I take a big picture approach to this and other financial issues, and building on our momentum is key. We're attacking water and sewer rates, and we will continue to do so. Town assets are in a better state – and we will continue down that road. Town reserves are something we haven't addressed specifically here, but we have boosted those while reducing our debt by making sure our cash is realizing the highest interest rates available.

Interestingly, the two things citizens care about the most – managing growth and Town finances – are linked. And, we will continue to make sure citizens know we have heard them and are acting on what they say and what they want.

**BRL: Tell us about the business climate in Purcellville.**

**KF:** Because Purcellville remains the economic hub of Western Loudoun, businesses want to move here. Over the past year, we welcomed forty-one new businesses and twenty-seven new home occupations totaling sixty-eight new enterprises. In addition, Southern States, supporting Loudoun County's \$208 million equestrian industry, invested in a significant expansion and renovation. Likewise, McDonald's also invested in a new expanded restaurant. During the past two months, we have had two ground breaking ceremonies. We are the headquarters to Lowers Risk Group, a risk management company with international presence boosting a 3-year sales growth of 339 percent, Dragon Yong-In, one of the country's largest Tae Kwon Do schools, and Catoctin Creek Distillery, which produces Virginia's most-awarded whisky and serves a global market. Many more great businesses call Purcellville their home, and this council will continue to encourage and to support businesses that will complement Purcellville's character as well as provide excellent service to our community.

**BRL: What does the Town offer that is fun and entertaining?**

**KF:** With signature events like Loudoun Grown Expo, the Halloween Block Party, and Christmas in Purcellville, the Town continues to work with businesses and volunteer groups that offer entertainment and recreational activities for families. We also have the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Christmas parades. Upcoming in October is the Purcellville Tag Sale, an event that offers residents and buyers chances to earn and to save cash. The newest event in the planning stages is the Purcellville Grub Crawl. This is an opportunity for restaurants to showcase their menus and attract repeat customers.

## Amateur Radio Tech Classes Start Sept. 14.

“... as anyone who has gotten the amateur radio bug and gone through the training will tell you, there is something very special – awesome, really – in communicating with others via a radio station and system you put together yourself.”

– By Andrea Gaines

The Loudoun Amateur Radio Group is offering to interested amateur radio enthusiasts ages 10 and up a series of eight weekly classes to prepare them for their Technician Class Amateur Radio License. The classes begin Sept. 14, and will be held on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Leesburg VFW Hall, 401 Old Waterford Road. A license examination session will be held on Nov. 4.

Amateur radio has been around for some 100 years. Practitioners, known as “hams,” use special parts of the radio spectrum set aside for them by the Federal Communications Commission and its predecessor, the Federal Radio Commission.

Hams are the original early adopters of wireless communications. Other wireless technologies such as smartphones have largely replaced this communications vehicle. But, as anyone who has gotten the amateur radio bug and gone through the training will tell you, there is something very special – awesome, really – in communicating with others via a radio station and system you put together yourself.

“Hamming,” as it were, is as popular as ever. The number ham operators in the US stands at some 800,000 individuals, and licensing agencies and organizations preparing people for the exam report regular increases in the number of people signing up to take the test. The total number of licensees in Virginia is just under 20,000.

Members of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group have a variety of interests, including public service and emergency



communications. In recent weeks they provided communications support for the Reston Century Ride, and in the coming weeks LARG will be working to support the Lovettsville Oktoberfest.

The organization and its members also serve the Loudoun County Emergency Operations Center and the National Weather Service in Sterling and Dulles. Hams were an integral part of the rescue and relief effort for Superstorm Sandy, the terrorist bombing in Boston, Hurricane Katrina and more.

Said LARG member Chris Graves, “The hobby of amateur radio is so diverse, there is something for everyone. From Morse code to satellite communications, voice to digital modes, tracking beacons to mesh networking, and contesting to emergency communications. Add in the community service aspects and anyone can find an aspect of Amateur Radio that appeals to them directly. Fun and learning all wrapped up in a hobby, what could be better?”

For more information about LARG’s licensing class, go to: <https://k4lrg.org/education.html>.

## Purcellville’s Never-Give-Up Makers



The small but mighty group of Makersmith working at their Purcellville location.

– By Andrea Gaines

Neither rain, nor thunderstorms – nor absolutely vexing electrical problems – can stop a makersmith.

Normal people took their Labor Day BBQs inside to escape the thunderstorms last weekend. But, members of the Makersmith organization plowed ahead with an official “Makersmiths Work Day,” laying flooring, readying computers, 3D printers and other equipment, and installing lights and more at their new Purcellville location.

A very successful Kickstarter campaign earned the group the money they needed to get their new space in Purcellville up and running. Some unexpected electrical challenges delayed things a bit, but, this is not a group of people easily distracted by something like that.

The new space – a previously unused Town of Purcellville property near the

intersection of A and South 20th Streets – is coming along, thanks to the small but mighty group that showed up on Saturday.

Makersmiths are, at their core, ordinary people who love to make things, invent things and enjoy the spirit and camaraderie of people who like to do the same. In the process they share ideas, resources and tools – everything from high-tech printers and cutters to specialty carpentry tools.

When complete, the Purcellville facility will include a woodshop, a metal shop, a vehicle shop, a craft room, an electronics/3D area, a general classroom and others. Shared tools and equipment include “old school” items relating to wood working, metal working and crafts, as well as “new school” items now in great demand.

For more information on getting involved, becoming a maker yourself, check out their Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/makersmiths/](http://www.facebook.com/makersmiths/).

### *Kid’s Kitchen, continued from page 1*

Let the kids take over the kitchen for a day (or half day!) ... with a grandparent or other appropriate oven and stovetop chaperone (adult) in attendance. And, let the kids choose the menu – pancakes, also promising to make sure there is lots of coffee around for the chaperones who may be helping them with the clean-up. Since the kids are in charge – with you or whomever you want there to enjoy the meal – let the young ones take pancake and coffee orders ahead of time. Building up a little enthusiasm for the event adds to the fun. No one needs to encourage a child to get creative with pancakes – think back to your own experience. But, we’ve listed below

some of the more unusual foods you can add to pancake batter before it’s ladled onto a sizzling grill. We’ve also listed inventive ways to spruce up a regular cup of coffee. Have a great September.

- **Savory Pancakes:** Add crumbled cooked bacon, shredded cheese and/or shredded zucchini and cinnamon to your basic batter, lightening up a bit on the sugar if you are making it from scratch. Savory flavors are just wonderful paired with deeply sweet maple syrup.
- **Double-Berry Pancakes:** Add fresh berries and a drop of vanilla to your pancake batter. Blend the same ingredients – berries and vanilla – into a bar of softened butter. Berry butter

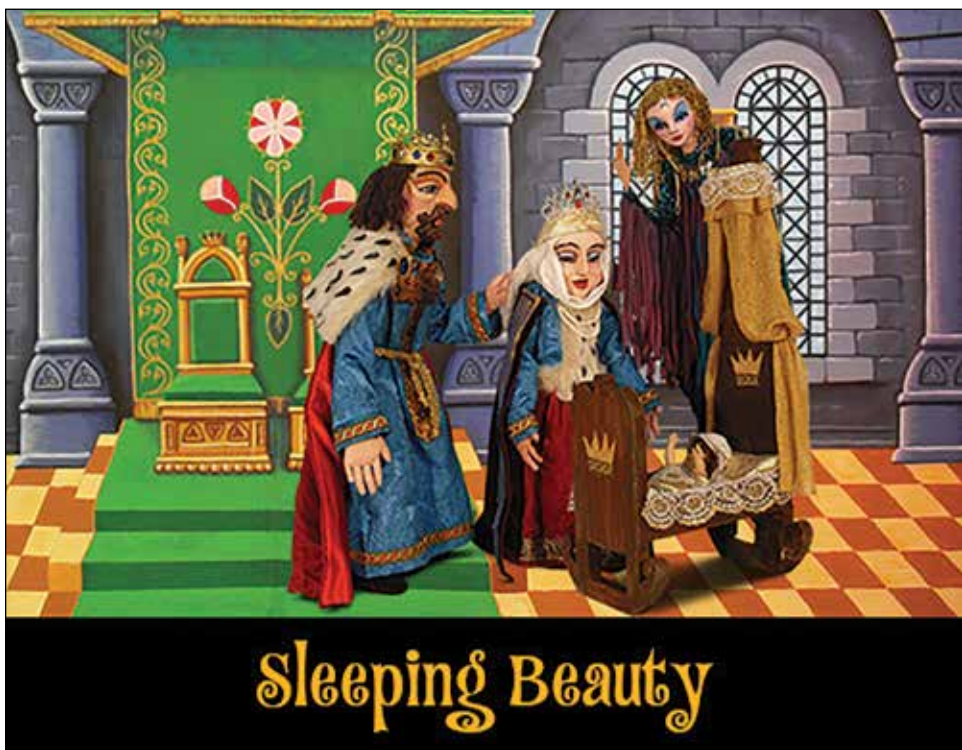
on berry pancakes makes for a beautiful and tasty plate.

- **Layered-Like-Lasagna Pancakes:** When your basic pancakes are ready to be served, set out a good sized bowl of plain Greek yogurt, along with your choice of layering toppings – shredded coconut, nuts, fruit, granola. Greek-style yogurt is best for its firm, dense texture. Guests can build their own layered-like-lasagna pancake stack, with yogurt and toppings in between.
- **Spruced up coffee:** Actor Clark Gable once remarked, “I never laugh until I’ve had my coffee.” Well, let’s have a good laugh while we think about what to add to our coffee while the kids wreck the kitchen.

Spices such as cinnamon, cardamom and pumpkin pie mixes are really nice additions to coffee, particularly when paired with cream and sweeteners. Cocoa and mint, or mint oil, are delicious in coffee. And, since the kids are in charge today, why not bring out the whipped cream or – now hear me out – the ice cream. A dollop not only cools a cup of coffee, but also turns it into a warm and cool dessert of sorts.

*P.S. With the weather still so beautiful, maybe your Kid’s Kitchen Takeover can take place in the back yard, or where ever you choose to grill. Pancakes can be made on the grill in a cast-iron pot or any other flat grilling surface you can place safely atop your grill grate.*

## At Franklin Park One For The Little Kids, One for The Big Kids



**Sleeping Beauty**

Don't miss these two great performances at Franklin Park this month – one for the little ones in your life, and one, for you! Details at [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).

### Tanglewood Marionettes, Sleeping Beauty

This performance of the classic tale, Sleeping Beauty begins in the king's great hall where guests have come to celebrate the birth of Princess Aurora. Then ... the wicked witch arrives and yikes!, curses, followed by the possibility of romance. Which will come true? In this performance, a painted story book opens to reveal each scene, which hand-crafted marionettes are brought to life by a master puppeteer. Wednesday, September 13, 10 a.m.



### Marcolivia: Classical Chamber Concert

This 50 to 60-minute chamber music concert will thrill you with a variety of styles from two incredibly talented individuals. Presented with assistance from Virginia Commission for the Arts, the violin and violin/viola duo of Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff have performed at esteemed locales such as the Kennedy Center, the Ravinia Festival, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space in Manhattan and Carnegie Hall.

They are also regularly featured on NPR's "Performance Today" and "Front Row Washington." Tickets are \$10.00, all seats. September 13, 8 p.m.

## Painted Benches & Planters Around Purcellville

Brochures Are Out – Auction Nov. 11



Discover Purcellville organizers of this year's summer community art project has distributed the full color brochures highlighting all the Painted Benches & Planters around Purcellville along with sponsor and location information. Pick up a free copy anywhere you see one of the benches or planters.

This year's auction for The Painted Benches & Planters is set for Nov. 11

at the Purcellville Skating Rink 250 Nursery Ave. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3024012](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3024012). Purchase tickets early as they will sell out.

You can vote for your favorite Painted Bench or Planter at [www.DiscoverPurcellville.org](http://www.DiscoverPurcellville.org). The 3 most popular vote-getters will be awarded cash awards the night of the auction.

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# What's New For Fall?

– By Andrea Gaines & Valerie Cury

We love the toasty, winter whites that brighten up a cold January day. The crisp fabrics that herald the arrival of spring. The bare-skin shapes and accessories that take us through an effortless summer day.

But, there's nothing like the frisky combination of vivid color, fashion-forward style and unexpected extras that drop in to greet us each fall – tempting us to spice up our wardrobe – and skip through some fallen leaves.

We asked Nordstrom Senior Fashion Director Shannon Schafer what that meant for Fall Fashion 2017. She took us through this flawlessly simple Fall Fashion Q&A. The fabrics, styles and attitude are so exciting!

## Fall Fashion Q&A

### **What clothing pieces are key for transitioning from summer to fall?**

Everyday velvet is an essential for fall – it's no longer just a winter fabric! The opulent look can be worn for day or night and it's become seasonless. Velvet separates, like skirts, pants, and blazers will be available, and velvet dresses are a staple this season. We love velvet in a bold color, and crushed or patterned, it feels very fresh.

Clean and simple denim is also a transitional must have. This season we love classic washes free of distress or worn accents. This cleaned up look feels freshest cuffed for a cropped look.

### **When layering, how should these pieces be styled?**

This season is all about looser proportions and experimental layers that are purposefully disheveled and askew. Fashion is more relaxed than ever.

### **What colors are in style for fall this year?**

Red is a must have color in women's fashion this season. Red bags, shoes or statement clothing pieces are all great options we recommend for customers. For the boldest fashion lovers, we recommend trying a red hue head-to-toe for a monochromatic look.



**Top to bottom, above and left:**

**Tracy Reese** Doubled Breasted Plaid Blazer, \$398

**Topshop** Chuck On Blazer, \$75

**Topshop** Holographic Vinyl A-Line Skirt, \$75

# According to Nordstrom EVERYTHING

*Shoes can be tricky for this time of year.*

**What shoes would pair nicely with outfits that transition from summer to fall?**

Fancy flats are an opportunity to have fun with your footwear this season through novelty décor, bold color and prints. The freshest flats this season are pointy toes, mules and slides.

**What are some rules you follow when it comes to fashion at this time of year?**

This season, rules are meant to be broken! We love wearing velvet when it's still warm, and layering short over long for a nod to the 90's! Experiment and have fun, rules no longer apply.

**For women, what jewelry or purses do you recommend for these outfits?**

A decorative bag in velvet or brocade with embroidery or embellishment is a fashionable way to update your wardrobe this fall. Surprisingly, they can go with everything, and the more unexpected the pairing, the better.

A mega statement earring is also a must have this fall. Art earrings, bold hoops and long drops are worn as match sets or mono for a bold look.



*Eyelet*

*Asymmetry*

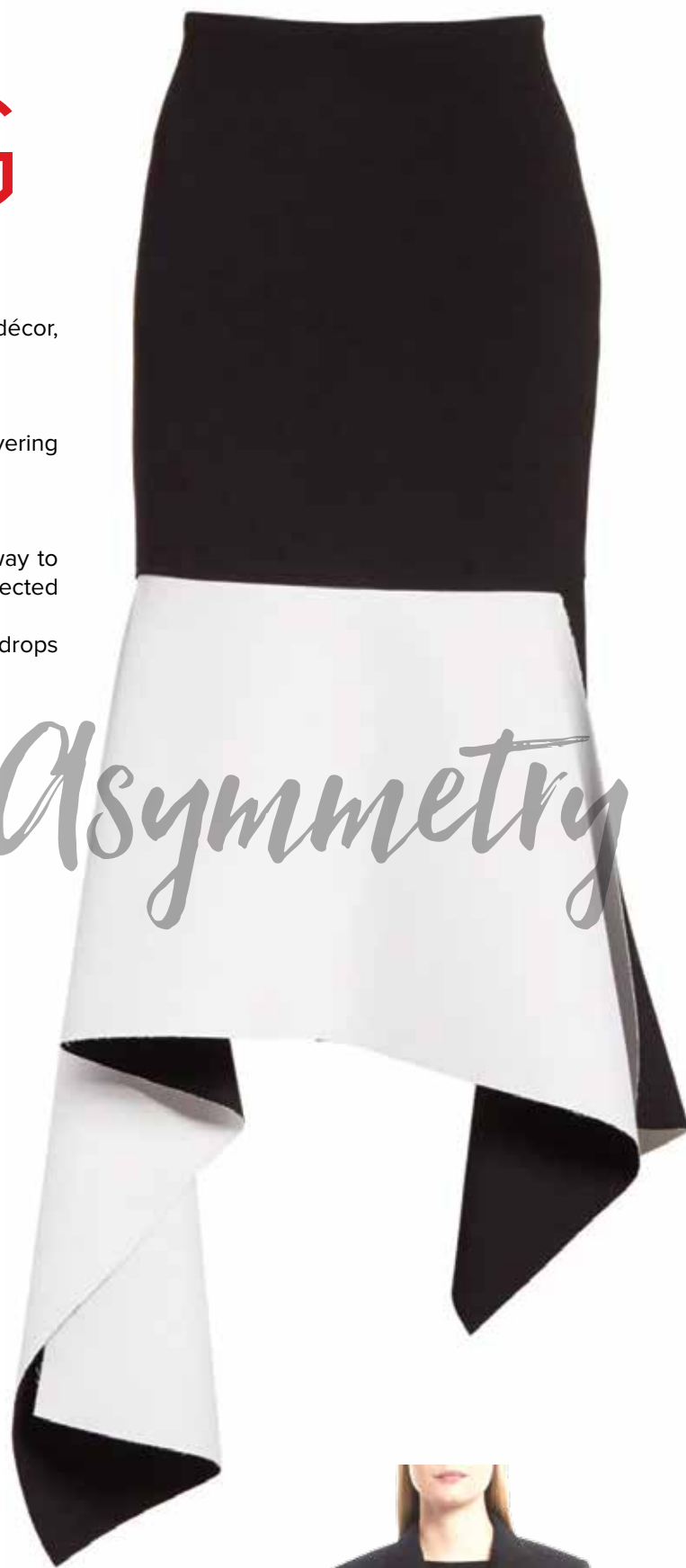
**Clockwise from left:**

**SEA** Eyelet Puff Sleeve Sweater, \$350

**Marques'Almeida** Asymmetrical Bicolor Crepe Skirt, \$465

**Rag & Bone** Duke Wool Blend Blazer, \$595

**Jimmy Choo** Autumn Bootie, \$925



*Simplicity*

*Velvet*



## From Time to Time By Myles Mellor and Sally York

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
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56					57				58		59	60	61	62
63							64	65						
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

**ACROSS**

- 1. Muscat native
- 6. Goya's "Duchess of \_\_\_"
- 10. Dorking, e.g.
- 14. Held up
- 15. Cardinal
- 16. Title of respect
- 17. Intermittently
- 20. Bug
- 21. Tights
- 22. Campaign
- 25. Convex flower clusters
- 26. U.N. agency
- 30. "O, gie me the \_\_\_ that has acres o' charms": Burns
- 32. Theseus slew him
- 35. Squeal
- 41. Without delay
- 43. Botched
- 44. Certain stanza
- 45. Go bad
- 47. One of three vessels
- 48. Wrap
- 53. Hirudinean
- 56. Missile part
- 58. Club-shaped tool
- 63. Occasionally
- 66. Defeat decisively

**DOWN**

- 1. Airy
- 2. "\_\_\_ along!"
- 3. Not aweather
- 4. Hardly Mr. Cool
- 5. Tennyson poem
- 6. Spanish 101 verb
- 7. Kind of partner
- 8. Flat rolls
- 9. Daughter of James II
- 10. Like ice cream
- 11. Alphabetic system
- 12. Invitation heading
- 13. Domain
- 18. Opposite of paleo-
- 19. Sawbones
- 23. Cloud
- 24. Busy
- 26. Prayer leader
- 27. Commend
- 28. Carpenters and harvesters
- 29. Sounds at fireworks
- 31. Portico

- 33. Kind of time
- 34. Combines
- 36. Astern
- 37. River in southern France
- 38. Ethnic cuisine
- 39. Reclined
- 40. It towers over Taormina
- 42. Unadulterated
- 46. Senescence
- 48. Katzbalger, e.g.
- 49. Capital west of Haiphong
- 50. Dense, roll-shaped cloud
- 51. Stimulates
- 52. Island chain?
- 54. PC "brain"
- 55. Obeys
- 57. Any day now
- 59. Censor's target
- 60. Volume
- 61. Brain section
- 62. Organic compound
- 64. Club alternative
- 65. "\_\_\_ Girls"

Answers on page 26

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Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

Don't turn on the radio or allow yourself to be distracted by any other form of technology. Instead, allow yourself to embrace the natural sounds of your drive and enjoy the silence and attendant calm that comes with it.

As you practice these things, you will notice yourself experiencing greater awareness and focus, which should in turn have a positive impact on your mood and driving experience.

When you come upon those two upsetting moments of your commute, notice your thoughts and feelings, but don't try to control

them. Take deep breaths – inhaling in through your nose fully and then out through your mouth fully – to help you to remain calm and present. I also invite you to respond to drivers passing you aggressively on the shoulder with compassion and forgiveness. Perhaps you can even wish them well in your mind or even verbalize positive statements to them as they whizz by you.

Certainly, it will take time to retrain your thoughts and the ways in which you process annoying or upsetting moments more successfully with mindfulness strategies.

Lastly, I also recommend listening to,

“Awake at the Wheel: Mindful Driving,” by Michele McDonald, to better help you to manage your anger behind the wheel.

Dr. Mike,

*My wife is seriously addicted to the cell phone game Candy Crush. She plays it all the time, and it's gotten so bad that it's interfering with all aspects of her life. She's also spent a lot of money on the game and can't seem to level up on the game fast enough before she needs to spend and play more. Help! – Concerned in Loudoun*

Dear Concerned,

Although the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders did not include a classification for Internet Gaming Disorder in its most recent edition in 2013, there is no denying that video game overuse has become a very real problem for many.

Candy Crush, like so many other smartphone-based games, is fun, but it's also cleverly designed to keep you coming back for more via a variable ratio reinforcement schedule where you lose a lot but win just enough to want to play more; this is the same tactic casinos use with slot machines. Throw in the engaging sounds and the colorful visuals and the levelling up goals, and what started out as something fun can become an out of control compulsion.

Research has also shown that incessant gaming - as well as other technology use also involves and alters dopamine levels in your brain.

Thus, too much Candy Crush may actually lead to problematic behaviors and symptoms that are consistent with substance use disorders or other addictions and dopamine appears to be the main culprit. It appears that dopamine, a natural brain chemical that provides pleasure when

we drink or use drugs, is also released in our brains when we use our smartphones. Yes, Candy Crush use can be thought of then as a form of self-medicating where players can enter a vicious dopamine loop of constant seeking and receiving of dopamine (i.e. pleasure) when engaged in the game.

I think you should sit down with your wife to express your concerns again. If she dismisses you, be prepared to give her specific examples to better elucidate your concerns. You and your wife should come up with a game plan that will help her to gain control over her problem.

You could both agree that she delete the App and go cold turkey. Or, you could attempt a more nuanced step-wise approach to change where she plays at only certain times of day and in certain settings. If your efforts fail, I recommend seeking the help of a mental health professional.

*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 444095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.*

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*Answers to puzzle from page 22*

1	O	M	A	N	I	6	A	L	B	A	10	F	O	W	13						
14	P	O	L	E	D	15	M	A	I	N	16	A	G	H	A						
17	E	V	E	R	Y	18	N	O	W	A	N	19	D	T	H	E	N				
20	N	E	E	D	L	E	21	L	E	O	T	A	R	D							
						22	L	O	B	B	Y	25	C	Y	M	E	S				
26	I	C	A	O	30	L	A	S	31												
32	M	I	N	O	T	A	U	R	35	T	A	T	T	L	E						
41	A	T	T	H	E	D	R	O	42	P	O	F	A	H	A	T					
43	M	E	S	S	E	D	44	Q	U	A	T	R	A	I	N						
										45	S	O	U	R	47	N	I	N	A		
48	S	H	A	W	L	52	L	E	E	C	H	54									
56	W	A	R	H	E	A	D	57							58	P	E	S	T	L	E
63	O	N	C	E	I	N	A	B	L	U	E	M	O	O	N						
66	R	O	U	T	67	O	G	L	E	68	D	U	M	B	O						
69	D	I	S	S	70	N	E	T	S	71	S	T	E	E	L						

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