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Builders Seek More Residential Units In 'All Planning Areas'

Housing Summit Testimony Repeats Call For Major Density Changes

– By Andrea Gaines

In testimony submitted to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors 2017 Housing Summit, the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association called on the County to relax density rules and open up more land – east, west and middle – to development. Pushing for maximum residential densities as part of the ongoing Envision Loudoun process, the developer-funded group did not mince words: “To put it simply, NVBIA advocates for policies that accommodate all types of housing in all planning areas ...”

We're Still 18,300 Homes Short

NVBIA's testimony, supported on virtually all points by testimony from the Dulles Area Association of Realtors and other pro-growth advocates, is based on the controversial George Mason University housing needs assessment released in February.

That study – based on Washington D.C. regional growth rates extrapolated to the year 2040 – projects that “64,355 new households are expected to want to live in Loudoun County.” Based on the number of housing units that will be available during that time, claims NVBIA – including the 65,900 new construction permits issued by the County from 2000 to 2015 – Loudoun is still nearly 20,000 units short.

Taking an inside look at regional employment sectors, housing prices and trends, commuter patterns, residential vacancy rates, ownership rates, and more, the report assumes that the County will want to liberalize its zoning laws to accommodate any and all growth.



“Affordable housing is not the same as workforce housing.”

– Board of Supervisors Chair
Phyllis J. Randall
(D-Chair-at-Large)

Blowing Smart Growth – And The Transition Policy Area – Out Of The Water.

The thousands of citizen comments taken by the County during the Envision Loudoun process show strong and sustained support for the three-part growth management strategy supporting a suburban east, a transitional middle, and a rural west.

The “housing assessment” has the power to blow that strategy – developed in 2003 as the smart growth alternative to runaway development – out of the water.

The wholesale changes to the comprehensive Plan being pushed by DAAR and the NVBIA stand in direct contradiction to that citizen

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5K Turkey Trot And Fun Run



The Loudoun Valley Community Center Advisory Board will be sponsoring the 5K Turkey Trot & Fun Run on Sunday, Nov. 12. The race will be held at 8 a.m. at the Loudoun Valley Community Center in Purcellville. To register, go to PurcellvilleTurkeyTrot.Racewire.com or email race organizers at Purcellville5KTurkeyTrot@gmail.com.

The fee to register is \$35. Funds raised go to those in need for preschool and day care programs and for college scholarships to former students.



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“I have been buying propane from Hunt Country for about a year now. My previous propane provider was much higher priced. The staff was rude and didn't seem to care if you gave them business or not. When I was shopping around for a new company, thankfully I found Hunt Country. The staff is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and genuinely cared that you gave them your business. Hunt Country prices are consistently lower than their competitors. I highly recommend that you call Hunt Country Propane, if you don't, you're making a BIG(\$) mistake. Thanks Hunt Country!” –Ed, Leesburg



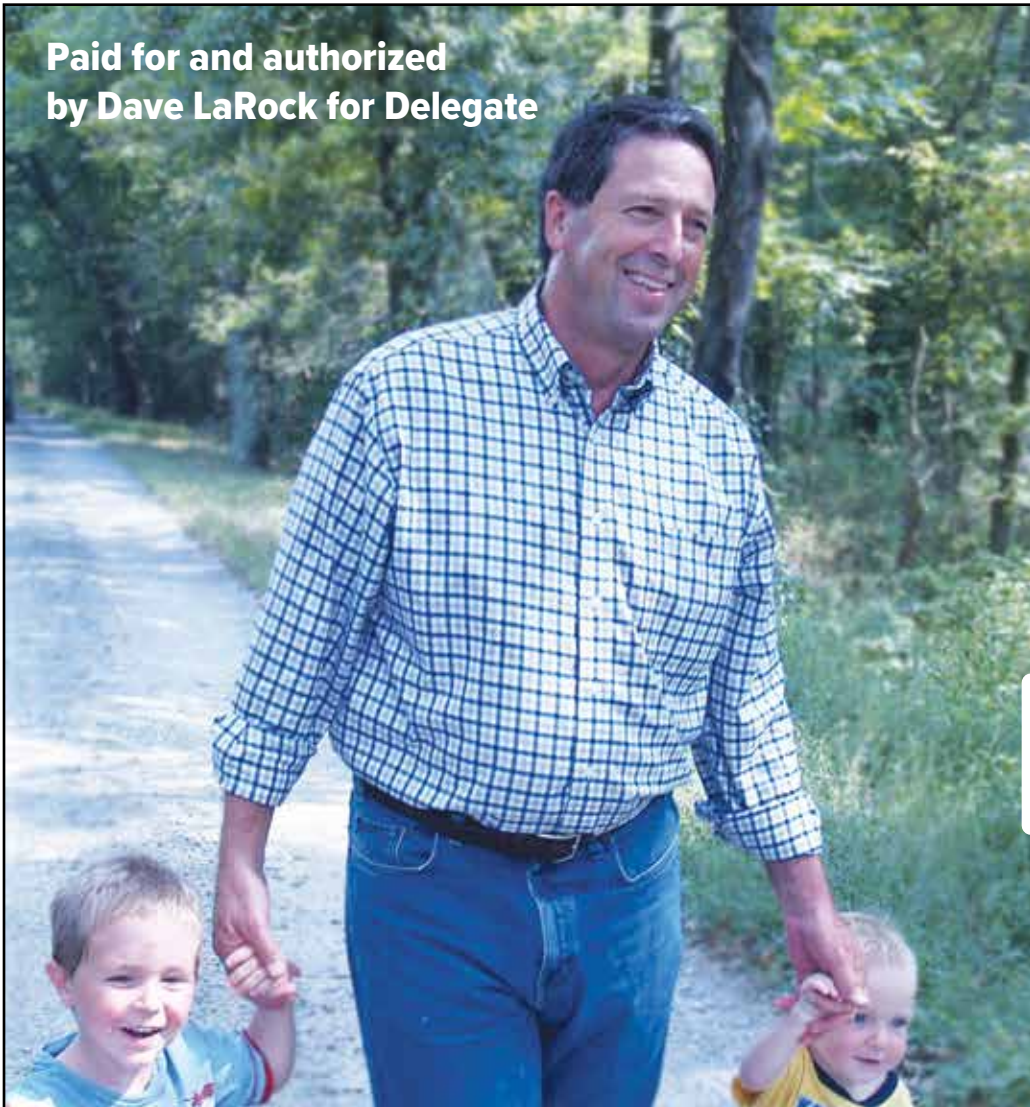
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“I am blessed to have 7 children and 11 grandchildren, I’ve put many personal things on hold to serve because I want to keep our community a great place for families to flourish and businesses to prosper.”

–Dave LaRock

DAVE LAROCK

Protecting and Preserving
Our Community
for Future Generations.

VOTE TUESDAY NOV. 7

RESULTS: SLOWING DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS Dave’s Action on Residential Development in the 33rd District.

Dave led an activist team that identified the Loudoun Metro extension as a source of intense pressure for expanding residential development in western Loudoun,¹ a prediction now being confirmed as accurate, (*current headlines reveal push to abolish the transition zone and allow 12,000-18,000 new homes in transition areas*).²

He voted in support of proffer reform to limit residential rezonings which bring traffic congestion and demand for new schools.

He passed a law to protect property owners who would be affected by annexations. The law requires all affected landowners be given notice of a proposed boundary line adjustments and authorizes affected landowners to intervene in the action.

RESULTS: SAVING LIVES OF VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS CAUGHT IN THE OPIOID CRISIS Dave Passed Naloxone legislation with unanimous bi-partisan support.

“Thank you Delegate LaRock from the Medical Society of Virginia on behalf of 11,000 members.thank you for your hard work on developing solutions to combat the opioid crisis in Virginia. Your support for both physicians and patients demonstrates leadership in creating the most cost-effective measured approaches to tackling this crisis...”

–Ralston King, Medical Society of Virginia



RESULTS: RE-OPEN DMV SELECT IN PURCELLVILLE Saving customers from hour-long waits in distant DMV offices.

“He [Dave] was with us every step of the way on this [*Purcellville DMV Select office re-opening*]... he bothered the devil out of me... ‘Rick, when are you going to get something done up in Purcellville area?’... I would tell him steps we’re taking and there was probably no one happier, well, next to me,... than the delegate when we said we’re ready to go back into Virginia Regional Transit, and I appreciate all his help on that. He’s served in the General Assembly since 2014, and I will tell you, although he’s only been in there a short time, he’s already made his mark. He’s a very strong voice on the House Transportation Committee, he’s sort of one of our go-to folks, and I appreciate all of his support that he provides for the DMV.”

– Rick Holcomb, DMV Commissioner

RESULTS: COMBATING LYME DISEASE

“I wanted to personally thank you for all of your hard work and support regarding the bill that you brought on behalf of the Lyme community. As a result of your endeavors, a protocol has been established in order for patients to file a complaint for violations of Va. H.B. 1933.”

– Susan R. Green, NatCapLyme Legislative Counsel

PROMISES KEPT. RESULTS DELIVERED.

**DAVE
LAROCK**
OUR DELEGATE. VOTE NOV. 7

SOURCES: (1) July 5, 2012 Loudoun Opt Out blog. (2) Blue Ridge Leader July 6, 2016 Op-ed Metro Money Mess Pushes West.

Eyes On Voters Following Final Virginia Attorney General Debate

– By Valerie Cury

The second and final debate between the incumbent Virginia Attorney General, Democrat Mark Herring, and his challenger, Republican John Adams, who emphasized he is not a politician, focused on a variety of important basic issues such as the opioid crisis, public safety, religious liberty, the role of the Attorney General, and when if ever an Attorney General can opt not to represent his clients, the people of Virginia.

This second debate took place on Oct. 20 at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne. Tony Howard, Chamber president and CEO moderated the debate, which was sponsored by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. Questions were asked by Stacey Miller Metcalfe with Inova Loudoun Hospital, Lisa



John Adams

Hooker with NOVEC, and Maggie Parker with Comstock Partners. The debate was attended by an audience that included Loudoun's top



Mark Herring

business, government, and community leaders. It revealed in clear terms the vision of each candidate, and the differences between them.

Herring's tenure as Attorney General has been defined by many things, including his refusal, in 2014, to defend Virginia's ban on gay marriage. During the debate, Adams called Herring's decision to side with the plaintiffs in the case a dereliction of duty, saying that he had put politics over law by selectively enforcing state statutes. "What matters is results ... Get politics out of the Attorney General's office," said Adams. "The Attorney General's Office is so overwhelmed by political views that it fails to do its fundamental job."

Herring has said that in this case he felt a greater duty to defend the right of couples to marry. He also noted that the United States Supreme Court eventually ruled that state laws banning gay marriage were

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Virginia Governor's Race Not A Nail Bitter ... Or Is It



Ed Gillespie

– By Andrea Gaines

Lieutenant Governor and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ralph Northam and Republican Ed Gillespie have faced off in three televised debates in recent months – the last being held at the David J. Prior Convocation Center in Wise, co-hosted by the University of Virginia's College at Wise, the Southwestern Virginia Technology Council, and the University of Virginia's Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Outsider candidate from the Libertarian Party – patent attorney Cliff Hydra – did not qualify for the debates, but maintains a tiny but loyal following.

The debates are over, but everyone seems to be holding his breath, wondering how national politics will influence this purple state vote. Early polls showed Northam with a lead over Gillespie, but the Republican has closed the gap and now leads with small margins in some of the polls. But polls have failed to project the winner – in dramatic

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Ralph Northam

And, In the Lt. Governor's Race ...

In this race, Democrat Justin Fairfax – who nearly beat current Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring in the primary race for that seat five years ago – is a real political outsider. Fairfax's opponent for Lt. Governor is the very experienced and well-liked incumbent Republican, State Senator Jill Vogel. The Lt. Governor casts the tie-breaking vote in the Virginia State Senate, so this is a much-watched race. The Lt. Governor debates have focused on gun control, healthcare, and abortion. Polls so far show Democrat Fairfax with a small-to-moderate lead, with a substantial percentage of voters still undecided.

Loudoun Election Officials Notify Residents Of Precinct Changes

In advance of the upcoming general election on Nov. 7, Loudoun County election officials reminded voters of precinct changes in the Blue Ridge Election District.

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors approved a request by the Voter Registration and Elections Office to create three new voting precincts in the County. "Due to the growth in the southeastern section of the County, we thought the new precincts were necessary to keep polling places at a manageable size and to help ensure that voters experience a smooth and relatively quick process at the polls on Election Day," said General Registrar Judy Brown.

The new precincts are as follows:

- **Precinct 319 - John Champe**, voting at John Champe High School, 41535 Sacred Mountain Street, Aldie, 20105.
- **Precinct 320 – Stone Hill**, voting at Stone Hill Middle School, 23415 Evergreen Ridge Drive, Ashburn, 20148.
- **Precinct 321 – Brambleton Middle**, voting at Brambleton Middle School, 23070 Learning Circle, Ashburn, 20148.
- A complete list of all of the polling places in Loudoun County, with links to maps of the boundaries of the precincts and directions, may be found online at www.loudoun.gov/PollingPlaces.

More information about the upcoming election is online at www.loudoun.gov/Election2017.

Deadlines:

- Last day to vote an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, Nov. 4.

Notice to voters using the US mail service to return ballots: The United States Postal Service delivery standards have changed so that first-class delivery is now two-to-five days and standard delivery is now two-to-nine days. Please take this into consideration when returning your absentee ballot. Apply early and return your ballot promptly to ensure it arrives in time to get counted.

In-Person Absentee Voting Locations and Schedule

Office of Elections, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175 – Monday through Friday (Oct. 30 through Nov. 3) - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling and the Dulles South Multipurpose Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, from Monday through Friday (Oct. 30 through Nov. 3) - 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A Rare, Pastoral Farm On Paxson Road



– By Hannah Hager

You could be one of the lucky ones. This 18th century farmhouse on Paxson Road in Purcellville is for sale for the first time in five generations, which means it's a rare opportunity for you to experience a version of Loudoun that is long gone, but still exalted nevertheless.

Loudoun once was a mecca for agricultural pursuits of all kinds as evidenced in the more than 100 acres of rolling, lush green pastures surrounding this Colonial farmhouse. But it's the building themselves that are what make the "Benedum Farm" such a rarity.

In fact, this property has been featured in newspapers decades ago, when its structures were praised for their uniqueness

and historical significance. Not the least of which is its meat house. Three walls have beveled slits that would perfectly fit "the turning of guns. It is not improbable that the building might have been used as a small fort," reads an undated Times-Mirror article.

The familial ancestry of the home is well documented, as is its numerous renovations and additions from its original stone structure built in the 1770s. The fruit cellar with brick floors was once used by a Purcellville doctor to prepare his medications it is claimed, and the dirt floor in the kitchen once served as the platform to salt down rabbits for dinner.

The right family will settle here so its children can experience the splendor of nature and learn the value of hard work



all while getting their hands and feet dirty. From the rust-red dairy barn with twin grain towers, to the stone storage shed and cattle stable, there are plenty of outhouses for children to explore. The current owners once uncovered a buried brick wall 100 yards in front of the farmhouse and speculated whether it was a foundation for another building a wall to a family cemetery.

The house itself is traditional as well, with front and side porches, beamed ceilings, plaster walls, hardwood floors and three wood-burning fireplaces. With a traditional floorplan comes a large kitchen with eat-in table space in addition to a separate dining room and living area.

Rarely does a property this grand – and

- **Address:** 35516 Paxson Rd, Purcellville Loudoun
- **Agent:** Sam Rees, On the Market Loudoun
- **Phone:** 703 408-4261
- **Bedrooms:** Three bedrooms
- **Bathrooms:** Two full baths
- **Year Built:** 1820
- **Acreage:** 80 acres* (80 acres at \$1,495,000 or 135 acres for \$2.1 million)
- **List Price:** \$1,495,000 (for 80 acres or \$2.1 million* on 135 acres)
- **The property is offered for sale in two ways: farm house and 80 acres for \$1,495,000 or the farm house on 135 acres for \$2.1 million**

steeped in so much historical knowledge – change hands between families. Perhaps it's time you reach out to take it.



Our Recently Sold 2017 Listings

On the Market ... with Sam & Ray Rees



"Selling your home can be such a stressful experience ... but working with Sam and Ray was actually fun - and profitable! Their decades long experience and local knowledge combined to sell our home in only 3 days for the full asking price. I can't imagine making another move without them –and we won't!"

– Brenda & Frank Graziano, Leesburg - Summer 2017



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BRMS Active In National Anti-Bullying Month

Blue Ridge Middle School participated in October's National Anti-Bullying Month. According to Principal Brion Bell, "Blue Ridge staff is committed not only to providing students a strong content-based education but also helping them develop strong social-emotional skills. How you treat others and how they treat you plays a significant role in our students' futures."

The month began with a week-long series of kindness activities. Centered around the theme of "Break the cycle of meanness ... try kindness!", the celebration highlighted the positive impact kind behaviors have on others. All Bulldog students viewed a video created by eighth grade PEER helpers, showcasing what it means to be kind and how kindness makes a difference. Students engaged in classroom discussions centered around being respectful and kind towards the perspectives and ideas of others – even if they differ from their own personal views. The week wrapped up

with a final show of support for positive relationships demonstrated in the "Hats on for kindness!" hat day at BRMS.

The emphasis on kindness continued throughout the month, and will remain a priority throughout the year. All students participated in grade-level discussions that concluded with each student standing for kindness and stating how he/she will make a difference. The Same Sky Project presented its show, "Behind the Label", to sixth and eighth grade students. The show focused on embracing yourself for who you are, and having empathy with others. Seventh grade students participated in an assembly presented by Camfel Productions, entitled "Point of View." Gaining perspective on the differences that separate each of us from those around us, while recognizing the importance of diversity, was the message of the show.

The following essay, written by seventh grade student Logan Cower, speaks to the power of a positive attitude.

Attitude Benefits

– By Logan Cower

Your attitude about things in life can affect how people look at you. When you have a bad attitude, people may look at you as mad or not a great or fun person to be around at times. If you radiate a good attitude, you will be looked at as a positive person, someone you can ask help from and someone you see as an overall good person. Even if you are going through the worst time of your life, you should still try to be positive, and surround yourself with positive people, too.

At times, you will have a bad attitude, and that is normal. When you start to hurt people whom you radiate your bad attitude towards, that's different. You should always try not to hurt people verbally just because something bad happened to you, because it tends to stick with them more than being complimentary.

Having a good attitude is not only being kind, funny, or accepting, it's also putting yourself in their shoes, putting yourself in their position in their life at that time. Giving a friend confidence about a tough problem he or she needs to overcome is having a positive attitude. Helping people in the bad times of their lives will carry on with them, showing that they can trust you, or help them be more open about themselves. That is good attitude, helping people out in the times they need it.

During the time that I've met people, I can identify people with good attitudes or bad attitudes. It is a lot more helpful if you decide to surround yourself with the people with a great attitude, than to be with



Logan Cower

people who can get you in trouble or even hurt you – that's not what friends do. You have the choice every day to be happy or negative. So if you choose negative, that is your fault in the long run. When you are happy, it's addicting. You can be known as a good person – that's what having a good reputation and attitude can do.

Overall, attitude is where you start your reputation around people, or even how you look to people. You don't have to be positive every day of your life, but you should at least try. If you can't, try to surround yourself with the people that can help you, because that can help your attitude. When you don't particularly like individuals, you don't have to like them; but having a good attitude still applies to those situations: you can try to be nice and kind, even if they aren't. Just remember attitude: it will help you and many others in life.

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The Altruism Of Developers

– By Charles Houston

Byne pulled into a space at the restaurant. Big, black sedans flanked her white Cherokee. A minute later she took a seat next to her friend. “Sorry, Tissie, the farrier took longer. So I’m in farm clothes.”

Tissie, in suburban chic, replied, “No problem. Besides, you look more like Loudoun County than I do.”

“Maybe not for that much longer.”

Tissie, puzzled at the odd tone, “What’s the matter?”

“We feel threatened.”

“You and Robert?”

“No,” said Byne, “All the west. Developers want to fill the entire county with houses, and worse. It’s scary. For you, too, Tissie.”

“For me?”

“Yeah. What developers want now is increased density in the suburban area, and that includes your Ashburn. They’ve also targeted the center of the county that’s supposed to be a buffer between east and the west.”

Tissie frowned. “Ashburn? Traffic’s awful and everything’s crowded.” She paused, considering *density*: More houses, close together. More congestion. Overcrowded schools. Ugh!

Byne added, “Every new house costs the county tons more money than the taxes it pays. That’s why Loudoun has the state’s highest tax rate and why it’s facing a \$100 million budget deficit. Taxpayers need to revolt.”

The solution seemed simple to Tissie, “Why don’t we just stop the growth?”

“That’s what people want. A 2016 survey of the citizens said the main problems were growth and traffic. That doesn’t seem to matter now,” answered Byne, sipping her water.

“Why not?”

“Developers threw us a curveball that the politicians have ...” She stopped mid-sentence as two men at the next table started talking loudly. One was 50-ish, the other probably in his late thirties. Tailored suits, Hermes ties, starched shirts. Byne paired them with the black German cars. “Shh. Listen to those guys.”

The older man was on his second martini; the younger not far behind. Byne and Tissie heard them clearly.

“... biting off more than we can build?”

“Nope,” said the older, “We can always crank up construction. Lotsa people want to move here. But that’s not enough!” he finished with a triumphant smirk.

“Developers,” whispered Byne to Tissie, who nodded.

“Okay, Franklin, how do we get more?”

“Easy, Chuck. We got handed a gift and figured out how to use it.”

“Tell me.”

“The county is updating its Comprehensive Plan so it hired consultants for a process called ‘Envision Loudoun.’ It’s supposed to get citizen input, but we hijacked it.” The older man cackled. “There’s also a ‘Stakeholders Committee’ to distill everything and make recommendations to the Supervisors. Most of the stakeholders are real estate people.”

“Sweet, Franklin, sweet.”

“It gets better. Envision Loudoun was lucky timing and we’ve done two more things. First, we got a thick study done by GMU saying we needed 18,000-plus more houses.”

Chuck snickered.

“The Board shot that down. Letourneau asked ‘What planet are you guys from?’ That was bad,” the older developer said, “But then we hit a home run!”

“I know Matt,” Tissie said quietly, “He’s smart, a good guy.”

Franklin went on, “We simply changed the topic and made it about ‘Affordable Housing’ and that sounds like apple pie and motherhood.”

“How does that help?”

When Franklin paused to eat Byne said to Tissie, “I’ll hush when they start talking, but can you believe them? It’s trickery. We need to be more cynical.”

Tissie admitted, “I read about a housing summit meeting and Affordable Housing, but I should’ve thought about it more.” They hushed when the older man started talking.

“Affordable Housing gets everybody on board. The teacher’s union wants it – in fact, they want county tax credits so teachers can get cheaper houses. That looks graspy,

actually, since about 80 percent of teachers already live here. We got companies to say there aren’t enough workers here because of housing. So we couched it as ‘Affordable Housing,’ which sounds altruistic, and we offered a solution: Give us higher densities, starting in the east, and we’ll build cheaper houses. If we get density like quarter-acre lots, we can cram in untold thousands more houses. We can ask for tax breaks, all sorts of stuff. We’ll look like the good guys.”

Chuck grinned, “Slick. So instead of one \$700,000 house on an acre lot, we build four \$350,000 houses. Then we’d’ve built, what, \$1.4 million instead of \$700,000 and doubled our profits.”

“Yeah, but we can’t be too careful. Our NVBIA president almost blew it before the Supervisors when he said ‘We need all types of housing in ALL planning areas’ – that’ll just get the western loonies riled up. We’re saving the west for later. And, then he kept blurting out things like ‘the east is becoming urban’ (Tissie tensed and reddened) and ‘Don’t fear the Density word.’ He wasn’t supposed to say that!”

“Makes us look greedy,” Chuck agreed.

The older builder smiled, “Yep. The name of the game is deception and patience. Then we’ll get what we want.”

Byne looked at Tissie, “See why we feel threatened?”

“I put up with bad traffic and overcrowding. I had no idea it would get worse.”

“It will, Tissie, it will. The only way to slow it down is to pester the supervisors, send letters to the papers. Envision Loudoun is a sham and Affordable Housing is nothing but a ruse. The developers are winning.”

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

Letters To The Editor

LaRock Policies Limit Residential Rezoning

Dear Editor:

The letter writer from Purcellville has it wrong when he attacks Delegate Dave LaRock on policies relating to residential development, falsely stating Dave LaRock, “...has shown no interest and taken no action on this issue. ... he has attempted to deregulate the residential development business...”

Dave LaRock’s actions tell a very different story. Here are two examples.

Five years ago, LaRock led a team of activists (of which I was one) that passionately resisted the Metro extension saying it would eventually lead to intense pressure for more residential development in the west. Current headlines prove that prediction was spot on. We read recently that a suggestion from the county’s stakeholders committee, which

for the past year has been working on crafting Loudoun’s new Comprehensive Plan, is that Loudoun should allow 18,000 new residential units in the transition area. The semi-rural Transition Zone (where I live) is intended to function as a buffer between Loudoun’s rural west and suburban east and is an area that for years residents, preservation groups and supervisors have urged the county to protect from further development. The stakeholders group now expresses an interest to radically modify the current version of the Transition Area to allow dense residential development that pushes west. This is exactly what LaRock and our activist group warned would happen and something LaRock vocally fought against.

More recently, in 2016, LaRock supported proffer reform – even against some in his party – which will have the positive effect of limiting residential rezoning. Many claim proffers pay for the impacts of development but it never works out that way. That’s why we have some of the worst traffic in the nation.

Proffers don’t even come close to paying for new schools; if you want proof just look at the ballot on Election Day. Every time you vote in Loudoun you see the option to float \$100s of millions of new debt to pay for the schools that proffers did not pay for.

Delegate LaRock is being challenged by a self-proclaimed Progressive Democrat who actually tweeted that she opposes a property tax decrease. She likes the rural west but has no viable plan to protect it. She openly stated her support for Metro as a method for tourists to visit the 33rd District, which is highly unlikely, but simultaneously ignores the housing pressures Metro creates and that it is a catalyst for further eroding and destroying the west.

Delegate LaRock is a true public servant. He scrutinizes schemes to ascertain the real effect on the people he serves and deserves the votes of the people in the 33rd District.
David Dickinson
Leesburg

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We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor:

Submissions may be sent to
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PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325.
Please include your name,
address and telephone number.

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

Applications For Vacant Council Seat Being Accepted

At the Town Council Meeting on Oct. 24, Council Member Kelli Grim formally resigned her position on Town Council, effective Nov. 3. The Town extends its gratitude to Ms. Grim for her outstanding service to the community as a citizen and as a Town Council member.

The Town Council is asking for interested members of the community who wish to serve on Council for an interim period, to submit an application to the Town Clerk. Applications can be completed and submitted online at www.purcellvilleva.gov/forms.aspx?FID=78.

Interested citizens must submit their application, letter of interest and resume by 5 p. m. on Monday, Nov. 6, online, via email to Diana Hays, Town Clerk, at dhays@purcellvilleva.gov or in person at

Town Hall, located at 221 S. Nursery Ave. To serve on Town Council, a person must be a qualified voter in the Town of Purcellville.

The Town Council will review the applications at a Special Council Meeting on Monday, Nov. 6. Public interviews with prospective candidates will be held at a Special Council Meeting prior to the Nov. 14, regularly scheduled Town Council meeting. It is expected that the interim appointment will also take place at the Nov. 14 meeting. The interim Council Member will take his or her seat at the Dec. 12, meeting to serve the remainder of the existing term ending June 30, 2018.

Interested citizens may contact the Interim Town Manager, Director of Administration, or Town Clerk with any questions at 540 338-7421.

Police Dept. Subject Of Purcellville Town Council Closed Session

For over a month Lt. Joe Schroeck has been the Acting Chief of the Town's Police Department.

Police Chief Cynthia McAlister has been on formal administrative leave from that position for some time, more recently extending her time out via her personal leave options.

Town officials, including Interim Town Manager Alex Vanegas and Mayor Kwasi Fraser have indicated that they are reviewing the situation and McAlister's status, and will be providing more information to the public as soon as possible.

The Purcellville Town Council will be holding a Special Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The agenda on the Town's website for the Closed Meeting notes: "The purpose of the closed meeting is to discuss the performance and possible discipline of an employee of the Town police department."

No further details were available as of the publication of this paper.

Purcellville Town Council In Action

"... The ability to not have to rely on a big Mayfair project in the future is going to make you stronger and more stable."

- Kyle Laux, Davenport and Company

- By Valerie Cury

Debt Realignment

Kyle Laux with Davenport and Company, the Town's financial advisor, gave an update on Purcellville's debt realignment at the Oct. 10 Town Council meeting. The Town refinanced its debt so it could use public/private partnerships to relieve pressure on citizens in pay off millions in debt accumulated during Bob Lazaro's tenure as Mayor. The Town Council intends to use added revenue obtained from the public/private partnerships to pay off debt without further burdening the taxpayers. This will be especially evident with the sewer system rates, mitigating the need to raise utility rates any more than is necessary. This will also give Parks and Recreation greater flexibility to partner with private companies. Projected yearly utility rate increases will now be significantly lower than the 14 percent proposed (seven percent water, seven percent sewer) by former Town Manager Rob Lohr.

"We had great success in doing that," said Laux, referring to getting Purcellville in a position to reduce costs and save taxpayer

dollars, adding that, "I think we have landed in a very nice place." Laux said that with strong management and strong financial policies, "you are thinking in multiyear planning and you are thinking in future fiscal years." He said that the fund balance levels are really good, and the Town can use that position to pay down debt.

Vice Mayor Nedim Ogelman said that he was very pleased with the debt realignment. "The Town has taken a different direction, a different philosophy, in response to citizens, to not look for additional tap fees as the source of revenue ... the biggest national rating firms have come back and given us their stamp of approval, so I am very happy with that ... I am also happy with the debt realignment." Ogelman, referring to a statement in the report said, "Maintenance of a positive utility debt service coverage without reliance on large payments from the developer of a major multi-purpose project, the Mayfair project, would lessen the potential exposure to the Town's overall financial profile - which would improve credit quality." Ogelman

Continued on page 19

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Gillespie Appears With Adams And Rubio



Senator Marco Rubio



From left to right: Ed Gillespie and John Adams

Republican Ed Gillespie – candidate for Virginia Governor, made a campaign appearance in Loudoun County, alongside Republican John Adams, candidate for Attorney General and United States Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida). The three joined forces for the ticket at a “Get out the vote” rally in Sterling on Oct. 30.

Va. Attorney General Candidate, Adams Visits Loudoun

Virginia Attorney General candidate John Adams – who is challenging incumbent Democrat Mark Herring in the race – visited Purcellville and joined in on the annual Halloween Block Party festivities. Adams also made campaign stops in Leesburg and other local hotspots.



John Adams

Democratic Trio Hits All-Important Loudoun County



The Democratic Party's three top state-wide candidates campaigned in all important Loudoun County in late October. The trio – Virginia Lt. Governor Ralph Northam (candidate for Governor, far right), incumbent Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring (candidate for Governor, middle) and, former federal prosecutor Justin Fairfax (candidate for Lt. Governor, far left). One of the stops was Purcellville's Catocin Creek Distillery.

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holiday inspiration

Small Business Grapevine

Great Harvest Bread Company
Vintage Magnolia's
Village Lanes Bowling

Spread some cheer around by supporting the small businesses in our area this holiday season. This month we feature a fantastic bread company ... a spectacular place to get awesome holiday gifts and/or spruce up your home ... and, a great way to get the guests out of the house and moving.

Fresh Bread Owner's Manual

Bread is bread, right? No. Bread can be bread or bread can be all at once simple and fantastic. According to the bakers at Great Harvest Bread Company, it's the wheat that makes all of the difference.

They have a "Wheat Specialist" on staff. Aww ... com'on ... really? Yes. And, they have breads for every day of the week, and "goodies" – cookies, scones, muffins, tea loaves and more. Their signature bread is Honey Whole Wheat, but they also have the Dakota, Cinnamon Chip, and High 5 Fiber.

Great Harvest Bread Company takes bread quite seriously. Per their Fresh Bread Owner's Manual, you can "cool it," reheat it and freeze it. But, what you don't want to do is "chill out" while caring for your bread.

See more details on their website. Great Harvest Bread Company is open Tuesday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Sunday and Monday "for a little loaf'n.")

Great Harvest has three locations – Herndon, Vienna and in Loudoun, Ashburn. Ashburn location, 44260 Ice Rink Plaza, Suite 117, Ashburn, VA 20147. 703 574-2461. Catch them on the web at www.darngoodbread.com.

Good, Old-Fashioned Times

"We're not about all those bells and whistles," says Village Lanes Bowling's long-time manager, Jeb Butler. We're about having "a good old-fashioned time."

When what's on your mind is to break up your week with a few hours of relaxation, or pack up the family for some together time, you're not looking for someone to entertain you, says Butler. You're

looking for a warm and friendly place where you can "bring the fun with you."

Lots of experienced bowlers are regulars at Village Lanes Bowling. But, everyone is welcome. There's "Cosmic Bowling" on Saturday nights. The lights go down low, the music goes up, and everyone has a great time, with ample food, drink and laughs available. There is also league play Monday thru Saturday, with the leagues divided into Ladies Night Out, Mixed Foursome, Youth and more.

The bowling alley welcomes birthday parties and pay-ahead reservations. So, think about it. Bowl your way through the holidays, or at least get those guests out of the house for a time. Village Lanes Bowling is open 7 days a week. 49 Catocin Circle, SE in Leesburg. 703 777.1864. See website for hours: www.villagelanesbowling.com.

Gift-Giving Made Easy

Everything is so beautiful. That's what you'll find yourself saying with a stroll through the Vintage Magnolia II shop, now in Purcellville. Vintage Magnolia, an antiques, home decor, gifts and reclaimed furniture business, has been around for a long time. Professional browsers, collectors and do-it-yourselfers have known it as the everything-and-anything-in-good-taste market south of Leesburg near the corner of Harmony Church Road and Rt. 7.

Owner Valerie Sikora recently set up shop in Purcellville, and added a country store section featuring locally made food products.

Places like Vintage are heaven on earth for both drifters – people roaming about, popping into a store or two and grabbing lunch somewhere – and, I-need-a-special-gift shoppers. This year they are offering a "Make Your Own Gift Basket" opportunity. Purchase a basket and fill it with a wide variety of food items from the "Country Store" ... or wine accessories or handmade soap and lotions – a personalized gift.

Vintage Magnolia II is located at 600 East Main Street in Purcellville, 540 441 3751. Both I and II are open 7 days a week, Sunday thru Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Angie's list

2017 Chili Cook-Off Event

Nov 4, Noon – 4p.m.



Emily Tyler, 2016 Chili Cook-Off Winner

Church of our Saviour at Oatlands will hold their Second Annual Chili Cook-Off, Saturday, Nov. 4, from Noon till 4 p.m. The church is located south of Leesburg on Rt. 15 (20340 James Monroe Highway).

The 2017 Chili Cook-Off is a fun, family event that includes games for kids and adults, booths featuring members of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters guild to display and sell their art, bluegrass music jam, a church sponsored rummage booth, and hot dogs, desserts, drinks, and S'mores. There is a \$5 parking fee and tickets available for \$1 that count as votes or to play games and buy treats. All proceeds go to the church building fund.

Upon receiving the 2016 first-place trophy and cash prize, Emily Tyler said, "Who would have thought a gal from Connecticut would win a Chili Cook-Off?"

For more information or entry forms, text CHILI to 913-530-5380.

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Father And Son

– By Samuel Moore-Sobel

“From Sears?” my father asks rather abruptly, a typical response whenever he hears the name of his favorite store. “You’ve got to go to Sears...you can get some good deals at Sears.”

I am in the middle of a conversation with my family, talking about my need for new shoes. My current pair are starting to show signs of wear, the right sole rapidly separating from the body of the shoe in a rather dramatic fashion. I try to avoid buying new shoes -- well, new anything -- for as long as I can, a lesson from my father imparted early in childhood. Yet even I can no longer ignore the growing need for something new.

“Are you going to show me the shoes?” my father continues. “Let me see the shoes - you know how I love shoes.”

There is nearly nothing my father loves more than buying shoes. Few things make him happier than speaking about the intricacies of shoes - the weight and length, the design and fitness, the style and durability. Somewhat of a shoe aficionado, he has a large collection in his closet, a habit my mother has tried to break over nearly 25 years of marriage. “He used to have 20 to 25 pairs of shoes,” she tells me, referring to their early years of marriage. Now it’s closer to five to 10.

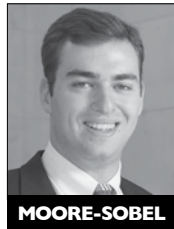
The birth of his love of shoes is in his love for his grandfather, a long-time shoe salesman, who owned stores throughout Southern Virginia. Due to the nature of his profession, my great-grandfather ensured that my father’s closet was stocked with plenty of shoes during his childhood. Since my great-grandfather’s murder in 1980, Sears became dad’s preferred venue for the purchase of shoes.

Named after my father’s grandfather, I have always felt a special affinity for shoes. Shopping with my father for a new pair of sneakers became a special tradition. A positive experience that we could both do and share together.

Except he always insists on shopping at Sears. An iconic American store, Sears was arguably the biggest retailer of the 20th century; however, Sears has quite simply seen better days. Its decline has been well documented in countless articles, including a recent one my father and I read in the *The Washington Post*. “I’m really going to miss that store,” my father said sadly after putting the paper back down on the table.

As a child, shopping at Sears often felt like a comedy of errors. After inspecting each shoe on display, my father routinely found empty shoe boxes or shoes not in the desired size. With no associate in sight, my father would make it his mission to find someone to assist him in his quest to find a pair.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, a pair would be found. Off to the register we would go, only to be delayed by the slow, 1980’s era cash registers. Dad would



MOORE-SOBEL

insist on paying with his Sears credit card, which would be repeatedly, mistakenly declined. After 30 minutes on the phone with the call center, somehow the confusion would get sorted.

A deal is struck. If we go to the Outlets instead of Sears, my father can tag along. We decide on Bass shoes since they are running a sale, hoping to find a pair of shoes that will fit. You can sense my father’s excitement as he walks in the door and glides over towards the shoe section. Touching each pair as he walks by, he finally settles on one near the middle. Except that they do not have a pair in my size.

“Do you have this in a different size, Miguel?”

My father makes a habit of calling people by their first name, no matter the manner in which he comes into contact with them. The delivery man, the shoe associate. Anyone wearing a name tag receives the same treatment.

This scene plays out over and over, my father asking Miguel to retrieve more boxes of shoes in the back. We try multiple sizes and lengths; yet, despite Miguel’s efforts, no fit can be found.

“I’m sorry Miguel,” my father says.

“It’s OK,” Miguel says as he sits down against the rack of shoes with an exhausted look on his face. Maybe we should have gone to Sears after all.

As we leave, my father recalls the days of old, shopping at his beloved Sears. “I miss those days actually,” he said as if coming to this realization for the first time. Sometimes my father talks like this, uttering deeply nostalgic words tinged with a hint of regret.

A father and son relationship is always fraught with peril. My father is a deeply complicated man, far more complicated than he appears to the outside world. Like most relationships, we missed each other along the way at times, occasionally resembling two ships passing in the night. Reaching adulthood has changed my perspective, however, shining a clear light on the reality surrounding decisions dad made during my childhood. Suffice it so say, the world no longer seems as simple as it once did.

“When your children grow up, things change...treasure the moments, they pass quickly,” he says, before going mute. Reflecting upon his words for a few moments, I wondered if his longing to return to Sears was borne out of a desire to reconnect with my childhood. Was Sears a vehicle to go back in time, to experience the moments he now so clearly missed?

“Next time, we can go to Sears,” I tell him with all the conviction I can muster. If the iconic store fails to close its doors in the meantime, that is.

Samuel Moore-Sobel needs a new pair of shoes. To read his most recent blog post, visit www.holdingontohopetoday.com



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Amy And Dan Smith's Planning For Life Tackle Year-End Deadlines And Look Ahead to 2018

– By Amy & Dan Smith



AMY & DAN SMITH

Sept. 22, 2017
 With happy holidays come distracting deadlines. Our gift to you: wrapping them up in this year-end guide. Now's the time to talk to your advisor about taking advantage of tax-deferred growth opportunities, tax-advantaged investments and charitable-giving opportunities, among other strategies. And before the ball drops in Times Square, set your financial goals for 2018.

Fall 2017 Market Closures
Thursday, Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day
Monday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Planning To-Do's
Discuss year-end planning: Ask your advisor to coordinate with your tax advisor and attorney to address year-end financial and tax planning.

Adjust your coverage: Prepare your documents for Medicare open enrollment, if eligible.

Check cost of living: The Social Security Administration typically announces next year's cost-of-living adjustment in October. Keep an eye out for this important information.

Consider retirement: New retirement plan contribution limits come from the IRS. Plan to adjust contributions appropriately.

Review your portfolio: Many mutual funds make taxable distributions toward the end of

the year. You may want to consider balancing your realized capital gains with losses where appropriate. If invested in mutual funds, don't forget about important capital gains distributions dates that typically fall in mid-December.

Heed donation deadlines: Remember year-end gift and charitable contributions deadlines. Be sure to allow enough time to complete donations, and keep tax limitations in mind if you plan to give tax-exempt gifts to relatives or friends this year.

Plan to harvest tax losses: Review and implement year-end tax planning decisions for the upcoming tax season. Consider rebalancing at the same time for tax efficiency.

Keep calm and consult on: You're likely to pick up investment tips around the holiday party punchbowl. No matter the source, take the cautious path: Consult your advisor before acting.

Set financial goals for 2018: Reassess retirement savings and work with your advisor to make adjustments, if needed.

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The Last Tree Ensemble lifts cast member Zach Goolsby into the air.

Viking Theatre Presents The Last Tree And The Water Engine

Nov. 3 – 4, 7 p.m. – Nov. 5, 2 p.m.

Come join Viking Theatre for a night of two spectacular productions. This program takes an unconventional approach to high school theatre, addressing pressing and relevant subject matters through dance, movement, and spoken word.

The Last Tree: A Story of Easter Island is the tale of the beginning, inhabitation, and eventual destruction of Easter Island. An enchanting dance and movement piece, it celebrates Polynesian culture and addresses issues of deforestation and human waste.

The Water Engine, written by David Mamet, is a drama about an inventor who creates an engine that

runs on distilled water. Although this alternative energy technology may seem like a blessing, large corporations feel threatened by its capabilities and attempt to destroy it.

Both productions are directed by LVHS Drama director Russ Staggs, with Last Tree featuring assistant direction by junior Trevor Schoeny, and stage management by senior Hannah Allison. Viking Theatre is partnering with the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship.

The cost is \$10 – go to lvtheatre.org for tickets or they can be purchased at the door – 340 Maple Avenue, Purcellville.

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The Cash Hiding In Your Refrigerator

– By Andrea Gaines

Americans love their refrigerators; big, giant “ice boxes” with more and more modern conveniences. We spend hundreds of dollars a week to stock them, a significantly high percentage of which goes into the trash in the form of uneaten food. The average American family tosses out \$1,600 worth of produce per year; 50 percent of the produce we buy to the tune of \$165 billion per year ... is wasted.

Nov. 15 is National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day. So, let's do it. Let's save some food, save some money, and prepare for the food invasion known as Thanksgiving. Two other National days can help us out – National Pickle Day, Nov. 14 and National French Toast Day, Nov. 28. Here's how ...

Pickled And Frozen Fruits And Vegetables

Traditional pickling takes four to six weeks. But, following basic food safety guidelines, you can do a quick refrigerator pickle on many vegetables, preserving them before they go the way of the garbage can. Fruits can be preserved in a similar way.

The basic vegetable pickling mixture is water, vinegar, Kosher salt and a flavoring mixture – garlic, minced onion, herbs and spices. Popular vegetables include whole



red and green cherry tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers and squash cut into matchsticks, spears or slices, green beans and asparagus, shaved onions and corn.

For fruits – peaches, apples and pears as the most popular. For this, heat rice wine vinegar, honey or brown sugar, sweet spices and ginger in a pan on low heat for two to three minutes. Then, pour the cooled mixture into a jar over your sliced fruit and refrigerate. Ready to eat in one to two

weeks, fruits will keep for up to a month.

New Age French Toast

Stale, unused sandwich bread, muffins, tortillas, rolls, etc. Our garbage cans are full of it. Instead of tossing it, why not turn it into a tasty classic with a twist – new age, sweet or savory French toast.

French toast can be made out of any left-over or stale bread product – tortillas, donuts, muffins, even bagels. It can also be

sliced, cubed or cut into strips. It is easily frozen for later use, and it can be either sweet or savory.

Start with the basic French toast dip – milk and eggs. Make a sweet, inexpensive breakfast with peanut butter, that spotted banana, and that leftover cranberry muffin – sliced, dipped, sprinkled with cinnamon sugar, and made into a French toast sandwich. Or, try a savory variety – using minced garlic, chili flakes, or just salt and pepper in the dipping mixture – with leftover ham and cheese, or fajita-type fixings.

French toast cubes or strips can also be made into sweet and delectable muffins or a savory bread pudding with leftover vegetables and meats.

Anything Goes Soups, Salads And Extras

What items in your refrigerator or pantry are likely to get tossed if not used in the next few days.

How many jars and bottles of mayonnaise, mustard, salad dressings or oils can be used or combined. Can you add some nutrition or pizzazz to your next salad, pasta dish, soup, sandwich, dessert or casserole with extra fruit and vegetables, leftover beans, rice or salsa? So many possibilities in that refrigerator.

* *The USDA's National Center for Home Food Preservation is a good resource.*

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Traditions ... Memories That We Repeat



– By Andrea Gaines

So, I asked friends and family recently to tell me about their Thanksgiving traditions in preparation for this article.

At first there was silence. And, then, “What do you mean?” And, then, “All I remember is making sure I’d get the turkey leg. For a kid, it was big. I’d eat a little and then put it in a baggie in the refrigerator. I could go back and munch on it anytime I wanted. It lasted for weeks. But, I don’t think we really had any ‘Thanksgiving traditions’ ..”

Well, I rest my case. We have Thanksgiving traditions, alright. We might not think of memories like that as a tradition, the things that punctuate our holiday, make us look back with a smile, remind us of what we look forward to. But, they are right there. To be savored, and repeated.

My turkey leg friend also told me this story: “My aunt Minnie, we called her Skinny Minnie would always get the wing bone. She had a habit of walking around with it pointing into the air, and we’d chant, Skinny Minnie with a bone, Skinny Minnie with a bone.”

It’s also interesting to get a glimpse of how people experience their first Thanksgiving. Here’s one, from a friend of mine who came to the United States as a young nurse – from South Africa. “I came to America from South Africa via England. I was fortunate to get a green card and started working at Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan as a nurse. Thanksgiving was approaching and I bought a raffle ticket. And, I won a huge turkey! I was alone so I invited all my coworkers who didn’t have a place to eat, or people who were ‘on call.’ Twelve people came for my huge feast. I had never cooked a turkey ... and didn’t

know there was a bag of giblets inside. It all turned out well, though. And, I loved my first Thanksgiving in America.”

In my own family, my dear uncle Floyd – who always came to Thanksgiving dinner in a tweed jacket, a colorful ascot he’d bought at a thrift store for 50 cents and gleaming loafers with a new penny in the slot on each shoe – made individual lemon tarts every Thanksgiving. He’d use a cupcake pan and make a dozen little crusts – the old-fashioned way, with butter and flour. He’d fill each with lemon custard, top them off with meringue, and brown them in the oven. We would eat them as soon as he walked through the door. He’d say, “Go ahead! Have one! Nobody lives forever!”

Another friend said that her family changed Thanksgiving dinner to Thanksgiving lunch. All people wanted to do was eat and fall asleep watching football. So why wait until dinnertime?

And, here’s a string of beautiful Thanksgiving traditions and memories from a friend of mine who grew up in Duxbury, Massachusetts, right near Plymouth Rock, of the original Pilgrims fame. “I remember cooking with my mom. Just she and I. We’d make pies, and Indian pudding – with cornmeal and molasses and oatmeal and butter. At sunrise we’d get up early for the Sunrise Pow-Wow, a kind of prayer of thanks for the day. I’d wear my bathing suit under my clothes and we’d dash off down to the water for a turkey day swim.”

Flashes of color, and splashes of salt water and sweet pies and family and a reason just to love life. Skinny Minnie with a bone. Beautiful.

P.S. One more tradition: Turkey hash the day after. I love that one.

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Housing Summit, continued from page 1

sentiment. And, based the negative comments members of the Board of Supervisors report to have repeatedly received – 400 to 500 emails according to one – the public is not taking it well.

The Envision Loudoun Stakeholders Committee position is that Loudoun's future housing needs are "above what can be achieved" by the current Comprehensive Plan. In September, the Board was presented with three scenarios.

Scenario 1, which the Stakeholders described as the "status quo" – in deference to overwhelming citizen support to leave the TPA as is – proposed no changes to land use within the TPA. As zoned, the area will add 2,800 new residential units and 709,000 sq. ft. of industrial use, accompanied by 50 to 70 percent open space; and that would not change.

Scenario 2, which the Stakeholders described as "strategic changes" – recommended industrial development in certain areas of the TPA. Open space areas would be maintained, along with buffers along Goose Creek. This scenario, however, would add more than 30 million sq. ft. of industrial uses, 1.12 million sq. ft. of retail, and 12,000 additional residential units to the TPA, including smaller lot sizes and smaller housing units. Some commercial buildings would also be added to accommodate the steep increase in housing.

In Scenario 3, the TPA would be, not just

A third round of Envision Loudoun public outreach sessions is scheduled for January 2018.

Time will tell where the Envision Loudoun experiment will take the County and what control the citizens feel they will be able to exert.

fundamentally changed, but enlarged. The area would be rezoned to allow for 18,300 residential units, more than 37 million sq. ft. of industrial use and 1.12 million sq. ft. of retail. This scenario also proposed adding two large areas now in the Rural Policy Area to the TPA – including lands along Shreve Mill Road and the Dulles Greenway east of Leesburg, and other lands along Evergreen Mills Road.

The Board Reacts

Supervisor Suzanne M. Volpe (R-Algonkian) – citing "a couple of comments in the newspapers" about the 18,300 number – asked Planning Commission and Stakeholder Committee Chair Jeff Salmon to explain how he came up with that.

Salmon said that the Stakeholders task was to run that 18,300 number "in different areas." If Loudoun's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure had said, "Hey, if you want to put 12,000 houses in the Lower-Foley Subarea of the Transition Area ... we're going to need to make Rt. 50 a 12-lane road," we'd "recalculate," that the

numbers were "premature."

That response did not seem to satisfy Supervisor Ron A. Meyers (R-Broad Run), who suggested that the numbers had basically set the public on fire. "From a PR side, it really hurts our future efforts," he said.

Supervisor Kristin A. Umstatt (D-Leesburg) wanted to know if the Stakeholders would follow up with information about how County schools and roads would be impacted. Supervisor Tony R. Buffington, Jr. (R-Blue Ridge) wanted the Board to be able to follow the Stakeholders work more closely. He understood the complexity of the committee's task, but had also had been surprised by the TPA densities.

Salmon said that the Board might get "more houses than you want in a particular area ... it might not be pretty. But "housing is a big need" and there are only four places housing can go, "The Suburban Area, the Silver Line Area, the Transition Policy Area, or in somebody else's county."

One Billion Dollars In 'Accumulated Debt'

Gem Bingol, speaking on behalf of the Piedmont Environmental Council, called it "counterproductive" to take a business-as-usual approach to future development ... approving more-dense, "potentially-lower-cost" housing projects within the TPA. "Suburban residents mired in more traffic from the Transition Area coming east will have a reduced quality of life and potentially lower home values – it's not a sustainable solution," said Bingol.

Transit-oriented development is the way to go, she said. The County should concentrate virtually all future growth around the Silver Line Metro. A triple win for the County, this would provide new companies with a place to operate, increase the tax base the County needs to sustain transportation infrastructure such as Metro, and give those companies' workers an affordable place to live.

PEC and others want the County to "drive a better bargain" in the growth debate.

Growth is costly from both a fiscal and a quality of life perspective; unmanaged growth even more so. Someone has to pay for the roads, schools, water treatment plants, even the stop lights. Under many developer proposals, builders would get both increased densities and pay less towards the costs of development – in exchange for building less expensive units, for example.

According to the Transition Area Alliance, Loudoun's population has grown from just under 250,000 residents in 2005, to over 385,000 residents in 2017, a nearly 60 percent increase.

Student populations increased by 76 percent, and the County budget by 145 percent – from \$1 billion in 2005 to \$2.5 billion in 2017, 70 percent of which goes to schools. This growth, argues the Alliance, has resulted, not only in overburdened roads, a degradation in water quality, the loss of open space, and a mad race to build new roads, but, also "more than a billion dollars in accumulated debt" as the County struggles to keep up with public infrastructure demands, including the new schools.

Affordable Housing Vs. Workforce Housing

The Housing Summit came about as the result of the BOS's desire to address housing affordability in Loudoun County.

As part of its strategic planning effort, the Board had agreed to "increase the use of public-private partnerships to provide affordable housing as a means to support a vibrant economy."

Per GMU, more and faster residential development, county-wide, is the key – hence it's controversial conclusions. Specifically: "The ability for Loudoun County to meet its full economic development potential and to remain a vibrant and growing community is not assured. Loudoun County, as well as the greater Washington DC metropolitan area, face unprecedented challenges to its economic competitiveness ..."

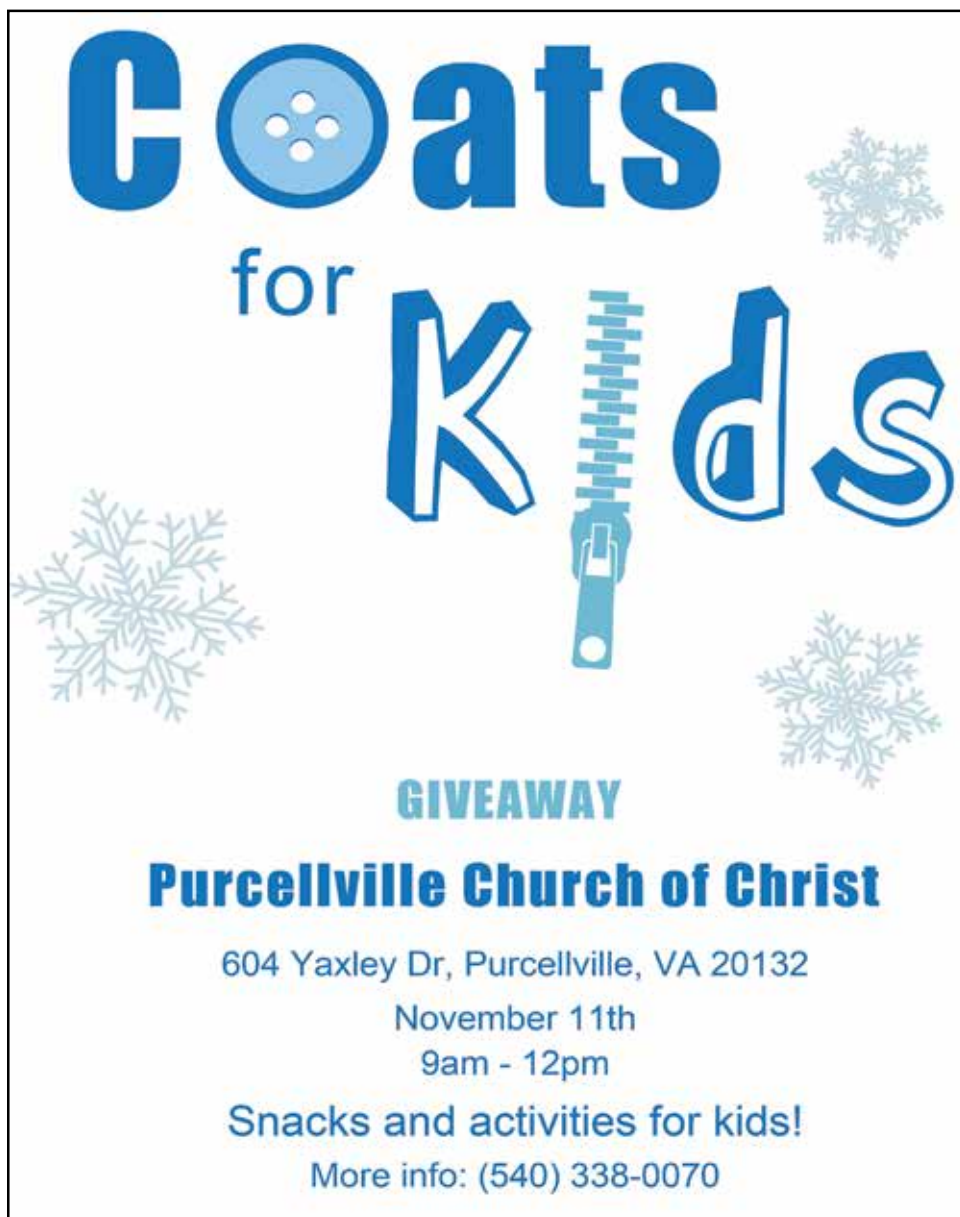
The remedy here, says NVBIA is to accommodate new housing virtually everywhere, searching out opportunities to "mix uses in residential and commercial zones ... allowing more variety of uses in residential and commercial zones." Planners should "do away with" housing-only, or commercial-only zoning categories." "Land-intensive, full amenity communities" should be downsized to fit in the east's "lack of available land." "Don't fear the Density word," says NVBIA.

But, Loudouners do fear the density word. "Density" is a real estate terms meaning how much – of anything – can be built on a given piece of land. Thus, higher densities allow developers to build more houses on smaller lots, for example.

As BOS Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-Chair-at-Large) said in a recent message to citizens: "I believe this Board does not have the appetite to approve 12,000 or 18,000 additional units as proposed by staff and the Stakeholders Committee respectively. The idea of putting 18,000 units in the Transition Policy Area is illogical. I requested that the Stakeholders include bike and pedestrian trails in the plan because it was the first need mentioned by the public in the outreach sessions. I also requested that the Stakeholders look at a diverse housing stock with diverse pricing. Affordable housing is not the same as workforce housing."

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Time will tell where the Envision Loudoun experiment will take the County and what control the citizens feel they will be able to exert.



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Town Council Meeting, continued from page 7

then asked if that meant that not depending on a single new development – by having the Town’s sources of income diversified, instead – was a way to improve the Town’s credit rating further. Laux’s answer was yes. “What they are saying is the ability to not have to rely on a big Mayfair project in the future is going to make you stronger and more stable,” said Laux.

Oct. 24 Town Council Meeting

Cut-Through Traffic

Over the past few Town Council meetings, residents from the Country Club neighborhood, on the west end of Town, off of North 33rd Street, have come before Council regarding the cut-through traffic they have been experiencing for a long time. With more than 200 cars and trucks cutting through the small neighborhood in a one-hour period alone, it is just getting worse. Resident Bob Anderson said that the street was not intended as a commuter road. The residents of Country Club said this problem will only get worse with the proposed park and ride at Virginia Regional Transit (109 N. Baily Lane, near where East Hurst Road abuts Route 7). The residents have recommended either closing off access on Main and 33rd Street, closing off access at the sign to Country Club, or using a removable barrier, before the park and ride goes to a vote at the Nov. 14 Council meeting. There will be another meeting with the community, the Town, and VDOT before the next Council meeting.

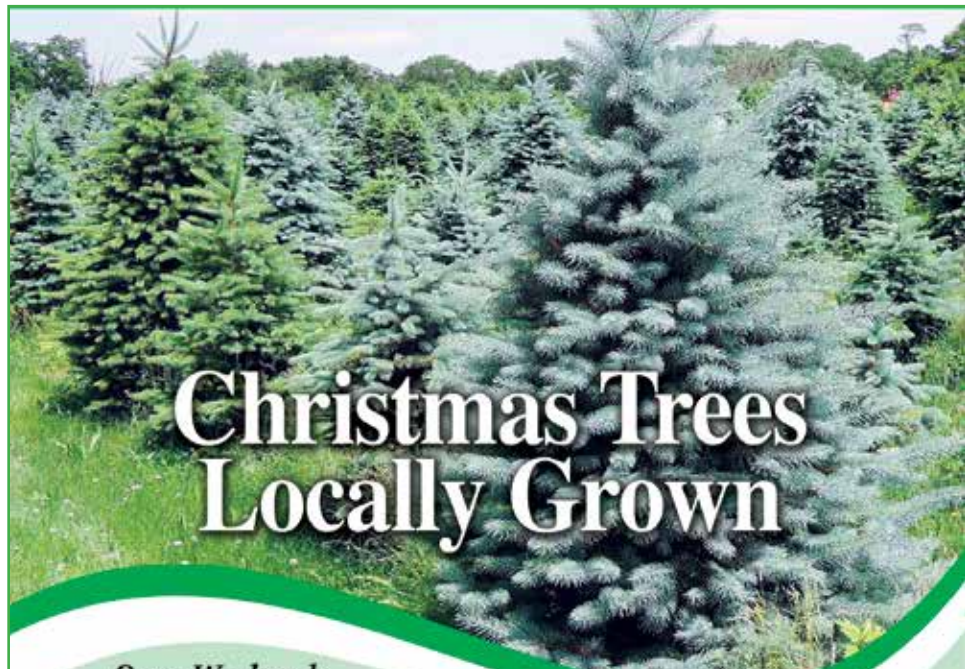
Said Council Member Ogelman, “I am here to listen to the citizens of this Town. This is my first priority.” He said that the cut-through traffic problem needs to be addressed, and that it is a health, safety, and welfare issue, not a matter of convenience. “We will do our best to alleviate this problem,” he said.

VDOT is concerned that the vehicular traffic would remain on Main Street if access to the neighborhood is cut off. But, said Council Member Karen Jimmerson, “I think it’s interesting that VDOT is concerned about us putting cars on Main Street, where they belong in the first place. Cars shouldn’t be going through a cut-through neighborhood.” Mayor Kwasi Fraser also called for a stakeholders’ meeting with VDOT to work on the three proposed solutions. “The goal is between now and Nov. 14, we have a solution that we are committed to working with,” said Fraser.

Zoning Enforcement

On other topics ... the Town Council voted to amend the Town zoning ordinance to include zoning enforcement and civil penalties, so that if the zoning administrator receives a complaint, there is a process in place to levy civil financial penalties, as a way to enforce zoning regulations.


Interim Town Manager Alex Vanegas recommended an Operational Audit RFP (Request for Proposal) for efficiency and overall benefit to the Town and staff. Council Member Kelli Grim said that it was time for a health check-up. “This is long overdue. Move forward with it, and bring it to Council,” she said.



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Just Like Nothing (Else) On Earth: Lenah

– By Tim Jon

I'm trying to learn to appreciate more fully how providence seems to keep thrusting opportunity into my path when I often least expect it; I hope that's an apt description of the conception and treatment for this story. You see - the little, unincorporated community of Lenah sort of jumped out at my imagination early one morning as I made my way to and from another one of these 'assignments;' I made a mental note at the time to return for an official (and much more expansive) look at the place.

In the meantime, my imagination went into high gear (this often happens - with or without hands on the proverbial steering wheel). I guess I had in mind (pre-plugging myself into the experience) a quaint, quiet, familiar, soft-around-the-edges type of country-crossroads neighborhood, safely tucked away from the busy traffic on Route 50: the kind of Norman Rockwell-ish atmosphere that would draw well-adjusted, loving family members back for Thanksgiving and that sort of thing - engendering (in them and me, of course) the corresponding warm and fuzzies; as



TIM JON



we've seen before in this series, though, the well-conceived dreams of Tim Jon often turn - if not completely awry - at least a bit other than expected. Lemons - after all - sour at first taste, often make for a great batch of homemade lemonade.

Following this theme, I can't help but think the late Southwest American Playwright Sam Shepard could have populated the immediate geography around Lenah with some more of his memorable, mad, yet lovable (because they are us) characters. These often rugged, wild, yet wounded souls would mesh (better than me, I'm sure) with that particular environment: over here massive log piles, down there industrial yards, further on up the road abandoned-looking structures (I wondered, as another beloved American

writer, Thomas Wolfe may have, "Who build these edifices, who sold their wares from these counters and walls, whose hopes were kindled in these monuments?"), around other corners imposing farm and construction implements, and, as I cast a wider net, at least a few residences that resonated childhood tales of mysterious and spooky doings behind seldom-opened doors (the isolated eccentricities of our man-made landscape): these are the images that greeted me as I took my early-morning tour of Lenah in Southern Loudoun County.

And, yes, admittedly, I of course noted a number of very 'normal' sights, as well: a counterbalance of traditional homes, yards with reassuringly mature trees, fields of ripened and baled hay - helping to create at least a veneer of quiet and stillness (notwithstanding the vehicular activity along Route 50), albeit on a Sunday morn. And - expanding our viewpoint a bit further than the immediate sightlines of the original village - the surrounding countryside around Lenah is amassing its share of contemporary, upscale (of course) neighborhoods: the new 'normal,' if you will - at least in these here parts. Now, I'm not sure to what degree these 21st century communities interact with their (at least in

some ways) less upwardly mobile fellow citizens. Not that I saw many physical opportunities for public get-togethers - whether in the name of culture, commerce, recreation or salvation; these may need to exist - for the nonce - merely in my imaginative dream time, along with the other, aforementioned, thought-projected amenities.

Or perhaps this little spot of earth already constitutes what still another writer - Voltaire - may have termed "the best of all possible worlds." Or - just maybe - I'll just see it all next time, if not on my most recent visit. I'm always hoping - even if I'm not certain of the particulars.

But in our (at least more) real world - on that last morning's look-around, I still kept looking for that great Main Street of my earlier conception of the place - white picket fences, friendly dogs, maybe a few chickens pecking in a neighbor's backyard - and perhaps these items existed - somewhere just beyond (or beneath) my feeble awareness; or (I'd like to think) they had all once been there - or will be (time and space being relative) at some as-yet-undiscovered point.

I hope to experience it; then again, I may already have.



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Middleburg Film Festival Celebrates Five Beautiful Years

— By Andrea Gaines



Photo: Lorey Sebastian, Le Grisbi Productions/Waypoint Entertainment.

Actor Christian Bale in a scene from the December 2017-release film *Hostiles*, directed by Scott Cooper.

When the Middleburg Film Festival debuted in 2013, regional entertainment media lit up with anticipation. It didn't hurt that the festival's inaugural year featured Alexander Payne's award-winning film *Nebraska* and Justin

Chadwick's *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*. Or that the festival was giving audiences the chance to hear Lee Daniels — Academy Award® winning director of *The Butler* — talk about what it was like to make that break-through film. People were also looking forward to how festival founder Sheila C. Johnson might use her own business and film industry experience

to give people a new reason to cherish one of Loudoun County's most historic and time-honored places.

Celebrating five years of critical success in October, the film festival has grown in attendance and displays a warm, quintessential Virginia, autumn-in-the-country attitude; modern, but with a deep respect for the film maker and actor's craft, and the remarkable history of this special village and landscape.

With over two dozen films and documentaries, as in years past, the 2017 Middleburg Film Festival gave attendees the chance to see some of the season's best films and listen to the stories of the industry's best composers, screenwriters, directors

and actors in small theater settings, post-screening talks, audience Q&A sessions and private vineyard-style dinners.

The festival opened with the film *Darkest Hour*, with Academy-Award® nominated actor Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill. Saturday night's centerpiece was the Greta Gerwig-directed film *Lady Bird*, starring Laurie Metcalf, Tracy Letts, Lucas Hedges, Timothee Chalamet and Beanie Feldstein. Other featured films included *Call Me By Your Name*, *Mudbound* and *I, Tanya*. Screenwriter James Ivory of the famous Merchant/Ivory filmmaking partnership was recognized with the festival with its 2017 Legacy Award. Ivory's film credits include

Continued on page 30

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Adjusting To The Triangle

- By Mary Rose Lunde

How do you manage life is a common question everyone tries to figure out at some point. Some people use schedules or to-do lists to figure out what needs to be done, and to keep track of life events.



Others have planners or write things down on their hands to keep track. No matter how you try to manage life, understanding that there are certain priorities that need to be taken seriously is a first step to going through life without feeling like you're sinking.

There's a saying in my campus ministry that in life you only have time for two out of three of the triangle of life. The triangle itself consists of three parts: social, work, and health (primarily sleep). Unfortunately for many people, particularly college students, it is hard to balance life. To succeed in one of the areas fully, the other two must be lower on the priorities list. Each of the three parts of the life triangle in itself consists of a variety of activities and necessities, such as sleep, communication, and homework. It is hard to figure out what to prioritize. Our desires may not be what is actually the best for us overall. We can desire to always be socializing, but then we wouldn't be working -- and that would cause us to have less success in the professional world.

It is a triangle. In geometry, triangles are made with three sides each touching each other. Triangles can only work if the sides meet. So if one of the sides is too long while the other two sides are too short, the triangle won't work. This is what happens when a

person prioritizes one of the sides of the triangle and the other two fall out of balance. The triangle will work; however, if two of the sides are the same and the third is smaller.

The most ideal situation is when all three of the sides are balanced. Because humans are not perfect, this is often thought impossible even though it isn't. One of the best ways to make sure your life is balanced is by taking a step back, and looking at how you spend your time. If you are spending most of your time in one area above the others, it may be smart to figure out how to best adjust your schedule to accommodate all three of the sides of the triangle.

If you ever want to focus on one of the sides of the triangle such as health, the best way to do so is adjust your schedule and plan out time to do the activities that are associated with that side, in this case sleeping and perhaps exercising. It is important to figure out how to manage your schedule and prioritize certain specific activities in your life within the side of the triangle, while maintaining a balance.

Ultimately, your life is your life. And what I describe won't make a difference unless you choose to make it so. If you are aiming for balance, take a step back. And above all, don't get caught in the small stuff. Make sure your life is one you want to live, and you'll succeed. Have your rest time, enjoy your responsibilities, and hang out with friends. Do what you need to do, and have a good life.

Mary Rose Lunde is a first year MA student in Literature at Virginia Tech. She is attempting to figure out how to balance her responsibilities as a student with her social life.

Attorney General, continued from page 3

unconstitutional. Said Herring, "I believe the Attorney General is the people's attorney, and that is why I am accountable to you." Adams got the last word in that exchange by reminding Herring that he (Herring), as a Senator, had voted for the same law he would not defend as Attorney General.

On the topic of the opioid crisis, Herring said the epidemic was something that was not going to be solved with arrests alone. He pointed out that he has put 225 people in jail in connection with the crisis. There is now legislation, he said, that equips law enforcement with the overdose antidote naloxone. He pointed out that education is important. "We are working to reduce the stigma" of addiction, he said. Said Adams, "Until you get out, you don't realize the depth of it. It's not getting better. And we have to get to the kids before the drugs do." He said he was serious about prosecution: "Results matter. We have to get serious," he said.

Disagreements over Virginia's right-to-work laws -- which ban mandatory union dues as a condition of employment -- and over voter identification laws were on full display during the debate, with Adams, for example, noting that Herring had neglected to enforce new voting requirements.

When the Affordable Care Act entered the discussion, Adams said that it was he who, as an attorney, wrote briefs in support of organizations, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, who objected to covering birth control services within health insurance policies provided to their employees.

On a related topic, Adams said, "I believe all Virginians need affordable, good health care." He believes that goal can be accomplished with the free market.

Herring pointed out that during his term in office, he returned \$70 million to the taxpayers by fighting Medicare fraud. Adams said he would also "vigorously enforce" the integrity of Medicare, and accused Herring of diverting money controlled by the Attorney General to pay bonuses to campaign people that Herring hired into the AG's office.

Said Adams, "I know what it means to be a lawyer, my loyalty is to the Commonwealth of Virginia." Herring reiterated that he believes the Attorney General is the people's lawyer.



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Parts of Speech By Myles Mellor and Sally York

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| 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | | 69 | | | | | |

ACROSS

- 1. North Atlantic fishes
- 5. Asset
- 9. Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 13. Circle
- 14. Blood line
- 16. One of three vessels
- 17. Caspian feeder
- 18. Man of many words
- 19. Bygone title
- 20. Izzard album title
- 23. Bowls
- 24. Game piece
- 25. Australian mimic
- 28. Interweave
- 33. Some votes
- 35. Army attack helicopter
- 36. He or she
- 42. Sitting spot
- 43. Islam denomination
- 44. First-aid item
- 46. Invigorate
- 52. Toupee
- 54. Thesis type
- 55. Source of grammatical debate
- 61. Animal house
- 62. Buoy
- 63. Came down to earth
- 64. After-lunch sandwich
- 65. Gold braid
- 66. Some male dolls
- 67. ___ Station
- 68. Discounted
- 69. U2 guitarist

DOWN

- 1. Posterior
- 2. Solar system model
- 3. More indifferent

- 4. Like tears
- 5. French native
- 6. Swag
- 7. Spur
- 8. Benefit
- 9. One who hasn't turned pro?
- 10. Microprocessor type
- 11. Analytic, for short
- 12. Empty
- 15. Take ___ (travel)
- 21. Bag
- 22. Public util.
- 26. Shag rugs
- 27. Indian metropolis
- 29. Waiting period, seemingly
- 30. Blood letters
- 31. French vineyard
- 32. Chinese dynasty
- 34. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
- 36. Fraternity letter
- 37. "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 38. Delicacy
- 39. Break down
- 40. Eyeball benders
- 41. Daredevil's trait
- 45. Percussion instrument
- 47. Samoan staple
- 48. Amount eaten
- 49. Stirred up
- 50. Amy or John
- 51. African menace
- 53. Distort
- 55. Hogwash
- 56. Excoriate
- 57. Bank claim
- 58. Like some wills
- 59. Enthusiasm
- 60. Egyptian fertility goddess

Answers on page 30

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Painted Benches And Planters On Auction Nov. 11

The painted benches and planters on display around Purcellville since May will go on auction Saturday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Purcellville Skating Rink, 250 Nursery Ave. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, and includes refreshments.

In the project coordinated by the nonprofit organization Discover Purcellville, 50 Loudoun artists volunteered to paint the 30 wooden benches and 20 wooden planters with any theme they chose. Each piece was on display at the Purcellville business that sponsored it. The project received coverage from NBC4 Washington's news broadcast.

Money raised from the auction, which will once again be conducted by Brian Damewood, will go to fund future community projects organized by Discover Purcellville, such as the 110 hand-painted holiday decorations that will line downtown and Main Street this December.

Go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3024012 to purchase tickets. For more information: dpurcellville@gmail.com.



Loudoun Children's Opera Ensemble Performs At Carnegie Hall



Wi-Fi Is Now At Fireman's Field

Vice Mayor Nedim Ogelman and Council Member Karen Jimmerson were at Fireman's Field in late October trying out the Town's new Wi-Fi. This pilot program is using Ubiquiti Networks hardware to create the mesh Wi-Fi network at Fireman's Field. Total hardware costs were roughly \$1,200 and labor was around another \$1,200 for the contractor to install 2 point to point wireless antennas, controller, switch and 4 access points around the field. Said Jimmerson, "This technology provides opportunities to drive economic development and be a revenue generator without raising taxes. By introducing an advertising splash page, we can draw shoppers to local retailers, because customer experiences to our town doesn't begin and end at the door to the retail location." Ogelman and Jimmerson did a speed test with their smart phones and were consistently getting 15-16 Mbps.



Vice Mayor Nedim Ogelman and Council Member Karen Jimmerson

"A month ago we announced our idea of offering free Wi-Fi service at Fireman's Field. I am happy we were able to go from the idea to delivering the service so quickly. I hope businesses will take advantage of the splash page as an advertising opportunity," said Ogelman. The splash page is the first thing users will see when using the Wi-Fi.

The Children's Opera Ensemble of Theaterpalooza, comprised of children of Loudoun County, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Oct. 22. They put on a showing of Pioneer Girl, by T. Groze. This children's opera features the stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the creator of Little House on the Prairie.

The show began at 7:30 p.m. and was accompanied by the Blue Grass Ensemble Dry Mill Road. Pioneer Girl tells the true story of growing up in the old west, describing the hardships and struggles faced along with the strength of family and yearning for a simpler time.

Three of the children who performed the opera offered comments on the experience.

Aubrey Linsky said: "I feel like this has been such a huge opportunity, because there

have been some people who have worked their whole lives to go to Carnegie Hall and we have been given this opportunity to go and I am just very excited."

Katie Nail said: "It's just been so amazing and I am speechless. I am just sort of amazed, like it's the culmination of everything I have worked for. I started in theater with Theaterpalooza when I was six and I'm 13 now, and it feels like everything I've worked for has come together."

Claire Getsy said: "I remember the time when I was in the car with my mom and she told me that she had very good news and I was very excited because of course every time I hear that I have news I get very excited. But then she said that I was going to Carnegie Hall and I was in tears because I was so happy."

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Pat Snyder and Don Shaw

Carver Center Events For November

- Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct. 30 through Nov. 29, 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m., Body Sculpting. \$75.
- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Oct. 31 through Nov. 30, 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., Core and More. \$67.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 5, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Computers for Absolute Beginners. \$48.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Email and Internet. \$48.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 31 through Nov. 14, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Inkle Loom Weaving. \$3 materials fee.
- Friday, Nov. 3, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Lunch And A Movie: *Mamma Mia!* Please pre-register for lunch by noon on Nov. 2, by calling 571-258-3407.
- Mondays, Nov. 6 through Dec. 11, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Drawing Class. \$30.
- Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Lyme Support Group - For more information email charphealy@yahoo.com.
- Wednesdays, Nov. 8 through Dec. 20, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Advanced Beginner Watercolor. \$30.
- Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting
- Wednesday, Nov. 29, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Book Club - Books available on site.
- Fridays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Beginning Watercolor. \$15.
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Pickleball.

Franklin Park Rock 'in The Holidays

Western Loudoun's premier visual and performing arts center – Franklin Park – will be rock 'in the holidays this year with two Gold Star Performances sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park.

On Saturday, Nov. 18 they will take audiences back to New York's 1950s Greenwich Village. Get your tickets now for *An Evening With Buddy Holly Featuring Robbie Limon*. Take a listen to what it was like to see the rock 'in roll great rehearse and prepare for the original Winter Dance Party of 1959, which showcased Holly favorites and others from the Everly Brothers and Little Richard.

On Saturday, Dec. 9 audiences will be singing and dancing with *The Fabulous Hubcaps*. The band was named Maryland's 2015 Vocal Group of the Year, and is part of the Southern Legends Performing Arts



Hall of Fame. Performing the best of Do-Wop, County, Motown, Group Harmony, Rockabilly and Classic Rock and Roll, the Hubcaps are a real must-see for people who love the oldies.

For tickets and information go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

Jason Masi Band – Julia & The Ready Boys Barns Of Rose Hill Nov. 18



Julia Kasdorf

Jason Masi is Loudoun County's 2016 Entertainer of the Year & Julia will be presenting her new album, "Motel," Nov. 18 at the Barns of Rose Hill (95 Chalmers Court, Berryville – from 7:30-10 p.m. Go to JasonMasi.com and JuliaKasdorfMusic.com to learn more.



The Justin Lough Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Team

Justin Lough Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is located on 21st Street in Purcellville. Under the leadership and coaching of instructor Justin Lough, the team is proving to be very competitive. In late October the kids competed at their first NOVA event in Chantilly, A U.S. Grappling Competition ... bringing home 30 medals: 16 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze. Go Team!



Submissions Sought For Cabin Fever Film Festival

Regional artists are invited to submit short films and home movies for the Cabin Fever Film Festival sponsored by the Franklin Park Visual and Performing Arts Center and the Town of Purcellville Arts Council. The focus this year will be on short films, student productions and vintage home movies all shot by Purcellville area (20132) residents.

Entries should be no longer than 60 minutes and a minimum of 1 minute. All films should be in digital format on a flash drive or on a DVD. Any subject matter is acceptable keeping in mind that the Cabin Fever Film Fest is a family-friendly event. Films can include live action, stop motion, animation, etc.

The entry fee is \$10 for the first film entry, \$5 for each additional film entry. Films should be dropped off to Franklin Park Arts Center (36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132) by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28. All films will be reviewed and filmmakers will be contacted by Dec. 12 as to their acceptance and scheduled showing-time block.

Show times will be on Friday, Jan. 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 am to 11:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 2 pm. Friday night will also include a reception.

Filmmakers must complete a registration form and submit it with the film and entry fee. Payment may be made by cash, checks (payable to County of Loudoun) or credit card. Questions should be directed to Elizabeth Bracey, Manager, Franklin Park Arts Center by emailing to Elizabeth.Bracey@loudoun.gov or by calling 540 338-7973 or to Liz Jarvis, Chair, Purcellville Arts Council at arts@purcellvilleva.gov.

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ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.



Dr. Mike

how you feel, so that, as a couple, you can come up with some ideas for how to successfully manage and support your mother-in-law in your home ... without compromising your relationship.

Dr. Mike,

My father-in-law died this past spring at 87, and my 85-year-old mother-in-law moved in with us a few weeks after his death. My husband and I agreed that it initially made sense for her to move in since we were her closest relatives and she has health issues and needs assistance. After about 6 months it is pure agony, and I need her to move out. She has tapped our marriage out emotionally and financially. She's demanding, mean, stingy and is combative with my teenage children. She's also done a great job of wedging herself between my husband and me, and she always wants her way. I've tried to tell my husband how upset I am with his mother, but he defends her every time. We're fighting horribly and our kids are really upset. I am even entertaining the idea of moving out with the kids. Your help is needed now.

– *Unhappy in Loudoun County*

Dr. Mike,

My wife complains about her weight all of the time, and it's driving me crazy. Four kids and 15 years later into our wonderful marriage and I guess she could lose a few pounds, but I think she's beautiful and I'm very attracted to her for who she is and how she looks. I'm no Brad Pitt at 53 and 30 pounds overweight myself, but she also doesn't seem to want to hear that either. I tell her over and over again how beautiful she is, but she doesn't hear me and instead all that she does is tell me how fat she is and she then gets angry with me. I've also tried to support her by bringing up stories I hear about on the radio or TV with weight loss in the news, but she tells me that I am "insensitive and mean" when I do that. I'm in the worst sort of Catch 22 with this because if I say nothing when she brings up her weight she gets upset, but if I say something I am still in the dog house. Got any advice?

– *Unhappy in Loudoun County*

Dear Unhappy,

You agreed to take your mother-in-law in because you knew that it was the right thing to do, but I get it, living with her over the past 6 months has been very difficult for you. But beyond your mother-in-law "wedging herself" into your family's life, I'm not sure what she's done exactly, that should cause you to become so upset that you would leave the family home with your kids in tow.

Even if I were to agree with you that your mother-in-law has a complicated or off-putting personality and that her presence has created very real problems for your family, she's still your mother-in-law, and I think you need put your upset into full context. You're not angry about a bad restaurant that you don't want to return to again; rather you're angry about your aging and ailing mother-in-law who recently lost her life partner – she's your husband's mother, your children's grandmother, and those relationships need to matter more to you than how right you are or how wrong she is.

I offer the following recommendations. First, I think you need to do some soul searching to figure out why your mother-in-law has upset you so much. In my opinion, you wouldn't be so angry if you didn't care; behind anger is hurt and behind hurt is love, so what are you so hurt by? Once you've gained some insight into your anger and emotional triggers, it's my hope that you will be in a better position to make the changes within yourself that you need to make to correct things. Second, no matter how difficult your mother-in-law is, I think you should grant her some leeway in her conduct. Again, she's elderly and ill, she's lost her life partner, and she's your husband's mother and your children's grandmother. I encourage you to think of some ways to practice kindness and compassion in relation to her. Third, overreacting or underreacting to your mother-in-law will only serve to make things worse. I think you need to bring your concerns to your husband so that the two of you can communicate better and work together more closely in getting control of your home again. Let your husband know

Dear Unhappy,

Based on what you've written, it seems that your wife has real body image issues that have significantly impacted her self-esteem. If this is true, she likely has a negative and distorted voice within her that perpetuates her bad feelings and keeps her stuck when she thinks about her body. Know that challenging that voice then will take time, effort and patience on your part.

The first thing you should do is relentlessly reinforce the message to your wife that she is attractive and that you adore, desire, cherish and love her. You might also want to tell her how much it pains you to hear her speak so poorly about herself when she has been, and always will be, the woman of your dreams. Since you both have some pounds to shed, I also recommend coming up with a wellness plan that the two of you can follow together – going for walks, planning and preparing healthy meals together, buying her and you exercise watches to track your daily wellness goals, joining a gym, taking some ball room dance classes, training for a 5K run or walk, are just a few ways that you and your wife can begin to get control over your weight and health.

Again, body image struggles can be tough to defeat, so remember to be patient as you listen to what your wife says about herself, and keep an affirming and loving dialogue going at all times.

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

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Answers to puzzle from page 23

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5K Race For The Homeless On Nov. 4

A 5K Race for the Homeless will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4 at Stone Bridge High School. The race benefits Mobile Hope and the Loudoun Homeless Service Center. The race will be held rain or shine and begins at 9 a.m. The location is the Bulldog Football and Track Stadium at 43100 Hay Road, in Ashburn. For more information go to mobilehopeloudoun.org.

Governor's Race, continued from page 3

fashion – before. So, all candidates are working themselves, and their campaigns, to the limit.

Debates between Northam and Gillespie – at many points negative and accusatory – have focused on issues such as illegal immigration and sanctuary cities, gerrymandering, gang violence, corporate and lobbyist influence in government, healthcare, and the opioid crisis. The websites for each candidate tow the party line, while providing insight into where each might take the state, if elected governor.

Gillespie's website puts the focus on agriculture, energy and natural resources, education and workforce development, government reform and efficiency, healthcare, jobs and economic growth, mental

health, addiction recovery, public safety, veteran and military affairs, tax reform, conservative principles, and transportation and infrastructure. Northam's is focused on economic inclusion, protecting the environment, strengthening public schools, gun violence prevention, healthcare, making Virginia the best state for veterans, justice and equality, and "working together."

Former President George Bush has been hard at work raising funds and supporting Gillespie, who served as one of Bush's top advisors in the White House. Former President Barack Obama is hard at work for Northam, speaking at a campaign rally in Richmond in late October.

Polls can give us some indication of where the race is heading, but voters will have the final say on Nov. 7.

Letters To The Editor, continued from page 6

A Letter To Sheriff Chapman

Dear Sheriff Chapman,

This week we witnessed another fatality in Loudoun County. It wasn't MS-13 or a gang related death. It wasn't from drugs, underage drinking, or gun violence. It was another fatality on one of our overly-burdened and under-patrolled commuter arteries. Route 9 and Route 15 carry tens of thousands of commuters through our county every day and to be blunt Sheriff, you aren't doing your job and people are dying.

These two commuter highways are deadly for several reasons. First, they are both 2-lane country roads that have become saturated with out of state commuters. They were never designed to carry these loads. Second, because they were never designed to carry these loads, the commute becomes bogged down and traffic becomes irregular and drivers become frustrated. And, lastly, because you have decided that these roads need not be monitored or patrolled

adequately during peak hours, commuter behavior is unchecked and frustrated commuters do stupid, illegal things. These roads have become lawless speedways and Sheriff; you aren't doing your job.

You have been elected to keep us safe. We all know that there are numerous threats and many have been handled professionally. We have task forces to address some of these threats, but, the number one killer in the county seems to remain unchecked. We need you to make this a priority, and not just for a little while. We need a permanent law enforcement presence on these roads during commute hours. And, please don't tell us that there is no place for officers to safely pull motorists over. There are ways to address that issue and maintain officer safety. And, funding for this program can come directly from the fines and penalties collected.

You are a law enforcement officer. As such, we are asking you to please put our safety first and saturate the commuter roads with officers. As an elected official we demand that you put our safety first and that you do what you were hired to do: protect us.

*Mike Keane
Purcellville*

Film Festival, continued from page 21

Call Me By Your Name, Howard's End, The Remains Of The Day, Room With A View, Mudbound, Bessie and Pariah. The award was presented by director Lee Daniels.

The life of conservationist Jane Goodall – as told by spectacular 16 mm footage from National Geographic's archives – was here. Four-time Oscar nominee Annette Bening and Jamie Bell were here, in a memoir-based film *Film Stars Don't Die In Liverpool*, and

the Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra was here with a tribute to Academy Award®-nominated composer Nicholas Britell, performing some of his classics – *Battle of the Sexes, Moonlight, The Big Short*, and *12 Years A Slave*, while Britell himself performed two solo piano pieces, discussing his creative process.

So much to see, and everything done in so much style. Here's to a hundred times five years more!



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