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# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN TODAY

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MARCH 2018

## Aldie Fire Station Fiasco County Considers Alternative Sites

— By Andrea Gaines

In November 2017, the historic village of Aldie was presented with County plans to build a new, 18,000 sq. ft. fire station near the entrance to the village along the busy Rt. 50, at the site of the current Aldie Volunteer Fire Department.

In hot pursuit of an acceptable locale for many years, County administrators hoped this would be the final stop in their search.

But, after a series of community meetings and opposition from certain members of the Board of Supervisors, the County has announced it is now exploring other options.

In a Feb. 26 message to citizens, Tony R. Buffington Jr. (R-Blue Ridge) posted the following:

“ ... last Thursday (February 22, 2018) I brought forward a closed session item requesting that the Board stop all work



Continued on page 19 Florian Hauswiesner working to preserve Aldie.

Photo: Lovettsville Historical Society

## Development Dominates Purcellville's 2018 Mayoral Election

— By Valerie Cury

For nearly two decades, a once sleepy town has been bursting with growth - new larger subdivisions, shopping centers, Southern Collector Road, traffic circle, and most recently, the annexation and rezoning requests of property in the gateways or outside of town. It is no surprise then that growth has become the hottest topic in the race for Purcellville Mayor during the past

two elections and will be again this May.

Incumbent Mayor Kwasi Fraser has said that the Town now needs to focus on monetizing Town assets in ways that preserve the small town feel, and that the Town has been seduced in the past by enticing offers of revenue from development to reduce taxes that have never materialized.

His opponent, long-time resident Chris Thompson, says that he is “neither for nor against growth,” and that he believes

everything should be on the table, criticizing the majority on Town Council for not being open to annexations.

Fraser, who has been in office for two terms, said that much of the Town growth preceded him and contributed to the Town's enormous debt burden. “During my tenure we have reduced the debt every year by listening to the people,” he said. “I take into account our Town assets, strengths, and weaknesses, and have delivered a

Continued on page 19

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## Bluemont Shamrock 5 and 10K Races Set for March 17



The 4th annual Bluemont Shamrock 5 and 10K race event will benefit scholarships, and fund other educational support programs of the Bluemont Community Center.

Bluemont Community Center's Advisory Board, a nonprofit dedicated to providing educational scholarships and programs to the community, will host the

Continued on page 22



# PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

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“So very happy we switched to Hunt Country. My only regret is that we didn't do it sooner. How much money we would have saved...However, we finally made the right choice about our propane. For years I have been receiving offers from other companies offering low rates, only to find out you have to enter a contract with them. It never made sense to me that you could drive around town and shop for fuel for your car, but not for your home. It's nice to see that a business owner understands this and caters to the customer. We received our first delivery this past Saturday and the owner himself brought it out. The service was excellent. Of course, I'm not surprised, as the initial account set-up was easy and the lady in the office was so pleasant!” —Caroline T.

“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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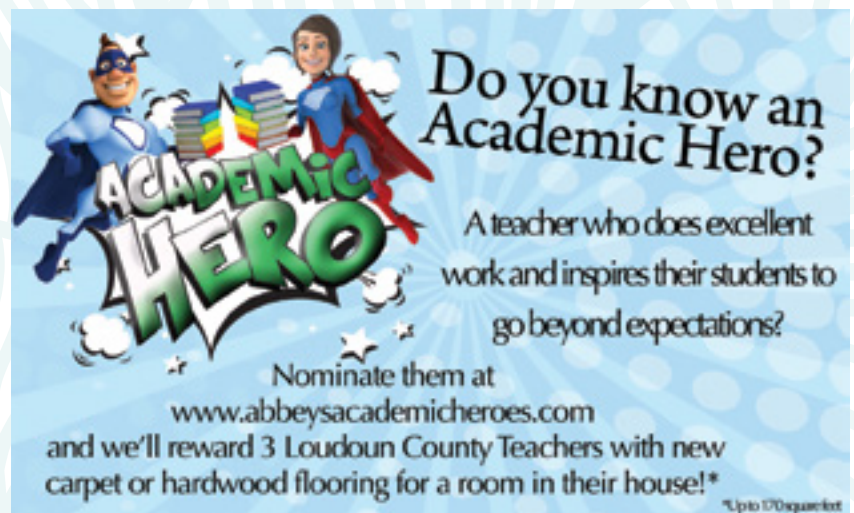
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# Varun Chharia – Shining a Light on a Dark Hour

– By Andrea Gaines

Teensuicide. It's a topic filled with unfathomable despair, fear, and pain. It changes lives forever. And, it leaves whole families and communities broken, for many, many years afterwards. The issue is daunting – for the individual suffering from suicidal thoughts, the parent wondering if a child is “OK,” and the school officials responsible for the welfare of their students. “Where on earth do I look for help?” ... many wonder.

But, then you meet a young man named Varun Chharia, a Loudoun Valley High School student who has taken up the fight to prevent teen suicide as part of his effort to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. A young man motivated by the desire to better himself while giving back to his community, to reach out to young people afraid to admit they are lost – with the strong and compassionate hand of a peer.

When you talk to Chharia you quickly understand that he has a very sweet nature. He's extremely polite, with a calm and quiet way of talking. He's excited, and wanting to spread the word about the suicide prevention concert he is planning.

But, you also understand – immediately – that Chharia understands the seriousness of the issue, and the challenge it poses to families and communities. He knows the stats on teen suicide backwards and forwards. But, while he is not naive with respect to the problem, he is hopeful and determined to do something that will produce lasting change.

“On average,” Chharia said “one child under the age of 18 committed suicide every six hours last year, according to a *Washington Post* review of new data released Dec. 21, 2017 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

And, Chharia explained, in the last several years, teen suicide hit home. “The biggest thing for me,” said Varun, “was that in the last five years there were several student deaths in Loudoun and other schools nearby. One was a car crash, and there was also a suicide death and another suicide attempt. That was a lot for me to take. It motivated me to do something.”

Chharia's idea is to use the power of music to bring the issue – those numbers – out into the open. So, he's organized a free community event at the Bush Tabernacle at Fireman's Field called Rock To Live – featuring live music, and perhaps most importantly, speakers and mental health professionals – people who have been there, and have made teen mental health their life's work.

The event is a way for everyone in the community to meet new friends, share their stories, make connections, and reach out for help.

Music will include songs from bands such as *A Will to Survive*, *Lucidious*, *Never Born to Follow* (a Tuscarora High School group), and *Hungry on Monday*. The concert

will also benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Ryan Bartel Foundation.

Ryan, a Woodgrove High School student, died by suicide in 2014, just a few months before his 18th birthday. The Foundation was established by his parents, board members Suzie and Ben Bartel, to turn their tragedy into something positive by creating programs that prevent other teens from taking the same course of action. Today the Foundation includes the additional support of Dr. Susanne Nixon, a licensed professional counselor, Geri Fiore, Director of School Counseling at Woodgrove High School, and Jeffrey Huber, a principle at the law firm of Walton & Adams, who is also active in coaching youth sports and in other community activities, and Stacey Miller Metcalfe, Government Relations Director at INOVA and a very active community member supporting youth mental well-being.

The Foundation includes among its programs, the We're All Human Committee, a peer-to-peer led club inside schools that focuses on creating awareness about youth suicide and training teens to develop coping skills, find inner strength, seek outside help when in need, and build connections with other peers and trusted adults. Its latest program, the FORT, provides a community space for young people outside of school, where they can continue to connect and participate in additional workshops that help them grow stronger.

It was Ryan Bartel's death and others like it that motivated Varun to pursue his suicide prevention event.

## ROCK TO LIVE CONCERT

Sunday, April 8, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
The Bush Tabernacle At Fireman's Field

*Benefits the American Foundation For Suicide Prevention  
& The Ryan Bartel Foundation*

**Free Event, Music, Refreshments, Speakers**

**– Sponsorships & Donor Packages Available –**  
Please contact Varun Chharia at [varunchharia@yahoo.com](mailto:varunchharia@yahoo.com)

The Rock To Live event is Chharia's motivation ... translated into action.

Said Chharia: “I did a student survey to gather issues that affect students and did a TED Talk on the subject. I want to raise awareness about this important issue. My hope is that with the Rock To Live concert, in addition to raising awareness of issues that lead to suicide, lets teens and parents know that there are resources nearby that can



Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Varun Chharia

help deal with mental health issues. The concert format I have decided upon is a repeating cycle of a local performer (bands, rapper, musical) in Loudoun County followed by a professional mental health speaker talking about a mental health issue like bullying, depression, dealing with stress, etc. I'm organizing to have counselors and therapists available to talk to teens and/or parents at the event location. I truly hope I can help my community with this initiative.”

Professionals note that connectedness and/or the lack thereof – the number of friends a person has, how often they see people socially, how much time they spend alone or in a lonely state, even if among their peers – is a huge factor in mental health and suicide prevention, as is the concept of a community-wide action.

In August 2017 Loudoun's public schools initiated new suicide prevention strategies, increasing the resources available to students and their families by hiring additional psychologists, social workers, school counselors, supervisors, and student assistants, as well as creating mental health support teams at every high school.

For these and other reasons, Purcellville officials such as Amie Ware, Division Manager for Parks, are doing all they can to support Chharia and encourage his leadership.

Said Ware of Chharia's Eagle Project effort: “His goal is to provide information about suicide, such as how to cope with the stressors that may lead to teen suicide, how to recognize signs of someone who may be going down that tragic path, and to provide resources that people can turn to if they need help ... He has been doing a fantastic job coordinating with many different organizations, professionals, and musicians to plan and manage this event, and to get support for it. The Town of Purcellville is supporting this important effort.”

Chharia is working to secure sponsors for the event, businesses and individuals willing to step up to support his efforts – in whatever way and at whatever level they can – to spread awareness about teen suicide and how to prevent

*Continued on page 27*

## Emerick Elementary Marks its 50th Anniversary with Fundraiser

In celebration of Emerick Elementary's 50th anniversary, the community is invited to a fundraiser on March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Loudoun Golf and Country Club. This special evening will be packed with fun and entertainment as tickets include dinner, dancing, a signature

cocktail and a silent auction as well as a live auction. Emerick Elementary alumni, current families and all of the town are invited to come to join in celebrating this school and landmark of Purcellville.

*Continued on page 22*

## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 11

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11, at 2 a.m. when we turn our clocks forward by 1 hour. On that day and time, it will be 3 a.m. local daylight time, instead of 2 a.m.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 11, than the day before. But, there will be more light,

of course, in the evening.

On March 1 we enjoyed 11 hours, 23 minutes and 33 second of daylight. By the end of the month that will have grown to 12 hours, 34 minutes and 11 seconds of daylight. See [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) for the glorious details. Enjoy.

# Country Modern In Historic Waterford

— By Andrea Gaines

Built in 2016, it has only been lived in once before. As you drive up to it, you can't help but be distracted by the sweeping views, the beautiful stonework and the classical colonial lines. But, like other properties in the Reserves at Wheatland, and the centuries-old homes and structures in nearby Village of Waterford, the home at 14939 Buroak Dr. embodies a sense of place and lets you know it is here to stay.

As a new home in one of the most treasured historic regions in the State of Virginia, life, here, can be as grand or as understated or as country and you choose to make it.

The property has all of the most modern basics in its 3,300 sq. ft. of space – a functional floor plan, spacious living, dining and family rooms, a den/study/library, a premium lot

space, a two-car garage, and an unfinished basement.

It has all of the most inspired of extras, too – a gourmet kitchen with a double-walled oven, a gourmet breakfast room, a kitchen-level laundry room, a water conditioner, granite countertops and crown moldings, chair railings, upgraded cabinets, a fireplace gas insert, a two-story stacked stone fireplace, and sumptuous bedrooms and bedroom amenities. All bedrooms have private or semi-private baths. Large, sunlit windows draw the light in while opening up everything that's inside ... to the beautiful outside.

With incredible views, quiet, understated charm, and broad lawns, this home knows where it lives; in one of the most exclusive rural areas of magnificent western Loudoun.

Waterford itself is a short walk away. Leesburg and Purcellville are just minutes by car. And, all of what western Loudoun has to offer – wineries, country stores, craft breweries, hiking trails, horseback riding – is here, too.

14939 Buroak Dr. is priced for quick sale. Let us show you the way to make it yours.

## 14939 Buroak Dr., Waterford The Reserves At Wheatland

- 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 half bath
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- Agent: Linda Culbert, Assoc. Broker, Long & Foster
- Phone: (703) 431-1724



## Remembering Steven D. Hale

Steven D. Hale, age 70, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 25, at his home in Lovettsville after a brief hospitalization. Steve and his wife, Jane, who passed away two years ago, were well known and respected in the community and the equine industry. Jane and Steve operated a small horse farm in Lovettsville which continues today.

Steve was born in Columbus, Ohio. After high school, he spent six years in the U.S. Navy in secure communications. From the Navy he obtained a degree from George Mason University. He had a 40-year career as an electronics engineer, 37 of those years were at EIT, LLC. He was the holder of 4 patents.

Funeral services will be held at Colonial Funeral Home, Leesburg, Saturday, March 10. Family visitation will be held at 10 a.m. with the Celebration of Life to follow at 11 a.m. Burial will be held at 2 p.m. in Fairview Cemetery, Culpeper.



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## Just Like Nothing (Else) on Earth: Forest Mills – Oakland Green and Ward Hill Roads

– By Tim Jon

In an ironic twist to an old adage, there really are places out here where you can't see the trees for the woods; at least in warm weather months, the green foliage gets so dense that – even though you know these are individual specimens – it almost looks like one great, big, green monster. And I know there are a lot of areas in Loudoun County about which we could make these statements, but today I'm referring to – not just one road – but a conflux of three (to me) confusing, narrow, twisting, nearly hidden little gravel corridors down whom I (now) fondly recall getting – maybe not entirely lost – but at least a bit unhinged as I tried to deliver my first mail route when I initially started at one of the Leesburg Offices.

Though now close to part of my current route in Purcellville, the triumvirate of Forest Mills, Oakland Green and Ward Hill Roads seemed to me – at the time



– a nearly insurmountable challenge of blind corners, invisible mail boxes, one-lane bridges and far too great mileages between individual addresses. I felt like I was getting pretty much nowhere – and not very fast, at that. To get to this rabbit hole in the universe of my first rural mail route, I'd take Hughesville Road – heading generally west – from the eastern portion of Harmony Church Road – already quite a 'hike' from the Leesburg Annex Office – and from there, try to cover the few scattered customers on those little, primitive sections of Forest Mills, Oakland Green and Ward Hill; I still can't even really consider them – in my own mind's eye, Horatio - as individual roads; the route did so much turning, stopping, backtracking and other maneuvers which seemed to me the quintessential 'one step forward three steps back' that – like the aforementioned trees and shrubs – I'd lose my sense of – not only direction – but which address was next, which road I was on, and how much precious (to the Post Office, and therefore to me) time I'd wasted in my general and specific ineptitude.

Part of the problem – at least as I now remember it – was a missing road sign for Ward Hill Road, as well as – I'm pretty sure, anyway – a confusingly-misdirectional sign at one of the crossroads somewhere along the way. And if the street signs are incorrect, you still have to get the job done – no excuses. So: what to the casual Sunday driver may come across as a



TIM JON

charming little series of rural roads cut through what looks like virgin timber, spotted here and there with a perfectly picturesque residence of the most impressive sort – to me became (with the responsibility of negotiating this local wilderness in a timely, accurate and safe fashion) as confusing as did the Wonderland of Lewis Carroll to poor, little Alice.

When I look back on all this now, I secretly chastise myself: "Tim, that was just a tiny, little section of the Route – and it's dead easy!" To which I cannot argue – but I certainly let it fluster me (now nearly 10 years back) at the time.

I can recall – now in the relative safety of my status as a Regular Carrier with a fixed route which appears quite domestic and predictable in comparison. I do have a section of Hughesville Road in my current list of duties, but I really don't come anywhere

terribly near that initially-foreboding section near the great unknowns once faced along Forest Mills, Oakland Green and Ward Hill Roads. I can now – in the modest comfort of my home writing office – look up those little roads on my Google Maps and try to retrace that original route's path – without the trials and tribulations of actually having to 'get 'er done' like in those early days.

And, I imagine the current driver on that little section encounters not a speck of trouble in the world and simply works the entire Route like clockwork, without a second thought. The residents, road maintenance crews, school bus drivers, occasional visitors and returning family members, likewise, I'm sure, have never even considered this network of dirt paths to present the slightest navigational challenge.

Funny – how the mind can create mountains on flat surfaces – and mirages of lakes on a dry desert. Yes, it seems a safe memory here, and now; but don't let those little romantic reminiscences fool you: the last time I drove out there – to reacquaint myself with the terrain and collect a few photos – I still couldn't remember which road I was on in each particular section, and those early memories of confusion and frustration returned to claim their (perhaps) rightful places in my personal history. Forest Mills, Oakland Green and Ward Hill Roads evidently are not quite done with me.

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# Conservation Easements – Better Than Selling

– By Charles Houston

Byne and Robert Rood were reading. Well, Byne was just staring at her book, her thoughts elsewhere. Robert noticed, “Your mind’s a million miles away. You okay?”

“Just thinking”

“About what?”

Byne put down her book. “It’s Mother’s farm. Inheriting her investments, the furniture and things was simple.”

Robert remembered a long, cold day hauling things from the house to the auction company. “I guess,” he teased.

“But the farm; I haven’t figured out what to do with it.”

Byne’s parents, both gone, had a 140-acre farm near Purcellville. The land was nice, the house not so much. The Rood’s farm was smaller but prettier land. Robert’s investment business had done well, so they hired an architect to design the house. It quickly

became “home” in a sentimental sense, and Byne felt their place to be part of her being.

Robert said, “The rents from the cattle guy and the house put a few bucks in your pocket, but 140 acres is worth a lot of money if you sold it.”

Byne raised her voice, “I am *not* going to sell to a lousy developer who’ll turn it into another crummy subdivision!”

“Okay, okay. Let’s talk about it later.”

\* \* \*

Two days later Byne was eager to talk. She’d seen their lawyer, their accountant and a realtor. She’d spent hours Googling. Ideas jelled and she had put various numbers into a spreadsheet.

“I want to put the land in a conservation easement.”

“I’ve never really looked at easements. Don’t you just give the land away and take a charitable deduction?”

“Nope,” Byne. “It’s is more complicated, but gets you more money. Let me show you how the numbers might work.”

“Sure.”

“Conservation easements are based on the value of the property as if it were fully developed, less the value of the property as it is today. That difference is called the ‘loss.’”

“Virginia gives you a cash credit of 40 percent of that loss. Specialized brokers pay the landowner about 80 percent of the dollar value of those credits, which they then sell to anyone trying to reduce their Virginia tax bill. Suppose Mom’s farm is worth maybe \$2.1 million if it were developed as a subdivision, versus its current value as undeveloped land at about \$1.1 million. The ‘loss’ from donating the conservation easement is \$1

million. I’d get 40 percent of that \$1 million loss – or \$400,000 in state income tax credits. A broker would pay me about 80 percent of that, so I’d end up with \$320,000 in cash. That’s Virginia.”

“We also deduct the ‘loss’ from our Federal return as a charitable contribution, offset by the money from selling the Virginia credits: A \$1 million loss, reduced by \$320,000 from the credits, equals a \$680,000 charitable deduction. Our CPA says there are favorable tax rules for conservation easements and they may carry over to future years. He suggested using 40 percent as a ballpark tax rate for Federal and state taxes combined. The \$680,000 deduction is worth \$272,000 to us. We get that value plus the \$320,000. Almost \$600,000.”

Robert interjected, “Couldn’t you get three times that by selling her farm?”

“Well, we’d still own the land. The only difference is that it can’t be turned into a subdivision called ‘Misty Woods Preserve’ or something else stupid.”

Robert cringed at that imagery.

Byne continued, “After an easement, Mother’s farm still has a lot of value. It could be sold for, say, a million, to somebody who wanted to build a big house on a large piece of land. But there’s a better option.

“We sell the old house and a few acres for, say, \$375,000. Then we get the land trust to allow me to sell one other parcel, say fifty acres, for \$400,000. That leaves roughly eighty acres, which I sell for maybe \$500,000.”

Robert did the arithmetic, “That’s \$1,275,000 in selling the house and the easement land, plus \$600,000 from the

conservation easement itself. Almost two million dollars. That’s not the amount of money you could get by selling now, but not far from it. I’m guessing you want to do the easement.”

“Absolutely. I’d do it for a lot less, just to help preserve the countryside. That means a lot to me. To both of us.”

Robert smiled. “What next, B?”

“A lot of work and some front-end fees. We find a good land trust, which will hold the Easement Deed. That document has all the details about any parcels you can sell, whether you can build a barn or something. You have to negotiate that deed carefully, so we need a lawyer specializing in conservation easements. We find a broker who specializes in easement credits, and he could also work as the quarterback for the whole process.”

“Find a land planner to do a sketch of how the land could be developed as a subdivision, and estimate how much the roads and stuff would cost. You need the right appraiser; that’s critical if we’re audited. Everything has to be reviewed by the accountant. Then, bingo!”

That sparked an idea from Robert, “Heck, we could do one on this place, too. What’s next?”

“I’m going to email a guy named Charlie Houston. He’ll go over this and steer me to the right people. His advice is free and supposedly he’s happy to chat. I wrote down his email – CharlesHouston3@yahoo.com.”

*Charles Houston developed office buildings in Atlanta, and has lived in Paeonian Springs for 20 years. Do contact him for easements information.*

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

## GOVERNMENT

### CPAM Would Expand Parts of Rt. 15 to 4 Lanes

In mid-February, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors forwarded CPAM 2017-0002 to its first week in March Business Meeting. The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment would expand a segment of US Route 15 from a rural, two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided road between North King Street (US Route 15 Business) and Montesor Road (VA Route 661). The CPAM requires formal changes to the 2010 Revised Countywide Transportation Plan, adopted in June of that year and amended in June 2017.

Martha Pokley, representing the members of the Catocin Coalition emailed the BOS in February warning that historic resources of critical importance were at risk if the CPAM – which would widen Rt. 15 from two lanes to 4 lanes in places – is approved as is.

Other groups weighing in on the historic, safety and access issues being explored in connection with Rt. 15 include the

Journey Through Hallowed Ground and Bike Loudoun. Historic preservation interests have urged the County to consider the whole of Rt. 15 from Leesburg north to the Maryland border when making transportation decisions. These groups also favor the strategies presented in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground’s Corridor Management Plan and a shared use path along the east side of this National Scenic Byway.

According to Pokley: “The widening proposed in the Route 15 CPAM beyond Whites Ferry up through Montesor Road will result in degradation or destruction of three historic assets along the road: the manor house and former slave quarters of Rockland, a working farm on the National Register of Historic Places and in the same family for more than 200 years; the historical residence of the Rockland overseer to the north, and the Old Limestone School (1874), now a private residence.”

Route 15 between North King Street and Lucketts Road handles 24,000 average daily trips, focused around commuting times. A study known as the Route 15 Congestion Report found that 4 lanes are needed on Rt. 15 from Battlefield Parkway to points north of Whites Ferry Rd. The County Transportation Plan currently provides for Rt. 15 to be a 4-lane road from Battlefield Parkway north to Tutt Lane, only.

Preservation groups, while supporting the general goals of safety and reduced traffic congestion, say that the County’s plan contains gaps as to what is causing the congestion, how many property owners might be affected by the widening plan, and how the fragile geology of the area’s Limestone Karst Overlay and sinkhole issues might influence decision making. The groups also want the County to explore how traffic circles and other less obtrusive road designs might achieve the same effect as expanding the road from 2 lanes to 4.

## Letters To The Editor A Case for Gun Control

Dear Editor:

In the past week, I've been struck by how often I see the Constitution referenced in the debates about gun controls.

The right to bear arms comes from English common law. So why does the UK have such low statistics on gun deaths? Their last gun massacre was in 1996. A gunman attacked the Dunblane Primary School and killed 16 children, 1 teacher, and then himself. It was, and is still, the deadliest mass shooting in their history. How they responded to that massacre gives us a lesson in how we might respond. After public petitions and the official inquiry reports, they passed two new Firearms Acts – laws that outlawed private ownership of most handguns.

The Bill of Rights were produced because the States would not ratify the Constitution without them. People refer to the Amendments but forget to go back to the original document:

We hold these truths to be self-evident,...certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness... it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it...as to them shall seem most likely to affect their

Safety and Happiness.

Can we not recognize that arming ourselves is no longer making us Safe and Happy? That it is endangering our Lives, our Liberty and our Happiness? I'm not against gun ownership – I have a rifle given to me by my father. I wouldn't mind if we limited gun ownership to those that prove they can use one safely, house it securely and are intellectually able to understand the life-altering consequences of them. Just as I have to pass a written and road test to drive, be licensed, and then must obey road and traffic laws. I expect gun owners to do the same.

I want each State to enact strict gun laws to allow individuals to own guns responsibly. To be able to bear arms to save our citizenry, yet to understand the consequences and be made to pay for the privilege with a minimal license fee. Everyone that quotes the Second Amendment must recognize that it is their duty as the people to find the solution to the country's gun dilemma. We must advocate for strict gun regulation to ensure that all are safe and live freely. The operative word is LIVE.

*Jennifer Wellock  
Neersville*

Mayor Fraser will be here for a ribbon cutting at 2pm

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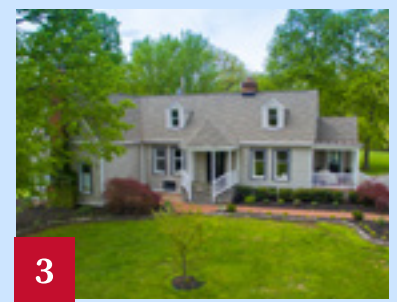
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\*Data calculated from Metropolitan Regional Information Systems 1/4/18

## Letters To The Editor

## This Must Never Happen Again Save Old Sterling

Dear Editor:

Save Old Sterling (SOS) is a group of concerned citizens who believe Old Sterling, the area on Ruritan Circle and Ruritan Road known as Guilford Station, should be preserved as a "Grandfather Village." Our idea for preservation is to restore and fashion the old buildings, along with new ones, into a destination with a variety of shops and appealing places instead of the usual faceless townhouse clusters, strip malls, office parks and storage facilities which already dominate this area. The village would incorporate the long-forgotten 150-year-old history of the Guilford rail stop which first brought prosperity here in 1860.

As a consequence of unrelenting development, most of the old business establishments, houses and other buildings have been demolished. Most prominent among them was the historically significant 1899 Sterling Methodist Church, leveled in 2017 to make way for a commercial storage business. This type of demolition must never happen again.

As one of its principal objectives, SOS advocates preservation of several standing structures on Ruritan Circle including the 1880 two-room schoolhouse, the 1882 Guilford Baptist Church (now an Ethiopian Orthodox Church) and the 1860s Sexton/Grooms House (now Mona's Lebanese Café and Guilford Station Arts). In addition, the 1955 Sterling Warehouse and 1880's Tavernier's Wheelwright Shop and Thompson's Saddlery on Ruritan Road just may be worth saving.

Preservation of what remains of Guilford was endorsed in 2009 by the William and Mary Center for Archeological Research, which noted that "Ruritan Circle was bypassed by [major thoroughfares], essentially saving the tiny community." The center concluded



*Photo Circa 1948: Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Crossing at Church Road (now Ruritan Circle) and Railroad Avenue (now Ruritan Road). A man is hauling the daily mail from the train to the new post office building on the right. Railroad Avenue is on the right after George Page's Sterling Supply sign (actual building parallels the railroad tracks). The building behind the tall tree with cars parked is George Page's grocery store (later George Marion Caylor's meat market, then later Sterling Mower Repair).*

that Guilford Station should be preserved as "a compact, railroad-oriented, late nineteenth-century village [embodying] regional vernacular architectural trends." The center added, "The handful of historic buildings clustered along Ruritan Circle and Ruritan Road are a rare reminder of the rapidly dwindling history of the area becoming increasingly threatened by development pressures."

While recognizing that physical restoration and adaptive reuse of existing buildings is a priority, SOS recommends new construction to make Old Sterling a viable "destination place." Such a concept has now been published by the Loudoun Design Cabinet, a group operating under the auspices of Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development. The cabinet, a think tank of about a dozen architects, engineers, planners and designers met in a "charrette" format

to brainstorm development concepts that considered how Guilford Station might be preserved and rejuvenated, offering their thoughts to affected property owners, community members and local preservation organizations (including SOS). The cabinet's tentative vision will be considered at future charrettes: a walkable, bicycle-accessible commercial district, including a two-to-three-block business area, parking and green spaces such as a park along the W&OD Trail linking nicely to similar efforts in Herndon and Ashburn.

We have one final opportunity to rescue the last remaining fragment of Old Sterling. Bringing to fruition what the Loudoun Design Cabinet envisions would create a lasting asset for Sterling, Loudoun County and Virginia.

*Mark Gunderman  
Save Old Sterling  
Sterling Park*

## Why Everyone Should Take an American Literature Course

— By Mary Rose Lunde

They say that if you don't learn from history you are bound to repeat it. As I'm reading through novels about American history and the stories written throughout America's history, I am appalled that the issues that plagued America back in its creation are still prevalent nearly 250 years later.

We are reading the classic teaching tale of Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe in my American Literature course this semester.

The class is reading texts written by women prior to 1900 to identify patterns, and discuss their work's historical context. The situations that have befallen humans since the Europeans first set foot on this land is incredible. In the time of Stowe's novel, people were struggling with things just as we do now. In my view, you must have sympathy, and you need to act. To have one but not do the other is to make no difference. To change something, you need to feel something, while also risking your pride — and as some have, your safety — simply because it is the right thing to do. We can make all the comments we want about how something is wrong or how something needs to change. But, until we act, it won't change.

We live in a world where politics are everything and policy is second to change. The world we live in is not the same as what we read in books such as Uncle Tom's Cabin. No, we have the weaponry to wipe out whole parts of the planet in seconds. We have the power to change the genetic code of food. And, yet we often take a long time to choose to act on what is right. America has some of the most civically courageous people, anywhere, yet has far more people who say they believe that something is either right or wrong, but when given the chance, don't take a stand.

When will what we do be enough to make a difference ... more quickly? When will all people and all races and classes acknowledge that each of us is as capable of misdirection and imperfection as the other? We've started the conversation, let's focus on the action. It's time to act, peacefully. It's time to stand our ground, and truly stand together not as one race, not as one country, but as human beings. We can acknowledge our differences and our similarities, and say what we believe needs to be said. But, until we let our actions match our words, nothing will change.

The thing about race is that slavery still exists in the world, today. The problems that are in Uncle Tom's Cabin are still here. We can't continue to deny that these problems exist. In a world that is still in many parts, oppressed, in a world that has people who deserve so much more ... what are we waiting for? We have the conversation started, let's finish it. Complacency in voice is just as bad as silence.

*Mary Rose Lunde is a graduate student at Virginia Tech, earning her master's in literature. She is currently in a class entitled American Women Writers Pre-1900.*



LUNDE



# County Budget Sessions, Late Feb. Through March

Formal Board of Supervisors Budget discussions in preparation for the adoption of a FY 2019 Budget have begun.

The proposed equalized tax rate stands at \$1.09, with a total proposed budget of more than \$2.3 billion in appropriations for County Government and the Loudoun County Public Schools, combined.

Sessions in progress/upcoming include:

**Board Public Hearings:**

- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, March 1, 3 p.m.
- Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. (Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building)

**Budget Work Sessions:**

- Monday, March 5, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8, 6 p.m.
- Monday, March 12, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, March 15, 6 p.m.
- Monday, March 19, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 21, 6 p.m.

**Additional Budget Work Sessions (if needed):**

- Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m.
- Saturday, March 17, 9 a.m.
- Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m.

For every \$100 dollars spent, \$56 would be appropriated for schools, \$12 for debt payment (\$3 for County debt and \$9 for school debt), \$7 for the Capital Improvement Program (\$5 for County and \$2 for schools), \$2 for Community Development, \$3 for Parks, Recreation, and Culture, \$6 for General Government Administration, \$4 for Health & Welfare, and \$10 for Public Safety & Judicial Administration.

Per a Feb. 23 update from Board Chair Phyllis Randall, “The proposed budget is based on the equalized real property tax rate or \$1.09. The equalized tax rate is 3.5 cents lower than the current tax rate of \$1.125. At the Board’s direction, Hemstreet provided two additional tax rate options, an option at one cent higher than the equalized rate, \$1.10, and an option at one cent lower than the equalized rate, \$1.08.”

The FY 2018 Adopted Budget and FY 2019 Proposed Budget can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/budget](http://www.loudoun.gov/budget). Persons wishing to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance by calling 703 777-0204. Hearings will be available for on Comcast Government TV Channel 23, Open Band Channel 40, and Verizon FiOS Channel 40. They will also be webcast via the County website.

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National Days March

# It's March – Let's Take Flight

– By **Andrea Gaines**

Everyone breathes a sigh of relief as the month of March breaks its way out of the snowy, blowy cold days of winter. So let's let go. Let's let loose. Let's take flight.

March 14 is National Learn About Butterflies Day. According to an organization known as Journey North, by this time the sparkling masses of Monarch butterflies overwintering in the mountains of Mexico have begun their

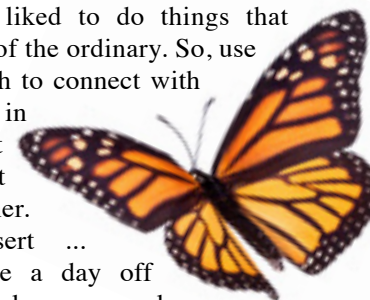
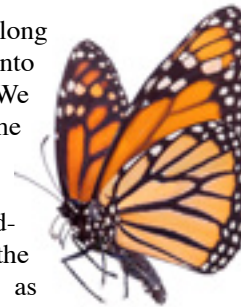
journey north, with sightings along the Texas Gulf Coast and into Florida and the Carolinas. We won't see Monarchs for some time. But, starting in March – with the Zebra Swallowtail, Sleepy Duskywing, Red-Spotted Purple and others – the little gems of color known as butterflies will begin to fill the air in Loudoun County. Watch for them, and plan some time outside to enjoy them as spring also fills the air. The Swallowtail, for example, can be found feeding on the nectar of the Redbud tree or laying eggs on the underside of the leaves of the Paw Paw tree – both plentiful in our area. Take flight, right alongside them.

March 15 is National Everything You Think Is Wrong Day, followed quickly – thank goodness – by National Everything You Do Is Right Day, on March 16. Let's skip the 15th and go right to March 16. Treat it as a day to be proud of who you are; to soar and celebrate your basic goodness – the things you like most about yourself. No need to announce it

to the world. Rather, structure your day in the most positive way possible. Take a walk in the March sunshine, continue your butterfly watching. Take flight.

According to the National Days Calendar folks, no one really knows the origin of National Learn About Butterflies Day or National Everything You Do Is Right Day. But, National Goof Off Day, March 22 was invented, they say, by a kid who liked to do things that were out of the ordinary. So, use this month to connect with the kid in you. Eat breakfast for dinner. Eat dessert ... first. Take a day off from work, or, work from home.

Life is short, and the month of March is with us for just 31 days. So, take flight.




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# ‘Mark Twain’ Comes To Loudoun

– By Franklin Bell

Dr. Michael Mauldin brought his “An Evening with Mark Twain” performance to a packed house at Franklin Park Arts Center March 3. Mauldin has been performing his one-man show since the 1970s. His material is based on Twain’s writings, and lectures that he gave on tour.

**Franklin Bell:** Loudoun has become part of the greater Washington metropolitan area. Twain co-authored *The Gilded Age*, said to be the first novel-length satire of Washington politics. Do you see similarities between the Washington of then and now?

**Dr. Michael Mauldin:** Oh, absolutely. Part of Twain’s brilliance is that while he may be commenting on a particular event or person, he is ultimately talking about the human condition, so he’s always timely and relevant. It’s not unlike Shakespeare, the ancient Greeks, and other writers who seem to transcend the confines of their time and locale. While his satire takes aim, sometimes ruthlessly, at the Congress, the President, religion, etc., what he’s usually railing against is hypocrisy, greed, and self-importance. As long as there are human beings occupying these positions, Twain will always be timely.

**Bell:** Just last month, the Duluth, Minnesota school district banned from its curriculum both Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The books have become among the most-banned during the first part of this century. In 2016, Virginia temporarily removed both from its curriculum. How do you view such actions?

**Mauldin:** Well, I think it’s fairly short-sighted. While there may be some triggering language, one must determine who is using the language, and what does it illuminate about their character. Huck journeys from being a boy who is a product of his environment to a point where he sees Jim as a fellow human being, even lying to the authorities when they ask if he has seen the escaped slave. Both of these books are deeply anti-racist, as was Twain, and both of them describe a trajectory from darkness to enlightenment. If that is a message that those who make such decisions (most of whom are not usually, by the way, educators) feel should be kept from those whom we are trying to bring up as future engaged citizens, then I would have to strongly disagree with those priorities.

**Bell:** How do you think Twain would react to having his works banned?

**Mauldin:** Oh, it was something he had to deal with several times in his lifetime. In a letter to Mrs. F. G. Whitmore on February 7, 1907, Twain wrote, “But the truth is, when a Library expels a book of mine and leaves an unexpurgated Bible lying around where unprotected youth and age can get hold of it, the deep unconscious irony of it delights me and doesn’t anger me.”

**Bell:** Virginia maintains a fascination with



Dr. Michael Mauldin in his one-man performance, “An Evening with Mark Twain.”

the Civil War. Twain had a brief dalliance with a neighborhood Confederate militia that he described humorously in, I believe, *Roughing It*. He also poignantly described race relations in *Huckleberry Finn* and elsewhere. Do you see lessons from Twain on these matters that can be of particular benefit to your Virginia audience?

**Mauldin:** Oh, I think there are lessons for Virginia audiences and audiences everywhere. I usually include a section, which you referenced, in which he describes joining and deserting the Confederacy. There is an extraordinary piece he wrote called “The United States of Lynchdom” where he blasts his home state after a brutal series of lynchings during Reconstruction. I think as long as these problems persist, and there seems to be no indication that they will not in the near future, Twain’s is an important voice to be heard.

**Bell:** Do you vary the content of your performances, depending on your audience?

**Mauldin:** I do. I’m not sure how many hours I have memorized, having been doing the show for 42 years now, but, like Twain, I often vary the material based on the audience, and current events. I’ve had the opportunity to sometimes perform for groups such as the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Press Club, and Twain hilariously lambasts each of those professions. More often than not, the biggest laughs come from members of those professions that he is lampooning, and I hope we never lose that ability.

**Bell:** What got you interested in Twain and recreating his lectures?

**Mauldin:** It really wasn’t my idea at all. I was in my freshman year of college, and my agent at the time called me on New Year’s Eve in 1975 to tell me that he had a tour going out in March and the actor who was supposed to do it had backed out. So, I took that semester off, went to Hannibal (and his birthplace, Florida, Missouri), and then to Hartford to do the initial research. So, I went on my first tour as Twain when I was 18, never realizing I would still be doing him at 60. He has been a constant in my career as an actor, and now as an academic. You couldn’t ask for a better playwright!



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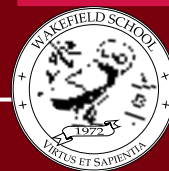


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## ASK DR. MIKE

– By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

Our son has depression, which he's being treated for with Zoloft and therapy. He also has really bad facial acne and his dermatologist recently recommended Accutane. Our son was very excited when he heard the dermatologist say that Accutane will "clear everything up." My husband and I were excited too because

we know how much our son's acne bothers him, and it probably even has a lot to do with his being depressed in the first place. But our son's psychiatrist is completely against the Accutane and even said that "Accutane can cause suicide." We looked this up and there is a lot out there on Accutane and suicide in the articles we read. What bad luck, we finally find a medication that



Dr. Mike

will help our son look better and probably feel less depressed, but he can't take it because he's depressed. What are your thoughts? – Distressed in Ashburn

Dear Distressed,

Research studies have linked Accutane to psychiatric conditions, however, those studies haven't conclusively shown that Accutane directly causes severe depression or suicide. Individuals with existing or preexisting mental health struggles or substance abuse struggles appear to be more susceptible to experiencing depression and suicidal ideation while taking the medication. But it's difficult to determine who exactly is susceptible since depression can be caused by several factors. Surprisingly, some research in this area has shown that severe acne alone can be a strong contributing factor for teen depression and suicidal ideation. Nonetheless, the makers of Accutane have warned that depression and suicidality are possible side effects of the medication, and that is clearly stated on the medications packaging.

I think you should get a second psychiatric opinion. While your son's depression is real, so too is his desire to look better; and, it's important for him to have hope and to believe in himself. If you do proceed with a second opinion, and if your son does end up taking Accutane, you will need to pay very close attention to how it affects him. I also recommend that your dermatologist and your son's psychiatrist and therapist coordinate their professional efforts in supporting your son if Accutane is being used. Accutane is a very powerful and effective medication for those who suffer from severe acne, but it's not for everyone.

Dr. Mike,

Our 7-year-old son and his friends love their Nerf guns and they especially love having Nerf gun battles in the neighborhood. This past Sunday one of the mom's in our son's friend group emailed the entire neighborhood listserv to ask that neighborhood children no longer be allowed to play with Nerf guns at the main public area or playground because she said "it promotes violence" and it's "insensitive in the wake of the Florida school shooting." I emailed her back to nicely let her know that I didn't see a problem with Nerf gun fun for 7-year-old boys on our playground, and she rudely replied that I was being "ignorant" and that "protecting our kids from gun violence needs to start at a young age." I don't plan to restrict my son from his Nerf gun battles on our playground, but we live in a really close-

knit community and I also don't want things to escalate. Any advice? – Upset in Leesburg

Dear Upset,

Research studies have shown that there is no link between young children playing with toy guns and later aggression and violence. In fact, gun play can actually serve to encourage symbolic play, which is developmentally good and appropriate for younger children. For example, younger children playing cops and robbers with their guns aren't just shooting at each other; they're also learning about themes such as justice, heroism, power, dominance and right and wrong in their roles alongside their peers.

So, as long as the Nerf gun battles aren't excessive, and as long as your son's play time is balanced with other sorts of activities, I don't see a problem with it. However, I don't think that charging ahead with more Nerf gun battles on your neighborhood playground is a good idea knowing how upset one of your neighbor's is over the activity. Yes, with the most recent tragic school shooting in Florida, and the many other tragic school shootings over the years, the topic of guns has understandably become a sensitive topic for many parents. Not knowing why the Nerf gun battles have upset your neighbor as much as they have, I think it's best to respectfully err on the side of caution.

Perhaps you could host a Nerf gun play date battle at your house or in the backyard with the other parents who are fine with it. Since you "live in a really close-knit community," you might also want to email the mother back to smooth things over. You could let her know that, while you don't see Nerf guns in quite the same way as she, you truly didn't mean to upset her and you will respect her request to no longer have Nerf gun battles in the public space of your neighborhood with your child. In the end, she will likely feel better with that gesture, and you can all hopefully move on from this. Compromising seems to be your best option; your son and his friends will grow out of wanting to play with their Nerf guns soon enough, but you may be living alongside your current neighbors for many years to come.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He has been featured on CNN, 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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# Amy and Dan Smith's Planning for Life: Trusts for Children

Most parents are aware of the need to appoint a guardian for their children in case of their deaths before the child reaches 18. This is accomplished in a properly executed will. A guardian is responsible for the person of the child: what he/she eats and wears; where the child lives and goes to school. Thought needs to be given to the estate of the child; that is, the inheritance that the child will be receiving. Guardianship does not automatically include control of the child's financial assets.



AMY & DAN SMITH

Many alternatives exist for the handling of a child's finances. The simplest method is to appoint a custodian to control the funds under the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act ("UTMA"). Under the provisions of this law, the custodian is authorized to invest the funds and to spend them for the support and education of the child. It is important to know that the child can demand that the account be turned over to him at age 18 unless (21) is added to the title. For

example, a clause in the will could read "a one-half share to my son Frankie to be held by John Smith as custodian under the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (21)."

To retain control of a child's share beyond the age of 21, a parent must establish a trust for the child. This trust can be set up to take effect at the death of the parents if the child is then under a certain age. A trustee would be appointed in the document (a will or living trust) to control the funds until the child reached the age where the parents thought he/she would be sufficiently responsible to take ownership of the account. Thus, the provision could state that, when the parents are deceased, the inheritance for a child under the age of, say, 30 would be held until the child reaches 30. Until then the trustee may distribute such amounts of income and principal as may be necessary from time to time for the health, education, support and maintenance of the child. The trust may also allow distributions of principal at certain ages such as 1/2 and 25 and the balance at 30, or a certain sum upon graduation from college.

Increasingly we are seeing another use of

trusts for children. Parents, concerned that the inheritance they give to their children may be lost to a creditor of the child or through a bad marriage, are establishing trusts that will last the lifetimes of their children. Parents will set up separate trusts to take effect at the death of the second of them to die for each of their children, no matter what the age of the child. These trusts typically require that all the income generated by the funds (dividends and interest) be paid out automatically to the beneficiary and give the trustee broad discretion to distribute principal as needed for the beneficiary or his/her children. Whatever balance is left at the death of the child can be directed to be distributed to his/her children, and often the child will be given the right to appoint the balance then remaining among his/her children as seems appropriate. This allows the child to place assets where most needed among the children.

The benefit of a lifetime trust for the child is that it keeps the inheritance segregated from marital assets and, thus, free of the claims of creditors and a divorcing spouse. Too, if the trust is properly drafted, the

child can be the trustee for his/her own trust and therefore retain control over the funds.

*The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer. Dan Smith is a lawyer who has practiced in Loudoun County since 1980. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Amy V. Smith CFP®, CIMA® offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel. 703-669-5022, [www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com)) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Please note, changes in tax laws or regulations may occur at any time and could substantially impact your situation. Raymond James financial advisors do not render advice on tax or legal matters. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.*

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## Jason Brownell a Man With a Heart for Veterans

— By Andrea Gaines

“I had been praying for something like this to occur,” said Jason Brownell in describing how Hero Homes, a Purcellville-based non-profit that builds homes for soldiers and veterans in need, came about.

“I was working as the manager for a homebuilding project for a wounded veteran named Tony Porta. Tony had barely survived a terrible fire while serving in Iraq. He talked about struggling to get out of his vehicle and ‘following the light to heaven’ ... he said that his two Marine brothers, who died in the fire, had carried him back to safety.” Brownell also learned about how the soldier had to be brought back to life multiple times on a transport plane to Germany. He was dumbstruck, trying to imagine what it must have been like to go through something like that. The pain. The fear that your life, literally, was ending.

“My life changed at that moment,” said Brownell.

“I thought, here I am in northern Virginia with everything I’d ever need. Worrying about my tee time ... trying to decide if I’m going to happy hour.”

“And, here’s this guy, who was burned all over his body and living with overwhelming injuries. I remember him saying that, at the time that, while in the hospital, all he could think about was that ‘No one will ever fall in love with me.’”

Today Brownell, his partners and Hero Homes work with long-established veterans’ groups to identify soldiers in need. They create

a home package that works for them, whether it’s purchasing the home outright, purchasing it with a portion being subsidized, or having the home donated outright. Everything is based on need and also on the veteran’s earning ability and well-deserved military benefits.

Hero Homes has a very unique organizational structure, working with what are known as Build Partners, Foundation Partners, Service Partners and Volunteer Partners. Build Partners provide support in the form you’d expect, supplying the goods and services such as plumbing, electric, landscaping, woodwork, and painting and drywall. Foundation Partners consist of gift-giving organizations and other business. And so on. But, mostly, the structure provides a way for anyone and everyone to play a part in Hero homes’ work.

“We take no salaries, and we have no overhead,” said Brownell. “We can build a home for 50 percent of the cost of what it would normally take.”

Tony Porta, the soldier who so inspired Jason Brownell ... made it home. Someone fell in love with him, too, and now he has a son whom he named Kenneth Charles, after the two Marines, Kenneth and Charles who helped bring him back to life.

The Hero Homes team has built three homes in the area, Haas House, Davenport House and Slease House. And, they are about to start on a new Hero Home in Hillsboro.

Thanks for all that you do, men and women of our Armed Forces. And thank you, too, Jason Brownell.

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# Great Relationships Make For Great Roofs — Hartley Homebuilding —

— By Andrea Gaines

Todd Hartley is the owner of Hartley Homebuilding, in Round Hill. He has the rare quality of a man who knows how to make a direct connection between customer satisfaction and business success. The company succeeds when it puts the customer first, and the way to do that is to provide the best service and best product possible, all within an exceptionally trusting relationship.

A veteran of custom homebuilding with special attention to detail, Hartley Homebuilding has an exteriors division, Hartley Home Exteriors. With Hartley Home Exteriors, the concentration is on quality roofing, windows, siding and gutters projects.

With his specific building experience, and his length of time in the business, Hartley not only knows the most effective way to build, repair and make a home exterior functional, he knows how to make the sometimes complicated, sometimes stressful home exterior project ... easier.

He's been recognized as the Best of Loudoun, several times, by the Leesburg Today survey. As one couple said, "Todd's faith, integrity, and honesty were evident in the way he worked with his crew and us."

Part of Hartley's success lies in his uniqueness. Whether it's a new roof, installing new windows and gutters or replacing a home's siding, Hartley works differently than other, sometimes larger companies. "I have one roofing crew, one siding crew,



one crew for each kind of exterior work. My crews specialize in their particular trade."

In this way, he says, his company is able to take a team approach to every project. The homeowner never gets the feeling that they are being passed from one person to another as their project progresses. There's one team, accountable to them from beginning to end.

"At Hartley," he says, "We manage all of our own projects. We don't really have a sales force, for example – people who sell the project and then walk away. The person who gives you the estimate follows your project all the way through to completion. They don't just give you the numbers, disappear and hope everything goes ok when the crew shows up."

This, explains Hartley, "ensures quality and a schedule you can depend upon ... and this also makes the work very consistent."

To connect with the Hartley Homebuilding or Hartley Home Exteriors team call 540 441-7649 or go to [www.hartleyhomebuilding.com](http://www.hartleyhomebuilding.com) or [www.hartleyhomeexteriors.com](http://www.hartleyhomeexteriors.com).

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

## Small Business Grapevine

Senor Ramon Taqueria, Leesburg  
Blooming Hill Lavender Farm, Philomont  
Aylesbury Tearoom, Leesburg

— By Andrea Gaines

March is here and spring has sprung. Get outside; these and many more charming small businesses are waiting to serve you – with delectable food, plants and garden accessories, and a warm cup of tea.

### Fresh Flavors To Match The Season

A taqueria is the most-simple of ideas – "a Mexican restaurant specializing in tacos." And, simplicity – in the form of delicious and authentic food served up with super quick elegance – is what you get at Senor Ramon Taqueria in Leesburg.

If strolling around Leesburg with an incredibly fresh, \$3 taco in hand is your idea of the perfect spring day, you've come to the right place.

You can also sit down to a local craft beer or glass of wine with a tostada or torta, a specialty taco, or an empanada ... and then stroll around. Owner Damian Dajcz has taken the most-simple of food ideas to new heights. The combinations are endless in the cilantro and cumin-scented air.

Senor Ramon Taqueria has three locations, including the restaurant at 15 Loudoun St SE, Leesburg, VA 20175. Check out the taqueria's menus, pricing and other locations at [www.senorramon.com](http://www.senorramon.com).

### The Lavender Life

As owners Cyndie and Peter Rinek describe it, Blooming Hill Lavender Farm is actually a "tiny farmlet." But, with over 1,000 lavender plants and 100 varieties of the popular herb, a gift shop, a greenhouse, a bounty of beautifully tended gardens, handmade crafts and art, and exquisite garden decor – this husband and wife business is anything but limited.

Cyndie has a background in writing and retail management, and Peter is a landscape architect and planner. With Blooming Hill, they have transformed every talent they have, everything they love to do and every bit of beauty on their property into a thriving western Loudoun business. "Tour the gardens, peruse our shop and walk the field," say the the Rineks. Sounds like a fantastic spring idea.

Blooming Hill Lavender Farm is open three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located at 19929 Telegraph Springs Road in Philomont/Purcellville. Phone: 703 431-0779, email: [BloomingHillVA@gmail.com](mailto:BloomingHillVA@gmail.com), website: [www.bloominghillva.com](http://www.bloominghillva.com).

### Tea In A Village Setting

Aylesbury Tearoom in Leesburg brings you back to old time village life ... with distinctly English flare. "All in all, your afternoon promises to be ... positively splendid!" the owners say.

This darling small business is located in one of the most well-recognized structures in Leesburg, an old stone house across from the old courthouse.

Offering a "traditional full afternoon English tea with all the trimmings," including preserves and Double Devon cream, it is the perfect place for a ladies gathering, a baby shower, a child's birthday party or bridal shower. I also like the idea of a lady or gentleman strolling in by themselves to enjoy a warm cup of tea and something sweet.

The tearoom features lovely gifts from Ms. Busy B. – including tea cozies and tea accessories, too. Fun.

Aylesbury Tea Room is located at 209 East Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20176. For reservations call 703 868-6935; website: [www.AylesburyTeaRoom.com](http://www.AylesburyTeaRoom.com).

To have your small business featured in our Small Business Grapevine, contact Andrea Gaines via email at [andrea@andregaines.com](mailto:andrea@andregaines.com).

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## Girls Essay Contest for Scholarships – Grades 11 and 12

The Purcellville Woman’s Club announced its 2018 “Mac Brownell Scholarship” essay contest. Female high school students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 are eligible to compete for the first-place scholarship of \$1,500, the second-place scholarship of \$1,000 and the third-place scholarship of \$500. Those competing can be in a public or a private school, or be home-schooled. They must reside within the 20132-zip code.

Competitors must submit an essay of between 750 and 1,000 words. Entries may be typed or handwritten. Please include in your essay submission the following: Name, address, school, email and phone number. Email to: [PurcellvilleWomansClub2015@gmail.com](mailto:PurcellvilleWomansClub2015@gmail.com). Or mail to: Purcellville Woman’s Club (Essay Contest), PO Box 2654, Purcellville, VA 20134. Essays will be accepted beginning Saturday, March 3 and must be postmarked by April 7 at 11:59 p.m. Winners will be notified via email, and the names of winners will be announced in local papers, as well as on the PWC FaceBook page.

Competitors must answer one of the following questions in their essay submission:

**Question 1:** Mac Brownell once said, “Volunteerism is our American heritage.” and for her, indeed it was. Research Mac Brownell’s history in Loudoun county and explain why she inspires you.

**Question 2:** How do you see yourself giving back to the community in the future in order to make a difference.

**Question 3:** If you were to plan a community service project for Purcellville, what would it look like?

Submissions will be judged according to three types of criteria: content (45 percent); language (30 percent); and organization of body of writing (25 percent). The language category includes: spelling, punctuation, grammar, choice of words, clarity and expressiveness. The organization category includes: the inclusion of an introduction that captures the reader’s attention and establishes the major theme of essay; and the manner in development of the theme as evidenced by ideas being presented, supported and explained in clear logical order with smooth transitions.

The Purcellville Woman’s Club will hold a “Meet and Greet Contestants” in April before announcing the winners.

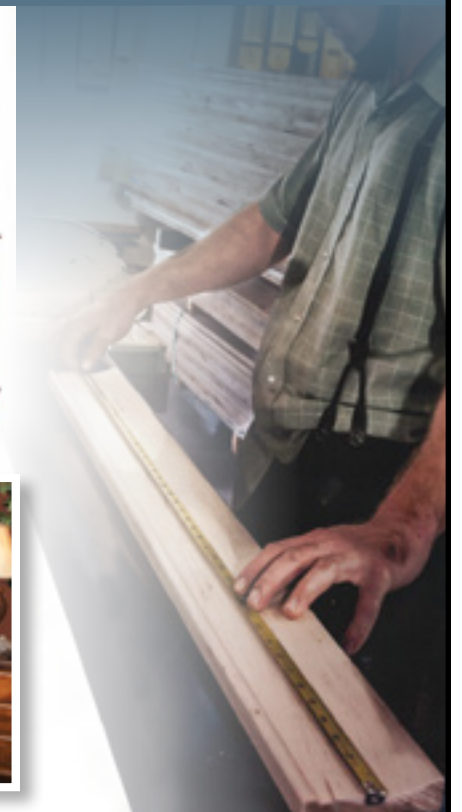
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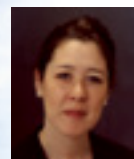
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*Development, continued from page 1*

consistent plan that doesn't add to our debt or rely on increasing taxes on citizens. Our citizens said they wanted to retain our small town charm and we have listened."

Several former Council members and long-time residents have belittled Fraser and newer residents for trying to "close the gate behind them," suggesting they enjoyed the fruits of that growth, but now want it to end. But many have questioned whether the Town's infrastructure can handle continued increases. Proposed developments would mean taxpayers would have to pay millions to upgrade infrastructure to handle the growth.

Meanwhile, Thompson's campaign is being helped by members of the Warner family, friends of his since childhood. Scott Warner and another member of the Warner family circulated Thompson's Petition of Qualified Voters, obtaining signatures to get him on the ballot, and Scott has been shadowing Thompson at many public events. The Warner family owns the 131-acre property that is currently going through the annexation process with Purcellville. It is located north of Rt. 7 off Purcellville Rd. across from the Mayfair subdivision. The property is currently in the County and is

zoned JLMA-3 – one house per three acres. If developed at its current zoning it would allow for approximately 42 homes. At the current County zoning the Warner property would be worth an estimated \$15 to \$25 million. If annexed into the Town with the zoning density the owners are asking for, the value would jump to an estimated \$75 million or upward.

The Warner's annexation was first submitted to the Town in October 2015. The proposal includes 24 acres of industrial use, a nine-acre sports plex, outdoor sports fields (until market demand dictates a more intensive use), 11 acres of mixed commercial (70,000 sq. ft.), and 65 acres for residential (160 homes). The proposal would generate 8,000 to 10,000 daily vehicle trips to nearby intersections already rated a D or F by transportation studies. The Warner annexation seems to be on hold for now – the applicant pulled the discussion from the January 2018 Town Council agenda.

This delay is no surprise to many in the community who have attended public meetings over the years regarding annexation. As one developer said at a community meeting a few years ago, "If I don't get what I want now, I'll wait until the next election."

At issue is also the Northern Collector Road, the majority of which would pass through the Warner property, stretching from Rt. 287 to Purcellville Road. The

County Board of Supervisors refused a request by neighboring residents and the Purcellville Town Council to remove the road from the County Transportation Plan. Those opposed argued the original alignment went through drain fields and driveways of existing homes, and was slated to encourage massive development. Instead, in June 2016, the BOS chose an alignment that would have it mirror the Rt. 7 Bypass. Although the County argues the road is needed in the future and won't be built until after the Rt. 690/Rt. 7 interchange is built, traffic modeling shows the road's traffic mitigation would be miniscule.

But there is more. A portion of the Northern Collector Road currently goes through the Mayfair subdivision, and would ultimately connect to Rt. 690 via an access road on the western side of Mayfair for access to Woodgrove High School and Mountain View Elementary School from points west of Town. For more than a decade, the adjacent property to this new access was under a Memo of Understanding Agreement between Upper Loudoun Youth Football League and Loudoun County. The vision for that agreement was that Loudoun County was going to fund

*One ULYFL member stated afterward that he believes the ULYFL was manipulated as a political ploy to get ULYFL members to release the MOU, to support this project, and now the Warners' candidate of choice.*

and build a football stadium, and ULYFL would have playing fields there. At a February 2015 ULYFL Board meeting, the Board was informed by the Loudoun County Director of Parks and Recreation and the Assistant Director of Projects that there was a decision on the Northern Collector Road that would have it "going right through one of the softball fields on the current plans."

The ULYFL Board was told it had to make a quick decision on the existing MOU with a recommendation from the County to "void the existing MOU and look to enter into a new MOU once traffic and road decisions have been made," which the Board did.

Fast-forward to an early 2018 ULYFL Board meeting where Scott Warner was in attendance promoting his development that will have playing fields, and saying how great they would be for their organization and youth sports. At that meeting, Warner also solicited signatures for Thompson's Petition of Qualified Voters. One ULYFL member stated afterward that he believes the ULYFL was manipulated as a political ploy to get ULYFL members to release the MOU, to support this project, and now the Warners' candidate of choice.

Thompson has chosen sides in this race. He says that the southern part of Purcellville has the roads it needs, and that it is time the

*Continued on page 27*

*Aldie Fire Station, continued from page 1*

on the current site and direct the County Administrator to identify an alternate site, or sites, outside of the Village of Aldie but within the area previously identified by Loudoun County Fire & Rescue as 'Acceptable' based on appropriate response times to the Stations 'First Due Area', and back-up response times to adjoining service areas."

**A Unique Place With Unique Heritage**

The Mosby Heritage Area Association, Aldie Heritage Association, Civil War Trust, and other area nonprofits are opposed to the selection of Aldie for a facility so large.

Aldie Heritage Association President Florian Hauswiesner has said the move threatens to do more damage to than the Civil War Battle of Aldie, fought on June 17, 1863. Some might call that characterization overly dramatic. But, it is difficult for small places like Aldie to absorb anything as large as an 18,000 sq. ft. facility without losing their attractively quiet atmosphere and economic base of small lunch stops, antique stores, and other rural businesses.

In a letter to Board Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large) in December, Civil War Trust President O. James Lighthizer said, "We recommend that this project only be permitted to proceed once appropriate mitigation measures have been delineated clearly and are vetted in consultation with the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Trust and local stakeholders – or until a mutually satisfactory alternative to the project in its entirety can be substituted altogether."

**A Small Site With Big Drawbacks**

From a construction and access perspective, the site is relatively compact as far as development envelopes go, with multiple stream corridor, floodplain, and mountain slope limitations.

The spot also forms the entrance to the village along the eastern bank of Little River. As the waterway's name implies, there is no grand entrance announcing that you are now driving through Aldie. Rather, this is a place where Rt. 50 slows down, and small shops and old homes come into view as you ease your way over a small bridge. Just up ahead you see the village's most important historic site – Aldie Mill Historic Park and the 200-year-old Aldie Mill building – set back from the road on the left.

The site provides no room for future expansion, either. And, in order to accommodate the project the County would likely demolish a structure known as the Aldie Tavern, or "Woodburn," something that has galvanized preservationists against the project.

Woodburn was once owned by Charles Fenton Mercer, founder of the Village of Aldie.

**Attractive, But It's Still An 18,000 Sq. Ft. Facility**

Three options for the station's design were laid out in a 2017 presentation by the Hughes Group Architects to the Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee &

Heritage Commission.

The plan would take down three historic structures, including Woodburn. Special accommodations would also need to be made to floodplain limits, a mountain overlay district, and what are defined as "very steep slopes."

Site study options from that presentation say that the goal is to ensure that the "scale and facade of the proposed building ... maintain the character and reinforce the existing streetscape of the village." They also are looking at "the possibility of preserving any of the existing buildings on site and and not building within the Aldie Historic District." The facility's layout, it says, "Reinforces the street edge and enhances the definition of the village of Aldie." Benefits such as "less entry paving along Route 50," and "less environmental impact" are also described.

In a nod to Aldie's historic landscape, designers have also included educational areas in the fire station itself that will present the history of the village and display "selected salvage pieces from the historical structures."

Hauswiesner had some very respectful but pointed words about the project, saying: "It is mind boggling what is happening here. I'm not sure they are familiar with this site, and our community. Before they considered this location they wanted to take down another historic structure using eminent domain. Now they want to take down three historic structures. We need Supervisor Buffington to succeed in convincing the other Supervisors to not do this ... and, those Supervisors need to step up. The Board should be working to strengthen western Loudoun's villages, not weaken them."

**The Long Road To Aldie**

The acceptable area for the station is quite large, centered, roughly, around Gilbert's Corner.

It includes land north and south heading west on Rt. 50, small segments of Rt. 15 north and south, and lands along Rt. 50 just west of Gilbert's Corner.

The County was looking at this particular site in the village as far back as 2015, when the BOS approved the purchase of three parcels totaling \$1.4 million. Only one Supervisor, Ken Reid (R-Leesburg) voted no, concerned about the cost and what the new station's impact would be on the rural area.

At least one person familiar with the tide of growth heading out on Rt. 50 west suggested it was time for the BOS to build the public infrastructure needed for new

developments, including fire and rescue, into the plans for the new communities themselves, instead of plunking them down in a small village like Aldie.

In fact, the Aldie station was originally planned for two lots in a new community called Little River Farms, near the intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 15. The County paid \$1.2 million for land there in 2008, after looking at more than 20 possible parcels. But, that location was challenged by two lawsuits, one claiming the station violated neighborhood covenants and another claiming conflicts with Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. In Dec. 2011 the County was

blocked from proceeding with the Little River Farms site.

The County continued its search for an appropriate Aldie station location, and sometime between 2012 and 2014, land near the corner of Rt. 50 and New Mountain Road – west of Gilbert's corner – was considered.

That fell through as well, leading to the purchase of three parcels by the County in 2015 – the latest siting proposal generating such disagreement.

Buffington has said that while a new site will be considered, the BOS has not abandoned the Aldie village site, yet. "The effort involved two closed sessions and nearly three hours of debate. I did not get everything I wanted; however, I am happy to report that while design work will continue on the current site, the Board has directed the County Administrator to make every effort to identify an alternate site, or sites, outside of the Village of Aldie but within the 'Acceptable' area, and report back to the Board within the next 30 days."

*"It is mind boggling what is happening here ... Before they considered this location they wanted to take down another historic structure using eminent domain ... The Board should be working to strengthen western Loudoun's villages, not weaken them."*

— Aldie Heritage Association President Florian Hauswiesner

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# Heather and Horses for George Happy St. Patrick's Day

— By Andrea Gaines

*"To some, these drizzly gray days may be depressing. But the Irish call them 'soft' days, and they would never keep a man or woman from getting on a horse. These are the days when the native plants in the woods are just waking up, sheltered in a soft blanket of fog, getting ready to start a new season above ground with their brief shows of delicate flowers – cutleaf toothwort, hounds tongue, may apples and glorious, glorious Virginia bluebells."*

These are the poetic words of my dear friend and fellow writer Heather Humphries.

At the Blue Ridge Leader, we wanted to do a profile of a "local Irishman," someone with deep roots in Loudoun County, as our ode to St. Patrick's Day 2018.

When Heather's late husband George came to mind, I mentioned it to her, and she started writing me little notes about him. George Humphries, I realized, was the perfect subject for a wee little story.

"George and I lived in Leesburg from 1984 to 1997," said Heather, "and had a small horse farm between Lovettsville and Waterford from 1997 until 2013 when we moved to Winchester and The Village at Orchard Ridge retirement

village."

I know that little horse farm outside of Waterford. Yes, I do, having spent many a wonderful hour there.

Heather and I would be working away on our writing projects while George sat quietly, reading newspapers and doing some writing of his own in his very own kingdom, a sunny TV room overlooking the farm. George, for a time, wrote a great restaurant column for this paper called *Hunt Country Gourmet*.

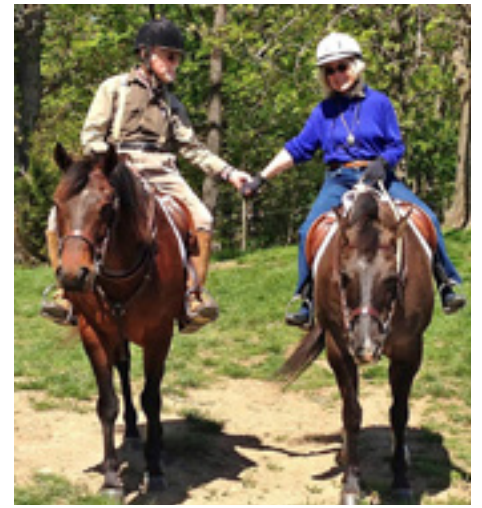
He had a big comfy chair surrounded by piles of newspapers. Through a large pane-glass door, you could see the horses out in the pasture – swishing their contented tails one moment, and breaking into spirited romps the next. The walls of the room were filled with horseback riding photos, brass hunting horns, and keepsakes of their second favorite animal – the fox. George would read, and talk about what he was reading, and comment on what the horses were doing. And, the three of us, Heather and George and I, would break for lunch, with my dog, Stella along for the ride and an under-the-table snack. And, Heather would remark how much Stella reminded her of her old family dog, Rosie.

And, now another cherished note from

Heather to me, about George. Another glimpse into this extraordinary Scots-Irish gentleman. "George died in October 2015. He rode a horse until he was 91. A WWII carrier fighter pilot, he was fearless. Despite many horse-related incidents and many broken bones over the years, he would not be kept down. Usually his first question to the emergency room doctor would be 'So when can I get back on a horse?'"

I bet George is on a horse, right now, looking down on Heather and what she describes, here ...

"When George died two years ago, I wanted to do something in his memory – not a "named" thing but something that would symbolically represent his life and the things we shared. Since we had always ridden through the woods and enjoyed the native flowers that always seemed to abound, I found a 2/3 acre site that had been abandoned and forgotten right in the middle of the Village at Orchard Ridge property. It was full of lovely limestone outcroppings and swales and soft hills ... I was able to enlist some of the experts in the area – Sally Anderson, president of the Piedmont Virginia Native Plant Society; Jim Smith, president of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society and Gerald Crowell,



Heather and George doing what they loved.

retired State of Virginia arborist for Clark and Frederick Counties – to advise on what we could do with the space. I proposed a plan to the management here, and they accepted it! We contracted with a native plant nursery in Harrisonburg to come up and do a site plan, and they have planted a couple of thousand plugs and small trees and bushes. It is a slow process, but we are seeing results now with the Wildflower Meadow and an additional spot on the periphery of the woods that was seeded as a pollinator garden. The wooded area had lots of small native wildflowers and tree saplings this spring, now that some of the dense undergrowth was taken out. Oh, and we transplanted several dozen bluebells from the farm where I still ride horses. I call this place, The Glen."

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

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## Call for Artists

Discover Purcellville, a community non-profit, is seeking Artists for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer art project. For 2018 they have custom Amish made wood Adirondack Love Seats for Loudoun's creative artist to paint.

The past two summers Discover Purcellville coordinated the very popular community art projects "Painted Barrels around Purcellville" and "Painted Benches around Purcellville." The

Painted Love Seats will be displayed around Purcellville from May through October in front of local businesses that have sponsored them. This year artists are encouraged to create a Purcellville / Western Loudoun theme for their subject. Once again NBC4 Washington will be doing a feature story during the summer. To apply to paint a Love Seat contact Michael Oaks at DPurcellville@gmail.com or text him at 540 383-0009.

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Folks would love to move out here to experience the peaceful living and open spaces we all enjoy, but inventory is at an all-time low. If the time has come for you to put your own house on the market, then let us guide you through the process of listing your house and finding a qualified buyer.



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*Races, continued from page 1*

Bluemont Shamrock Race on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, at 9 a.m. at Great County Farms, 18780 Foggy Bottom Rd., Bluemont.

Organizers urge all to "come run with the luck of the Irish in one of the most picturesque areas of Northern Virginia." The course winds through the country roads of beautiful Western Loudoun County. After the race, participants are invited to celebrate at Dirt Farm Brewing.

Runners are encouraged to register early

to receive reduced registration rates.

Registration fees: 5K: \$35 until March 15, and \$45 from March 16 through race day; 10K: \$45 until March 15, and \$55 from March 16 through race day.

Online registration will close Wednesday, March 14 at 8 p.m. The first 300 registered participants will receive commemorative race shirts and finishers' medals. For more information on the event, to register, volunteer, or to become a sponsor, visit [www.BluemontShamrockRace.com/](http://www.BluemontShamrockRace.com/) or [www.facebook.com/BluemontShamrock](http://www.facebook.com/BluemontShamrock).

*Fundraiser, continued from page 3*

All proceeds from the auctions will be donated to the Emerick PTO to support of the programs that help make Emerick a Blue Ribbon school. In addition to funding the PTO's yearly budget, money will be put toward the goal of building a state-of-the-art outdoor classroom in order to provide students with a variety of enriching educational opportunities.

Tickets are \$50 per/person (includes food and drink). Buy tickets online before they sell out at [www.biddingforgood.com/emerrick50th](http://www.biddingforgood.com/emerrick50th). For donations or questions, please contact Amy Rogers at 703 568-2699.

Emerick Elementary is named

after Oscar L. Emerick, who was the Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools from 1917-1957. Oscar Emerick and his wife, Carrie, were long-time residents of Purcellville. Mr. Emerick's first office was in his home until the School Board rented an office for him in Purcellville and later rented office space in Leesburg. Their home is still standing in Purcellville and is located on the corner of Orchard Avenue and Main Street. Carrie Emerick is famous for being the first woman in Loudoun County to pay her poll tax and qualify to vote with the passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment in 1920.

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# New Fireman's Field Open for Business

- By Andrea Gaines

With great excitement and a home run's worth of enthusiasm, the new managers of the Fireman's Field held a wall-to-wall Open House in mid-February, showcasing detailed renderings of structural improvements completed and/or underway, the new programming on the schedule or in the planning stages, and the organizations and individuals that will take the complex into the future.

Representatives from the new management team - Shaun Alexander Enterprises, Inc., Play To Win, LLC and Every Citizen Has Opportunities (ECHO) - were present for the Open House, along with state, local and Town officials, including Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser. The Loudoun Valley Cross Country team and coaches were also honored for their victory in the 2017 National Championship.

Said Play To Win Chief Marketing Officer Carolyn Dobson: "We are very excited to honor these athletes and coaches. They are leaders on their team, in their school and role models for other children to aspire to. It was great to also have everyone come and see the major transformation the



Renderings, scoreboard and fence line.

Tabernacle has taken in just a few weeks and learn about our plans for increased community programming. This is just the start to making this gem of a facility the heart of Western Loudoun."

Now on the schedule for March at Fireman's Field are Middle School Skate nights, High School Challenge events, and more. HSC events include How To Cook, Sports Challenge, Guest Speaker, and Q&A Night.

New daytime programming under

consideration but yet to be confirmed includes a Mommy and Me Fitness Program, Toddler Time, Zumba and/or yoga classes, "Apples and Coffee," and more. Toddler Time considerations include Musical Story Time, a Trike Day, art classes, and Fun Friday.

Programming specialists and their supporters in the community are also considering a March Madness Celebration, a St. Patty's Day Event, and others.

For details go to [www.FiremansField.com](http://www.FiremansField.com).



Renderings of plans for the concession stand and bleachers was on display inside the Bush Tabernacle.

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# Brower Named Virginia's Career Fire Chief of the Year

W. Keith Brower, Jr., Chief of the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System, has received the 2018 Governor's Fire Service Award for Career Fire Chief of the Year. The award is presented annually by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

Chief Brower was presented the award by Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran Feb. 24 during a ceremony at the 2018 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach. Sponsored by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, the conference provides educational opportunities for fire and emergency medical services personnel.



From Left: System Acting Chief Keith Johnson, Chief W. Keith Brower, Jr., Battalion Chief Roger Martin. Photo: LCFR

support for fire prevention. Brower has become a recognized leader for issues involving the development and implementation of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. He has demonstrated his skills at local, state, and national levels. He has had a significant impact on the fire service through teaching and mentoring others, facilitating associations and departments through difficult national issues, and writing on a number of key topics for the fire service.

"I am proud of Chief Brower and his accomplishments and am excited to see his career achievements recognized by his colleagues," said County

Chief Brower has served in Loudoun County for 44 years. He began his tenure in the fire service in 1973, and became the Chief of Loudoun County Fire, Rescue,

and Emergency Management in 2010. Under Brower's leadership, the County consolidated 17 separate organizations into one of the largest combined fire and rescue

systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Perhaps one of Chief Brower's most important contributions to Virginia's Fire Service is his unwavering passion and

Administrator Tim Hemstreet. "It is gratifying to see Virginia's Fire Chiefs confirm what we in Loudoun have known for many years."

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Video online at: [www.loudoun.gov/adultday](http://www.loudoun.gov/adultday)

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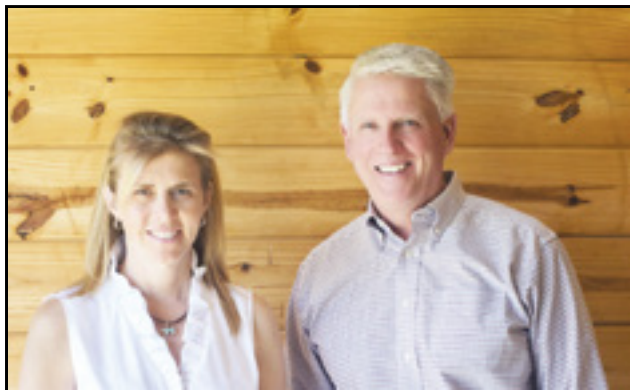
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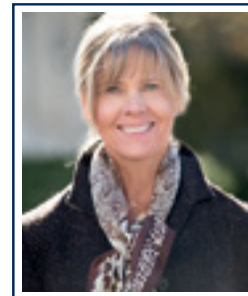
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*Rock to Live, continued from page 3*

it by promoting mental health resources for youth.

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to work with businesses and individuals to brainstorm on ways to make them feel a part of the effort to save lives and make the community a better place. Chharia asks any persons interested in the event to contact him via email: [varunchharia@yahoo.com](mailto:varunchharia@yahoo.com).

For more information on the Ryan Bartel Foundation, go to [www.ryanbartelfoundation.org](http://www.ryanbartelfoundation.org). For more information on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, go <https://afsp.org/>.

*Development, continued from page 18*

Town worked on roads in the northern part of Town. The proposed Northern Collector Road is not located within Purcellville's boundaries, and Hirst Rd. is the northernmost collector road for the northern side of Purcellville.

The debate over massive development has turned Town politics into a power struggle. "People feel developers had free reign," said one long-time resident. "I think there were some hits and some

misses, but we have been overwhelmed, and we need to pull the brakes for a while to balance things out."


In addition to Fraser and Thompson, voters will have a chance to cast a vote on three Town Council seats. Officially on the ballot, as of our deadline, are Tip Stinnette, Chair of the Planning Commission, Ted Greenly, appointed to the Town Council in October 2017, and Doug McCollum, a Town Council member elected in 2014.

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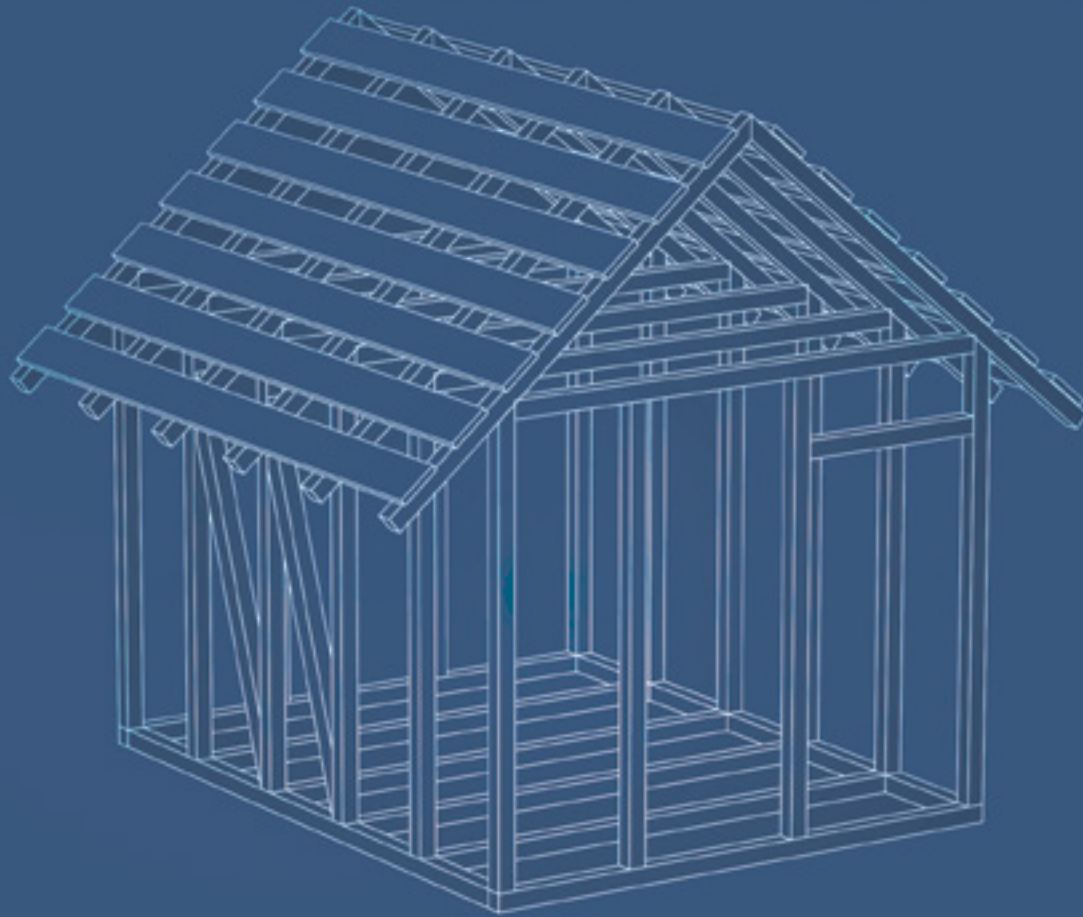
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