

# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

JUNE 2018

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## Hi-tech low-touch coming to Aberdeen

BY ANDREA GAINES

Purcellville's 189.9-acre Aberdeen property, located near public water treatment facilities northwest of Town on Short Hill Road, seems headed for a hi-tech, low-touch future, according to Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and first-quarter 2018 proceedings of the Town Council. Said Fraser, "I call it hi-tech with low-touch, because we are embracing technological advancements to add economic value without compromising allowable zoning uses on the property." Efforts to use the property as a sustainable income source for the Town, while protecting the property and the historic 1800s Federal-style brick house that occupies it are near-ready to roll.

Thanks in part to an idea championed by Fraser and Vice Mayor Nedim Ogelman, under current plans, 8 to 10 acres will first go into hops production via a public/private partnership with Dragon Hops Brewing co-owner Marilla Coryell and other hops farmers. This would make Aberdeen the single largest parcel in Loudoun County dedicated

to hops production, with the Town drawing rental revenues from the property, and the farmers benefiting from, among other things, reclaimed water from the Town's water and sewer system, and the now-unused farm facilities there, including a barn and silo.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member Mackenzie Forno, a high school student, is also suggesting that Aberdeen be considered as the possible site of an Equine Center, which would provide veterinary and other services and be used for steeplechase races. The 11-member Advisory Board, overseen in part by Town Council Member and liaison Ryan Cool, includes two junior members from Loudoun Valley High School, Forno and Ian Bowman. "We have an opportunity to transform the Aberdeen facilities and land into a Center of Excellence for the agriculture and equestrian industry," said Fraser.

Finally, governmental partnerships involving Loudoun County, the Federal Aviation Administration, the United States Department of Transportation, and the Center for Innovative Technology – or CIT – may present opportunities for Aberdeen to be used as a test site for what is known as precision agriculture, and

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## Free frisbees but no place to throw them

– News & Analysis –  
Draft Comp Plan From Off-the-Rails To Off-the-Cliff

BY ANDREA GAINES

County Planning officials have released the long-awaited Comp Plan draft. Entitled *Loudoun 2040*, the draft includes the *General Plan* and the *Countywide Transportation Plan*.

*Draft Loudoun 2040* notes that while Loudoun has succeeded in managing

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unprecedented growth, "new tools" are needed "to address the needs of the future."

This is where things go from "off-the-rails" to "off-the-cliff."

"The needs of the future" include tens of thousands of new residential

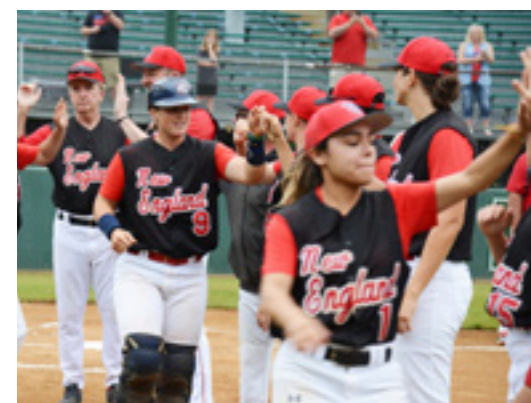
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## Women rocked the field Memorial weekend

BY ANDREA GAINES

In 2011, a writer for a nonprofit news organization put out the following rather provocative headline: "Media Still Baffled By Female Baseball Players."

The article was reporting on a very significant sporting event, a high school baseball game where, "For the first time in American history ...



High fives all around for the champion New England Women Red Sox.

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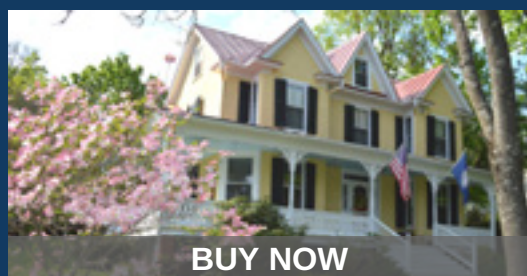
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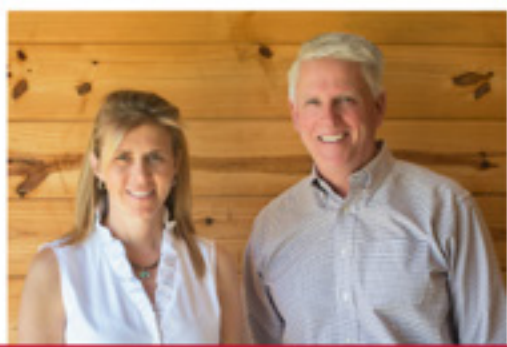


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# Cannons swing into exciting home opener

BY MATT GUSMEROTTI

After an early playoff exit in last season's Valley Baseball League Northern Divisional series against the Winchester Royals, the Purcellville Cannons returned with some new faces in the 2018 season, hoping to take the season opener against the Front Royal Cardinals.

Cannons owner and manager Brett Fuller decided to start Mike Batten of Southern Wesleyan University against Front Royals' Kobe Foster of Motlow State Community College.

The Cardinals jumped out to an early lead in the first inning against Batten, when Webb Little of Front Royal sliced a two-run double down the line to jump out to a 2-0 lead. Then a sacrifice fly made it 3-0, courtesy of Brandon Krennrich.

Front Royal struck again in the top half of the second inning, when Brady Ballstadt hit a RBI double to make it 4-0. The Cannons quickly responded in the bottom half of the inning, when

they loaded the bases with one out, but only scored one run off of a Tyler Baker sacrifice fly.

The score would remain that way until the end of the fifth, when the game was called and ended, after strong thunderstorms entered the area. Front Royal spoiled Purcellville's home opener with a 4-1 victory in five innings.

Pitcher Mike Batten went three innings, allowing seven hits, four runs (two earned), one walk, and striking out two. Dalton Oates came into the game in relief of Batten, and pitched two innings, allowing one hit and one walk in each inning, and getting two strikeouts.

Catcher T.K. McWhertor of Kansas State University went 2-2 with two doubles and a run, providing half of Purcellville's hits.

The Cannons' next home games are June 4 against Covington, June 6 against Front Royal, and June 9 against New Market. For a complete schedule go to [www.purcellvillecannons.com](http://www.purcellvillecannons.com).



Pitcher Matt Batten.



Cannons players getting ready for the game.

Photo: Matt Gusmerotti

## ANATOMY OF A BASEBALL ... AND PITCH

❖ Regulation baseballs are 9 to 9.25 inches in circumference, weighing 5 to 5.25 ounces.



❖ Baseballs have a rubber or cork center wrapped with up to one mile of string. The tighter the string the longer and faster the ball. (In the early days, some baseballs had an actual fish eye in the center.)

❖ Technically, the pitcher spins, not the ball, but the stitches on the ball, causing it to go to the left or right or up or down, gradually or suddenly.

❖ With a curveball, the pitcher's grip and hand movement causes the ball to spin in a forward motion.

❖ A "slider" – similar to the fastball known as a "cutter" – breaks down and into the batter's strike zone.

❖ Other pitches include the "sinker," which has a dramatic downward and horizontal movement and is known to produce ground balls.

❖ A pitcher named A.G. Spaulding – the now well-known sports manufacturing company – helped create the first standardized baseballs.

❖ Major League Baseball now uses balls manufactured by Rawlings.



### Cannons Summer Features 13 Home and 11 Away Games

The Cannons will have an action-packed summer. The schedule is as follows, with home games in bold:

- Friday, June 1, Front Royal**
- Saturday, June 2, Winchester
- Monday, June 4, Covington**
- Tuesday, June 5, Charlottesville
- Wednesday, June 6, Front Royal**
- Thursday, June 7, Waynesboro
- Friday, June 7, Strasburg
- Saturday, June 9, New Market**
- Sunday, June 10, Staunton
- Monday, June 11, Charlottesville**
- Tuesday, June 12, Strasburg
- Thursday, June 14, Waynesboro**
- Friday, June 15, Strasburg
- Saturday, June 16, Woodstock**
- Sunday, June 17, Staunton**
- Tuesday, June 19, Winchester**
- Wednesday, June 20, Harrisonburg
- Friday, June 22, Front Royal
- Saturday, June 23, Winchester**
- Sunday, June 24, Waynesboro
- Tuesday, June 26, Front Royal
- Wednesday, June 27, Strasburg**
- Friday, June 29, Front Royal**
- Saturday, June 30, Winchester

For tickets and information go to [www.purcellvillecannons.com](http://www.purcellvillecannons.com), or visit them on Facebook.

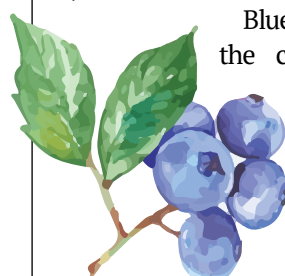
## BRL fruits & veggies calendar ... June



Wegmeyer Farm owner Tyler Wegmeyer (center, in vest) with employees.

Lots of great fruits and vegetables are winding up their seasons as we enter June, and others are just getting started.

Asparagus, which kicked off its season in mid-April, continues into the first two weeks in June. Enjoy it while you can.



Blueberries pop onto the calendar in mid-June, get ready to make some pies.

Broccoli has a pretty short season – the

merry month of May. But, it will be back for a second harvest in the fall. Greens and spinach are wrapping up the first couple of weeks in June, too.

Cucumbers and squash will be running strong from June through October ... and green beans will be doing the same.

Strawberries are finishing up, but raspberries are just coming into their short mid-June to mid-July season.

On the horizon are peaches, nectarines, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon and Loudoun's famous ... apples.

Photo courtesy of Oatlands Historic House and Gardens.

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— AMY AND DAN SMITH'S PLANNING FOR LIFE —

## Get financially fit

Eight moves to whip your tax strategy into shape

Tax season isn't the only time you should be mindful of your taxes. Challenge yourself to tone up your tax strategy and help you keep your taxes in top form year-round. Of course, also be sure to consult your tax professional and financial advisor.



AMY AND DAN SMITH

### Find A Trainer

You'll want a heavyweight tax professional in your corner. Don't have one? Ask your financial advisor, other professionals, friends and family for a recommendation and get interviewing. You'll need a tax trainer to keep you focused.

### Tax It To The Max

Push your retirement contribution to the limit. For 2018, you can add \$18,500 to your employer-sponsored plan and/or \$5,500 to an IRA, with additional \$6,000/\$1,000 catch-up contributions if you're over 50. Ask your advisors for details. Bulking up your tax-advantaged savings trims your taxable income, too.

### Dig Deep

Look long and hard how your life has changed since the last tax season. Did you get married, have a baby, or send a son or daughter to college? Make sure you understand how life changes can impact your tax bill.

### Crunch Your Numbers

Your employer withholds a certain amount of pay for taxes based on your W-4, which outlines the exemptions you want to claim. Withhold too much and you're giving the IRS an interest-free loan; too little and you'll owe. Find the number that's just right by using the withholding calculator on the IRS website ([irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator](http://irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator)) or discussing your W-4 with your tax pro.

### Get Disciplined

Getting your taxes in shape takes dedication and commitment. Diligently track and review your deductible expenses, donations and mortgage interest, as well as any credits you're eligible for. Don't forget relevant documentation.

### No Gains, No Pain

If you sell an appreciated asset, you'll need to pay resulting capital gains taxes. You can use the proceeds or pump up savings. While you're at it, check out any capital losses you may have on the books, too.

### Lose The Weight

Cut loose any investments that are weighing down your portfolio to offset gains from the winners. This strategy is called tax-loss harvesting.

### Set A Goal

Flex the power of your generosity by focusing your giving strategy on a specific location or single cause. A more organized and tax-efficient approach, perhaps through a donor-advised fund or other dedicated vehicle, could help you help others more effectively.

Discuss these steps and others with your professional tax advisor; your financial advisor can help coordinate the conversation. Then you can relax, knowing you're in great shape for the next tax season.

### Next Steps

- Familiarize yourself with tax-saving strategies
- Make a commitment to be mindful of taxes year-round
- Consult your tax professional and financial advisor

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## — Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

My husband and I are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this Summer in Hawaii and we invited all of our children and grandchildren to join us to celebrate. We paid the hotel and airfare for our youngest daughter and her husband and children, but we didn't pay for our older daughter and her family because they are wealthy.



DR. MIKE

We were then told by our oldest daughter that we are "horrible parents" and that we've "always" loved her sister more. This is not true, and we think our oldest daughter is being insensitive and selfish because her younger sister is a homemaker with three children and her husband works two jobs just to make ends meet. Our older daughter is an attorney with four children and her husband is in sales. There is a great income disparity between their two households, and our youngest daughter and her family wouldn't have been able to join us if we didn't pay for their trip. So are we wrong? We also pay into college savings plans for our younger daughter's grandchildren but not for our other grandchildren for the same reason. Is that wrong, too? According to our older daughter it is. Our older daughter emailed us last week that she will not be attending our anniversary, and she's upset with her sister who did nothing.

— *Unhappy 50th Anniversary in Lansdowne*

Dear Unhappy 50th Anniversary in Lansdowne,

First of all, congratulations on your 50th wedding anniversary! This should be a special moment for you as a couple and as a family, and I'm sorry that things have become so problematic and upsetting.

As much as you'd like your older daughter to see things your way, I think she's too hurt to do so, and I can see why. The gift to celebrate with you should be for both of your daughters and their families or it really isn't a gift. And if you continue to attempt to level the financial playing field, so to speak, for your adult daughters in this way, my concern is that you will leave a legacy of pain for them, and possibly for your grandchildren.

If it's not too late, I think you should consider paying for everyone to join the two of you in Hawaii or change the venue to a more affordable setting if that would be too costly – heck, maybe Hawaii could be your special vacation to experience together as a couple at a later date? You could probably rent a large beach house in Rehoboth or Bethany or the Outer Banks for a fraction of the cost of the Hawaii trip. That way, everyone could be together and everyone would hopefully feel good about the moment.

While you've probably already tried to speak to your older daughter to make things right, I think you should reach out to her to request a meeting to cover the following points: that you didn't mean to hurt her; that you were just trying to do what felt right and fair; that you just wanted everyone to be together for the special occasion; and, that you now realize that you failed to consider her feelings or the impact of your actions on her as a daughter and sister. Of course, whatever you express to your older daughter should come straight from your hearts, keeping in mind that anything you could also say to reassure her that she is loved by you both fully would likely be beneficial.

At a later point and time, you might also want to rethink the way you are giving disproportionately to your adult daughters. In my opinion, it's usually best for parents to give evenly to their adult children and grandchildren – be it time, money, gifts or inheritance. Certainly, it's loving for parents to help out their adult child or give more when there is a hardship or problem of some sort (e.g., unemployment, disabilities, large medical bills, etc.), and when they can, but to adjust things as you are doing as parents and grandparents because of your daughters' different choices (e.g., to be a stay at home mom or to work outside the home), lifestyles and circumstances, again, will probably only lead to more upset if continued.

I suppose I could get behind your approach to giving disproportionately if your older daughter won the lottery or was Melinda Gates, but as an attorney she likely works hard and long hours for the money she earns. Her husband probably does the same, and so when you only give to your younger daughter or her children, you run the risk of your older daughter perceiving that she is loved less by you – of course this is probably not accurate at all, but as the old saying goes, "One's perception is one's reality." And that couldn't be more true when it comes to sibling rivalry and parental love.

If, however, you feel strongly that your younger daughter and her family truly need your financial assistance in order to be okay, I think you should both discuss this with your older daughter so that she understands how you feel and so that there is no room for misinterpretation and hurt when other Hawaii or college savings plan moments come up.

Happy Anniversary, and I am hopeful that with good communication, love and time, things will work out just fine for you and your family.

*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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# Nichols still “The Last Hardware Store”

Dear Editor:

We are writing concerning the recent unpleasantness at Nichols Hardware in Purcellville. “Unpleasantness” is a euphemism for what was a horrible affront to decent behavior and tolerance.

If you’ve just dropped in from another planet, it seems that recently one of the Nichols staff was asked by a local Boy Scout for help with his Eagle project. Instead of a kindly, “Sure, how can we help?” the Scout was subjected to an angry, homophobic screed about how the national Scouting organization has recently admitted gays and, gasp, girls. Would Nichols help such a perverse group? No! Never! Get out! The Scout politely left the store.

2011 we were inside Nichols to film a documentary called “Nichols: The Last Hardware Store.” Our mission was to “capture” this century-old-family-run retailer in every season to show how it works and moves and operates.

We are writing to give some context to this incident. In the months and months of filming we never once saw any clerk or manager or owner at Nichols treat any customer of any demographic group with anything less than graciousness.

Indeed, one of the hallmarks of Nichols (aside from its way-too-often-mentioned creaky floors and tin roof and manual receipt machines) is that every Nichols employee bends over backward to help its customers.

We hereby state that the atrocious lack of civility by this one clerk was a one-off, an outlier, an albeit terrible isolated incident.

We’ve been contacted by people on social media suggesting we amend or revise our documentary to include this

incident. Nonsense. The clerk was (using the past tense here; mercifully he has been terminated) an aberrant Neanderthal among generally gracious ladies and gentlemen. Fortunately, this individual was hired after we wrapped our film. There’s not one single frame of him in our video. Praise the Lord.

Those of us who have been involved for years in Scouting, and who also have beloved gay and female family and friends, recoil at what happened that day. But we are sure that the remaining Nichols staff and its owners continue to meet all 12 components of Scouting’s Law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrift, brave clean and reverent. With special emphasis on helpful and friendly.

*Drew Babb*

*Peter Buck*

*Sarah Huntington*

*Producers of the documentary*

*“Nichols: The Last Hardware Store.”*

# Please keep supporting Nichols Hardware

Dear Editor:

As a business owner and nine year neighbor of Nichols Hardware store in downtown

Purcellville, I have had nothing but positive experiences doing business with them. For 104 years the Nichols Family have been a big community supporter and it’s a business that I really don’t want to live without. Mr. Nichols and his store manager did the correct thing by firing the employee that opened his stupid outdated mouth to the Boy Scout ... case closed. In today’s buy-it-online retail environment, small business owners need all the local support we can give them!

*Michael Oaks*

*Re-Love It*

*Discover Purcellville*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

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



## Improvements for Rt. 15 north of Leesburg

Dear Editor:

I am a resident and land owner in Lucketts, Virginia. I own the old Newvalley Church, an historic property on Newvalley Church Road located about a mile from the intersection of Rt. 15 and Stumptown Rd., the center of Lucketts hamlet. My family and I travel Rt. 15 daily. The developmental planning for Rt. 15 north of Leesburg directly affects me and my family.

I believe that widening Rt. 15 to four lanes to about Montessor Rd. would simply move the daily traffic jam from between Fort Evans Rd. and Battlefield Rd. to the area near Limestone School Rd. You’ll be simply shifting the traffic jam north a few miles.

By putting a series of roundabouts at Battlefield and 15, King St. and 15, Whites Ferry Rd. and 15, and, yes, at Stumptown Rd. and 15, it would allow a constant flow. Traffic would not move at 55 MPH, but it might move at 40-45 MPH, which is about 40 MPH faster than it’s moving now at rush hour. It would be a constant flow to the Point of Rocks Bridge. What happens after that, we have little control of.

I know that putting a round-about at the intersection of 15 and Stumptown in Lucketts is blasphemous to many, but, to put a by-pass around this area to the west simply moves traffic closer to residential areas, and is, in my opinion, overkill. Take a close look at “downtown” Lucketts. Besides the Community Center and the

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## NOVA - Home of gasoline, beer and cheap cigarettes

Dear Editor:

Coming soon (June 13) is the public hearing for the proposal to place the largest gas station in Loudoun County in the middle of the scenic byway adjacent to the Potomac River, directly across from an existing gas station. What’s wrong with this picture? Could it be that it’s on the scenic byway? Could it be that it’s adjacent to the Potomac River? Could it be that there’s already a gas station right there?

Envision Loudoun touts three types of development for Loudoun County - Urban, Transitional, and Rural. The location of the proposed fuel station, directly off Rt. 15, just south of the Potomac River is deep into the rural area. Now, while there is no absolute definition of what is rural and what is not, the general description is scenic, of the countryside, outside of townships, etc. I ask you, where does a big fat garish gas station fit in? The ones I have seen are off major roadways, not 2 lane narrow winding roads known for accidents and crawling traffic backups.

Project 15 has recently announced an upcoming study of Rt. 15 from Montessor Rd. north to Point of Rocks, which should include traffic congestion created by the proposed big fat gas station, convenience store, dog park, butterfly garden, cigarette outlet complex which anticipates 1,500 vehicles a day. Why would this project be heard before that study is completed

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\*\*\$125,000 is conforming loan limit; Jumbo minimum is \$1 over conforming limit. Maximum base loan amount to be the lesser of an amount that allows for the equity and available VA guaranty to be at least 25% of the purchase price or appraised value. Maximum debt-to-income (DTI) determined by AUS.

\*\*\*Property type is 1 to 4 unit; borrowers cannot combine VA entitlement; no manufactured homes; an active lien must be present to qualify for a refinance loan; no Texas 50(a)(6). For all refinances properties currently listed for sale, the listing agreement must be canceled at least one day prior to loan application; all VA Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing (IRRRL) require a minimum of 6 completed on-time payments on mortgage being paid off; LTV limits are based on the base loan amount prior to Funding Fee addition on IRRRL and borrower must be current with mortgage payments within closing month; no Co-ops or Leasehold properties.

# Now what?

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

A lot has been going on here in Loudoun County. The Envision Loudoun process.

Some disgusting pro-developer votes.

## OPINION

More and more intensive preservation efforts by groups of citizens. Growing sentiments in eastern Loudoun against growth and congestion. The Board of Supervisor's elections next year. Developers girding for war ... a long list of things that will affect our daily lives.

My goals have not wavered – stop the absurd rates of growth. But, first we must be watchful and pragmatic. Before our preservation forces can formulate strategies, we need to take stock of what is really going on.

### A divided Board of Supervisors

One scene is indelibly inked in my brain. During a break in a packed True North Data Center hearing, I stepped outside the government center and got lungfulls of second-hand smoke. Supervisor Suzanne Volpe was puffing

away while chatting with the data center developer, Chris Curtis. Their togetherness was not surprising. Back inside, Kirsten Umstattd's vote for the development was shocking. Tension mounted in the chamber but there was still hope until Koran Saines, quiet as always, cast the fatal vote to trample the Transition Policy Area. Phyllis Randall, Geary Higgins, Tony Buffington and Ralph Buona were stunned and angry. One of them was teary.

### Envision Loudoun

Virginia law commands counties to prepare a Comprehensive Plan periodically, and Loudoun's is far out of date. Loudoun has also changed dramatically since the current plan was approved. The Department of Planning and Zoning took bureaucratic charge, hiring expensive consultants. Their job was to come up with a snappy name and then hold some "community input sessions." I was at one, along with a hundred or so casually-dressed fellow

citizens. Around the edges of the room were the sleekly suited consultants, looking like K Street vampires. The event did have purpose: Planning could now check off the box labeled "citizen participation." The process was so vacuous it could have been named "Envision Toledo" or "Envision Sacramento."

A group of "Stakeholders" were appointed to digest ideas generated by County staff. The Stakeholders Committee was dominated by development interests; several proponents of rural preservation were in the group, but the developer-types got most of what they wanted. All did not go well, though. Soon rumblings were coming from all over the County. Squabbles, dissension and public complaints led to delay after delay.

By early 2018, County officials and managers were muttering, "Envision is off the rails." There was a lot at stake. Planning's reputation. County management's reputation. The Board of Supervisors' reputation. Panic set in! Changes were critically needed!

So, Assistant County Manager Charles Yudd was put in charge – Get it done! And, he did. Envision had been limping along. Every few weeks

the Stakeholders were given some new chapters (Housing, Environment, Transportation and so on) with almost no time for review. Even that pace was too slow. And, at the end, the final draft was dumped on the Stakeholders with the admonition that the only comments allowed would be clerical corrections and the like. Yudd had crunched it like a private-sector manager and Envision Loudoun became a fait accompli.

Or did it? Still ahead is review by the Planning Commission (another pack of real estate wolves) and the final decision by the Supervisors. Envision Loudoun will be in the hands of nine elected officials early next year. That raises a fundamental question.

### Just whose county is it anyway?

I am a political admixture, but most of all, a populist. The county belongs to its citizens – period. Public servants should be just that, not self-serving bureaucrats. Elected officials should represent *our* views, not those of lobbyists and business. (There's that vision again – Supervisor Volpe and the True North developer, palsy-walsy. It wasn't just her tobacco smoke that made me queasy.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 >



*Ayush will attend the University of Virginia, and Lilly will attend Sewanee: The University of the South.*

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# 18339 Railroad Street, Bluemont

## A family paradise that could be yours

BY ANDREA GAINES

To walk into the home at 18339 Railroad Street in Bluemont is to walk into history ... where every cornice, window and whiff of charm is intact, and every measure of modern convenience blends into the comfort of the place as if it had always been here.

Built in 1900, the 3-bedroom, 3-bath home on .5 acres is not only an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture, it's a Bluemont Village landmark, presenting a rare opportunity to live in a lively and historic, family-oriented community.

There are no stoplights casting a glare on the beautifully preserved home, and there is no town tax – just a great annual fair, great history and an old general store

Railroad Street, changed from its original name of Elizabeth Avenue in the 1990s used to be a little busier – with two hotels/boarding houses. A Mr. Edward E. Lake purchased the stately Queen Anne style home in 1906 from its original owners, the Simpsons. Lake owned this home and the adjacent EE Lake store until 1917. Pearl Osburn Jones was the next family proprietor, purchasing the home in 1946 and raising a handful of children and grandchildren in this “perfectly big,” Bluemont landmark.

Walking through the home, you may hear the soft chatter from an old party-line phone. Ms. Judy Anderson, who grew up here, said, as a teenager, she would use the party line while sitting on the curved



steps of the staircase. Judy's parents ran the Post Office across the street and knew all that was happening in and around Bluemont, so this home was the place to go to find out what was going on. Or, maybe you'll hear old-time Christmas music. The locals would gather at this house around a big Christmas tree in the large parlor – what the current owners call “the situation room.”

Current owners, Tim and Judy Hall, have owned the home since the late 1986, preserving it while updating it with modern amenities, including central heat and air and the 3 full bathrooms. The interior has original heart pine flooring and stained wood trim throughout, including window casings, stair rails, a banister, and paneling in the foyer.

The baths are updated in a period style, and include claw-foot tubs. The kitchen was updated just a few years ago with granite and stainless steel appliances.

**Address: 18339 Railroad Street, Bluemont**

**Beds/Baths: 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths**

**Total Acreage: ½ acre**

**List Price: \$620,000**

**Agent: John Constant, Associate Broker, Atoka Properties, 703 585-6278**

**Website/email: [www.bluemontproperty.com](http://www.bluemontproperty.com), [john@atokaproperties.com](mailto:john@atokaproperties.com)**

There is an addition on the back of the house that houses a workshop and laundry. This home also has an expansive flagstone patio, conveniently located right off of the kitchen, and beautifully crafted details, including box bay windows with natural wood-stained trim, and a large wrap-around covered porch.

Make this family paradise ... yours.

## Philomont General Store for sale

The Philomont General Store, the iconic retail establishment located at the intersection of the Snickersville Turnpike and Jeb Stuart Road, is on the market for the first time in over 15 years.

Listed by Gloria Rose Ott, vice president and broker associate at TTR Sotheby's International Realty, the structure and the business is being offered for sale at an asking price of \$795,000.

Established in 1843, the Philomont General Store, in its current building since 1913, is one of Loudoun County's most historic establishments, serving on the Snickersville Turnpike, a route of commerce from the Little River Turnpike (Rt. 50) at Aldie to the Colonial Highway

(Rt. 7) out towards the Blue Ridge Mountains, dating back long before the American Revolution. The young George Washington traversed the Snickersville Turnpike while employed as a surveyor by Lord Fairfax.

“The General Store provides a service to the community as a gathering place and a ‘go-to’ for groceries to deli to treats” says Madeline Skinner, the current proprietor and owner. “Though the United States Post Office has been a magnet, as it's been housed in the store for 77 years, our customer-base is a great combination of neighbors, day-workers, car and bike clubs members, as well as international

and local visitors traveling the countryside and local wineries.»

The Philomont General Store, a two-story, 4,800 square foot masonry building, is lined from the floor to its 12-foot ceilings with wooden shelves, antique fixtures, and glass cases. Set in the village of Philomont – home to some of Virginia's finest rural scenery – the general store features locally-sourced foods and wines, and often hosts the works of local artisans and authors. Zoned as Rural Commercial (RC), the listing presents a variety of possible uses for the next owner, as well as access to one of Loudoun County's most charming destinations.



“There has been very good early interest in this sale, and the sellers are heartened by the response,” says Ott. “We hope the new owners will build upon the vision and income streams so evident for the building, location, and community.” For more information contact Gloria Rose Ott at [GloriaRose.Ott@sir.com](mailto:GloriaRose.Ott@sir.com).

# Franklin Park Arts Center

# SUMMER PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2018

## Music



**Swearingen and Kelli:  
The Music of Simon and Garfunkel**

June 30 8:00 pm Tickets: \$15

Modern echo of the classic singer-songwriters of the '60s and '70s.

**Ustad Shafaat Khan "East Meets West"  
Indian/Western Fusion Music with Beledo,  
Coco Bastien**

September 1 7:30 pm Tickets: \$20

Experience the blend of Indian Classical and folk on sitar, tabla, and vocal, violin, flamenco, jazz and rock guitar, keyboard and western percussion.



## Family Friendly

**Beale Street Puppets:  
Patriotic Teddy Bear Circus**

July 3 10:00 am Admission: Pay What You Want

(Ages 2 & up) Rupert the Ringmaster introduces a One Ring Circus of Surprises. Outdoor event, under the tent by the pool.

**Rainbow Puppets:  
Creatures Great & Small**

August 1 10:00 am Tickets: \$5

Grandpa leads audience members on a musical review of animal songs written by David Messick, an award winning author who has created many touring children's musicals.



**Bright Star Touring Theatre:  
African Tales**

August 2 10:00 am Tickets: \$5

Music helps to set the stage for these energetic stories which include Anansi, Pourquoi tales and trickster tales. Audience encouraged to participate.



## Gallery Coffeehouse

**"Golden Ukesters" & Sacagawea**

June 10 6:30-8:00 pm Tickets: \$8

Enjoy the plucky tunes from Loudoun's own "Golden Ukesters" and then Mary Daily's living history performance of Sacagawea, the Native American woman who was an integral part of Lewis and Clark's expedition.

This is Franklin Park Arts Center's last 10th Anniversary event!!

**Savannah Sipping Society**

July 8 6:30-8:00 pm Tickets: \$8

(Ages 16 & up) Four unique Southern women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines, are drawn together by Fate—and an impromptu happy hour.

## Special Events

**Independence Day At Franklin Park**



July 4 \$10/car

Music beginning at 5 pm, gates open earlier for picnic, games and food.

- Red, White and Blues
- Franklin Park Big Band
- YazooZazz (1940's swing)
- Loudoun Symphonic Winds with Fireworks
- Zydeco a-go-go, (Cajun)

**Tanabata, A Japanese Celebration**

August 5 6:00-8:30 pm Tickets: \$8

Hiroya Tsukamoto, guitarist and singer-songwriter from Kyoto, Japan, will perform in the lobby while guests dress in kimonos and try origami. A planetarium show in the theater will explain the celestial story tied to this celebration. Then go to the Franklin Park pond to release floating lanterns. A peaceful, magical and cultural evening for all generations.



## And There's MORE!

**Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour**

6/2 & 3 10:00 am-5:00 pm FREE EVENT

**Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv**

6/15, 7/13, 8/24 8:00 pm Tickets: lastham.com

**Main Street Theater Productions: Schoolhouse Rock Live!, Jr**

6/27 1:00 pm 6/28 & 6/29 7:00 pm Tickets: mainstreettheaterproductions.org

**Imagine, Create, Explore Collaborative Arts: The Wedding Singer**

7/19, 20 & 21 7:30 pm Tickets: www.lcecollab.com

**Main Street Theater Productions: Guys and Dolls, Jr.**

7/27 & 28 7:00 pm 7/28 & 29 2:00 pm Tickets: mainstreettheaterproductions.org

**Run Rabbit Run Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing**

8/10 & 11 7:30 pm 8/11 & 12 1:30 pm

Tickets: RRRtheatre.org

**Main Street Theater Productions: Winnie the Pooh, KIDS**

8/15 1:00 pm 8/16 & 17 7:00 pm

Tickets: mainstreettheaterproductions.org

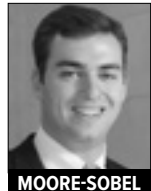


Franklin Park Arts Center  
36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132  
540-338-7973

[www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org)

# Holding on for the win

I could hardly believe my eyes. Our excitement grew exponentially in the moments after Brandon Graham sacked Tom Brady with just over two minutes to go in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl LII. We kept quiet, knowing the potency of a last-minute Brady drive to turn the tide. Only after Brady's pass was batted away in the end zone with no time left on the clock did we allow ourselves to let loose.



MOORE-SOBEL

Let loose we did, screaming and howling after watching the team I had grown to love as a child secure the very first Super Bowl victory in team history. Eagles fans had long desired for their team to win the big game, only to be continually disappointed by poor postseason play. The Eagles made

four consecutive visits to the NFC championship game in the early 2000s, only to lose three out of four, and come up short in Super Bowl XXXIX. To say Eagles fans were starved for a win is a giant understatement.

I lived through those disappointing years as an elementary school student, proudly cheering on my father's team. Peculiarly, my father has been an Eagles fan for most of his adult life, despite having been a lifelong Northern Virginia resident. As a child, he cheered for the Redskins alongside his own father. "I was a teenager when I began to root for the Eagles," Dad has always maintained, citing his admiration for Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham, whose diversity as a player included his ability to run when flushed out of the pocket. My mother quickly points out that Cunningham wasn't drafted until 1985, meaning Dad had reached his early twenties before

getting the chance to see Cunningham play. "I still think I was a teenager," my father says stubbornly as the rest of the family laughs.

I came of age watching quarterback Donovan McNabb and running back Brian Westbrook dominate the field. I still remember the way I felt when the team came up short in Super Bowl XXXIX. The Monday after the big game, I attended my fifth grade classes with great sadness. Dad came home from work that night and lifted *The Washington Post* above his head for the whole family to see. A giant picture of a beaming Tom Brady holding the Super Bowl trophy covered the front page. It felt like a knife to the heart.

Admittedly, my interest in football has considerably waned since those heartbreaking days. Numerous articles about concussions and the other negative consequences of the game upon players' health did much to dampen my enthusiasm. Yet this year, I watched the Super Bowl filled with hope, reminded of my once fervent devotion to the team of my youth. This would be our year, I told my dad, convinced that the Eagles would finally win the big game. My father, a pessimist by nature, warned of impending doom along the way. He predicted a loss against the Falcons in the second round of the playoffs, as well as the Minnesota Vikings in the championship game. He, along with countless other analysts, determined the odds were not in Philly's favor.

The glorious victory secured by the perpetual postseason underdog speaks to something larger about the American spirit. We live in a country filled with people who make a living by predicting the future. They forecast elections,

markets, and sports games. Even the weather. We are told how the story will likely unfold, how the heavy favorite is sure to win.

Until they fail. Until the predictions made are entirely wrong. Until a backup quarterback comes out on top in a matchup against arguably the best one ever to play the game. America is filled with stories of heroic underdogs, of people beating the odds to achieve their dreams.

"This may be the last time they go to the Super Bowl in my lifetime," my father said rather dramatically before the start of the game. By the end, he was jubilant. The conservative postseason play once espoused by Andy Reid had given way to the gutsy play-calling employed by Coach Doug Pederson. Even days later, we all remained in shock over the fourth-and-goal gambit at the end of the second quarter, featuring Foles catching a touchdown pass. "Breathtaking," commentator Chris Collinsworth aptly said.

In the wake of sweet victory, it seems only right to re-evaluate my team of choice. If following in the footsteps of my father, it may now be my turn to change sides. Should I return to the hometown Redskins – perhaps opt to root for the Ravens? Or should I shock both friends and family by randomly rooting for a team such as the LA Rams? Sans Randall Cunningham, such a move seems entirely unwarranted. Truth be told, I have never stopped wanting to be on the same team as Dad. Besides, making a great comeback is one of my specialties.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is nearing completion of a memoir. Subscribe to his blog today, and have words of hope delivered to your inbox by visiting [www.holdingontohopetoday.com](http://www.holdingontohopetoday.com).*





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# Just like nothing (else) on earth: Steptoe Hill Road

This – I thought – is truly the undiscovered country; if you'd blindfolded me and transported me to this area, I could almost have believed I was in some northern wilderness – far from Loudoun County, anyway. In my two decades in Northern Virginia, I have traveled many of our back roads – even deliberately setting out to drive any I'd left untouched, but until that early morning trip up Steptoe Hill Road, I had never actually set eyes on this unique little dirt path. Sure, I'd heard reference to this rural corridor in connection to one of our local youth training facilities – Camp High Road – since my early News Days in the radio industry at 711 Wage Drive in Leesburg; they (CHR) offer group educational programs for mind and body in an outdoor setting, and I'd always been interested in seeing this 'boot camp' for kids.



JON

I found the drive down Rt. 15 and Lime Kiln Road quite worth the time and distance, because as soon as I turned north on Rt. 763 – Steptoe Hill Road – my senses told me that I had entered a different world than the one I'd left behind only minutes before in Leesburg. A slow drive along a primitive road through cool, dew-sprinkled forest – at about sunrise – can do that for you. Mature trees and other dense greenery, rolling hills, a chorus of literal early birds getting started on their day, absolutely no sign of another human stirring, and probably more whitetail deer than I'd seen since my last visit to Bambi-Land as a kid: these were the sights and sounds that left the deepest impression on that experience.

The road itself was rugged enough (without any other motor vehicle activity) that I was happy to drive along at a virtual crawl – to fully enjoy my progress up past the signs for Camp High Road and the official "End of State Maintenance" marker. The slow rate of speed allowed me to take in the pleasure of driving under a protective green canopy of leaves for much of the way, and to stop and watch the small groups of deer as they sought an early-morning mouthful of grass. I was reminded once more, that we're fortunate in this area to have as much evergreen forest as we do – with no other smell in the world coming close to the scent of these

ancient species of trees – as their needles take in the warmth from the sun. There are signs of humanity along Steptoe Hill Road: scattered farms and private homes, utility poles and wires, fencing for cattle and horses – and of course the vast complex of buildings, trails and other facilities under the umbrella of Camp High Road; it's not literally an untouched wilderness – but it's about as close as I can imagine anywhere in Loudoun County (excepting the higher elevations along the Blue Ridge), and it came as a very delightful surprise after having lived here for 20 years (not to mention priding myself on knowing quite a bit about my home territory). I'd say that



the birds, squirrels, deer and other critters living along Rt. 763 are pretty fortunate for their forbears picking this particular area in which to set up residence; it's one place in Northern Virginia where I failed to see any signs of future development (not that all new houses and business activities are bad, necessarily, but neither are trees, and green fields, and bramble patches, and all that this type of environment brings with them).

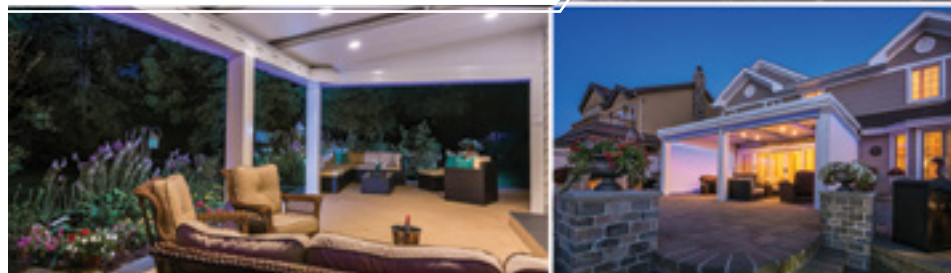
It took me two decades of living around these parts to actually travel the relatively short distance to the beginning of Steptoe Hill Road – and I found it quite a wonderful adventure into Nature; I hope to get back there before another 20 years elapses, but if not – I'd like to believe that I could return – say in the Year 2038 – (that would make me ... Well, never mind) and find – not just the same things as my first trip, for experience is virtually never repeated as mere facsimile – but a little world just as robust, inviting and pristine as ever. And, who knows? I may even be able to discover something new – vaster wilder, something to impress upon the senses and memory for another visit – in another 20 years. Places like that could make a guy want to live forever.

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# From smart growth to smart roads

BY ANDREA GAINES

You can see the traffic starting to slow as you approach Purcellville on a Friday night on your way home from work. Police are beginning to direct traffic around

## DEVELOPMENT

what looks to be a disabled car, and you're wondering if you should wait it out or hop off the highway and take the back way home. Suddenly, the traffic lets up and you see that the disabled car has been towed and everything's back to normal. Whew ... that's a relief.

The thinking that went into that police officer's decision not to direct commuters to take the back way home that night is the kind of thing that a place called CATT – the University of Maryland's Center of Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory – deals with every day. Historic data the officer had access to, showed

that at that particular time and at that particular location, redirecting traffic was a waste of time; with an estimated delay of just 3 minutes, holding traffic back for just a few minutes was the better choice for law enforcement and commuters. Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser took a tour of the lab in a recent visit to the university and came back very interested in how CATT – a giant traffic and public safety database system of sorts – might help the Town look at its own traffic and safety challenges.

Said Fraser: "We need to approach our transportation challenges from a collaborative perspective with state, local, and regional partnerships ... The CATT Laboratory's Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) and Probe Data Analytics Suite offer transportation professionals, first aid responders, and town planners ....

advanced analytical and visualization tools for problem identification, current and historic traffic flow analysis, traffic monitoring, work zone management, project development and assessment and after-action reviews, and more. RITIS is riding the big data analytics wave, pulling data from multiple sources such as GPS applications, cell phones, traffic cameras, speed counters, and other transportation monitors."

The CATT folks serve the organizations you'd expect – state and local police, for example, and some you might not, such as the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Homeland Security.

CATT relates to things we readily understand and have experienced ourselves – that "fender-bender" you run into on the way home – and some we don't – "SQL Server" for example,

one computer company's name for a software package that stores and grabs information from different sources when you need it. CATT-like data and studies have contributed to the development of now commonly-used traffic management tools, such as synchronized traffic lights.

As Fraser related in a recent newsletter to the people of Purcellville, "Following my tour of the CATT Laboratory, I was able to obtain access to the RITIS for our Town. With this RITIS access, our Public Works and strategic management teams will have at their fingertips a system and data that are used by thousands of transportation decision makers, researchers, planners, operations specialists, and homeland security officials around the globe.

This will equip our team with a regional perspective of our transportation challenges and opportunities. In addition, I welcome an ongoing partnership with the CATT Lab to develop a suite of transportation solution software products geared for small towns like Purcellville."

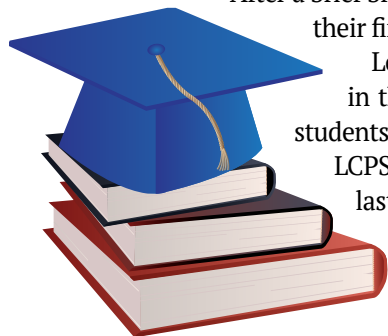
## High school graduations set for June 7 thru 15

The school year is coming to a close for Loudoun County's high school students – including those at the Academy of Science and the Monroe Technology Center.

After a brief break for Memorial Day, students returned to complete their final exams and now prepare for graduation.

Loudoun County is the third largest school system in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Serving over 80,000 students today, it also continues to grow.

LCPS has a 95 percent-plus on-time graduation rate. By last year's numbers, Loudoun's high school graduates went forward in life with well over \$54 million in scholarships. Over 63 percent planned on attending a four-year college, over 25 percent a two-year college and a little over 2 percent "other continuing education." This year's graduating class gets similar great marks.



### Graduation dates, times and places, in alpha order by school are:

- Academy of Science, 7:30 p.m., June 8, LCPS Administrative Offices (Ashburn)
- Briar Woods High School, 2 p.m., June 15, EagleBank Arena, George Mason University

- Broad Run High School 7 p.m., June 15, EagleBank Arena, George Mason University
- John Champe High School 10 a.m., June 14, John Champe High School
- Dominion High School 2 p.m., June 10, Dominion High School
- Freedom High School 2 p.m., June 14, EagleBank Arena, George Mason University
- Heritage High School 7 p.m., June 13, Riverside High School
- Loudoun County High School 8 a.m., June 14, Loudoun County High School
- Loudoun Valley High School 9 a.m., June 14, Loudoun Valley High School
- Monroe Technology Center 7 p.m., June 7, Tuscarora High School
- Park View High School 7 p.m., June 14, EagleBank Arena, George Mason University
- Potomac Falls High School 9 a.m., June 15, Potomac Falls High School
- Riverside High School 8 a.m., June 15, Riverside High School
- Rock Ridge High School 6 p.m., June 14, Rock Ridge High School
- Stone Bridge High School 9 a.m., June 14, EagleBank Arena, George Mason University
- Tuscarora High School 7 p.m., June 11, Tuscarora High School
- Woodgrove High School 8 a.m., June 15, Woodgrove High School

For a full calendar of LCPS events for June, including graduations, go to [www.lcps.org](http://www.lcps.org) and search "calendar."

## AT&T is back

### 150-ft cell tower proposed for Short Hill

AT&T representatives revealed their plans for a 150-ft cell tower and a 50 x 50, 2,500-sq. ft. "equipment compound" for Short Hill Mountain at a public info session in Lovettsville on May 10. The meeting drew crowd of 75 to 100 people, including citizen activists from the Short Hill Rescue Group.

Monopoles are among the most heavily restricted of uses. Permitted by the County Zoning Ordinance by right under certain circumstances, they require a special exception in others – triggering the requirement for a public hearing.

Per the Ordinance, the "proposed telecommunications monopole shall be compatible with development in the vicinity with regards to the setting, color, lighting,

topography, materials and architecture ... " Monopoles are prohibited in Historic Districts, and the ordinance goes on to specify that "The related unmanned equipment structure(s) shall not contain more than 500 square feet of total gross floor area per telecommunications provider on each site ..." The use of signals, lights, illumination, advertising is also prohibited. With respect to the site in question, the Ordinance also specifies the following: "Telecommunications monopoles shall not be located along ridge lines, but downslope from the top of ridge lines, to protect views of the Catoctin, Bull Run, Hogback, Short Hill, and Blue Ridge Mountains."

Photos taken from Mountain Road in



Lovettsville show a tree cover cutout on the Short Hill Ridge and the 150-foot tower, painted dark below and white above.

The AT&T action replaces a proposal AT&T put forth in June 2016 for a large facility associated with what the company referred to as "a continued use." Residents had feared that the proposal was a smokescreen for the construction of a full-fledged data center. AT&T summarily withdrew that proposal after a huge outpouring of public opposition.

AT&T had also linked that 2016 project to

the promise of better cell service in the area. This current idea seems to be designed to mitigate the public's concern by promising improved telecommunications services in the area related to voice, data and live streaming. The pole would serve AT&T and also be used by other carriers.

Many local residents remain extremely skeptical of AT&T's plans for the mountain.

Said Sam Kroiz, a local farmer active in the Short Hill Rescue group, "Wow ... AT&T actually does sometimes make apologies. Wonder if they would consider apologizing for trying to put a data center on top of the mountain and calling it a 'telephone transmission utility substation.' That might make me feel better about things going forward." Kroiz carried a sign at the session which read: "What Services? What Customers? Prove it before Permit."

Supervisor Geary Higgins (R-Catoctin) attended the event. AT&T has not, as of yet, submitted a formal application for this latest Short Hill project.

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# Upcoming Events



## EVOLUTION & BLUE CRAB DINNER

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# County government calendar, June 2018

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and other committees and advisory groups meet on an ongoing basis.

**GOVERNMENT** Many meetings are open to the public and all documents, decisions, recommendations, etc. are available for public downloading and/or review.

Below is a list of the regularly scheduled government-related meetings and events for the month of June. More details at [www.loudoun.gov](http://www.loudoun.gov).

- Rural Economic Development Council, June 5, 4 p.m.-6 p.m., Government Center
- Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, June 5, 5 p.m., Board Room, Government Center
- Heritage Commission (Strategic Planning), June 5, 5 p.m.-6:15 PM, Tuscarora Mill Restaurant
- Heritage Commission, June 5, 6:30 p.m., Government Center
- Zoning Ordinance Action Group, June 6, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Government Center
- Facilities Standards Manual Public Review Committee, June 6, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Government Center
- Joint Board of Supervisors & School Board Committee, June 7, 5 p.m., Government Center

### Note on meetings locations

**Loudoun County Government Center**  
1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg

**Shenandoah Building**  
102 Heritage Way, NE, Leesburg

**Department of Economic Development 43777**  
Central Station Drive, Suite 300, Ashburn

**Parks, Recreation & Community Services 20145**  
Ashbrook Place, Suite 170, Ashburn

*Other meetings take place at sites as noted.*

- Economic Development Advisory Commission (Ad-Hoc Committee), June 8, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Department of Economic Development
- Historic District Review Committee, June 11, 6 p.m., Purcellville Room, Government Center
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board, June 12, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building
- Rural Economic Business Development Strategy (Branding Subcommittee), June 12, 11 a.m. - 12:30 a.m., Government Center
- Finance/Government Operations & Economic Development Committee, June 12, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Zoning Ordinance Action Group (Rural Uses Subcommittee), June 13, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Government Center
- Housing Advisory Board, June 13, 4 p.m., Shenandoah Building
- Community Criminal Justice Board, June 13, 5:30 p.m., Government Center

- Board of Supervisors Public Hearing, June 13, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Disability Services Board, June 14, All Day, Government Center
- Health Council, June 14, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Government Center
- Planning Commission Work Session, June 14, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Economic Development Advisory Commission (Executive Committee), June 15, 8:15 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Department of Economic Development
- New Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Committee, June 18, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center
- Transportation & Land Use Committee, June 19, 5:30 p.m., Government Center
- Communications Commission (Legislative Recommendations Committee), June 19, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center
- Zoning Ordinance Action Group (Urban/Suburban Subcommittee), June 20, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Government Center
- Facilities Standards Manual Public Review Committee, June 20, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Government Center
- Community Policy Management Team, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Shenandoah Building
- Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, June 21, 5 p.m., Government Center
- Economic Development Advisory Commission (Ad-Hoc Committee), June 22, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Department of Economic Development
- Advisory Commission on Youth (Board of Directors), June 25, 7 p.m., Parks, Recreation & Community Services
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Builders Committee), June 26, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building
- Rural Economic Business Development Strategy Committee, June 26, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Government Center
- Art Advisory Committee, June 26, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Government Center
- Communications Commission (Telecom Ordinance Review Committee), June 26, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Government Center
- Planning Commission Public Hearing, June 26, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Communications Commission, June 26, 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Government Center
- Rural Economic Development Council (Policy & Implementation Committee), June 27, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Government Center
- Animal Advisory Committee, June 27, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center
- Communications Commission (Cable TV Franchise Performance & Renewal Committee), June 27, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Government Center
- Economic Development Authority, June 28, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Department of Economic Development
- Board of Zoning Appeals, June 28, 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m., Government Center



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# Randall state of the county address

## Pro-growth – but no details on how to manage it

Loudoun Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall delivered her annual State of the County address to a full house on May 23. Focusing point-by-point on issues relating to traffic, affordable housing, the environment, and “helping the less fortunate,” Randall started her address by describing the County as a place distinguished, not by its wealth, but

### GOVERNMENT

by its people. And, perhaps for the first time, the County’s top executive and lead legislative official also spoke of Loudoun as economically important to Northern Virginia and the National Capital Area, interdependent in terms of job creation and a trans-county transportation system. Here, “regional cooperation” was high on Randall’s wish list.

She discussed a wealthy county that still maintains a still largely volunteer fire and rescue service, with 60 percent of personnel serving on an unpaid basis.

She also talked about Loudoun County as a diverse place, with 24 percent of its citizens being born in another country, celebrating an immigrant named Bruce Rahmani who worked and studied at night, and built a business that employs over 100 people.

And, she highlighted the County’s Economic Development people, who, over the past five years have brought in more than \$13 billion in new commercial investment.

Finally, in a clear reference to the national competition over the siting of Amazon’s new headquarters – a competition which has put the Loudoun County area on the tech giant’s short list – Randall singled out audience member Shannon Kellogg, director of web services for Amazon, who was present for the speech.

While Randall expressed support for Loudoun’s “rural economy” – pointing out the work of Doug Fabboli in establishing a “New Ag School” in Loudoun County, and her personal commitment to follow through on the County’s Rural Economic Business Strategy – her emphasis seemed to be on economic growth, generally.

Here, Randall defended the County’s

record on the preservation of farmland, noting that while the United States, overall, loses more than 40 acres of farmland each hour, Loudoun loses far less – just one tenth of an acre (2.4 acres a day or 875+ acres per year). Randall seemed to be saying that because we are losing less farmland than other places in the country, we can absorb the new housing that continued economic growth demands, while still protecting Loudoun’s rural identity and rural economy.

And, while Randall discussed in detail the exhaustive work that the Envision Loudoun Stakeholder’s had done in producing a new draft Comprehensive Plan – delivering on the housing infrastructure needed to power that economic growth – she did not address the public’s overwhelming desire and sustained commitment to limiting growth. Instead, she made the point that “Protecting the heritage and culture of our County is of significant importance to me and is equally important to staff and the 26 citizens who serve on the Envision Loudoun Stakeholders Committee.” But, she did not describe how the new draft plan might accomplish that. Nor did she say how County planners might manage adding tens of thousands of additional workforce housing units, while at the same time stem the tide of diminishing farmland and the County’s “heritage and culture.” A good deal of emphasis was placed on the County’s emerging Mixed Use and Urban Policy Area, and the tremendous changes on the way with the arrival of the Silver Line Metro. With three stops in Loudoun County, including one at Dulles Airport, the Metro represents an economic boom opportunity, noted Randall. The more we do to accommodate the companies that want to build their futures here – and the employees who might come with those companies – the better, she said.

Randall also addressed the strength of the Loudoun County School System, and the importance of maintaining and expanding that system to meet the growing needs of a growing student body.



# Primaries for Democrats and Republicans June 12

Primary Elections to nominate the Democratic Party candidate for the United States House of Representatives, 10th District, and Republican Party candidates for the United States Senate from Virginia and the United States House of Representatives, 10th District are scheduled for Tuesday, June 12.

There are six candidates running in the Democratic Primary for the House 10th District. They are Lindsey Davis Stover, Jennifer T. Wexton, Paul E. Pelletier, Alison K. Friedman, Dan I. Helmer and Julia E. Biggs.

On the Republican ballot for the United States Senate

there are three candidates; Corey A. Stewart, Nick J. Freitas and E.W. Jackson. And, for the House 10th District there are two candidates; Shak E. Hill and incumbent Barbara J. Comstock.

The election is open to all registered voters in Loudoun County – The Commonwealth of Virginia does not recognize party affiliation when registering citizens to vote. The primaries will be held at the voter's normal polling locations with polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 12. Write-in candidates are not permitted in primary elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Voters may request either the Democratic Party ballot

or the Republican Party ballot, but not both.

The last day to apply to have a ballot mailed to you is Tuesday, June 5, at 5 p.m. and the last day to vote an absentee ballot in-person is Saturday, June 9 (voter office will be open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

In-person Absentee Voting Location and Schedule: (no satellite voting location for this election) Voter Registration Office, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175. Open Monday through Friday through June 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 9, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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## Upcoming Events

21st Annual Cajun Festival June 9 <sup>th</sup> 11 am - 6 pm	Fourth Fridays 5 - 9 pm	4th Annual Jazz on the Vine June 23 <sup>rd</sup> 3 - 8:30	13th Annual Key West Fest July 14 <sup>th</sup> 11 am - 6 pm
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## Middleburg Montessori accredited by VAIS

The Middleburg Montessori School – MMS – has served the immediate region for almost 40 years, and was recently formally accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools – VAIS. Per the VAIS website, the “process of accreditation is based on a regular, professional peer assessment of the degree to which the school supports its stated mission in a thoughtful, sustainable, and responsible manner.” Once accredited, a school is reevaluated every 5 years.

The certification puts the school in a special category; the third Montessori in the Commonwealth to be accredited by the organization and the only one in Virginia to be recognized by VAIS and the Association of Montessori International.

MMS became a nonprofit in 2010 and is run by Head Directress, BethAnn Slater, a staff of approximately seven professionals and a board of directors. The school currently serves 55 children from infancy through adolescence, including young children from infancy to 3 years old, primary school children aged 3 to 6 years, elementary children

aged 6 to 12 years and adolescents aged 12 to 15 years. An active member of the community, the school is involved in a variety of events, including several that benefit the school itself, including Art of the Piedmont, the Middleburg Farmer’s Market, The Whole Ox, and Field & Main.

Middleburg Montessori School has grown, matured and expanded over the years, creating an Elementary and Adolescent Program and initiating a capital campaign for a new building. According to a press release announcing the accreditation, the school notes that since 1980 the institution has been “an essential element to the educational landscape of the Middleburg area. Serving children throughout the region, from Leesburg in the north, Remington in the south, Chantilly in the east, and Winchester in the west, Middleburg Montessori School has created a reputation for excellence in early childhood, elementary, and adolescent education.” Middleburg Montessori is located 3 miles west of Middleburg on Route 50 in the Atoka Village.

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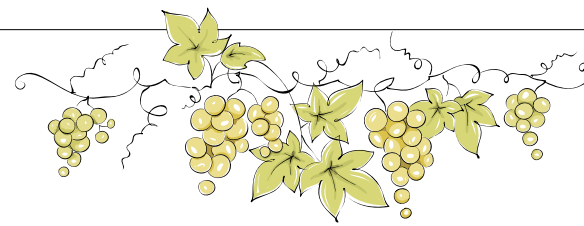
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## SMALL BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

# Welcome Summer

BY ANDREA GAINES

One of the most wonderful things about western Loudoun is the wide range of truly local farm products available for your kitchen table. For June we bring you three of the most delicious; strawberries, artisan cheese and raw honey.

### Strawberry Hotline

You read that right. Wegmeyer Farms, with three locations here, has an official Strawberry Hotline. Call it and you'll know exactly what is available and when. But the strawberry season is short ... so get on out there.

Wegmeyer Farm was started in 2002 by husband and wife team Tyler and Harriet Wegmeyer. If you need a little more encouragement, we recently spoke to Tyler and he reminded us that the farm also offers freshly made donuts on many pick-your-own mornings. Can you stand it?

Farm happenings are detailed on their website: [www.wegmeyerfarms.com](http://www.wegmeyerfarms.com). The three field addresses are, at Gilbert's Corner, 39958 John Mosby Highway, Aldie; at Oatlands, on Little Oatlands Lane in Leesburg, and in Hamilton (on the outskirts of Lincoln), 38299 Hughesville Road. And, do call the Strawberry Hotline

if you're wanting to check on that day's availability. The number is 540 751-1782.

### Cheese and Goats

History tells us how tobacco and cotton farmers returning to decimated fields after the Civil War were "tempted to lay down the hoe and take up the pail."

Dairy cows were quite adaptable to both level land and rocky slopes, and the manure they produced provided the farmer with a way to replenish and enrich the soil. With increased industrialization and growing city markets, in the late 19th Century and early part of the 20th Century lots of places in Virginia, including Loudoun County, grew significantly in their dairy production.

This history has played itself out at Georges Mill Farm in Lovettsville pre- and post-Civil War – in the same family for eight generations (since the 1750s). Today the dairy product takes the form of luscious, handmade artisanal cheeses, with the milk produced by a herd of Alpine dairy goats. It's a fascinating business. Did you know ... "Keeping chickens in the pastures helps to reduce the parasite load for the goats, while also building soil fertility?" Learn more about

everything – including the farm's Bed & Breakfast – at [www.georgesmill.com](http://www.georgesmill.com).

### Cool Bees

West Wind Farm in Leesburg sells fresh, non-gmo eggs, and produces the absolute gold standard of the sweet stuff – 100 percent pure, "original," raw, local honey.

Honey lovers know of what we speak when we describe honey as pure and raw, crafted by the bees themselves. Honey done right contains, among other things, enzymes, minerals and yes, vitamins – including vitamin B6, thiamin, and riboflavin. The secret to preserving the health benefits of honey is to maintain the honey's temperature, just as the bees do as they are buzzing in and out and working the hive.

As West Wind owner Karin Mathur told us, honey as a naturally-cultivated farm product is ... amazing. "They found honey – still honey! – in Egyptian tombs," she said. Cool.

West Wind also offers favors for weddings and special events – using honey and the farm's signature brand of premium tea – Harney & Sons. Contact the farm at 703 297-0423 or visit their website, [www.westwindfarmva.com](http://www.westwindfarmva.com).

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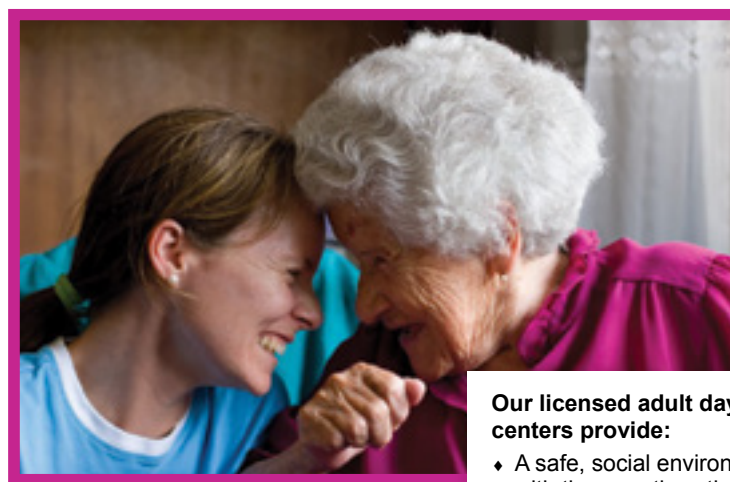
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# Emerick Elementary celebrates 50

BY ANDREA GAINES

One of Purcellville's most enduring institutions, Emerick Elementary, celebrated its 50-year anniversary on June 2. In a ceremony where the kids took control and the adults brought out the child in themselves, a 50-year time capsule buried when the school was founded was unearthed, and a new one was planted. Unearthed were 1967 and 1968 pennies, a stuffed animal eagle, a local newspaper, old report cards (!), pictures from around the school, and a yearbook. Into the new time capsule went a Hot Wheels car, a school playbill, a Rubik's Cube, glitter, a slime recipe, a Squishy toy, and a Fidget Spinner.

In brief remarks as part of the ceremony, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser gave a moving tribute to the school, citing it as an example of the enduring sense of progress small American towns such as Purcellville strive for.

Fraser started by the reflecting on the turbulent times of the 1960s, when Emerick Elementary was established, saying: "On this day and moment in time, as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Emerick Elementary School, we are reminded that our nation was very different 50 years ago. During 1968, our nation faced the ongoing struggles against racial discrimination, which took center stage at the Olympics with protests from athletes, and culminated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. That same year, the war in Viet Nam intensified with the Tet Offensive, taking the war from the jungles to the cities, and the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. This intensification, along with exposure of the My Lai massacre, changed American attitudes towards the Viet Nam war. Also in 1968, yes, 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the champion and leader of the Civil Rights Movement, was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, resulting in riots in cities across the nation. Later that year, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy

was also assassinated, in Los Angeles, California, and Richard M. Nixon was elected president of the United States.

Despite all of the turmoil that occurred in 1968, our nation had the audacity to explore and to learn from beyond this world. With the Apollo 7 launch in 1968, our nation was able to orbit the earth 163 times, which later led to the launch of Apollo 8 which orbited the moon. In 1968, with the drive for exploration and continuous learning, Emerick Elementary School in Purcellville opened its doors to a new generation of students, and today we celebrate its 50th Birthday and Anniversary and bury a time capsule that will tell our story to future generations."

The Mayor then brought things back to the present, and his own experiences with the school as a parent, saying, "My children all walked the halls of Emerick Elementary, and today my eldest son is a student at Carnegie Mellon University, my daughter attends Loudoun Valley High School, and our youngest attends Blue Ridge Middle School. My family is forever thankful to Emerick Elementary School ... The halls of time will tell our story, and many thanks to Emerick Elementary School for playing an integral role in that story."

Welcome to your second half century, Emerick Elementary.



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# Summer arts @ Franklin Park

May and early June saw a great line up of events and entertainment at the Franklin Park Arts Center, with original floral artwork on display, the western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour making a few stops, the Loudoun Quartet spicing up the air, and more.

In the coming weeks, audiences will enjoy the 10th

Anniversary Finale of the Gallery Coffeehouse, featuring the Golden Ukesters, Sacagawea, and the Stars & Stripes art exhibit and sale on June 10.

VSA of Loudoun Social Night will be here, as actors and their families get together on the evening of Thursday, June 14. The Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv Show will grace the stage on Friday, June 15. Known as "the other comedy meat," the show takes suggestions from the audience to craft funny games and skits.

Main Street Theater



Productions will present Schoolhouse Rock LIVE Jr. on June 27, 28 and 29. The popular, family-oriented performance is put on by local campers from the production company's summer camp.

And, consider this great June 30 performance that will round out the month: an evening of reminiscence from artists Sweaingen and Kelli

who will sing Simon & Garfunkel's most-loved music.

The Franklin Park Arts Center loves its 10th Anniversary Season sponsors, including Magnolias at the Mill restaurant, Savior Fare Limited catering and restaurant, the Piedmont Arts, the Franklin Park Big Band, the Loudoun Symphony and more.

Hope you'll come out and support the summer arts at Franklin Park, too. For tickets, schedules and information go to [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).



## Civil War History Comes to Life at Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park



### Upcoming events...

- Guided tours every Saturday and Sunday at 11 and 1
- Civil War artillery crew demonstration: Saturday June 23, 9-5; Sunday June 24, 10:30-3.
- Fourth of July: 2-5, cannon firing, Civil War band
- "Regiments-in-Depth" presentation, Saturday Aug 11, 10:30 am, Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

**Friends of Ball's Bluff**



<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/balls-bluff-battlefield-regional-park>

## Friends of Ball's Bluff July 4th events

This year's Fourth of July celebration in Leesburg will include a series of events sponsored by the Friends of Ball's Bluff Battlefield.

**COMMUNITY**

Friends of Ball's Bluff members will be participating in the Fourth of July parade in downtown Leesburg, with a float featuring one of the battlefield's Civil War mountain howitzers, Union and Confederate re-enactors, and treats for young parade watchers.

At 1 p.m., a six-piece brass band from

George Mason University will perform Civil War era music at Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park. And the Friends of Ball's Bluff artillery team will be firing a Civil War period James Rifle on the Ball's Bluff Battlefield, beginning at 2 p.m. The team will be demonstrating and explaining the artillerists' cannon firing procedure for onlookers.

For more information contact Robert Glenn at 410-279-1621 or email [glenn\\_rbrt@yahoo.com](mailto:glenn_rbrt@yahoo.com).

## Movies under the stars in Leesburg

"Leap!" kicks off the season on Friday – June 15

Get the popcorn ready. The Town of Leesburg will once again be presenting Movies Under the Stars this summer, but in a new location. This year, the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds will host free movies on the third Fridays of June, July, and August.

This summer's dates and movies are:

- June 15 *Leap!*, featuring the voices of Elle Fanning and Carly Rae Jepsen
- July 20 *The LEGO Ninjago Movie*, featuring the voice of Jackie Chan
- August 17 *Wonder*, starring Owen Wilson and Julia Roberts



Show time will be at dusk, between 8:15 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. Picnics and blankets are encouraged, but pets, glass containers, and alcohol are prohibited.



## Makersmith's ribbon-cutting



A previously unused Town property is now a vibrant workspace for the Makersmiths organization.

## Exhibit features work of Roger Lancaster

Waterford photographer Roger Lancaster is the featured artist during this summer's exhibit at the Leesburg Town Hall. Lancaster's exhibit, titled "Scene from My Eyes," features a series of themed vignettes ranging from "Scenes of Loudoun" to "Scenes from Hands at Work." Over 40 of his images will be on display until August 31.



Photographs will be on display through August.

A retired association executive, Lancaster has been an active photographer for the past 10 years. His mission in his photography is to bring the outdoors inside. While his works include landscapes, flora and fauna, and other aspects of nature, he finds himself branching out to other genres as well. As he says, "I basically shoot what I find interesting and tend to gravitate toward the out-of-the ordinary."

Lancaster has received numerous honors for his photography, including images being selected for two years running as the Best of Loudoun

category. Many of his images have been featured in magazines, on photography websites, and can be found in many private collections. Active in the Northern Virginia Photographic Society, he is currently President of the Nature Visions Photo Expo, a major photo exhibit that takes place every fall at George Mason University and has become recognized as the premier nature photography photo exhibit in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Artists interested having their work considered for a future exhibit in the Town Hall should contact Anne Geiger at [ageiger@leesburgva.gov](mailto:ageiger@leesburgva.gov).

## Carver Events - June

**Friday, June 1,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Lunch and a Movie – Red Dog.

**Tuesday, June 12,** 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting.

**Thursday, June 14,** 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Supper Club, Violino Ristorante Italiano, Winchester. \$6 transportation fee, diners pay for meal and tip.

**Friday, June 15,** 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Father's Day Celebration. \$2 transportation. Fishing trip to Franklin Park, Rods, bait and instruction provided. Boxed lunch.

**Friday, June 22,** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lunch Bunch, Uncle Julio's. \$4 transportation fee, diners pay for meal and tip.

**Wednesday, June 27,** 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Book Club.

**Mondays,** 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., Local Bus Excursions, Mosby Center, Hamilton (1st Monday), Thrift Store (2nd/4th/5th Monday), Southern States (3rd Monday).

**Mondays, June 25 to July 30,** 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Studio Drawing Class. \$30 members, \$42 non-members.

**Wednesdays,** 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Fitness Equipment 101.

**Wednesdays starting June 13,** 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Decluttering.

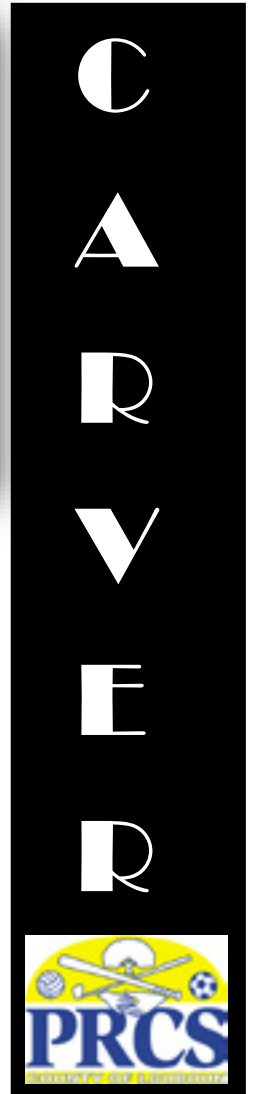
**Wednesdays, July 11 to August 15,** 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Advanced Beginner Watercolor. \$30 members/\$42 non-members.

**Fridays, July 6 through August 10,** 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Basic Watercolor. \$30 members/\$42 non-members.



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# Run into his arms on Father's Day

BY ANDREA GAINES

An unknown but obviously very wise person said the following: "A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty." I think that says it all.

As we celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, June 17 we will each have our own way of reflecting on fatherhood, and how we have experienced it.

Here is a list of names, people past and present you'll probably recognize: Author Harper Lee, journalist Tim Russert, actor Sidney Poitier, TV personality Steve Harvey, actress Marlo Thomas, journalist Jim Bishop, comedian Jon Stewart, comedian Jerry Lewis, satirist Mark Twain, musician Jackson Browne.

They once said something on the topic of fatherhood that was, to me, pretty sweet ... sometimes humorously so. See if you can match the names to the quote. Answers, upside down under the bonus question.

1. "The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get."
2. "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years."
3. "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life."
4. "My father told me there were two kinds of people in the world: givers and takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better."
5. "I was raised by a mother who was a Sunday school teacher and a father who worked hard. Together, they taught me to give back."
6. "It's true; once you are a father, there's no turning back. Your heart strings as well as your purse strings are never again the same."
7. "Watching your daughter being collected by her date feels like handing over a \$1 million Stradivarius to a gorilla."
8. "Fatherhood is great, because you can ruin someone from scratch."
9. "When I was a kid, I said to my father one afternoon, 'Daddy, will you take me to the zoo?' He answered, 'If the zoo wants you, let them come and get you.'"
10. "She did not stand alone, but what stood behind her, the most potent moral force in her life, was the love of her father."

**Bonus question: What "fatherless" former Loudoun County resident went on to gain both national and international journalistic acclaim?**



Answers: 1. Journalist Tim Russert, 2. Satirist Mark Twain, 3. Actor Sidney Poitier, 4. Actress Marlo Thomas, 5. TV Personality Steve Harvey, 6. Musician Jackson Browne, 7. Journalist Jim Bishop, 8. Comedian Jon Stewart, 9. Comedian Jerry Lewis, 10. Author Harper Lee. Bonus answer: Russert. Baker, Pulitzer-Prize winning author and journalist, born in the tiny village of Morrisville. Baker's father died when he was 5.

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#### RT.15 IMPROVEMENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

elementary school, it is essentially an eyesore. You have the GasSmart Cigarette Outlet with adjacent decrepit trailer park, the antique shops on both sides of 15, that as much as we love them, probably couldn't pass a current building inspection, and in ten years will probably fall down of their own accord. Sorry ladies at the Old Lucketts Store, but saving your buildings by putting in a multi-million dollar by-pass is crazy. I vote take eminent domain, purchase those properties, and put in a round-about.

The round-abouts on Rt. 15 south of Leesburg at the intersection with Rt. 50, and the one on the Maryland side north of the Point of Rocks Bridge, have proven to be successful. This strategy implemented between Battlefield and Stumptown Rd. on Rt.15 with additional safety features added to the existing single lane two-way highway, in my opinion, would provide a controlled, constant flow, north to the Maryland border. It might even put pressure on Maryland to improve the bridge and take out the traffic light at Rt. 15 and Rt. 28 in Point of Rocks on the Maryland side.

I've said my piece. Thank you for listening.

Bill Travis  
Lucketts



**NOW WHAT?, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

You and I are simple citizens of Loudoun County, but, even collectively we lose to financial interests and unelected bureaucrats. Losing is especially painful in an election year, where our votes are quashed by developers' dollars. Thankfully there is a way to prevail.

**Politics 2019**

When enough of us echo the famous line from the film *Network* and say, "I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore," we will win. If they want to be reelected, politicians stick a moist finger in the air to find the current of political sentiment. They should hear thousands of us, saying "Stop!"

Developers meet to plot their strategies. They are focused, determined. Citizens are unfocused, unorganized, and often resigned to whatever fate the elections will bring. It doesn't have to be that way. Look around you – is Loudoun too crowded? Too congested? Do you enjoy having among the highest tax rates in Virginia?

Simply voice your opinion. Write newspapers, call Supervisors, complain to your friends. You can donate time and money in any race.

The current Board will decide on today's Envision Loudoun, but an incoming Board can change anything.

Who will be the candidates for those nine slots? I hear rumors, but then the rumors change. What won't change is my memory of the True North Data Center debacle. Chair Phyllis Randall, Supervisors Geary Higgins, Tony Buffington and Ralph Buona fought hard to save Loudoun's character. I will support them in 2019.

**What do I think?**

A disclaimer: I was not personally involved in the Envision Loudoun process; I do not know every fact. I have kept my eyes and ears open, but some of this account may be impressionistic rather than documented history.

The final Envision Loudoun report is full of nice, sweet mush. Lots of happy words with no teeth. Developers are working on their pals on the Planning Commission, as if asking the Tooth Fairy for a favor. You've probably never heard of ZOAG. That's the Zoning Ordinance Action Group, charged with rewriting the zoning code to incorporate details from the new Comprehensive Plan. It, too, is dominated by developers.

That brings us back to next year's politics. Developers are amassing cash for pro-development candidates. I won't chide you again. You know what needs to be done to save Loudoun County.

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

**NOVA, HOME OF... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

and published so we understand the impact on public safety that is about to be created? There are already 3 gas stations between Lucketts and the Potomac River Bridge. They all sell gas, cigarettes and beer, the main attractions.

Two additional areas of concern that have recently been ignored are potential environmental impact (Goose Creek Data Center) and public opinion (Graydon Manor Dog Kennel). So even though it may not matter, this site happens to be the watershed of several hundred acres of mountainous terrain within the 100 year flood plain with a stream that ultimately terminates in the Potomac River. Who picked this

site anyway? Concerned citizens developed a petition against this project - [www.stopmegagas.com](http://www.stopmegagas.com) - which currently has over 370 signatures. Does anybody care about that?

This project is wrong on so many levels. Loudoun County staff still recommends denial. The Catoclin District Commissioner recommended denial, yet the Planning Commission voted 8-1 to recommend approval. Something stinks. It's time to wake up. Do we want the entrance to Northern Va to greet tourists with gas, beer and cigarettes? What a great image we are building.

*Don Stanley  
Lucketts*

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**WOMEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

the starting pitchers were girls.” The pitchers were players Marti Sementelli and Ghazaleh Sailors, both of whom had played baseball on the the U.S. Women’s National Team – which has represented the USA in the Olympics and other competitions.

As the article noted, after the game the players were asked questions like “Do you think there will ever be a time when a woman can play in the Major Leagues?” or, “What does it feel like to strike out a boy?” or, “I noticed that you wear your hair tucked up under your hat. Isn’t that uncomfortable?”

Fast forward to Purcellville, Virginia, 2018, and the 13th Annual Diamond Classic Women’s Baseball Tournament, played at Fireman’s Field and Franklin Park for Memorial Day weekend.

Except for the bold signage welcoming fans to an all-women’s baseball game, taking in the crack of the bat, the split-second pitching and the breath-stopping moments, you’d never know you were watching – not Boston Red Sox – but the New England (women’s) Red Sox ... pounding away at their equally-capable opponents.

The Diamond Classic was put on by Eastern Women’s Baseball Conference. Around for some twenty years, the EWBC offers women and girls of all ages and all levels of experience to chance to “play ball.” The conference includes some current and former

U.S. national players and semi-pro softball players. Those just starting out participate at a play-by-play pace, while a group of more competitive players form a travelling team. An all-star team – DC Thunder – also plays in national and regional tournaments.

The Memorial weekend tournament in Purcellville featured some of women’s baseball’s most beloved teams, including the New England Women Red Sox, the Ontario Trailblazers, Toronto Fusion, the Chicago Gems, the East Coast Yankees, and two local teams, DC Thunder and the DC Force. Seven games each were played on Saturday and Sunday, and 3rd place and championship games were played on Memorial Day.

The New England Women Red Sox came out on top, adding to their incredible winning record. They are the 11-time U.S. National Championship team. Together for 14 years, they represent the best-of-the-best in the sport, with over 100 women playing on the team over time.

The team’s leadership had lots to say about women’s baseball and the Trailblazers, who they bested in the finals. Said Robert Anderson, “Just a tremendous game, as always when we face the Trailblazers. Scott Hillman has done a tremendous job with that team. It is actually a pleasure to watch Coach Kevin Marden, of the New England Red Sox and Scott go up against each other, not just

**13th Annual Eastern Women’s Baseball Conference Diamond Classic Victory Box**

**After Saturday & Sunday’s Action**

- DC Force – 0 wins, 4 losses, 0 ties
- Chicago Gems – 1 win, 3 losses, 0 ties
- Toronto Fusion – 1 win, 3 losses, 0 ties
- DC Thunder – 2 wins, 2 losses, 0 ties
- East Coast Yankees – 3 wins, 1 loss, 0 ties
- New England Red Sox – 4 wins, 0 losses, 0 ties
- Ontario Trailblazers – 4 wins, 0 losses, 0 ties

**Monday ... Final Play**

**Congratulations to the New England Red Sox**

- Eastern Women’s Baseball Conference Champs
- 2nd Place goes to the Ontario Trailblazers
- 3rd Place, East Coast Yankees

*“I have been playing and coaching baseball my whole life at all different levels ... It is a pleasure to coach and teach these women, their passion and ability amazes me ... It is just a great experience and worth being a part of.”*

– Robert Anderson, New England Red Sox



The champion New England Women Red Sox team, coaches and staff with Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 »

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**WOMEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26**

for the competition but because of the passion they both have for women's baseball."

Anderson continued: "Winning is important, but giving the girls and women a chance to play and a chance to learn the great game of baseball is actually what it is all about ... women's baseball is unknown to many, and the ones that hear about it, do not really follow up with it. I am thankful for people like Bonnie Hoffman of EWBC baseball for putting together tournaments like this one and any other person who puts the effort into making things like this happen."

And, on the championship game: "The game itself was really about pitching and defense, both starting pitchers were outstanding, as was the reliever for the New England Red Sox who came in as the game went into extra innings ... The game was decided by a close play at the plate and unfortunately one team had to lose. I have been playing and coaching baseball my whole life at all different levels ... It is a pleasure to coach and teach these women, their passion and ability amazes me ... It is just a great experience and worth being a part of."

**ENVISION LOUDOUN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

units, reclassifying large areas of the Rural Policy Area to the Transition Policy Area, greater housing densities and expanded commercial/industrial in the TPA, changes to the Joint Land Management Areas, rural village development plans, and more.

**– Loudoun County as –  
One Big Planned Community**

Loudoun County has some 333,558 acres of land.

The draft plan takes the position that its job is to figure out how to accommodate whatever growth the market demands in one planning document.

Smart growth advocates – shaking their heads that after years of sustained public pressure to get the County's rates of growth under control, it has produced something so pro-growth – are pressuring officials for major changes to the draft.

One western Loudoun resident who considers himself to be a moderate on the issue of growth, attended the recent Open House in Aldie. He came away thinking that the County should "start over." They were handing out Frisbees with the

words "Envision Loudoun" on them, he related. But, when he showed the Frisbee to his wife later that night, she wondered aloud if there would be any open space left here to throw a Frisbee.

**– Huge Commitments to –  
New "Workforce" Housing**

Planning document vision statements are carefully crafted bits of text intended to define what a community wants its future to look like.

*Draft Loudoun 2040* promises that Loudoun County will "Provide housing options – for all people who want to work and live in Loudoun County ... " housing that accommodates all incomes, market preferences, housing styles, etc.

Loudoun County has 133,000 current residential units. The draft plan calls for 13,500 new units in a new Urban Policy Area – to house the workers from the new companies that the County economic development folks want to attract, and 1,500 new

residential units in the TPA.

Between now and 2040, if the market demands it, we will build it, promises the draft.

**– "Grow or Fail" Underpins It All –**

Industry likes this boldly pro-growth, all-in-one planned community approach.

It is the Envision Loudoun Stakeholders Committee, dominated by development interests, recommending that big chunks of RPA land be dumped into the TPA, and that the

TPA itself provide for more housing and industrial/commercial development.

This floats the stealthy, be-careful-of-what-you-wish-for concept that Loudoun County – as one of the richest, fastest-growing, most in-demand counties in the nation – must maintain that economic position ... or fail.


*Draft Loudoun 2040*, say planners, must "diversify the economy by strengthening targeted industry clusters," "create desirable places



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »


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## ENVISION LOUDOUN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

in key corridors and employment centers,” “invest in the skilled workforce needed for continued economic growth,” “market the County as a world-class business ecosystem,” and on.

**– Suburban East, Transitional – Middle and Rural West in Jeopardy**

The Open Houses broke the public's Envision Loudoun input into 15 key themes, detailing the chapters in the draft plan that addressed that theme. You spoke, and we heard you.

This is the kind of planning exercise that consultants love, because it gives them the opportunity to show that their client – in this case, Loudoun County – has been responsive to the public, while also giving them the flexibility to meet the demands of the big elephant in the room; developers.

This is not a cynical look at Envision Loudoun, but, rather, a nitty-gritty one.

The public's most consistently expressed goal is to preserve Loudoun's three-part suburban east, rural west, and transitional middle growth management strategy. But, *Draft Loudoun 2040* puts all of this at risk with a mind-bending emphasis on the Department of Economic

Development's goals to “create jobs,” “grow the tax base,” and accommodate as much growth as zoning will allow.

**– JLMAs and Small Area Plans – Open the Door to Grow the West**

*Draft Loudoun 2040* notes that “No density increases” are planned for the RPA, and also commits to a “limited residential base.” But, two things threaten that: changes to the JLMA and a new planning tool – “Small Area Plans.”

Purcellville is under pressure to add nearly 1,800 new homes via in-town densities and the JLMA. Round Hill has used its JLMA to add 1,200 homes and 3,000 residents over a 16-years. Hamilton, Lovettsville, Middleburg, and Hillsboro have declined JLMA agreements with the County, avoiding increased utility costs and preserving their small town character.

*Draft Loudoun 2040* also notes that development in the JLMA “... has not always reflected the design and historic character of the Towns,” including “street layout, building diversity, and density ... “ The solution, the document says,

is to require towns with JLMAs to duplicate in-town densities – and extend utilities to any new area – as they grow.

The draft plan also introduces Small Area Plans to Loudoun's 13 rural villages. Dot-on-a-map places such as Lincoln, Philomont, Taylorstown, and Lucketts will now entertain a level of planning that will control everything from “economic development,” to “community facilities,” to “water and wastewater.”

**– Next Steps –**

Public input on the draft Comp Plan ended just days ago, on June 1.

The County staff will send the draft back to the Stakeholders Committee, which will review comments and forward a new draft to the BOS and Planning Commission next month.

The Planning Commission will continue to review the draft and present a new draft to the Board in December, and the BOS will review and adopt a new Comprehensive Plan in 2019.

Public input will be provided for during various stages of the process.



## HIGH TECH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for search and rescue innovations. Purcellville applied to be considered for the Unmanned Aerial Systems Integration Pilot Program, and, although not selected, is eager to be a part of the activities presented as a result of Virginia and Loudoun's selection as test sites.

CIT and others are studying how small unmanned aircraft, aka drones, might be used in agricultural operations – identifying possible drought and/or crop blight threats, and other dangers. In the category of search and rescue, drones have been used in rural and other communities to pinpoint the location of individuals, including the elderly who suffer from conditions such as dementia. There may also be economic opportunities in the use of drones for communities such as Purcellville. A 2016 report from Goldman Sachs estimated that drone technologies will reach a market size of \$100 billion between 2016 and 2020. The commercial side represents the fastest UAS growth opportunity (followed by military) with an estimated market size of \$13 billion between 2016 and 2020.

Due to its proximity to Washington D.C. and other security-intensive areas, eastern Loudoun County is currently one of the most restrictive drone areas in the country. However, Purcellville has the highly coveted unrestricted class G airspace due to its location in rural Loudoun County.

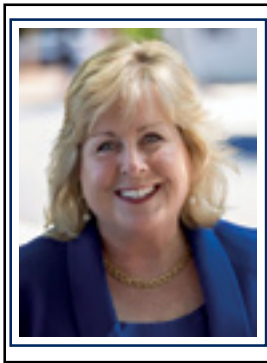
The next steps in the Aberdeen process include a formal recommendation to come from Purcellville's Economic Development Advisory Committee on how hops production would work day-to-day on the land. It is assumed that equestrian uses on the property will take a bit longer to make it to the more formal stage, with steeplechase races, etc. needing to be phased in over time. For the possible drone activity, the Town of Purcellville plans to work with the leaders at the County and state level to see if partnerships in that category can be worked out.

“The old home and other structures on the Aberdeen property, having access to plumbing, electricity, and fiber-based broadband connectivity, are ripe for transformation into a true asset for the citizens of Purcellville,” said Fraser.

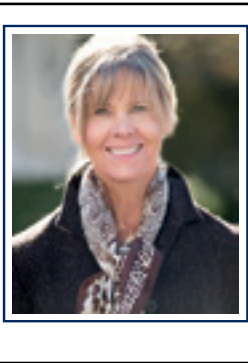
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## Preserving the American Dream: Remodeling the Family Home

Driving through Northern Virginia's neighborhoods you won't be short of seeing new construction overtaking the older, established neighborhoods. Family homes passed down are either torn down and a newly constructed home is placed on their generational lots or homes preserved and remodeled for future generations to enjoy.

Abbey Design Center met with a family in one such neighborhood in McLean who recently inherited a home. After meeting with Abbey the family decided to remodel and bring their family's hand me down house into the 21st century with updates to fit their lifestyle today. The remodeling project on this inherited estate included 3 bathrooms, master bedroom, living room, kitchen, and basement. While using the pre-existing square footage Abbey's designers also added in a custom mudroom outfitted with

a dog grooming station and a separate laundry room.

Once the design was established and product selections made Abbey's team knocked down walls to create an open concept kitchen that flowed into the living room. The owners now walk into their home which is flooded with light coming in from floor to ceiling living room windows. A stunning accent wall was created around the living room fireplace using ledger stone, and a custom made wood floating shelf beautifully hung to display family photos. Wickham hardwood flooring was installed with a wire brushed finish throughout the main level to enhance their new open concept living spaces. Remembering the homeowner's love of blue, walls were painted in a bluish gray for a very personal touch. The open concept kitchen included classic white shaker cabinets by Winbrook and Kohler stainless steel plumbing

fixtures. The addition of a large kitchen island gave the owners some much needed counter space, but it also gave Abbey's designers a chance to incorporate and highlight beautiful details like a waterfall quartz countertop.

Updating the homeowner's inherited home gave them the opportunity to add their unique style while also preserving the history and memories that comes with the original structure. The design process was more than choosing flooring, colors, and finishes. Abbey Design Center learned about their client in great detail and worked closely with them to make their home unique for their family needs, bringing in a more usable space for a dog friendly home and opportunities to show off their love for the color blue. The homeowners chose to keep their family home and their remodel with Abbey took them out of the norm and beyond their expectations.

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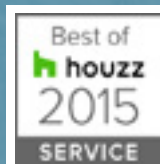
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