

Talk polecats, sip some spirits

Purcellville Wine & Food Festival July 21



BY ANDREA GAINES

Just south of Billy Goat Hill, and right alongside another long-forgotten area known as the Gypsy Camp, lies the quintessential western Loudoun spot known as Dillions Woods.

Back in the day, the talk in this part of Purcellville was all about what price local eggs were fetching in the Washington, D.C. market, the political wisdom (or not) of the Temperance Movement, and whose corn crib “the polecats” – the common, old-time name for skunks – had gotten into the night before.

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

Now part of the Fireman’s Field sports complex in Purcellville, around here the conversations have changed quite a bit. But, the organizers of the Purcellville Wine & Food Festival, which takes place under

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The Loudoun County Fair 82 years young July 23-28

BY ANDREA GAINES

A tickertape on the 2018 Loudoun County Fair website counts down the days, hours, minutes, and seconds before the 80+-year old event jumps over the fence at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds, and lets out its first enthusiastic “Yahoo!”

County fairs are known for showcasing tradition, the hardworking essences of rural life, and the great respect with which people in rural communities relate to each other. And, the people who organize, set up, and run the Loudoun County Fair



Photo courtesy of Loudoun County Fair.

have been doing all three things with great consistency and heart for over 80 years. This, is the the real thing.

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Warner Brook putting on the pressure for annexation

BY VALERIE CURY

The Warner Brook family real estate LLC, assisted by Jim Herbert, Vice President, Mid Atlantic Development Advisory & Land Brokerage, has embarked on a highly-visible public promotional campaign in support of its request that its 131-acre property, which was formerly a farm, be annexed by the Town of Purcellville. Toward this end, the firm has created a website, warnerbrook.info, and has been pushing the case for the development – at Town of Purcellville local homeowners associations board meetings.

Four years ago, on Nov. 21, 2014, the property’s developers held a charrette at the Loudoun Golf and Country Club. The attendees included numerous engineers, transportation contractors, employees of Bowman Consulting, neighbors of surrounding properties, Loudoun County Planning staff and Supervisor aides, Town Council

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Cannons fighting for first in northern division

BY MATT GUSMEROTTI

The Valley League Baseball Northern Division Purcellville Cannons are tied for second place with the New Market Rebels, and are two games back of the Front Royal Cardinals. The Cannons have a record of 10-9, and are 6-4 in their last ten games.

One of the bright spots of this Cannons team throughout June has been their bullpen's ERA. The Cannons feature a team ERA of 3.78, but have nine pitchers who have ERAs below 3.00. The pitching staff also has good strikeout numbers, striking out 160 batters in 164.1 innings, with six pitchers with more than ten strikeouts.

Cannons closer Anthony "Tony" Zimmerman of Fordham University has looked rock-solid through the first month of Purcellville baseball. In five games, he has pitched 7.1 innings, allowed two hits, and has struck out 17, all without giving up a run. He also has two wins and two saves in June.

Through 12 innings, Dalton Oates of Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania also has allowed no earned runs, and struck out 16 batters. He also has one win.

Other notable Cannons relievers with under 3.00 ERAs are Matthew Marsili, Parker Dyson, Vinny Adams, and Chezzare Gonzalez.

Kenny Oyama has been one of the few bright-spots on this Cannons hitting squad, batting .344, with 22 hits, four RBI, and nine walks. Oyama, who attends Marymount Univeristy, plays center field for the Cannons.

Shaggy Freeland, a second-year Cannons player from Faulkner University, is hitting .300, with three home runs and eight RBI. He's also walked 16 times.

Outfielder Matt Koehler now has a .283 batting average, with 17 hits in 18 games, and seven RBI. He is right behind Christian Garabedian, who has a .302 batting average, and two home runs in 14 games.

After a three-hit game by Tyler 'Blade' Baker against the Harrisonburg Turks, his average jumped to from .238. The Cannons shortstop is now hitting



2017 Cannons Fan of the Year Marshall Lowry throws a strike to Shaggy Freeland for the ceremonial first pitch during a Cannons home game.



Second Year Cannons Pitcher Trey Alderman delivers a strike in a home game.

.278, and has an on-base percentage of .333 through 19 games, along with a home run and seven RBI.

The Cannons play 18 games in July, ten of them away. They travel to New Market three times, and play the Woodstock River Bandits three times, two at home.

For the Cannons' upcoming schedule, go to purcellvillecannons.com.

Photos by Matt Gusmerotti

HOME RUN STATS OVER THE FENCE, BUT WHY?



From 1876 to 1900, a mere 2.4 percent of hits "left the yard" as a home run. From 1994 to 2005 – a time period known as the long-ball era – nearly 12 percent of all hits were home runs, and by 2017, over 14 percent. Here's the all-around physics behind the home run.

- ❖ Barry Bonds holds the MLB home run record – 762. Bonds also has the record for the most home runs in any one season, 73 in 2001.
- ❖ J.D. Martinez, who plays for the Boston Red Sox holds the home run record for the current season (as of this printing of the BRL) with 21.
- ❖ The nature of the uppercut swing, which drives what's known as the "launch angle" – the angle at which the baseball leaves the bat – is increasing. That seems to be a big factor in the increasing number of home runs.
- ❖ In 2005, the first year that data was available, the average launch angle for any hit was 10 degrees. By 2016 it was 10.8 degrees, by 2017, 10.9 degrees.
- ❖ A home run combines a launch angle of between 25 and 30 degrees, and an "exit velocity" – the speed at which a ball leaves the bat – of near 100 mph or more.
- ❖ The fastest home run ever recorded had an exit velocity of just under 120 mph. The longest distance, 489 feet.

BRL fruits & veggies calendar ... July

Oh no ... Loudoun's strawberries are all picked out (mostly). But, don't despair. You will have lots of fantastic fruits'n-vegetable-pick'n-freedom this month.

- Apples. Yum. Apple season starts in July with the fruit's summer varieties and goes on and on. Get your pie-baking skills ready.
- Blueberries and Blackberries are in full, spectacular season in July and August. Did you know that blackberries are great for brain health?
- Cantaloupe comes into season in July. It's so versatile – sliced, filled with fresh fruit or chicken salad, or made into frozen melon balls for a hot afternoon's treat.
- Corn – sweet, fresh and crunchy. You've watched it reaching for the sky in Loudoun's farm fields for weeks, and in July and August it is ready for your table.
- Cucumbers and squash continue through October – summer's dependable, staple vegetables.
- Green peppers start in mid-July and run well into the fall, as do green beans.
- Nectarines and peaches are in full flavor starting in July.
- Raspberries have a few more weeks. Pick'em, freeze'em, make them into cobbler or add them to that morning smoothie.



Photo courtesy of Crooked Run Orchard

See our Red, White & Blue recipe on page 16.

— Amy and Dan Smith's Planning for Life —

New reports highlight continuing challenges for Social Security and Medicare

Most Americans will receive Social Security and Medicare benefits at some point during their lives. For this reason, workers and retirees are concerned about potential program shortfalls that could affect future benefits. Each year, the trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust Funds release lengthy annual reports to Congress that assess the health of these important programs. The newest reports, released on June 5, 2018, discuss the current financial condition and ongoing financial challenges that both programs face, and project a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2019.



AMY AND DAN SMITH

What are the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds?

Social Security: The Social Security program consists of two parts. Retired workers, their families, and survivors of workers receive monthly benefits under the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) program; disabled workers and their families receive monthly benefits under the Disability Insurance (DI) program. The combined programs are referred to as OASDI. Each program has a financial account (a trust fund) that holds the Social Security payroll taxes that are collected to pay

Social Security benefits. Other income (reimbursements from the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury and income tax revenue from benefit taxation) is also deposited in these accounts. Money that is not needed in the current year to pay benefits and administrative costs is invested (by law) in special Treasury bonds that are guaranteed by the U.S. government and earn interest. As a result, the Social Security Trust Funds have built up reserves that can be used to cover benefit obligations if payroll tax income is insufficient to pay full benefits.

Note that the trustees provide certain projections based on the combined OASI and DI(OASDI) trust funds. However, these projections are theoretical, because the trusts are separate, and generally one program's taxes and reserves cannot be used to fund the other program.

Medicare: There are two Medicare trust funds. The Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund helps pay for hospital care (Medicare Part A costs). The Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) trust Fund comprises two separate accounts, one covering Medicare Part B (which helps pay for physician and outpatient costs) and one covering Medicare Part D (which helps cover the prescription drug benefit).

Highlights of Social Security Trustees Report

This year, for the first time since 1982, Social Security's total cost is projected to exceed its total

income (including interest) and remain higher for the next 75 years. Consequently, the U.S. treasury will start withdrawing from trust fund reserves to help pay benefits in 2018. The trustees project that the combined trust fund reserves (OASDI) will be depleted in 2034, the same year projected in last year's report, unless Congress acts.

Once the combined trust fund reserves are depleted, payroll tax revenue alone should still be sufficient to pay about 79 percent of scheduled benefits for 2034, with the percentage falling gradually to 74 percent by 2092.

Based on the intermediate assumptions in this year's report, the Social Security Administration is projecting that the cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) announced in the fall of 2018, will be 2.4 percent. The COLA would apply to benefits starting in January 2018.

Highlights of Medicare Trustees Report

Annual costs for the Medicare program exceeded tax income each year from 2008 to 2015. Although last year's report projected surpluses in 2016 through 2022, this year's report projects that costs will exceed income (excluding interest income) in 2018.

The HI trust fund is projected to be depleted in 2026, three years earlier than projected last year. Once the HI trust fund is depleted, tax and premium income

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On the Market... with Sam & Ray Rees

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

The relationship between teen suicide and technology

By Michael Oberschneider Psy.D.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released its findings from a large-scale study on suicide and the findings were both disturbing and intriguing. According to the CDC, suicide rates have risen about 30 percent across the nation between 1999 and 2015. While middle age people had the largest number of suicides and the highest increases, the numbers are sobering for all groups, including adolescents – suicide is now the second leading cause of death for teens in the U.S.



DR. MIKE

The study cited the following contributing factors to explain the sharp increase in suicide between 1999 and 2015: relationship problems, substance abuse problems, job and/or financial problems, crises, physical health issues, untreated mental illness and criminal or legal problems. But wait, these were the same suicide risk factors that were readily apparent prior to 1999 and prior to the 30 percent increase. So, if the contributing suicide factors haven't changed, why the increase?

Technology; our over use of it, our over reliance on it and the ways in which we've allowed it to influence so much of what we do, how we behave and who we are – it appears that may be an additional factor for the sharply rising suicide rate, and this may be especially true for teens.

What happened with technology between 1999 to 2015? The term "smartphone" began to be used in the mid to late 1990's. Texting began in 1997 with the production of the Nokia 9000i, the first mobile phone with a full keyboard. Six Degrees, the first known social media site was created in 1997 and was followed by the first blogging sites in 1999. Enter the 2000's and the Internet took off. Myspace, followed by Facebook and Twitter and the many other apps and platforms we use and know today occurred, while suicides were rising.

As a psychologist who works a lot with teens, I see first-hand the negative impact technology can have when used inappropriately or in excess for my patients. So many of the teens

I work with not only spend more time in virtual reality than actual reality, when it comes to video games, texting, social media and instant messaging, the new normal is to be on-line and not off-line. I've found that this sort of technologically driven connection to others can lead to greater social isolation with real psychological consequences.

And what I've also seen in my office with teens when it comes to subsequent social/emotional, behavioral, academic and health problems for teens from technology over use from the early 2000's to today, mirrors what the research has repeatedly found.

According to the CDC, the suicide rate for teen girls reached its highest point in 40 years in 2015, and it doubled between 2007 and 2015. For teen boys, suicide increased by 30 percent for this same period.

Numerous other studies have revealed a concerning relationship between technology and suicide for teens. One such study found that smartphone use and the use of electronic devices for 5 or more hours daily nearly doubled between 2009 and 2015 for teens. And teens who use technology this much are at a 70 percent increase in experiencing suicidal thoughts or actions when compared to teens who reported using electronic devices and smartphones for just one hour a day. Daily use of social media for teen girls rose from 58 percent in 2009 to 87 percent in 2015, and girls who used social media more frequently were at a greater risk for experiencing depression.

Also, one recent study found that teens who have been bullied on-line are more than twice as likely to self-harm or attempt suicide compared to their peers who have not been victimized. It's no longer surprising to learn on the news about a young man or young woman's decision to take their life in response to cyberbullying. This wasn't a problem before 1999.

The public shame, embarrassment, humiliation, self-comparison, and scrutiny by others in real-time via social media can simply be too much to handle. Not being invited to a party 20 years ago was something that a teen

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Focus on sustainability

Dear Editor:

The subject of growth is a hot topic now in Loudoun County. As the powers that be keep approving more and more development, Eastern Loudoun has been turned into an updated version of Fairfax County. Even the so-called transition zone between the overgrown East and once-rural West may soon be sacrificed to an insatiable desire to turn every farm into a housing development and cover God's good earth with asphalt and concrete.

Where will it end? Our western roads are insanely crowded with far more vehicles than they are intended to carry. If growth is so good, why do taxes keep rising? If growth is so good, why do people of modest means

lack affordable options to live in Loudoun? This County has been turned into a place for upper income people to come and raise their kids; meanwhile others leave to find an affordable place to live and retire. But the time may be coming when excessive growth makes Loudoun a lot less desirable place to raise a family; then the county may scramble to find uses for half empty schools that no longer have the kids to fill them.

It seems nothing will change while the movers and shakers think that growth is always good; and the more growth the better. I suggest looking at another point of view based on sustainability. My brother, Russell England, has written a book, called, **Gross Deceptive Product**. This book examines the pros and cons and true costs of growth. Russell served his country in Viet Nam;

but this timely book may be an even greater service.

Gross Deceptive Product, by Russell England, is available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The subtitle is: **An Ecological Perspective on the Economy**.

Loudoun County is at a crossroads; we can watch more development fill the transition zone and crowd the West; or maybe Loudoun could yet choose to find a model for sustainability and quality of life that would benefit the entire County.

I have led churches in Loudoun for nearly 40 years. But do I live in Loudoun? No. I cannot afford to.

*Roland England, Pastor
Christian Community Church
at St. Paul's, Hillsboro*

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OPINION

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Leave me alone!

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Scottish Highlanders of the kilt, the caber and the bagpipes are our image of Scotland. Less well known are those Scots who lived in the lowlands adjoining England. For centuries their lands were battlefields in wars between England and Scotland. Common sense (and English might) ultimately prevailed and legions of Scots along the borders migrated to Northern Ireland beginning in 1609 and continuing for a century. Freedom!

In Ireland they became known as the Scots-Irish. This was safer than on the English border, but the native Irish and the newcomers often squabbled.

Between 1717 and 1775, 200,000 Scots-Irish emigrated to America, first landing in New England and encountering Puritans. This did not work out so well. Puritans persisted in telling these Presbyterian immigrants what to do, what to wear, how to worship and not to betake of alcohol. Fed up with bossiness, most Scots-Irish moved to Pennsylvania; the Quakers there were known for tolerance. Freedom!

Scots-Irish are inextricably tied to a yearning for freedom and thus to the American ideal. Loudoun County is part of their history.

Tolerance in Pennsylvania was better than the constant admonishments from New Englanders, but the Scots-Irish wanted their own lands, free of another dominant culture. So, they decamped for the South. Freedom!

They trekked into Virginia, often through Loudoun. Many stayed in Virginia along the mountains but the majority headed for the Carolinas and Georgia, avoiding areas east of the mountains where wealthy Englishmen were the economic masters. Along their journey many settled in the mountains and built

homesteads and farms with self-reliance and grueling work. The Scots-Irish had communities of their own. Independence!

Then came the American Revolution. Britain's Lord Cornwallis was marching through the South to cleave the rebellious colonies in half. Scots-Irish farmers played a decisive role in the Battle of King's Mountain. George III's forces called them the "Overmountain Men" and "mongrels," but soon those invectives were hollow as the Americans won. Cornwallis's plans were thwarted and he headed to Yorktown and defeat. Independence!

These sentiments – the desire for freedom and independence – continue today among Americans who call themselves Scots-Irish, but what do the words mean today? Do they still resonate in Loudoun County? Their meaning is clear – *res ipsa loquitur* – the thing speaks for itself; they will not be bossed around. They are loyal to friends and value traditions. They love their homes and lands. When a Scots-Irish accepts a task, he tackles it to the best of his ability. Personal responsibility is paramount. They will fight if they must. "Leave us alone" means Freedom!

In Loudoun today, that phrase is shouted by people of many backgrounds, and it means fighting for our countryside against slick developers, silky-tongued lawyers and a few misguided Supervisors.

Some freedoms are granted to us by government – we have freedom of speech, for example. Other freedoms are wrested from government, the American Revolution being a founding example. Local government has granted us many freedoms, but oftentimes a freedom for one is a restriction on another.

Take zoning ordinances. You have freedom from your neighbor turning his property into a junkyard; he's blocked by zoning restrictions limiting junkyards.

Elected officials use zoning to balance the freedom-restriction scales for the benefit of the most.

Problems arise when this equilibrium is upset by outsiders, like developers who use money to ingratiate themselves with politicians. Elections are next year; remember that it takes two to tango. In politics it's not just the donor who expects a political favor, but also the politician who takes that money ... and often votes against citizens' wishes. We can't vote against developers, but unsympathetic Supervisors beware.

Loudoun County with its Quaker and German settlers, was a fair place for the Scots-Irish. The oldest part of our home is a log cabin dating to 1760 and it well could have been built by a Scots-Irish family who also turned a forest into productive fields. My muscles ache just thinking about it!

Today only 1.5 percent of the US population claim Scots-Irish ancestry, but they had an additional, seldom mentioned trait: Many married well and so eighteen presidents have had Scots-Irish blood. Today the Scots-Irish tend to get riled, are willing to tackle challenges and take on responsibilities with total dedication. They defend their beliefs to the end. They and their compatriots won't quit until a court issues a writ and the developers' bulldozers arrive to destroy western Loudoun.

Footnote: In an early column I said that if the supply of new Loudoun houses was constricted, all of us would see our home values increase. A new realtor survey confirms my prediction. Loudoun houses now get 98.8 percent of the list price and sell in an average of six days.

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

Welcome to Purcellville Warner Brook

BY ANDREA GAINES

There is an ominous slight-of-hand being extended to the residents of Purcellville on the website known as “warnerbrook.info” – the polished piece of electronic media created to promote the annexation of 131 acres on the town’s northern boundary.

Developing the land under County zoning gives the owners of the property – a Warner family real-estate LLC – the right to put up approximately 42 homes. But, bring the land into Town, and everything breaks loose. Under that scenario the LLC would put up a suburban-style mixed use commercial/industrial sportsplex development, 160 homes, and the parking, lighting, and roadways needed to serve it all.

OPINION

In a review of the family’s connections to Loudoun County, warnerbrook.info lays out the family’s intention here: “to do something meaningful with the land.” It describes how the family came to the decisions they did: “... didn’t like the idea of just more houses on the farm.” And, it boldly defends what is NOT going on here: “... we are not developers, speculators, outsiders, or opportunists seeking quick and shallow outcomes.”

In a plea for openness, warnerbrook.info also urges the public to “become aware of the facts,” and embrace Warner Brook for what it is – a “long term slow growth project for Purcellville.”

And, this is where that slight-of-hand comes in.

Growth via annexation is neither slow – i.e. measured

and planned, nor is it long term – transforming a place over time.

The moment that annexation is approved, the one-home per three-acres zoning provided for in these rural lands surrounding Purcellville is gone, and the owners and their developer partners step into a much larger opportunity.

The large-lot residential zoning you see in places such as Wright Farm is gone, and the Warner Brook LLC – which is seeking both annexation and approval of its finely-tuned concept plan – drops a mini-city of sorts in its place. A mini-city complete with 24 acres of industrial, a private, nine-acre indoor sports complex, 22 acres of parks and fields, 11 acres of commercial, up to 160 homes, and the 1,250+ parking spaces needed to serve it all.

The project is being promoted as an economic boon for the people of Purcellville. The Warners want to leave a “legacy” for the Town. They want to create a regional sports hub, and say that this kind of development will provide for the community what the newly-reinvented Fireman’s Field cannot. Purcellville residents – and all of western Loudoun County, presumably – can get the goods, entertainment, and services they can’t now get; and “outsiders” can help generate local tax revenue for the Town.

This concept is a familiar one to the people of western Loudoun – those who’ve lived here forever and those who came here from more suburban environments – fast food convenience, one-stop shopping, lots of parking.

The issue is whether Purcellville can open its borders to

something like this, and still say “Welcome to Purcellville.” And, whether it can afford the giant add-on utilities load. Water-wise, a mini city of this size would cause the Town to exceed both its Average Daily Demand and its Maximum Daily Demand.

This land does lie in the JLMA – the joint land management area the County and Town have agreed Purcellville can use for the purposes of growth. But, where, when, if and how Purcellville grows, is a choice. The Kline annexation proposal – with approximately 70 residential units, 75,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, an 80-room hotel, and a Tilley’s Entertainment Center – was rejected in 2016. And, other annexation projects, including Warner Brook are now under far greater scrutiny.

In a section entitled “2018, June 21 HOA Updates, Kingsbridge,” warnerbrook.info talks about what was discussed as that nearby community was briefed on Warner Brook.

People wanted to know if the property’s owners or their representative were developers, or if “a developer was behind the concept.”

With a breathtaking, “The answer is No” Kingsbridge residents were told that the property owners here were not developers, nor was a developer behind the concept.”

But, is impossible to look at the outright annexation of 131 acres of land, and the sheer scale of Warner Brook, and truly believe that.

It sure feels like there’s a real slight-of-hand going on here.



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One property, two homes, quiet & shared moments

BY ANDREA GAINES

If you've ever thought you and yours couldn't really get all that you wanted in one home, perhaps what you need ... is two.

This property has a traditional Cape Cod with 4 to 6 bedrooms and 4 full and 2 half baths, and, a beautifully-built log cabin contemporary with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Each home has a first-floor master suite, glorious porches, fireplaces and shared spaces that beg to be lived in and cherished for both celebrations and quiet moments. Lots of garage space, too.

REAL ESTATE

Kitchens are airy, up-to-the-minute in terms of amenities and filled with light. The soaring ceilings and stone accents in the log home have the feel of a personal mountain retreat, and the more traditional features and colors in the Cape Cod are just charming. Bedrooms in the log home are cozy, with wood-lined walls ceiling fans and lots of windows, and in the Cape, the perfect backdrop for any style of decorating. Baths in both are warm and sleek and perfectly-appointed.

The property features a large shared garden and brings all the best of western Loudoun's horse and wine country to your two doorsteps, with fantastic

views, sweeping lawns, a stocked pond, a 2-stall pony barn, 3-board fencing and nearby hiking trails. A large fenced pool located off the Cape Cod serves as a tranquil and sunny gathering place.

The property is located in between Middleburg, the quaint Village of Bluemont and Purcellville. Take in whatever history, shopping, recreation or lovely western Loudoun community calls to you at the moment. 19710-19716 Foggy Bottom Road is in land use and cannot be subdivided. Looking for the perfect owner, and a very discriminating one, it awaits a very special family.



Cape Cod
4-6 bedrooms
4 full & 2 one-half baths
Log Home
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
Total Acreage: 9.1 acres
List Price: \$950,000

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REALTOR
Marcy Cantatore, Middleburg
Real Estate Atoka Properties
540 533-7453 or marcy@marcyc.com

ADDRESS
19710-19716 Foggy Bottom Rd., Bluemont
PROPERTY WEBSITE
<http://marcyc.com/19710-19716-foggy-bottom-rd-bluemont-va-20135/>

Loudoun County Animal Services hosts animal cruelty investigator course

Loudoun County Animal Services will host a week-long course on investigating animal cruelty. The classes are scheduled from July 23 to July 27. This is the most advanced level (expert) in a three-part series.

GOVERNMENT

The program is offered by the Law Enforcement Training Institute and is geared toward professionals but open to members of the general public.

The curriculum includes identifying and investigating a variety of animal-related crimes, the relationship between animal abuse and family violence, internet crimes, case building and disaster

response.

Participants who receive a passing score at the end of the course are eligible for 40 continuing education credits through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The program will be held at the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Training Center, 16600 Courage Court in Leesburg. Advanced registration is recommended. Group and agency discounts are available. Full details and registration information may be found at: extension2.missouri.edu/events/expert-animal-cruelty-investigator-1-2-3.



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Happy birthday, dear America

I feel as if I am truly living the American Dream.

As we near the celebration of our country's birthday – a day I treasure above nearly all others on the calendar – I find myself experiencing a genuine wave of gratefulness over all that has been achieved this past year. Realizing the dream of home ownership at such a young age, buying a condo located within a beautiful community. Recently securing



MOORE-SOBEL

a program manager position at one of the most prestigious companies in the world, a job I never could have predicted would one day be mine.

None of this is intended to laud my own abilities. My story simply is offered in an effort to dispel any notions concerning the death of opportunity found within the USA.

It seems to me that we live in a time filled with much hand-wringing over the future of our great nation. Pundits and politicians alike make grave statements regarding both the present and the future, offering warnings about the opposing party while trafficking in doomsday scenarios.

Yet greatness is found in the resiliency exhibited by the American people. "The state of our union is strong," as Presidents like to declare, not because of the efforts made by whoever is occupying the Oval Office at any given time. For the greatness of America is not dependent upon a single person; rather, it is exemplified by the hard-working men and women who do their part to contribute to a society continually reaching for more.

We must continue to do our part to "form a more perfect union." More must be done to confront the poverty found in many parts of our country, while policies reversing the statistics suggesting the middle class is shrinking must be enacted. Despite this, I believe that the institutions birthed during the founding of our country can provide hope in these times of uncertainty, offering a lifeboat from the proverbial threats of danger seemingly coming at us from every angle.

We must also allow history to be our guide. Last month marked the 50th anniversary of Bobby Kennedy's assassination. Was the world any less uncertain in 1968? Watching the recently released Netflix documentary, Bobby Kennedy for President, one could not help but be overcome with a sense of horror upon watching coverage of the JFK, MLK, and RFK assassinations, carried out within the span of five years.

Racial strife, coupled with the division sown over the Vietnam War, ensured that the 1960s were far more complicated than our current day. The country appeared to be coming apart at the seams, discord the new normal. Extremism and violence accepted parts of the cultural narrative.

Yet 1968 failed to mark the end of

America. We made a comeback, just as we have countless times before. We found a way to negotiate peace – with foreign leaders and within our borders – ensuring that this great democratic experiment would last far beyond a tumultuous decade marred by both death and protests.

Some might decry my conclusions as naive or misinformed. Regardless, I still believe in the promise of America. In the inherent beauty of our founding and the strength inherent in our people. In the ability for Americans to withstand any assault from abroad or within.

I am living proof that the American Dream – long rumored to be at best on life support, at worst dead – is alive and well. I remember those long days at CarMax, working hard to make enough money to meet upcoming tuition payments. Leaving the first institution I attended in favor of a more affordable college, allowing me to live at home so that bills could be paid. I certainly possessed plenty of advantages, growing up in an affluent area with educational opportunities far outpacing other parts of the country. Yet I also have had my fair share of disadvantages along the way. I have worked hard to ensure that my lack of ivy league pedigree, coupled with my non-technical degree, would not fail to hold me back. Determining to build a life for myself in the country that I love. Just as so many of you have.

So this July 4th, I hope you will join me in celebrating the birth of our great nation. Grateful for the opportunities offered in the present, while remaining cognizant of the sacrifices made by those in the past. All while looking expectantly towards the future, doing our part to ensure that our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will be gifted with opportunities of which we could only have dreamed.

Happy Birthday, Dear America. For your best days truly do lie ahead.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is excited to celebrate America's birthday July 4th. A country that will, in his mind, undoubtedly stand the test of time.



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County announces new public hours for Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve

The Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services announced the extension of public hours at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Leesburg, Virginia.

Effective mid June, the preserve will be closed on Mondays and Fri-

days and open from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve is located at 21085 The Woods Road, in Leesburg, VA 20175. For more information about the facility, visit www.loudoun.gov/bansheereeks or email ron.circe@loudoun.gov.

A servant's heart scholarships

Joshua's Hands was established in 1999 in memory of Joshua Guthrie, who was an enthusiastic community volunteer. Joshua's years of service were cut short by his death at the age of 16. Joshua's Hands seeks to continue to be his hands of service in the community, and to encourage others to serve.

The emphasis of the organization is expressed in its tag line: Extending hands for service and education from grateful hearts. The organization offers A Servant's Heart Scholarship which is essay-based, and open to all high school seniors in Loudoun County.

The 2018 recipients are from varied backgrounds with diverse interests. Hayes Baker (Loudoun Valley High School), who will attend George Mason University in the fall, has given many hours to work with Scouts, church groups, and those with developmental disabilities. In his essay, he wrote about a friend he made in a group home: "I consider him to be a significant mentor, as he taught me that sometimes the best way to be a friend is not to try to change people but give them the security and space

to grow as they feel comfortable."

The winning essay from Loudoun County High School was written by Charlie von Kleek, whose experiences abroad have opened his eyes to how small our world really is, and how privileged we are as Americans. He helped start Friends Without Borders to bridge the gap between upper level Spanish students and younger English Language Learners. Charlie plans to attend Virginia Tech to double major in Spanish and Aeronautics.



Hope Knudson



Campbell Hayes Baker



Charlie von Kleek

The John Champe High School winner was only our second ever video submission - by Hope Knudson. When her sister asked for help documenting a humanitarian project, the light bulb came on. That was the first of many projects to benefit from her creative skills. In her video submission she noted: "I came to learn that service can be fun; and it can be unique to your own sense of style and creativity." Knudson will attend Brigham Young University in the fall to major in advertising.

Joshua's Hands proudly announces a \$1000 scholarship to each of our three winners. To learn more go to www.JoshuasHands.org.

Purcellville Mayor and Town Council swearing in

On June 25 Purcellville's 55th swearing in of Mayor and Town Council took place in the town hall. Said Mayor Kwasi Fraser, "We do this because we love the community and we're here

GOVERNMENT

to serve." Pictured from l to r: Town Manager David Mekarski, Council Member Ted Greenly, Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Council Members Joel Grewe and Tip Stinnette. The new council took office July 1.



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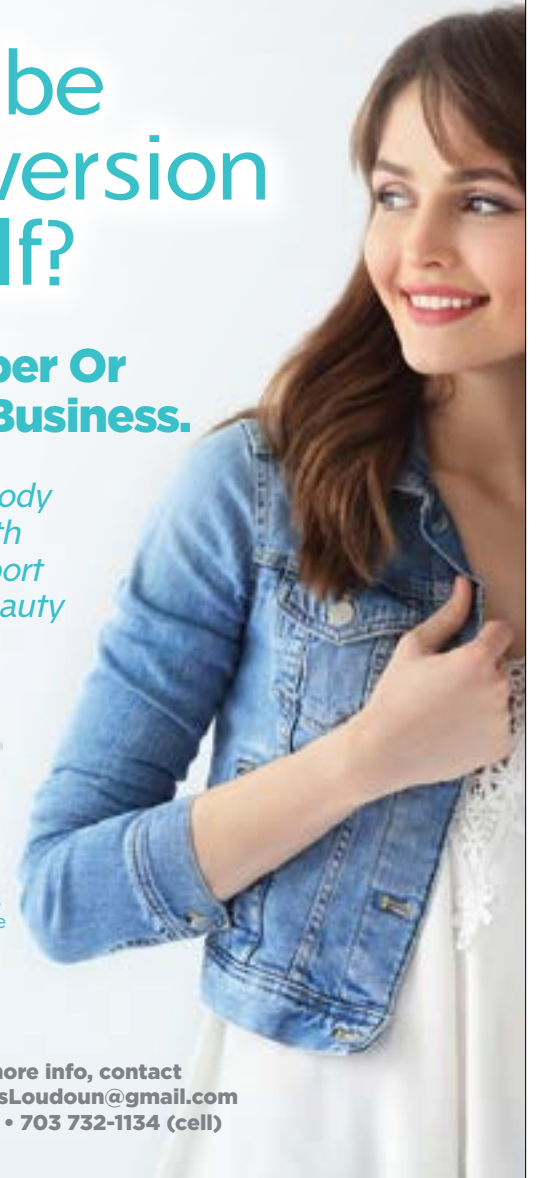
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Lolita ... freedom walker

BY ANDREA GAINES

Each year Americans celebrate the principles that established the United States as an independent country. And, we celebrate the freedom of the individual. The freedom of the individual to direct their own life and fulfill their potential.

This concept, the power of human potential, is the life's work of a woman named Lolita Walker and her company, Walker & Walker Enterprises. Walker was an exhibitor at the recent Purcellville Music and Arts Festival and will be holding a women's weekend renewal retreat in the Purcellville area this fall. It's fantastic that our area attracts such diverse and worthy talent.

Lolita Walker works with individuals, professionals and businesspeople looking to improve their personal lives, careers, and other markers of that thing known as human potential.

Sometimes her work with clients relates to a specific event they are trying to work through, sometimes it involves an effort to manage a big life or career change, and sometimes it comes about through the simple desire of an individual or organization to find out more about who they are, and where they want to go. Being "free," according to Walker, "Is the notion of loving, living – and knowing – your whole self."

A certified life coach, Walker describes herself as an industrial engineer by trade, and someone who is now "in the business of helping people to thrive." She graduated from Morgan State University as an industrial engineer and has an MBA from Simmons College. From there she worked in the corporate world with The Gillette Company and CoverGirl Cosmetics where she helped the organization navigate the waves of change so common in business today.

Walker says she is all about things like "turning small wins into big victories," "thriving in your greatness," and "living your passions." But, for Walker, terms like this are more than just buzz words.

Having gone through some hard times of her own, including the loss

of her father, a son born three months premature, a divorce and the challenges that come from raising a child as a single mom, says Walker, "I have used the tools I now teach other women to use. I know how to move through change successfully because I've done it myself." There can be a good result, Walker notes, "on the other end of it." But, she says, you need to have the courage to "take a pause to figure out who you are, to really 'articulate and affirm' yourself."

Busy women, including women in the business world and stay-at-home moms, are Walker's core market. These are individuals who, as Walker describes, rarely take a pause to care



Photo credit: Bwana Bomani

Walker & Walker Enterprises' BE FREE Creed

Believe in your strengths & open your mind to now explore,
Expect moments to have meanings, which propel you to soar,
Face your fears head on, yet hold them at bay,
Release what is not progressing you on today,
Experience the unexpected, what you would normally let pass by,
Embrace the renewed you, who is not free to fly.

for and invest in themselves. "You get on an airplane," says Walker, "and the first thing they tell you is, if you get into trouble you need to put the oxygen mask on yourself before your try to help someone else. The same principle applies to women in everyday business and life situations. Take care of yourself first, so you can be there for the people who need and depend on you."

Per her website, Walker offers lots of ways for individuals to explore this kind of work, a 15-Minute Connect & Chat, a 30-Minute Coaching Intro, a 50-Minute Coaching session for what she calls "Stand-Alone Discovery," a 3-Month "Thrive in Your Greatness" Package, and more.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

County government calendar, July 2018

Highlights

Board of Supervisors

- Business Meeting, July 3, 5 p.m., Board Room, Government Center
- Public Hearing, July 11, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Business Meeting, July 19, 5 p.m., Government Center

Comp Plan Stakeholders Committee

- July 9, 6 p.m., Government Center

Historic District Review Committee

- July 9, 6 p.m., Government Center

Planning Commission

- Public Hearing, July 24, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Work Session, July 12, 6 p.m., Government Center

Rural Economic Business Development Strategy Committee

- Branding Subcommittee, July 10, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Government Center
- Committee at large, July 31, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Government Center

Zoning Ordinance Action Group (ZOAG)

- Full Group, July 4, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Government Center
- Rural Uses Subcommittee, July 11, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Government Center
- Urban/Suburban Subcommittee, July 18, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Government Center

Alphabetical Listing

Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board

- Builders Committee, July 24, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building
- ADUAB at large, July 10, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building

Animal Advisory Committee

- July 25, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center

Art Advisory Committee

- July 24, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Government Center

Board of Zoning Appeals

- July 26, 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m., Government Center

Commission on Aging Advisory Board

- July 10, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Ashbrook Place, Ashburn

Communications Commission

- Cable TV Franchise Performance & Renewal Committee, July 25, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Government Center
- Legislative Recommendations Committee, July 17, 5:30 p.m., Government Center
- Telecom Ordinance Review Committee, July 24, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Government Center
- CC at large, July 24, 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Government Center

Community Criminal Justice Board

- July 11, 4 p.m., Shenandoah Building

Community Policy Management Team

- July 19, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Shenandoah Building

Community Services Board

- July 2, Trailview Building
- Executive Committee, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Finance Committee, Policy Committee, and Services Development Committee, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- CSB at large, 6 p.m.

Continuum of Care

- General Membership, July 9, 12:30 - 2 p.m., Trailview Building
- Governance Board, July 17, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Shenandoah Building

Disability Services Board

- July 12, All Day, Government Center

Economic Development Advisory Commission

- Economic Development Advisory Commission, July 13, 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Schools Administration Building
- Partners, July 27, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Department of Economic Development

Economic Development Authority

- July 26, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Department of Economic Development

Facilities Standards Manual Public Review Committee

- July 18, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Government Center

Family Services Advisory Board

- July 12, 6:30 p.m., Shenandoah Building

Finance/Gov. Operations & Eco. Dev. Committee

- July 10, 6 p.m., Government Center

Health Council

- July 12, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Government Center

Heritage Commission (Strategic Planning)

- July 3, 5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Tuscarora Mill Restaurant, 6:30 p.m., Government Center

Housing Advisory Board

- July 11, 4 p.m., Shenandoah Building

Rural Economic Development Council

- July 3, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Government Center

Transit Advisory Board

- July 18, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center

Transportation & Land Use Committee

- July 17, 5:30 p.m., Government Center

Meeting locations

Loudoun County Government Center
1 Harrison Street, SE, Leesburg

Shenandoah Building
102 Heritage Way, NE, Leesburg

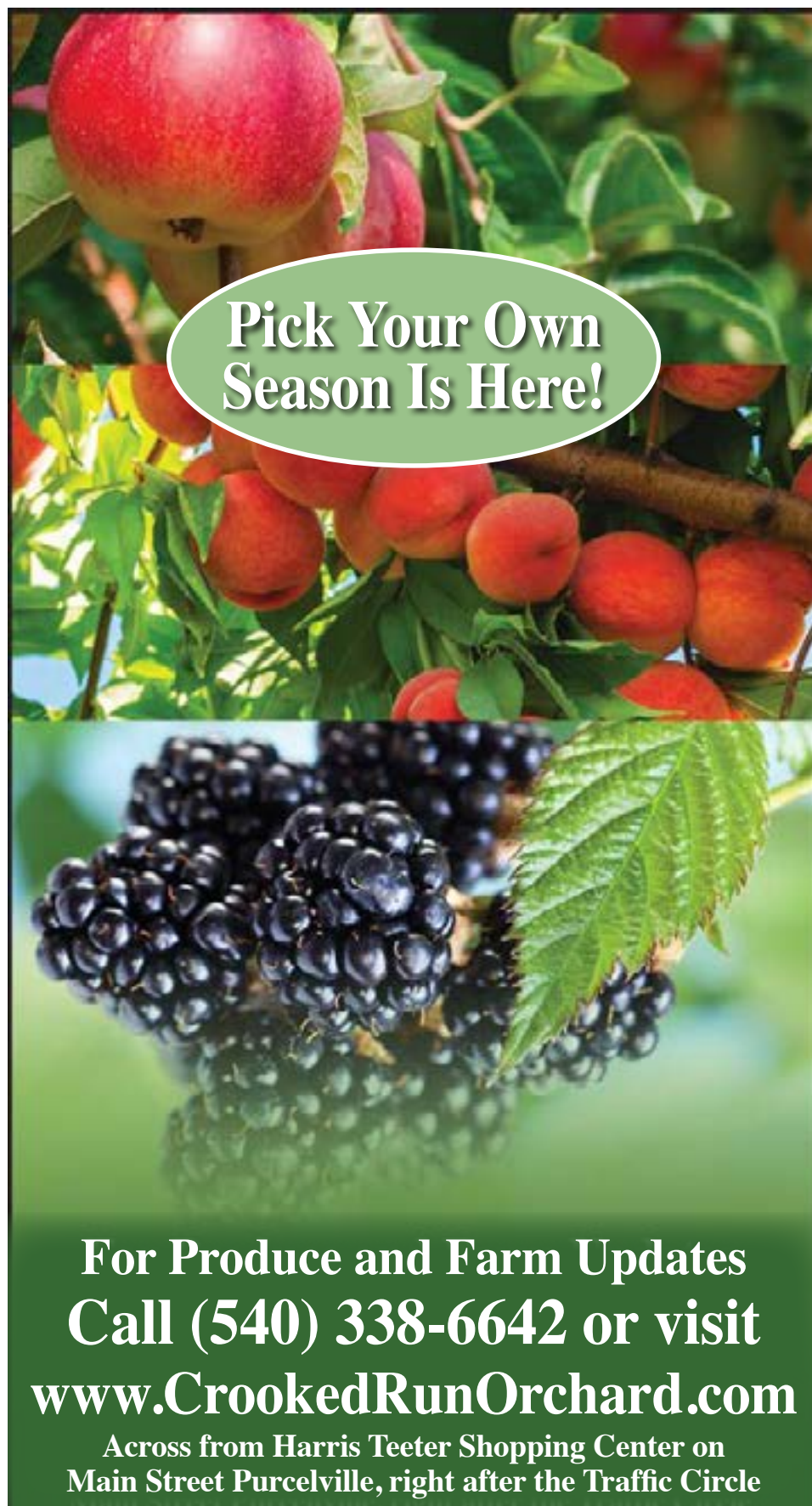
Schools Administration Building
21000 Education Ct., Ashburn

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

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

Trailview Building
906 Trailview Blvd., SE Leesburg

Other meetings take place at sites as noted.



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FREEDOM WALKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Her all-inclusive weekend retreats, like the one this September in Purcellville help women make personal and career breakthroughs via everyday activities such as cooking, and more traditional coaching-oriented activities such as vision boards, mindfulness, goal-setting and planning exercises that “rejuvenate, nourish and renew you,” says Walker.

Her services are tailored to the individual or group, and she likes to work enjoyment into everything, believing that growth can come as much from fun as it can from struggle.

Walker’s also offers complimentary

products and motivators via her website, www.LolitaWalker.com – “downloadable gifts from me to you” says the freedom-loving change artist. They include “10 Quick Steps to get yourself going” ... “10 Quick Tips on Organizational Change Management,” “11 Aspects of Life to Consider.” And, her Empowerment Shop tempts visitors to “invest in products that nourish your mind, body and soul.”

For more information on Walker’s September 21-23 Women’s Weekend Renewal Retreat in Purcellville go to www.LolitaWalker.com or email retreats@lolitawalker.com.



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Loudoun, Fauquier wineries among award winners at State Fair competition



Ten Virginia wineries, including two each from Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, won gold medals at the 25th State Fair of Virginia Commercial Wine Competition June 11. Maggie Malick Wine Caves in Loudoun and Pearmund Cellars in Fauquier, along with Ingleside Vineyards in Westmoreland, captured the most gold medals, with three each. The gold medalists captured their awards with 19 different wines. Nine wineries won silver awards, with 19 different wines, as well.

The competition drew nearly 110 entries from 27 Virginia wineries and meaderies statewide. A panel of wine retailers, writers, collectors, restaurateurs, and other industry professionals sampled and critiqued entries at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County. There were two medal categories, along with three

wine label categories. The Best in Show wines will be announced Sept. 27 at the state fair's benefit gala, Black Tie & Boots.

Other gold medal winners included Willowcroft Farm Vineyards of Loudoun, and Vint Hill Craft Winery of Fauquier.

Silver medal winners included Casanel Vineyards and Maggie Malick Wine Caves of Loudoun, and Philip Carter Winery and Vint Hill Craft Winery of Fauquier.

Virginia is ranked fifth nationwide in the number of wineries and wine grape production, and is home to more than 250 wineries. As of 2015, according to an economic impact study, the Virginia wine industry employed more than 8,200 full-time workers and contributed almost \$1.4 billion to the state's economy.

Birds of a feather swim together

The only thing more beautiful than these two birds, male and female peacocks, is the beautiful spirit of the person who shared the photo with us, Frannie Taylor of Lincoln. The birds belong to one of her neighbors and are well-known visitors to area farms, yards, and, obviously ... pools! The males (you are right) are peacocks while the females are – technically – called a “peahens.” Thanks again for your thoughtfulness, Frannie.



Acoustic on the Green presents Todd Wright with daughter Ryan Wright Saturday – July 7

Singer songwriter Todd Wright started out as a drummer before moving to the front of the stage to allow his storytelling abilities to really shine. Following his success with GetawayCar, he appeared alongside Butch Walker on his album "Cover Me Badd."

Wright has also toured with the Pat McGee Band and played with Better Than Ezra. In late 2012, alongside Mary Ann

Redmond, he penned a duet, "L'amour peut prendre froid," for French superstar, Johnny Hallyday and international superstar Celine Dion. For this song, he and Redmond received the Washington Area Music Award for songwriters of the year and song of the year in 2012.

In 2014, he co-wrote the international smash "Blind Heart" recorded by European EDM giants Cazzette. The song reached number 1 on Billboard's Dance Chart and

has had over 10 million streams on Spotify.

Wright operates a creative music studio called HalfKing, part of which is dedicated to the development of upcoming, talented songwriters and providing direct professional mentorship. He is co-founder and musical director of Jingle Jam Christmas Charity concert that has raised over \$100,000 in its nine years for Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund.

Ryan, daughter of Todd Wright, joins



her dad on stage Saturday, July 7 from 7-9 p.m. at the Leesburg Town Green, 25 West Market Street, and it's a family affair for sure. For more info go to www.acousticonthegreen.com.



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Red, white & blue freedom blissberry cheesecake popsicles

BY ANDREA GAINES

Do I like cheesecake? Yes. Do I like cheesecake even more when it gets a little frozen in the refrigerator? Yes. Does this give me the idea for a drop-dead delicious Summer treat? Yes, yes, yes – Blissberry Cheesecake Popsicles.

This treat combines a simple cheesecake mixture with fresh raspberries and blueberries – now available locally – into a popsicle

Imagine the screams when, as your guests or family members finish their summer salad or grilled hamburger, you casually ask: “I just whipped up some cheesecake popsicles ... anyone want one?”

Ingredients:

Layer #1, Sweetened Cream Cheese: 1/4 cup honey (or sugar), 1 cup almond milk (or regular milk/cream), 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, a pinch of salt, and a brick of cream cheese.

Layer #2, Raspberries: 1 cup fresh raspberries, and 1-1/2 tablespoons of raw honey or sugar.

Layer #3: Blueberries: 1 cup fresh blueberries, and 1 tablespoon of raw honey or sugar.

Directions:

Use any kind of popsicle freezing form you have, or, improvise by using small paper cups and wooden sticks.

Mix each of the 3 individual ingredient



levels thoroughly, creating your sweetened cream cheese blend, your raspberry blend, and your blueberry blend. You don't have to heat the berry mixtures. But, do wash and dry the berries carefully first, and don't be afraid to smash and/or puree them when you mix them with the sweetener.

Pour the sweetened cream cheese mixture into your molds first, filling them halfway, following with the berry mixtures. Freeze for an hour or so, and then insert your popsicle sticks, or follow the directions on your popsicle forms.

Bonus Nutrition & Flavor: Add a quarter cup of almond milk to the cream cheese mixture and sprinkle the popsicles with your favorite granola, as you insert the sticks, and freeze.

Share your experiences with our recipes – or your own – on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeLeader.



Favorites from Facebook, July ...

New this month from the Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today, we'd like to share with you our favorite posts from Facebook:

From Holly Raymond, in response to our request for summer ice cream recipes ...

“I make homemade vanilla in the maker and then grill peaches to top. Drizzle with a bit of bourbon. I know – too simple.”

From Marc Pahl in response to our post from the Loudoun County Farm Bureau ... “Thank you for sharing this as well as [posts from] Loudoun County Farm Bureau, Inc. I will be applying myself and appreciate the opportunity to apply through these shared posts!”

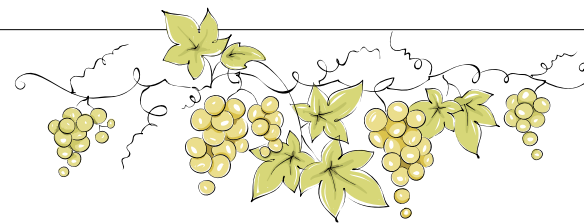
The Loudoun County Animal services asked us to “like if you like” when promoting an adoption fair in Ashburn. We like.



Purcellville Park & Recreation shared information about a guided nature walk at the Chapman DeMary Trail in

Purcellville with a stunning photo of a Mountain Bluebird, one of the bird species that frequents the trail. We like that, too.

The Lincoln Preservation Foundation posted and we shared a message about a little known holiday called “Juneteenth Independence Day” or Freedom Day. Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement proclaiming the end of slavery.



SMALL BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

Free Yourself

BY ANDREA GAINES

July is the month of independence and freedom. Independence and freedom in the you-live-in-a-democracy sense. And, independence and freedom in the sense that it's high summer and high time you did something to liberate yourself from the everyday – to try something new. Here are just three local companies that would love to help you do that.

Balloons Unlimited

ALDIE

Blue Ridge Skydiving Adventures

NEW MARKET

Empower Adventures

MIDDLEBURG

To have your small business featured in our Small Business Grapevine, contact Andrea Gaines via email at andrea@andregaines.com.

THEME FOR AUGUST

“It’s Hot Out There”

THEME FOR SEPTEMBER

“Fall Forward”

THEME FOR OCTOBER

“Harvest Moon”

An airy kind of freedom

Balloons Unlimited is an Aldie-based company offering hot air balloon rides in the Shenandoah Valley and Middleburg area, and at its own airport in New Market, Virginia.

These are serious “air people”. If it can be done in the air – like the hot air balloon ride, if it can be done using air – like your standard delivery of balloon bouquets, or if it can be dressed up with air – like the big bunches of balloons you need for an event, Balloons Unlimited is happy to oblige.

The company also sells and rents giant inflatable balloons, and offers aerial photography services. And, they can put your company logo or message on any one

of thousands of merchandising products.

Call these great and airy folks at 703 327-0444, or visit their store at 23217 Meetinghouse Lane, in Aldie. The company’s owner, Bob Thomas, can be reached via email: fireflyer@me.com.

Freedom via scenic drop

You learn all kinds of things when you look into the fantastic small businesses serving our area and surrounding region.

Balloons Unlimited, for example, leases out its airport to a company called Blue Ridge Skydiving Adventures, one of several skydiving businesses serving our region, along with Shenandoah Flying Adventures and Skydive Orange, located in Orange County.

Blue Ridge offers folks lots of ways to skydive. You can go for a tandem jump, what they call accelerated free-fall skydiving, or instructor-assisted deployment skydiving training.

As the company says, “If you just want to check off a bucket list item, or if you want to learn to skydive, our staff is happy to provide you with a memorable experience.”

Website: www.skydivenewmarket.com,

email: skydiverDZO@gmail.com, phone: 540 450-6070.

Freedom on the zip, horse, and massage table

The website for a company called Empower Adventures in Middleburg, tempts you to “Relax, refresh, and revive on an eco adventure within the peaceful canopy of trees.”

That suggestion alone – relaxing in a cool canopy of trees – relaxes my muscles, calms my mind, and makes me feel free.

But, this outfit goes far beyond that, with things like treetop zip tours, eco survival activities, nature hikes, “Moonlight Zip Tours,” and a “Kiddo Zip Line.” They also offer guest spa-type packages with Salamander Resort – with names like “Zip & Zen Experiences, Zip & Ride Adventures, and Zip & Sip Experiences.”

You won’t go as high or as far as you would with Balloons Unlimited or one of the skydiving companies featured here, but a special kind of freedom will be experienced nonetheless.

Empower Adventures is located at 500 N Pendleton Street in Middleburg; 540 692-ZIP1.



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Foot stomp 'in Farm-Support' in fun July 13

It will take place in one of the most historic buildings in Loudoun County, and the flavor of the thing will match the ambiance, perfectly.

COMMUNITY

Join the Loudoun Barnstormers for an authentically-authentic and perfectly-tuned Barn Dance at the Waterford Old School, Friday, July 13 from 7 to 11 p.m.

There will be a live "caller" for the dance. And, here's the hidden beauty of the event.

The mission of the Loudoun Barnstormers is to protect

the rural heritage of Loudoun County. They've organized monthly Friday night dances at barns all around Loudoun – filled with fun, food, and all manner of beverages.

Tickets for the Waterford event, presented in partnership with the Waterford Foundation, are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available through Eventbrite and/or www.loudounbarnstormers.org.



The Waterford Old School is located at 40222 Fairfax Street in Waterford. This event is for adults 21 and over. Families with children are welcome at the monthly Sunday community barn dances at Georges Mill Farm (www.georgesmillcheese.com).

P.S. The Cowbell Kitchen, which describes itself as "a farm and local producer-driven food business," will be offering their detectable at the event.

Tornadoes confirmed in Middleburg



The photo shown here was taken by the Blue Ridge Leader after we were alerted to the damage by Jeff and Kelly Davis who live on Airmont Road and lost 8 trees. The Davises reported that the winds around their home shock the structure violently and came without warning.

National Weather Service confirmed that Thursday night June 21 into Friday morning June 22, as torrential rains fell in our area, a twister touched down in Loudoun County.

The touchdown occurred at

approximately 3:30 a.m. on Friday morning, just about 3 miles east of Middleburg.

Damaged trees in the area, combined with radar and other weather measurements put the twister in the category of an EF-0 storm – indicating winds of 65 to 85 miles per hour.

Official reports identified that the significant tree damage and large uprooted trees occurred along Sally Mill Road and Light Horse Court. The location is just south of Route 50 heading west from Aldie towards Middleburg.

Planning ahead for severe weather



Watch vs. warning ... what's the difference

A tornado watch means that current weather patterns are capable of producing severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. It does not mean that the weather folks have sighted a thunderstorm or twister on radar or otherwise, rather, people should be on the lookout for both.

A warning is more specific and more immediate, and instructs the public to take action. A severe thunderstorm warning, for example, tells the public that this particular kind of weather is imminent their area – occurring or about to occur based on human observation or radar – and that you should seek shelter.

The specific danger of severe storms

Thunderstorms can cause ground lighting, heavy rain, heavy winds, flash flooding, hail and/or any combination thereof. A "severe" thunderstorm warning is a term of art, indicating that wind gusts of 58 mph or greater are coming/occurring and/or that hail associated with the storm is 1-inch or larger in diameter.

Super high winds, lightning, hail and heavy rain cause outright damage and generate secondary dangers such as flying debris, fires and flood waters.

The basics of thunderstorm and tornado safety

The best way to protect yourself from severe thunderstorms is to get inside a sturdy building. Go to a basement or a protected inside room (bathroom, closet, center hallway), avoiding areas around windows. Go under a table, and/or cover yourself with blankets, cushions, a mattress, etc. for extra protection.

The same kind of advice applies to tornadoes – get to a strong, low, protective place. Mobile homes, vehicles, and outdoor sheds, etc. should be avoided. Mobile homes, in particular, are extremely dangerous places to be in tornado. The best option is to get inside a fixed structure or storm shelter.

If you are out driving and can't get to a building or shelter, get to the lowest spot you can find and cover yourself to protect from flying debris. Do not seek shelter in a vehicle or in a highway overpass. A tornado's high winds can easily pick up a vehicle, and the wind tunnel action created by a tornado has a scouring effect at and within the overpass site, generating lots of flying debris and clearing everything – including people – in its path.

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WARNER BROOK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members, and youth league sports representatives. Eleven months later, in October 2015, Warner LCC submitted a formal annexation proposal to the Town. The Warner Brook application is currently under review by Purcellville.

The Warner LLC's property is located north of Rt. 7 along Purcellville Rd. and across from the Mayfair subdivision, which has approximately 262 homes and 20 acres of industrial development. Currently in the County, the Warner property is zoned JLMA-3 – one house per three acres. Developing it under its current zoning designation would allow for approximately 42 homes, consistent with surrounding residential subdivisions, such as Wright Farm and Chestnut Hills. Town staff have noted in a report on the annexation proposal that the uses and densities proposed, "... will be mismatched with the adjoining land uses in the Wright Farm development."

The Warner Brook developers, nonetheless, are requesting annexation into the Town of Purcellville, to give them access to Town utilities and, thereby allowing them to increase the property's density (and corresponding market value) from 42 single family homes to a proposed 160 homes, 24 acres of industrial development (150,000 sq. ft. with 550 parking spaces), a nine-acre sportsplex (120,000 sq. ft. and 270 parking spaces), and 11 acres of mixed-use commercial development (70,000 sq. ft. with 350 parking spaces). Annexation has the potential to increase the value of the development from some \$15

In a Warner Brook Annexation Report dated Nov. 29, 2017, Town staff noted, "Public Works commented on the sewer layout with specific emphasis on capacity, connection points and flows. Initial review of sanitary capacities indicates that based on anticipated flows provided by the applicant there will not be enough capacity in the VIP pump station to handle the increase proposed by Warner Brook. It is not clear what type of upgrade will be needed to convey adequate flows."

Regarding water capacity, the Town's consultant has determined that the inclusion of the Warner Brook property will cause the both Average Daily Demand and the Maximum Daily Demand to exceed the capacity of the Town's water works as shown in the Virginia Department of Health letter dated Nov. 3, 2015 (1,103,600 gpd)."



The two-lane Rt. 611/Purcellville Road borders the Warner LLC land on the west side.

million to upwards of \$100 million.

The proposed development would generate 8,000 to 10,000 daily vehicle trips in and around intersections and roadways currently rated at D or F by transportation studies. In an Oct. 23, 2017 memo, Town staff reviewing the proposed Warner Brook annexation stated, "Given the layout, the uses proposed could generate new future trips up to 10,000 trips per day ..."

With respect to the project's ultimate density and development goals, while not detailed on Warnerbrook.info, in response to questions from BRL, one Warner Brook representative noted that the ball fields would remain, but only pending market demand that would warrant a more intensive commercial use. Developments of this magnitude are typically done in phases, allowing the developer to come back with a request for more intensive use on the property at some point in the future.

The developer's website is actively promoting the proposal as a revenue-generating project for the Town, and a huge cost-saving measure – with new utility hook-up fees and big utility savings.

It first suggests that if this annexation doesn't occur, the Town's utility rates will increase starting in FY20 by nine percent annually, noting "Address the need in the FY20 budget for the water and sewer fund to increase rates by 9% annually through FY24 (56.9% increase over five years), to avoid fund imbalances." This does not take into consideration using one percent of the meals tax to fund the Utility Enterprise, revenue from non-tax sources, such as cell tower leasing, and reduction of operational expenses, such as the \$300,000 chargeback reduction in FY18.

Arguably, the nine percent projection of utility rate increases in FY20 assumes that the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) estimates for the next



Warner Brook Development Concept Layout.

five to ten years are accurate. But owing to present and future advances in technology, some of these costs might be significantly reduced. Considered in this respect, quotes used to estimate the CIP budget projections are two to three years old.

One-time hookup fees for new development do generate new revenue, but do not account for the total cost to the Town for the ongoing expenses related to dramatic growth – in other words, the long-term costs. High density development triggers high infrastructure demands and management costs. These include increased traffic congestion, the need to build new schools, new pipes, new roads, new wells, as well as an increase in staffing, including police, fire and rescue, and maintenance personnel. In addition, adding users to the water and sewer system requires the Town to spend more money to support the corresponding demand.

The Town is awaiting a response from the Warner Brook developers to the November 2017 planning staff memorandum on the proposed annexation.

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Piano 2 Go announces 29 Winners in national piano auditions



Front: L to R: Lilianna and Liliana. Middle: L to R: Nicholas, River, Beckett, Olivia, Sanjana, Cate, Jaden and Lily. Back L to R: Cecilia, Pretlow, Elisheva, Ryder, Naomi, Zoey and Jennifer Warren-Baker.

This spring, 29 piano students of Piano 2 Go, a mobile lesson service in Loudoun County, were declared winners in the National Piano Playing Auditions, administered by the National Guild of Piano Teachers, a division of the American College of Musicians. Since 1929, the Piano Guild has been holding annual piano auditions across the US and beyond. Each spring, the auditions provide an opportunity for students to present memorized programs of one to twenty pieces before a qualified judge. After setting goals and working to achieve awards, students receive feedback, constructive criticism, and ratings at the auditions. A report card, pin, and certificate are bestowed upon each student who completes the process. Piano 2 Go owner and teacher Jennifer Warren-Baker produced 29 winners at this year's auditions in Leesburg.

COMMUNITY

“It’s easy to play 1 or 2 pieces at a recital, but much more difficult to perform a memorized program of 5 or 10 pieces, along with scales and cadences” said Baker. “These students have worked very hard and deserve to be recognized for their exceptional achievement in piano.”

National winners were Savita Shah and Pretlow Stevenson and the state winners were Olivia Bosley, Cecilia Condie, Jaden Fernando and Liliana Fernando. District winners were River Afzal, Naomi Ekanayake, Mary Joyce, Zoey Roberts, Owen Salter, Sanjana Sahu and Annika Shah – local winners were Kendra Avila, Cate Corder, Lily Kessler, Micah Dessler, Elisheva Dessler, Maren Zehfuss, Lilianna Fava, Nicholas Fava, Cameron Jordan, Beckett Finn, Ryder Finn, Eamon Salter, Maddie Fry, Zander Loy, Jonah Miller and Brealynn Taylor.

Painted Adirondack Love Seats tickets on sale now

Discover Purcellville has done it again and is currently showcasing their third summer art project, Painted Adirondack Love Seats. The love seats are sprinkled around the Town of Purcellville – and one in Round Hill – in front of each sponsor’s business. This year 44 artists volunteered their time and talent to paint the handmade Amish love seats.

The auction date is Nov. 17 at the Purcellville Skating Rink and tickets are sold at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3496354.



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WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the still-cool shade of Dillions Woods on July 21, continue to cultivate the spot's reputation for good, old-time country comfort and fun.

Like the Dillions Woods "temperance picnics" put on by the Good Templars of Loudoun County in the 1870s, Purcellville's



Leashed, friendly dogs welcome

Wine & Food festival has developed quite a following, with thousands of people expected to attend. But, now, however, thanks to the end of Prohibition – and the small distilleries popping up around western Loudoun – guests can enjoy a nip of local spirits ... without any Templars

giving them the evil eye.

Wineries, vineyards, breweries, distilleries, restaurants, boutiques, and specialty pop-up shops will be there, offering tastings, family-oriented, spread-out-your-blanket dining options, demonstrations, and local crafts sales. Tickets to the VIP area include a one-hour early admission, six wine glasses for tastings, 12 sampling tickets, three bottles of local wine, and comfortable table and chairs with a complimentary swag bag. But, even the cheap seats – the bring-your-own-blanket seats – are a great time.

There will be live music and entertainment, too.

Performances at the Allstate Main Stage include blues, funk, soul and R&B from the Potomac Groove Project, rockabilly and vintage rock from Loudoun's own King Street Kats, and the blues-influenced, American rock band The Virginia Southpaws. At the Purcellville Arts Council

Art in the Garden Stage, festival goers will enjoy the music of Mink's Miracle Medicine (Melissa Wright Solo), KOABD (King Of a Big Deal), Kathryn Colleen & Reuben James, and Jessica Endara.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 » Wine & Food Festival memories

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MMS stokes the fires of early creativity with AiM

BY ANDREA GAINES

Artists in Middleburg (AiM) has teamed up with the Middleburg Montessori School (MMS) to stoke the creative fires in elementary school students, bringing in gift local artists to show kids the basics of sketching, and how to plan a piece of art, mix colors and apply the medium to canvas.

Throughout the winter and into the early spring and summer AiM artist Anthony Barham spent several afternoons a month drawing, painting and working with the school's students, an incredible opportunity for

the budding artistic mind.

Born in England, Barham cultivated his own artistic fires and honed his painting craft in the antique business, where he worked to restore old master paintings. He now exhibits his art all over Virginia and takes commissions in the area with his wife Misia Broadhead through their fine arts enterprise, The Broadhead-Barham Studio.

Earlier this year, Barnham helped students produce works of art then sold as part of an auction organized by Art of the Piedmont to benefit MMS. AiM's activities continued into

the spring for an April student show that included work from young people at Claude Thompson Elementary School and Foxcroft School. And, the creativity continued to flow as Barham and AiM helped elementary students create the backdrops for their end-of-year program, a student adaptation of the musical "Annie."

"MMS is so thankful to have an organization like AiM, as well as generous and talented local artists, such as Mr. Barham, promoting art education. We look forward to continuing this partnership for years



Photo credit Sandy Danielson

Artist Anthony Barham works with MMS students.

to come," said a representative for the school.

AiM is making plans to continue and expand the effort this fall.

Town of Purcellville Draft Comprehensive Plan hearing set for July 19

The Town of Purcellville Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a Draft Comprehensive Plan Thursday, July 19 at Town Hall.

The Comprehensive Plan is an important set of policies and goals that guide the future development of the Town.

Purcellville's current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in December 2006 and looks forward to the year 2025. This Plan Update, currently underway, will incorporate changes the Town has already seen over the past decade and reflect Purcellville's vision for the future. Input from community members is essential

in the comprehensive planning process.

This Draft is the culmination of numerous meetings, workshops, and events that have occurred over the past several years that many of you have taken part in. As we enter the home stretch of the process, the Planning Commission is seeking feedback on the latest

Plan Update from members of the community.

The Draft Plan can be reviewed at Town Hall, 221 Nursery Avenue, Purcellville or online at PlanPurcellville.com. Feedback on the Plan can be provided online, by mail or by attending the upcoming hearing at Town Hall.

WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

With an old-fashioned corn-hole tournament, wine tastings, picnic blanket dining, live music and sales of local arts and crafts, the format of the festival is fantastically cool and casual.

So, plan to come. You can see all event details at www.PurcellvilleWineandFood.com. In the meantime:

Purcellville residents enjoy specially priced tickets – call 540-338-7421 for more information.

General admission includes a complimentary wine glass and a tasting ticket. Check out eventbrite.com for more ticket options.

A free shuttle service is available from

1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and road yachts will be available from will available from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a sober ride home.

Guests are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets.

No outside alcohol is permitted to be brought into the event. And, no outside food (other than baby food), with the exception of food brought by VIP ticket holders.

Make a weekend of it ... the Loudoun Bed & Breakfast Guild is a great place to find overnight accommodations (www.LoudounBandB.com).

The festival is located at the Fireman's Field Complex, 250 South Nursery Avenue in Purcellville, across from the Town Hall.



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**LOUDOUN COUNTY FAIR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

With the leadership of the Loudoun 4-H organization touching every aspect of this classic country event, everything you would expect to experience at a country fair is here – from egg-toss and pig-kissing contests to the time set aside for rabbit hopping “practice” and “showmanship.”

This year's fair will feature top-notch champion livestock competitions, homegrown food, horseback riding exhibitions, and the like.

The science of farm life will be on display. And, the fair's Livestock Sale will give Loudoun's 4-H youth the opportunity to sell their market class project animals in a live-bid, floor-auction format.

Entertainment will include live music from some of the region's best acts – including the Shannon Bielski and Moonlight Drive Band and the Jody Pyles Band. And, then there is the Loudoun Youth Music Jam, featuring Loudoun County PRCS Battle of the Bands participants Wim Tapley, Sam and Ella, and various Loudoun Valley High School vocalists. You'll enjoy dancing from the Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers. And, there will be a magic show ... and a corn bounce ... and a watermelon-eating contest.

True Grit Rodeo will be showcased at the fair, along with the Bar C Ranch Petting Zoo. Farm education – of the most fun kind – will be here, too, with the Mobile Dairy Classroom Show.

Wildlife Ambassadors will fly

through the air, Crickett the Entertainer – Stiltwalker will strut his stuff, and the Circus Stella Dog Show will show everyone how canine acrobatics are done.

Victoria Circus will soar and Stoney Roberts Demolition Derby will be smashing things up ... safely! Hogback Mountain Pony Rides and Unicorn Photos with Chris Weber Studios will be here – just in case you find yourself with nothing to do. And, there will be Heritage Crafts Demonstrations, too.

And, the food. Oh, the food. Fair dinners put on by The 4-H'er Dairy, Goat, Beef, Sheep, Poultry, and Swine Clubs are scheduled for Monday through Saturday, and will fill your plate and stomach with whatever you desire – hamburgers, hot dogs, cookies, roast beef, mac & cheese, green beans, potatoes, corn on the cob ... you won't have to eat for a month afterwards.

It will be exhausting, and fun. And, there are lots of both daily and weekly ticket options.

The fair schedule – going from early morning to late in the evening – is broken down day-by-day, hour-by-hour on the fair website.

If the event was six weeks long instead of just six days, there still wouldn't be enough time to take it all in.

But, try ... you won't be disappointed.

The Loudoun County Fair takes place at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds, 17558 Dry Mill Road in Leesburg. For tickets and details go to www.LoudounCountyFair.com.

PLANNING FOR LIFE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

would still cover 91 percent of estimated program costs, declining to 78 percent by 2042 and then gradually increasing to 85 percent by 2092. The Trustees note that long-range projection of Medicare costs are highly uncertain.

Why are Social Security and Medicare facing financial challenges?

Social security and Medicare are funded primarily through the collection of payroll taxes. Because of demographic and economic factors including higher retirement rates and lower birth rates, there will be fewer workers per beneficiary over the long term, worsening the strain on trust funds.

What is being done to address these challenges?

Both reports urge Congress to address the financial challenges facing these programs soon, so that solutions will be less drastic and may be implemented gradually, lessening the impact on the public.

You can view a combined summary of the 2018 Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports and a full copy of the Social Security report at ssa.gov. You can find the full Medicare report at cms.gov.

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FOLLOW THE NEWS ONLINE!**ASK DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

would learn about the following week at school, but now the teen is able to follow the night's activities live online. A break-up can feel like the end of the world to teens, and now they're able to see how easily their ex is moving on.

Untreated mental illness, and the other identified contributing factors for suicide identified by the CDC all continue to be very important. But when it comes to our teens and their wellbeing, there is no denying that technology overuse has become a major factor that needs to be taken seriously.

So, what can we do? First, understanding the teen brain – and its limitations – is a must. For teens, the prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain that forms judgements, weighs decisions and outcomes, controls emotions and impulses isn't fully developed until the mid-20s. This is also why teens sometimes engage in dangerous behaviors, break rules,

push the limits in all sorts of ways and sometimes do unintelligent things online.

I recommend that parents get more involved by finding out what their teens are up to when it comes to gaming, social media and other online behavior. Monitoring and setting limits, as well as modelling healthy technology behaviors are a few things parents can actively do to ensure that their teen is doing okay. Parents of teens who are emotionally sensitive or immature or who have mental health or social/emotional challenges should consider being even more involved by gaining access to their teens' accounts.

If you or someone you love is at risk for suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800 273-8255.

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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A Dream Kitchen out of the pages of a Magazine.

New to Virginia and looking to update a recently purchased home, this family approached Abbey Design Center with the dream of having a kitchen with a 'straight out of a magazine' look. Their kitchen was small, outdated and needed some major design and layout changes in order to achieve this dream layout and design.

To reconfigure the layout of the kitchen, some major construction had to be completed. The wall that separated the dining and cooking area was removed and the load-bearing beam for the ceiling was trimmed to more than half its original thickness to increase the height of ceiling. This higher ceiling would help give the kitchen a more open and spacious feel. The next project was to relocate the HVAC

exchange and built-in pantry. This relocation meant a considerable upgrade to the amount of storage space in the new kitchen.

Once the construction was complete, the newly finished space was ready for the true design elements - hardwood floors were installed, off-white cabinets with a contrasting espresso island with granite countertops were put in and topped with a stainless steel vent hood and cooktop. The homeowners worked closely with Abbey Design Center to carefully select the glass subway tile backsplash to coordinate with their smoky glass pendant lighting to add that extra flare and give the kitchen the stunning magazine look. To finish off the space, Abbey replaced the outdated

popcorn ceiling with a smooth finish and a fresh coat of paint.

Abbey Design Center was able to give these homeowners more storage space, natural light, and a beautiful color palette to bring the space together perfectly. This homeowner had the dream of making their kitchen look like it was straight out a magazine but never imagined it would be stunning enough to be featured in one. "I will live here for another 60 plus years and it is all because of Abbey Design Center's hard work!" Abbey Design Center was more than happy to bring this magazine kitchen to life and go beyond expectations for their customers!

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