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Envision Loudoun Update

Fiscal impact vs. economic impact vs. quality of life

ANDREA GAINES

On July 19, the same night that the Conservation Easement program proposal was presented at the Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, staff presented the BOS with a Draft Comprehensive Plan, and supporting documents developed as part of the Envision Loudoun process – now taking the form of Loudoun 2040.

A decidedly pro-preservation public continues to put enormous pressure on the County to protect undeveloped land – safeguarding both its fiscal house and residents' quality of life. At the same time, the EL Stakeholders Committee and others are encouraging the County to put its trust in the seemingly limitless economic upside of aggressive, pro-growth policies.

Public demands versus nice-to-haves

The public has expressed its views on the new Comprehensive Plan with great specificity.

It strongly favors the three-part suburban east, transitional middle, and rural west growth management strategy – maintaining the TPA as is, promoting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »



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THE LOUDOUN COUNTY FAIR



A whole lotta animals, a whole lotta heart and a whole lotta fun. Rockin' since 1936."

Finding the hero inside

ANDREA GAINES

According to experts, right around age 14 or 15, a young person is developing more and more intellectual skills, and early perception and insight skills. Their sense of humor changes, and while they are still susceptible to "naive opinions and one-sided arguments," they are increasingly reflective, and analytical – wondering, thinking, and exploring moral and ethical issues.

If they like the idea of helping people, responding to those with needs in the community, operating an ambulance, or maybe being a firefighter or EMS, this is the age when they might be wondering "Do I have a hero inside? Do I have what it takes to be a first-responder?"

Enter a program called *Fire & EMS Career*

Exploring, a one-year, vocational training school of sorts for young adults aged 14 to 16 interested in the fire and rescue – and related careers – field.

Kids in their early teen years are the perfect audience and students for this kind of program. They are looking to stretch themselves and find out what makes them ...tick. And, this kind of program can help them find the answers.

In *Fire & EMS Career Exploring*, youth are assigned to a specific "post" – Explorer Post 6140 in Purcellville – and meet on the second and third Fridays of the month, starting in late August, going all the way through June of the next year.

They pay a modest, one-time fee of \$75, which covers the entire program, their

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Kuhn does it all with moxie

ANDREA GAINES

Large and small corporations, and the influential people who run them, are known for their charity work – donating to the local food bank, holding an annual fundraiser, helping out when a non-profit needs new office space.

But, when a particular top executive is known, not just for supporting different community projects ... but launching them, and investing enormous amounts of money, staff time, and expertise to keep them going, you understand immediately that a very special person is behind the effort, with a very special motivation.

Such a person, and company, is Chuck Kuhn, founder, President and CEO of JK Moving Services, a worldwide “moving-plus” company headquartered in Sterling.

In corporate terms, the plus stands for the fact that JK operates locally, nationally, and internationally, and provides, not just moving services, but storage, relocation, logistics, asset management, archival services, and document imaging, disposal, and recycling.

It is the largest independent moving company in North America. And, it serves everyone – from, as Kuhn relates, the local family that fell on hard times when their home burned to the ground, to American Presidents and Fortune 500 companies. One of the company’s most iconic photos shows a JK Moving truck in front of the White House.

In personal terms, the benefits that Kuhn and his company bring to the world can be summed up in the little words that make up the JK brand’s promise. “Care and Respect.” These things, said Kuhn, flow to all and in all interactions with the company – whether you are a customer, a supplier, an employee, a project volunteer, or a business partner.

That Kuhn routinely succeeds in put-

ting that care and respect into action shows in feedback from JK customers – who rave about the company’s services.

It shows in the company’s extraordinary relationship with its employees, and carefully codified in a set of seven core values that everyone works to exemplify, values such as “take ownership” of your work, be caring and courteous, and “connect the dots” – i.e. work collaboratively.

And, it shows in Kuhn’s personal and corporate commitment to serving the community.

Recently, in one fell swoop, JK Moving and the Kuhn Family Foundation purchased a “swampy,” 87-acre property near Lucketts – for \$1 million. It then put the land under conservation easement and got started on the real goal of the purchase – to sell the land to the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy ... at less than 50 percent of what Kuhn paid for it ... so that the rare and endangered wildlife species living in the vernal pools there, including the Jefferson salamander, could be protected.

That kind of thing takes, not just money, and care, and respect, but nerve – nerve ... as in moxie.

“Have moxie!” is, in fact, one of those seven core company values Kuhn not only talks about, but lives. JK Moving’s Enterprise Core Values statement includes: “Have moxie. We employ know-how and a fearless resolve to lead, raise the bar, and embrace challenges. Approach work with enthusiasm and determination!”

So, there’s the vernal pool conservation effort – which brought Kuhn’s total purchase of conservation easement lands in Loudoun County to over 2,500 acres – and then there is this: The JK Community Farm.



Photo courtesy of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy



Chuck Kuhn



A young harvester at the JK Community Farm.



JK Moving employee and moving consultant, Tina Buckley.

Founded this year, the non-profit community farm performs one of the most fundamentally good community services in the world: it grows food and gives it away to people in need, including children, seniors, and the working poor. In partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief, farm-raised fruits, vegetables, and meats find their way to needy tables. And, the farm also provides opportunities for volunteering and education – with everyone touched and involved getting that famous “care and respect” JK is known for.

As with Kuhn’s partnership with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the JK Community Farm

is built to serve and built to last. The farm is managed by Michael Smith, a William and Mary graduate who owns and operates an organic CSA out of Winchester, which sells to Loudoun farm markets, and supplies restaurants in the area. Smith has grown more than 50 varieties of chemical-free, non-GMO vegetables, “on a large scale,” notes the community farm’s website.

The greater Loudoun community is very fortunate to have Chuck Kuhn. Not just when we’re contemplating a move, but when we need a little push, a little nerve, a little ... moxie.

BRL fruits & veggies calendar ... August

It’s hot, hot, hot out there, but easy to chill out with these cool, cool, cool fruits and vegetables ...

- **Apples.** We’re deep into apple season now, with several months still to come. Great for both sweet dishes and savory salads.
- **Blueberries and Blackberries** continue throughout the month of August – packed with nutrition and flavor.
- **Cantaloupe, Cukes & Squash** are savory favorites for

the summer’s hottest month.

- **Corn continues.** Go beyond-the-cob with our Five Times Cool Corn Soup recipe.
- **Nectarines and peaches** are still here, but finish up this month. Freeze away so you’ll have them to snack on and bake with this fall.

Corn started in July and is getting better and better. Great with fresh mozzarella and basil with a drizzle of olive oil. And, don’t forget green peppers and green beans ... *delish!*



See our *Five-Times-Cool No Cook Recipes* on page 20, including *Chilled Corn Soup*.

Just like nothing (else) on earth: young's Cliff Road

TIM JON

It's an area where life seems constantly informed by the proximity of water, and, in this case, part of the charm is in the constant flowing of the liquid resource; now, having formerly lived – for quite a spell – along the famed Mississippi River in the Midwest, I'm still just a bit jealous of those who've had the fortune to place their home along a riverbank. And, yes, I've heard that life on a floodplain comes with challenges – even in our relatively civilized Northern Virginia; I recall concerns of high water encroachment for the residents living on Young's Cliff Road (an almost-forgotten little corner east of Broad Run Farms, north of Countryside) from my days in the News Room at Wage Radio. So – when I used the term 'fortune' in connection to the status of these river neighbors, I fully intended that in both positive and negative senses.



JON

Getting stranded – either away from, or in, your home is no picnic, but the rewards of life in this secluded part of the County – I'm sure – more than make up for any inconveniences. And, that would depend upon how much one likes to live near that moving, brooding body of water; the Potomac runs a pretty thin arm between the mainland and a couple of islands – Selden and Van Deventer – in that northeastern portion of Loudoun – with the bulk of the southeasterly flow on the other side of the two land masses – just south of the Maryland mainland side (the islands technically reside within the Terrapin State's boundaries, but their proximity to our shore always makes me feel they're more Virginian). Mud

and mosquitos notwithstanding, I'm sure those islands are a great temptation for adventure to any youngsters growing up along that shoreline; fishing, the possibility of animal sightings, and the lure of Native American artifacts hidden in the earth, would have captured my imagination had I spent any formative years within canoe paddling distance of them.

And, back to the aforementioned mixed blessings of this little community, I also recall my news work – going back some 15 years now or so – on some serious health issues stemming from the insects on Selden and Van Deventer Islands; the Loudoun County Health Department confirmed a couple of cases of malaria (in the fall of 2002) for local teenagers – and the offending mosquitos were believed to have originated either on those two islands or other low-lying areas in their vicinity. The situation took quite a bit of attention and resources before officials gave the all-clear, so I'm sure folks who lived through that time up in that area still think twice before heading into the woods. So – once again, my fantasies of river life come with reminders of harsh reality. Intermittent floods and medical concerns are not to be shrugged off without consideration.

Oh well, I can still enjoy an occasional drive along Young's Cliff Road – which remains accessible only from the south and east – by car, that is: a quick turn from eastbound Route Seven spills off onto neighborhood roads heading north – and the driver experiences (I always do, anyway) an abrupt transformation from hurried, harried commuter travel – to a much more tranquil pace of movement around these parts – as if driving should slow down to match the locals on foot, out for a stroll – or even



the nearby Potomac, sliding its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Having no outlet beyond the End of State Maintenance at the terminal end of the road, this neighborhood also can enjoy life without much cut-through traffic to adjacent developments; it's pretty much a case of 'you can't get there from here,' and I imagine most residents prefer it that way. The geography offers seclusion from almost all sides: the channel of Broad Run skirts the western edge of the neighborhood, the Potomac counters along the North, and Algonkian Park lies to the east – with another little waterway in between, for good measure.

So – no, it's not just like driving – or hiking – along my beloved Mississippi – but a nice, slow drive along Young's Cliff Road reminds me that we can – at least temporarily, at chosen times – wind our hectic 21st Century pace down to say – that of the deliberate, inexorable progress of one of Nature's elements as it flows from the interior of our Country to eventually mix with that of the sea. And, I find that a good thing.

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

I have really bad anger management problems that have caused me a lot of pain in life, and I need help. I've been kicked out of schools as a kid and fired from a lot of jobs as an adult because of my temper. My first wife divorced me because of how mean I was to her, and my two older children with her won't even visit me or talk to me anymore. My current wife recently threatened to separate and she told me that she'd leave me too if I didn't get control of my anger, and I've never felt so defeated or hopeless. We have a 9-year-old boy who my wife tells me is scared of me all the time and doesn't even like me. I'm 57 years old, and I've never asked for help and I don't even know how to do that or where to begin, so I thought I'd start here. I could use your advice.

— Angry in Loudoun County

Dear Angry in Loudoun County,

I truly am sorry for the emotional pain you've experienced over the course of your life, and continue to experience, and the negative impact your anger has had on your loved ones. In my opinion, anger is often a secondary emotion, a sort of mask, that people sometimes rely on or put on to avoid their more vulnerable feelings of fear, anxiety, low self-esteem and/or insecurity. While anger is a normal emotion, at the extreme end, it can become self-destructive and harmful to oneself and others, which seems to be the case for you.

Not having evaluated you, I ethically can't diagnose you or offer you a treatment plan here, but based on what you've written, I'm concerned about you. I strongly recommend that you seek out the help of a psychiatrist or psychologist that has experience working with individuals who suffer from severe range and longstanding untreated anger management struggles.

Yes, the bad news is that your anger has already done a lot of harm, and I

can certainly understand then while you're feeling so defeated and hopeless. However, the good news is that folks with severe anger struggles can be successfully treated; research has shown that medication and psychotherapy together is most often the best course of action. Again, I strongly urge you to see someone to more specifically determine what sort of help you need to change – for yourself, your wife and your children.

I want to leave you with a Native American parable, "Two Wolves," that I think you might find helpful. The parable illustrates the age-old battle of human nature – the battle within.

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Choosing to take the high road over the low road, being accountable, breaking old patterns of behavior and living a meaningful and authentic life without unhealthy anger will likely require a great deal of your patience and effort. For a lot of folks with extreme anger management struggles the battle toward "the good" can be too much to manage alone, and know that there is no shame or weakness to get yourself the help you need.

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.

Veterans jobs fair set for August 24

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) has announced that the 2nd Annual 10th Congressional District Veterans Jobs Fair will take place Aug. 24. It will be held from 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT

to 1 p.m. at the Loudoun County Public School Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, in Ashburn. Federal and state agencies, businesses, local Chambers of Commerce, and veterans

organizations will be represented.

Veterans may register for the event by going to: 10thdistrictveteranjobfair.eventbrite.com.

Federal and state agencies, businesses, local Chambers of Commerce, and veteran support groups interested in participating should contact Rep. Comstock's Veteran Outreach staff member Anthony Barnes at Anthony.Barnes@mail.house.gov.

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Reinventing land trusts

CHARLES HOUSTON

Robert Townsend, chairman of Avis, wrote a 1970 landmark book called *Up the Organization*, arguing that businesses become bloated and inefficient as they age.

I'd expand that to cover all organizations, even nonprofits like land trusts.

Townsend's idea was to upset the apple cart, and get a leaner business that had its mojo back. His target was hide-bound corporations – organizations unwilling or unable to change because of tradition or con-

easement, unconcerned with the economics. Paul Mellon was an early and grand land conservationist ... and at the top of hunt country's social pyramid. Pressure to keep up with the Mellons may have saved land.

So, Middleburg is ringed by tens of thousands of conserved acres. But, north of Snickersville Turnpike you see very few easements – it's a developers' target. Most landowners here are not wealthy. They'd like to protect their property, but developer cash is hard to decline. Bills must be paid. Retirement seems impossible. Estate planning churns up emotions. Picture a moving van leaving just as bulldozers arrive, with Farmer Jones wiping a tear from his eye.

Now, toss out that maudlin image and try this ...

Farmer Jones gets a phone call: "I'd like to talk to you about your Hillsboro farm. I think I can help you," says a land trust representative.

Two days later as they tour the land the land trust guy – Charlie – says, "I like your farm a lot, but tell me about your personal goals." Farmer Jones winces. He's older. His children have moved away, don't want to farm, and always need money. Charlie isn't surprised when Farmer Jones says that developers have offered him over a million dollars and says, "I may have something better. I took the liberty of doing this financial projection."

Later Farmer Jones says to Charlie, "You get me with an appraiser and give me a good guess about how much I get from Virginia and my tax shelter. I get to keep my land but I can't subdivide it. I can sell it if I ever want to, right?" "Exactly, and if you add up those things, I bet it's just about as good as selling."

Three months later they shake hands, this time at a lawyer's office. Charlie explained to Jones' accountant how to get the financial benefits. Farmer Jones executes the easement deed that will be held by the

land trust. He says to Charlie, "I've been meanin' to ask you. How'd you find me?"

"Just hard work. I looked at maps showing every property, found who owned larger ones, and called. You were interested, so I came out to meet you, introduced you to a good appraiser, quarterbacked the process, and here we are."

Farmer Jones pulls out a handkerchief. His burdens are gone, his land, saved.

But toss out that rosy scenario, too ...

Large land trusts don't operate like that, because Farmer Jones is not their target.

They have romantic, idealized visions of rolling hills, of horse pastures, and of themselves. They have environmental initiatives, educational programs, monitor land use and troubleshoot legislation. But, I'm more worried about McMansion Disease.

Land trusts have basic duties: Procuring easements and keeping tabs on the land – "stewardship." But, after picking the low-hanging fruit around Middleburg, the big ones aren't much of a factor here.

The Land Trust of Virginia says it had six easement prospects here ... but were all "in suspended status." LTV does not show prospects the financial benefits. And, many landowners balk at the front-end costs of an easement, including the trust's "stewardship fee." I asked LTV, "Can you help landowners with these costs?" "Yes, a little," if the land's on a Civil War battlefield. Magnanimity! Per Townsend's landmark book, what needs to change here?

On to the Piedmont Environmental Council ...

In many ways PEC been a huge success, holding easements on untold acres of land and watching for threats such as giant subdivisions.

But, in other ways, PEC flops. Many Board of Supervisors members are tired of PEC. It endlessly cries wolf, and has irked some easement donors. PEC is picky and arrogant

– and in many circles, *persona non grata*. I heard that a philanthropic group asked the land trusts to standardize their easement deeds. Reportedly PEC said that was a great idea – just as long as they used PEC's standard deed. My head is going to explode!

PEC needs to reinvent itself. It's doing a poor job of obtaining easements by not supporting the less-well-healed Farmer Joneses out there. The economic model doesn't meet his needs. It has ballyhooed new funding for conservation, with likeable PEC representatives making engaging presentations and appeals. But, is there a better economic model out there? Businesses pay commissions to their sales people – should land trusts think about doing the same? Should stewardship fees be funded in another way? Just a few ideas.

Also, documents about the process of donating an easement have the appraisal factor – the economics – buried in a footnote. They rightly say to get that appraisal "sooner rather than later." But, isn't the landowner's economic predicament – and the tax benefits that fix that – the whole ball of wax if a developer is offering you a million dollars?

Almost everyone sells in some way ... so drill down on the economics.

These are just ideas. Thoughts. I want to sell you – the conservation community – on the idea of protecting Loudoun County from sprawl. I try to get your attention, explain the situation, and emphasize how easements benefit all.

Where I trying to get property owners to put their land into easement, I would not count on some beneficent act. I'd start with the economics and I'd get easements.

With their resources and expertise PEC and LTV could sell much better than I ever could – but a big reinvent thorough self-assessment is needed.

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

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— Amy and Dan Smith’s Planning for Life —

Insurance: What’s the use of it?

It’s like putting money down a black hole – Until You Need It! It is the major, unplanned-for loss that permanently wrecks financial well-being. Consider the following:

Major illness: Paying the premiums and then the deductible is annoying. However, failure to cover the possibility of a long-term illness can devastate savings and, even, lead to bankruptcy.

Fire: The loss of a residence seems remote to most folks. However, it happens. If there is inadequate coverage, comparable replacement may not be possible. At the same time the mortgage must be paid.

Liability: Harm to an individual – eg., an invited guest or a random victim in a car accident – can be emotionally gut-wrenching. One can be charged with liability for his/her actions which arguably caused injury to a friend or family member as well, of course, to a stranger. Having ample liability coverage – and, I would suggest, an umbrella policy – does give some peace of mind even though it may not remove the personal pain. Also, not having to pay lawyers to defend you (they are paid by your insurance company) can help relieve much stress.

Disability: The inability to function in the workplace due to disease or accident can put an abrupt end to the income stream which is supporting the family in whole or in part. Income replacement policies are expensive and are often not part of the employment package provided by employers. Furthermore, there are vast differences among policies -- e.g., the definition of “disability,” waiting period before coverage begins, length of time the benefit is paid, etc. High quality policies are more expensive. Honestly, this is a difficult area of risk management, and hopefully it will not be needed. For the major bread-earner, however, it is an essential element for financial well-being of the family.

Long term care: Medicare does not provide long term care. The need for in-home care or residential assisted living must be self-insured. Having a policy can mean the difference between staying at home or having to go into residential living. It also gives peace of mind to parents who are not wanting to deplete the children’s inheritance. The cost of the long-term care policy depends on the “bells and whistles” one contracts for – eg, waiting period,

length of time the benefit will pay, the amount of the benefit, and whether there is an inflation adjustment to the benefit. It is not too early for folks in their late 40’s to begin to look at these policies. The earlier coverage begins, the lower the premium.

Life: This is certainly an area where you hope the insurance company wins the bet; that is, that you live a long life! The type of policy one obtains—permanent vs term -- depends on the risk that the loss of the insured poses. The major bread-earner with young children certainly needs to cover potential child care and education costs. Even the non-income producing spouse should have some coverage. Typically, cost of term insurance for parents with young children is inexpensive; however, it is the time of life when insurance is most needed.

Your author does not sell insurance. However, he has personally experienced the loss of his residence by fire, the long-term illness and death of a loved one, and a disability. The value of appropriate insurance at the right time cannot be overstated.



AMY AND DAN SMITH

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Inside and outside in perfect harmony

ANDREA GAINES

When a home occupies a truly gorgeous piece of land, the possibilities for breathtaking spaces – inside and out – are there for the taking. And, when that factor is combined with a beautifully-designed and remodeled house with an open floor plan, sun room, screened porch, and windows and glass that welcome every bit of light available ... pure magic happens.

REAL ESTATE

This home is located at 23057 Kirk Branch Road, overlooking Goose Creek, in Middleburg. Remodeled and expanded in 2009, outside you'll hear nothing but the soft sound of rushing water and the oohs and aahs coming from the yard as someone notices an eagle flying overhead.

Inside, maybe it's the sound of someone cooking in the gourmet kitchen, quiet music moving through the dining and living areas, or the welcome silence of a quiet moment with a book – aided by recessed lighting and custom pocket doors.

Wherever you are on the property, you'll understand at once that as this home was sited, designed, built and landscaped for that perfect combination of quality, uniqueness, and functionality – for this home has a very, very special feel.

The specific features that contribute to that include wooden garage doors, the screened porch, an LP gas-powered home generator, a six-



Address: 23057 Kirk Branch Road, Middleburg
MLS: L010214481
4 bedrooms, 4 full & 2 one-half baths
Total Acreage: 3.1 acres
List Price: \$1,270,00
Agent: Kathy Hessler, Sampson Properties, 703 615-1493
Website: www.KathyHessler.com
Email: kathyhesslerhomes@gmail.com

burner Heartland stove with a double oven, two dishwashers, and a propane wood stove. There is custom cabinetry throughout, heart pine floors, and Anderson windows and doors, too. A steam shower in the master bath, a cedar closet in the master bedroom, brass and nickel faucets, radiant floor heat, a sun room and three fireplaces add to the interior's comfort and elegance. And, a beautifully landscaped and hardscaped lawn and garden, accented with lots of mature trees completes the picture.

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Refunds issued for the 2018 Wine and Food Festival

Due to the rain out of the Purcellville Wine and Food Festival Saturday, July 21, refunds will be given – refunds for tickets and tables purchased in advance will be made through the online ticketing system, Eventbrite. Refunds for tickets purchased with credit cards at the gate will be issued automatically. Those who purchased tickets at the gate using cash, please email aware@purcellvilleva.gov.

GOVERNMENT

The Town thanks everyone who braved the weather. Unfortunately, as



the conditions worsened, the decision was made to close the festival early in the interest of public safety. Looking forward to a sunny day for the festival in 2019!

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11+ acres with view of Blue Ridge, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Cape is just minutes from downtown Middleburg. Large bright rooms, main level master, great rideout. \$899,000

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



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True fidelity

SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

If you want to discover the essence of the late Frank Sinatra, you must read a magazine piece entitled, "Frank Sinatra has a Cold" by Gay Talese. Written in the mid-1960s, the piece features an aging Sinatra. It serves as a layered portrait of a truly complicated man, exploring the nuances and subtleties surrounding the iconic singer's existence.

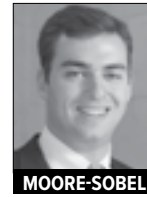
When I first came across this brilliant work of journalism a few years ago, I found myself unable to put it down. Reading the article became a sort of pastime, leading to regularly offering up paragraphs to whoever was in earshot. No less fascinating was another character found embedded within the Sinatra narrative - his first wife, Nancy Sinatra (formerly Barbato). A woman nearly rivaling her husband in complexity.

Her recent passing at the age of 101 has resurrected the narrative surrounding her role in the life of her famous husband. They met under far less glamorous circumstances. "He met my mother one summer at the beach," their son Frank Jr. told Talese. She, the daughter of a plasterer, and Frank, the son of a fireman. "Both are Italian, both Roman Catholic, both lower-middle-class summer sweethearts," Frank Jr. said. It seemed like a match made in heaven.

During the early years of their marriage, they lived rather modestly. Before his voice struck gold, Sinatra logged hours as a restaurant singing waiter, while his young wife worked as a secretary. She gave birth to three children: Nancy, Frank Jr., and Tina. Their family life erupted the moment Sinatra's fortunes reversed.

Suddenly, his fame allowed for a more comfortable lifestyle. His voice attracting legions of women, his marriage vows doing little to contain his extracurricular activities. Twelve years after a promising start, the marriage was dissolved. Days later, Frank married Ava Gardner, publicly humiliating his ex-wife in the process.

The divorce dealt quite a blow to Nancy. "I would hear her crying quietly at night while I was going to sleep," her daughter would say decades later. Sinatra's second marriage would quickly dissolve, with another two embarked upon before he passed away in 1998. The circumstances surrounding the demise of his relationship with his first



MOORE-SOBEL

wife seemingly assuring an acrimonious connection for the duration of their forced interactions due to the sharing of children.

Puzzlingly, animosity never materialized. Nancy remained loyal to the end, never speaking a bad word about her ex-husband in public. "There is no bitterness, only great respect and affection between Sinatra and his first wife," Talese wrote, "and he has long been welcome in her home..."

How could Nancy Sinatra be so forgiving? Perhaps she still loved him, or was simply attempting to prevent her children from being negatively affected by the divorce. Whatever the reason, her loyalty remains striking, especially in a world increasingly devoid of such obvious displays of fidelity.

As for Frank, his feelings towards his ex-wife were filled with palpable regret. He once told his daughter that if he could do it all again, he would never have left his first wife. This similar sentiment uttered by Jack Kent Cooke to his son, along with a litany of other famous men and women. Does something about achieving a certain level of success cause a temporary distortion in perspective?

Perhaps, with the benefit of hindsight, Sinatra came to understand what he lost. Nancy had chosen him long before his career had taken off. She chose to spend her life with a man who was a singing waiter, not an international singing sensation. I once heard former Secretary of State Colin Powell give an interview in which he pointed out that his wife "married a second lieutenant," rather than a sitting Cabinet member or a general. Making Nancy Sinatra's loyalty all the more precious.

Her life after Frank was a happy one, dedicated to the lives of her children and various charitable causes. She never remarried. "When you've been married to Frank Sinatra," Talese reported her telling a friend, in explanation of her chosen singleness. Her notoriety due nearly entirely to the work of her former husband, her staying power manifested in her never failing loyalty. It does not seem far-fetched to say she likely went to her grave possessing the same level of affection for her ex-husband exhibited during his lifetime. Leaving observers to wonder aloud what could have been, if a certain world-renowned singer could have been a better husband. Maybe he never really got over that cold.

To read more go to www.holdingontohopetoday.com.

Conservation easement proposal advances

VALERIE CURY

At the July 19 Board of Supervisors Business Meeting, Supervisor Tony R. Buffington Jr. (R-Blue Ridge) presented a board initiative seeking approval for a County-sponsored land conservation easement program that would provide financial assistance to

GOVERNMENT

property owners with yearly incomes of \$250,000 or less, who want to put their land into conservation easement. The proposal would give up to “fifty percent, but not to exceed \$15,000 of the administrative costs associated with setting up a conservation easement with a Land Trust Organization.” Buffington said this would be a County-run program to help land-rich, cash-poor residents, and also reduce County infrastructure and services costs.

The recommended starting budget for the proposed program would be \$150,000, allowing for approximately 10 assistance grants per fiscal year. The monies would come from the year-end fund balance.

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a property owner and a land trust organization that places limits on the development potential of a property, with the property owner relinquishing future development rights on the property in perpetuity. There are legal/administrative costs to land owners who wish to put their land in a conservation easement.

Said Supervisor Suzanne M. Volpe (R-Algonkian), “It will be important for us to have all the information.” Volpe requested to see a map with lands currently in conservation easement throughout the County and the number of acres – including land in open space. She also mentioned that there would have to be a minimum number of acres per easement, and expressed concern regarding the threshold of \$250,000. Said Volpe, “Someone who is making \$250,000 can apply for assistance to this program – this would be of concern to me.”

These concerns were echoed by Vice Chair Ralph M. Buona (R-Ashburn), who said that \$250,000 was “a little rich for my blood,” which he noted is two times the median income. “If you make one quarter of a million dollars a year, you can qualify for this subsidy... This is not ready for prime time.”

Supervisor Matthew F. Letourneau (R-Dulles District) said he wanted to see an analysis of all current County land use programs.

Supervisor Koran T. Saines (D-Sterling) reminded his colleagues to look at the east. “I want to make sure we are not overlooking the east,” he said, pointing out that there are some large undeveloped parcels of land in Sterling.

“This is fiscally conservative... a good pilot program,” said Supervisor Ron Meyer (R-Broad Run).

Supervisor Geary M. Higgins (R-Catoctin) said, “Conservation easements are not just a great way to preserve open space, they are also a great way to save the County money... because we don’t

Discussions on the conservation easement program did not address clear inconsistencies with what is currently happening with the Envision Loudoun process. That process would set growth and development targets as far out as 2040, and is recommending moving land from the Rural Policy Area to the Transition Policy Area and increasing densities in the TPA.

have to provide services for development that’s not there.” Higgins pointed out that the best way to preserve Loudoun County was not with one tool but many – “whether it’s with conservation easements, leasing arrangements, land use, open space easements ...”

The Board has directed staff to present an overview at a September BOS meeting, of all open space programs, lists of current easements, and a map with the locations and acres. It will then go to an October meeting to work out the details.

Importantly, discussions on the conservation easement program did not address clear inconsistencies with what is currently happening with the Envision Loudoun process. That process would set out growth and development targets as far as 2040, and is recommending moving land from the Rural Policy Area to the Transition Policy Area, and increasing densities in the TPA. It is also suggesting that towns that have Joint Land Management Areas (JLMAs), including Round Hill, Hamilton, and Purcellville, grow into those areas at in-town densities – even encouraging annexations.

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Ogelman goes to the mat re blasting near historic structures

VALERIE CURY

Construction has begun for the 20 by-right homes located on the Ball property – between S. 32nd St. and the Loudoun Golf and Country Club.

The 10.98-acre Blue Ridge Estates project – all of which lies in a Town Historic District – is being developed by L.S. Mitchel Development Company, LLC. Geotechnical reports show that due to the presence of rock, blasting will be required as part of the excavation process. Purcellville Town Council member Nedim Ogelman has asked the Loudoun County Fire Marshal to enforce all blasting rules specifically written to protect venerable historic structures. Chief Fire Marshal Linda Hale had initially indicated she was prepared to approve blasting restrictions.

The owners of the property previously sought unsuccessfully, due to public pressure, to rezone the land for a higher density of approximately 45 homes.

The Historic Corridor Overlay District in question is roughly bounded by the W&OD Trail, S. 32nd Streets., West, E, F, and G Streets, Maple Avenue, and others.

By-right development enables the property owner to build with very limited public input on the development plans. The Ball property is zoned R2 residential, a designation which dates back to 1991. In October 2008, the former Council reduced the building setback space requirements in R2 zones, which allows houses to take up a larger portion of each lot and be sited closer to the road and neighbors' homes.

Town staff approved the BRE application in November 2016, with a single entry/exit at 32nd St., an upgraded sewer pump station that will serve the west end of Town, and a pedestrian trail. The developer will also build a stonewall along the street

side. Construction will begin in late summer/early fall, with occupancy sometime in 2019.

According to a letter dated July 6 from Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc. to residents in the Historic District, "The blasting is not intended to pulverize a large amount of rock, [but] rather break the rock close to the blasting site ... " "In most cases," continued Vibra-Tech, "... you may feel a small vibration; however this should cause no adverse effects to you or your home."

In an email to the developers of BRE on July 11, Council Member Nedim Ogelman asked them to confirm in writing that they would adhere to the "special rules on blasting" in a registered historic district – in accordance with the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Blasting Requirements.

In a July 12 email to Travis Ludvigsen of that office, Ogelman wrote, "As a citizen of Loudoun County and representative of Purcellville citizens, I kindly and respectfully ask that you enforce at the Blue Ridge Estates development project in Purcellville all limits, rules, and requirements for blasting in a registered historic district as outlined on pp. 4-5 of the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Blasting Requirements."

The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible under the Statewide Fire Prevention Code to regulate the use of explosives and blasting agents used in commercial blasting operations in accordance with Chapter 33 of the Loudoun County Fire Prevention Code and ordinances.

Chief Fire Marshal Linda Hale emailed Ogelman on July 18 saying that – to date – "the only historically recorded structure in the vicinity is 141 S. 32nd street. If you are aware of others that have not been identified, please advise us immediately so we may rectify the blasting requirements."

In a July 19 email, Ogelman stated, "I respectfully disagree with your assessment of what buildings constitute historic structures along 32nd Street." He continued, "There

are multiple houses along 32nd Street within this registered historic district, in addition to 141 S. 32nd Street that fit the description of historic structures ... These include, but are not limited to 301 S. 32nd Street, 130 S. 32nd Street, 140 S. 32nd Street, 150 S. 32nd Street ... I am aware of only one house in the Purcellville Historic District along S. 32nd Street that does not qualify as a historic structure ... because it was built in the 21st century. All of the historic structures in the historic district on S. 32nd Street that qualify are registered under the overarching category 'the collection of buildings within the Purcellville Historic District' that represent 'a range of architectural styles popular during the 19th and 20th centuries in rural Loudoun County ...'"

"Since most of the houses on S. 32nd Street fulfill the criteria for contributing to the DHR and National Register of Historic Places registered historic district," continued Ogelman, "... and since they require the added care you describe related to blasting...I respectfully request your commitment to holding William A. Hazel Companies and L.S. Mitchel Development Company, LLC accountable for adhering to the historic district standards for blasting within 500 feet of all conforming structures within the Purcellville Historic District as set out in Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office, April 10, 2013 Explosives and Blasting Permit Requirements ..."

Chief Hale has responded to Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser's follow-up inquiry indicating a blasting permit has not yet been issued, and will not "until the required level of scrutiny has been applied and authorized under the code which the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office enforces." Furthermore Chief Hale, in recognizing the concerns from local homeowners, assured Fraser that her office will remain diligent and consistent in the application and enforcement of the code.

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19,000 sq. ft. church approved for Aldie

ANDREA GAINES

St. Pope Cyril Coptic Orthodox Church – which faced substantial early opposition on its Special Exception application to build a new worship center on the Old Carolina Road in Aldie – has won approval to proceed with the next phase of the project.

GOVERNMENT

In the end, both the project and the applicants received high praise from multiple members of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Tony R. Buffington Jr. (R-Blue Ridge), who made the motion to approve the Special Exception, thanked the neighbors who had come out in opposition to the project, noting that their voices had “made application better.” But, he reserved most of his praise for the church congregation, which, he said, had made substantial compromises to get

their application approved.

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall was equally supportive, noting that there was “no sound reason not to approve” the application.

Tiny Aldie is under increasing pressure from the development sweeping east to west up Rt. 50, and north to south around Gilbert’s Corner.

Concerns about the size of the church – and the small community’s ability to accommodate the traffic that would be generated by the 450-seat structure – led the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to delay an up/down vote to its recent July 19 Business Meeting. The church’s building footprint alone is six to ten times larger than any structure in an area of mostly private homes.

Friends of Old Carolina Road had opposed the project, circulating a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

County reviewing discharge of firearms ordinances

ANDREA GAINES

In early May, three homes in the Willowsford community were damaged by stray bullets. The bullets came from several weapons being fired on private property in the Village of Lenah. One of the weapons was identified as a machine gun.

Since the use of the weapons was perfectly legal and appeared to comply with all County ordinances, no action was taken by, in this case, the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office.

GOVERNMENT


Given the dangers to residents in the area, including children, the incident did, however, get the attention of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. And, although the BOS declined to make specific changes to County gun ordinances following the incident, the Board has asked staff to review all County ordinances related to gun safety and the public. The issues to be explored include whether ordinances controlling the discharge of weapons near occupied buildings, the firing of bullets over another person’s land, and the discharge of weapons in or near

increasingly more populated areas of the County need to be adjusted.

The Code of Virginia provides that localities may not take any action controlling “the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof,” unless that action is authorized by state and/or federal law. State law gives localities limited authority to address the use of firearms – preventing unsafe discharges of firearms in more heavily populated areas or near public roads, for example.

The first gun safety measure passed by the BOS dates back to 1977 when it adopted an ordinance “to regulate the carrying, transporting, or possessing of shotgun or rifle on public highways ...” The Board has taken dozens of votes since that time, dealing with complex issues such as the “Transfer of Guns to Minors,” to the simpler things – such as the use of paintball guns, pneumatic guns, and the outdoor shooting of clays.

The staff’s findings will be presented to the Board at its December 4 Business Meeting.




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Acting Chief of Police Schroeck retires

Lieutenant Joseph Schroeck, Acting Chief of Police with the Purcellville Police Department retired on Friday, July 27. He served in law enforcement for 34 and a half years, and in Purcellville for 18 and a half years. Said Schroeck, "It was an honor serving the residents of Purcellville over the past eighteen and a half years." Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said, "Throughout the four years I have known him, Lt. Schroeck has been a great public servant, in that he has always been accessible and responsive to the public safety needs of our community. Further, Lt. Schroeck has embraced the role of Acting Chief and has successfully led the department through the challenges of the past several months. Under his leadership, the



Police Department delivered key performance objectives and kept our community and assets safe and protected. As he retires, we thank him for his years of service to the people of Purcellville and wish him and his family the best in the future."

Cynthia McAlister to be restored to duty as Chief of the Purcellville Police Department

On July 30, The Town of Purcellville announced that Police Chief Cynthia McAlister will be returning to her position effective August 1. Chief McAlister's reinstatement comes upon the conclusion of the commissioned investigation by Retired Chief of Police Timothy Longo and the Wilson Elser law firm. The Phase 2 Public Final Report of Audit and Investigation (the "Phase 2 Public Report"), being issued today, documents that there was no evidence of untruthfulness or misconduct by Chief McAlister.

Chief Longo and Wilson Elser conducted a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the allegations made against Chief McAlister and recommended that she be reinstated. Their rigorous methodology and depth of investigative experience gives us the utmost confidence in their findings. Said Purcellville Town Manager David Mekarski in a press release, "We are pleased the investigation has concluded, and are excited to bring Chief McAlister back to her role as Chief of the police department as we move forward."

In addition, the Phase 2 Public Report documents that allegations of untruthfulness made against Officer Kris Fraley last fall were unfounded. Officer Fraley has been cleared of any and all wrongdoing.

The investigation by Chief Longo and Wilson Elser is now complete. As Town Manager, "I am grateful to the officers who served the community with distinction while the Town con-

ducted these investigations, and am eager to shift focus to strengthening all functions of the police department so that it can deliver the highest possible level of service to both our residents and business community. We are committed to building an organization of high integrity that reflects the strong values and principles of our Town. I look forward to working with Chief McAlister and her staff in developing a vision and strategic plan that will strengthen the police department's mission and bring innovative community policing initiatives to the department as we forge our path into the next chapter of this Town's history."

Now that the investigations are concluded, Mayor Fraser and the Town Council have asked Chief Longo, Wilson Elser and its consultants to provide specific recommendations to improve the Town's policies, procedures, and internal controls. These recommendations will be incorporated with the comprehensive organizational assessment of all departments, which is beginning this week. Upon completion of the organizational assessment, recommendations will be evaluated by the Town in a transparent and deliberative process, and implemented to enhance the service delivery of all departments. These improvements will enhance the quality of life for our residents, strengthen our economic base, and preserve the long term fiscal sustainability of our community.

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Acres and acres of happy pets

ANDREA GAINES

“This is my green-acres job,” said geologist-turned-master-dog-caretaker Joe Pillera. “I started out with 10 to 15 ‘clients,’ and now I have, oh, I don’t know, 450?”

Hearing that, you might be thinking that Pillera, who worked at the National Geological Survey for many years, ditched it all to become a motivational speaker, or the owner of a string of fitness clubs.

But, no. Eleven years ago this past July Pillera and his wife started a casual dog walking business that has grown into a pet care company called Your Virginia Pets R My Pets – an extraordinarily well-organized and professional network of best-friend caretakers who walk dogs, feed cats, give pets play time, vacation-sit in your home, and otherwise do whatever you need to feel your pet is happy when you can’t be there.

“Along the way, I had to hire someone else to cut my grass and do the handyman work around the house,” said Pillera. “But, I’ve always worn two hats in whatever work I was doing, so, it’s working out.” There are times when things get kind of crazy, he notes. “When my wife says, ‘Don’t use your business voice with me!’ I know it’s time to step back.”

Even with this really cool, but really sizable animal clientele, the Pilleras manage – and quite well – to take care of their own little tribe of doggies – four Shih Tzus. At one point in our interview Pillera said, “I enjoy the heck out of this!” His love of animals oozes out of every pore.

The key to the success of Your Virginia Pets R My Pets is that love backed up by a failsafe business structure – strict pet care standards – and a kind of intuitive

understanding of what the pet owner, is looking for. It’s all laid out in Your Virginia Pets’ pet-care bible of sorts – *The 17 Commandments of Pet Sitting*.

The top four of those commandments address just what you’d expect – always make pet safety the number one priority, always use safe dog-walking techniques, never lose a customer’s key (!), never miss an appointment. The other 13 reinforce key parts of those top four, and then go into the nitty gritty of why the Pilleras’ business – which is as much about the animals as it is about the relationship the walker has to the individual “client” – is so darn unique and so darn successful.



Joe Pillera, with a backdrop of, as he points out – “of course!” – dogwoods.

You see, these dog walkers and pet sitters always put their love of the animal first.

If you wouldn’t want someone walking you on a leash while also chatting with a friend on your cell phone ... then why would a dog have to put up with that? So ... the Sixth Commandment of Pet Sitting is *No cell phone use while walking a dog*.

Dogs bolt at the first sign of an open door (My owner must be out there somewhere, they imagine). And, cats are the best escape artists of all (I’ve been watching that mouse out the window for days, and here’s my chance!). So ... the Ninth Commandment of Pet Sitting is *Always expect the unexpected*.

And, finally, the 17th Commandment of Pet Sitting – *Don’t let the boss get blind-sided*. Nurturing the relationship with the pet owner, shows them how much you love their animal.

Pillera has thought all of this out so well – and both he, and his clients, and his pet sitters and walkers are the beneficiaries of that.

“This is not just pet sitting, what I do,” says Pillera. “I have a job that helps

people with what they want to do – vacation, go to work, take a day off from the daily grid – without feeling guilty about their pets.”

Well said, Joe.

If you are interested in engaging the services of Your Virginia Pets R My Pets, send them an e-mail at: virginiapets@comcast.net. Or, call 703-867-7158.



The Pillera family’s darling tribe of Shih Tzus.

BUSINESS

Loudoun continues to evaluate Airbnb and other short-term rentals

Loudoun County has launched a survey to gauge the community’s opinions about land use issues related to short-term residential rentals. In May, the Loudoun required all homeowners offering the services – in connection with Airbnb, VRBO, Flipkey and other well-known short term rental

sites – to register with the County by July 1.

With the growth of online listings for short-term residential rentals, Loudoun is continuing to explore land-use and public safety issues surrounding such rentals, building upon prior efforts regarding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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SMALL BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

It's hot out there

ANDREA GAINES

With temperatures like these, I'm feeling like I could eat ice cream for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and for a snack or two in between. I think a "staycation" is in order. Leave the job behind for a few days, put on the flip flops, and go out and sample some of the great ice cream shops around. In western Loudoun you don't need to go too far.

Eat ice cream ... for the animals

Scruffy's Ice Cream Parlor has been a Middleburg institution – "the sweet spot in town," as someone describes it, for 30 years. One of the first photos you'll see on the parlor's Facebook page is that of a chocolate lab eating an ice cream cone dipped in what looks like rolled oats – to celebrate National Ice Cream Day, July 15. Like many of the small businesses in Middleburg, Scruffy's supports local animal causes – with photos of adopted dogs and cats everywhere. It's a coffee shop, too. And, Scruffy's very fun-loving attitude makes it a great destination for kids and adults. "Affogato," as you may know, means "drowned" in Italian. At Scruffy's the Affogato is ice cream smothered in a shot of espresso. For its 30th Anniversary this year,

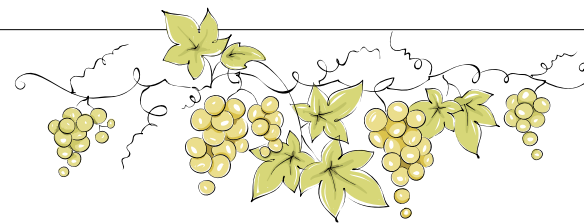
Scruffy's offered single dip ice cream cones for ... 30 cents. You could eat ice cream for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for that.

Scruffy's is located at 6 W. Washington Street in Middleburg.

Eat ice cream ... in nine sizes

Gruto's Softserve in Purcellville is about much more than ice cream. It's an entertainment extravaganza.

Walk in and you are bombarded by giant menus describing what you're about to fill your stomach with, and everything but the kitchen sink on the walls – including Stevie Ray Vaughn posters, colorful photos, and over-the-top necklaces. On National Ice Cream Day, there was ice cream poetry written on the sidewalk outside ... "The average American eats 48 pints of ice cream a year ... so why don't you get one, here?" And, there is the ice cream, of course. And, in nine sizes, of course. From the full-pint Double-Decker Belly-Wrecker ... to the Beast – "An obnoxious amount of your choice of Soft Serve and 2 toppings" ... to The Cyclone – soft serve blended with your favorite topping, Gruto's does not disappoint. Bring Fido with you, because Gruto's welcomes your pet with "Doggy Delights" – cool



mouthfuls for your pooch with Milkbones, peanut butter sauce, and more.

Gruto's Soft Serve is located at 141 W. Main Street in Purcellville.

Eat ice cream ... with pie and produce and art and more

Hill High Marketplace in Round Hill describes itself as "the best of Loudoun under one roof."

The former orchard packing plant has seen lots of western Loudoun history come and go. Now it's a one-of-a-kind roadside stop, with organic produce, delicious food, an art gallery, a bakery, a Bogati Winery and yes, ice cream. A recent and very happy traveler from Pittsburgh, said that Hill High "has the best ice cream in the whole world. It comes from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, from a dairy called Trickling Springs." That would be the famous Trickling Springs Creamery, which makes traditional hand-packed ice cream with cream from grass-fed cows, and uses non-GMO milk and sugar, with no sugar syrups, no artificial colors or flavors – you get the idea.

Hill High Marketplace is located at 35246 Harry Byrd Highway, Rt. 7, in Round Hill.

Scruffy's Ice Cream Parlor

MIDDLEBURG

Gruto's Soft Serve

PURCELLVILLE

Hill High Marketplace

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MTI sues Loudoun County children's theater

ANDREA GAINES

Music Theatre International, a theatrical licensing company, is suing Theaterpalooza Community Theater Productions, Inc., claiming that the group "promot[ed] and present[ed] unauthorized performances of such MTI-licensed musicals as Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka*, *Matilda*, *Seussical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Honk!* and many others." Theaterpalooza has studios in Ashburn and Leesburg.

Music Theatre International is a world-wide theatrical licensing agency with a global headquarters in New York and offices in Loudon and Melbourne, Australia. As the license agency of record for a particular piece of work – a Broadway musical, for example – MTI enters into a contract with the owner or writer of the musical, film, etc., to collect royalty fees, rental fees, and even managing the security deposit when a piece of work is used by another.

Theaterpalooza puts on seasonal productions and offers theater skills development, music and dance lessons, entertainment for kids, home school classes, performing arts classes for public schools, and more. The company has received a National Guild for Community Arts Education award, the Best of 2017 Lessons.com award, the Reader's Choice Awards for MD Theatre Guide, and curriculum awards from the Home Educators Resource

Directory.

Theater company owner Teresa Walker is hitting back against MTI in communications to her company, community, and supporters, claiming that MTI's lawsuit amounts to "harassment." Walker says the shows being produced are all original to her and copyrighted by her. Walker also claims that she has submitted proof of her position to MTI's attorneys, and that the only remaining issue is money her theater company owes to MTI, which it plans to pay.

MTI has countered these communications, claiming that the dispute is not about unpaid monies, but, rather, "using copyrighted works without a license." According to statements released by MTI, these are not "complicated issues" as described by Theaterpalooza, but a simple issue of creative ownership. "If you use someone else's property," MTI said in a statement, "... you need to pay for it."

Walker has cited situations where her theater company, while using recognizable characters such as Cinderella, wrote and produced an original script, paying for the music through a local theater licensing group.

MTI, for its part, is seeking a stop or injunction against certain Theaterpalooza productions moving forward, fees, costs, and "prejudgment interest."

Meadow fight goes to court

ANDREA GAINES

"All settlement discussions have ended ... it's a go." said Farmington on the Green homeowner, Michael Pugh. "We stopped trying to negotiate a settlement last week, they're just never going to agree to leave the meadow alone ... so here we go, through the looking glass."

Pugh is referring to he and his wife Sian's now year's-long battle to preserve a wildlife rich-meadow; not from a bulldozer, but from a lawn mower.

The Pughs are being sued by their Farmington on the Green HOA for not mowing a 2-acre meadow on their 5.6-acre property. And, despite efforts to find a better way to resolve the issue, their case goes to court in the first week of August.

The Pughs have lived on their 5.6-acre property since 2005 and are the third set of owners. The two property owners before them maintained the 2-acre meadow in the same manner, allowing traditional meadow grasses, wildflowers and other now-naturally-occurring native species to thrive.

According to the HOA, however, despite the fact that the land has been maintained this way for years, the meadow must be converted to a lawn; and nothing will cure the situation short of mowing it down.

According to Pugh, the controversy was sparked by a January 2014 letter from the HOA "demanding that we mow the area to lawn level. We went to multiple meetings and protested,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

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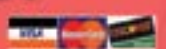
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Purcellville Cannons are the 2018 North Division pennant winners



Photo credit: Matt Gusmerotti

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Carver Events - August

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing. Help with hearing issues. Must pre-register by calling: 571-258-3400.

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Afternoon Tea. Tea, freshly-baked sweets, and conversation, in the Variety Room.



Vicky Leigh

Friday, Aug. 3, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Movie: Blindsight. Enjoy your regular lunch with a Movie in the Club Room.

Aug. 6 and Aug. 20, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.,

Services for Seniors. Confidential assistance linking seniors to services. Call 703-777-0257 for an appointment.

COMMUNITY

Wednesday, Aug. 8, 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Library Outreach Visit.

Loudoun County Library brings books/videos/periodicals.

Friday, Aug. 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch Bunch: John's Family Restaurant, Charles Town.

Wednesday, Aug. 22, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Hearing Help. Northern Virginia Resource Center offers information regarding assistive technology.

Wednesday, Aug. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Book Club.

Cool off in the barn at Franklin Park

Franklin Park Arts Center is a great diversion any time of year and in any season. And, it is a particularly cool place to be this month, with great theater productions, comedy, music, and arts and crafts. August highlights include ...



Photo credit: Gary Alter

- **Tanabata: A Japanese Celebration,** Sunday, Aug. 5, 6 p.m. For this inventive show, Hiroya Tsukamoto, a guitarist and singer-songwriter, performs in the lobby while guests dress in kimonos and dabble in origami. There's also a short tea break with eggs rolls and a planetarium show.
- **Run Rabbit Run Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing ...** 1945-style – four performances Friday and Saturday, Aug. 10 and 11, 7:30 p.m., matinees Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 11 and 12, 1:30 p.m. Here, Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy takes the form of American soldiers just back from the war and looking for love. Swing dances, villains and an insane sheriff top off the fun.
- **Main Street Theater Productions: Winnie the Pooh,** four performances Wednesday, Aug. 15, 1 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Aug. 16 and 17, 7 p.m.
- **Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv Show,** Friday, Aug. 24, 8

p.m., with a special "Bootcamp Graduates" performance at 7:30 p.m.

- **Season 11 Preview Event,** Thursday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m. A special event for members and VIPs, enjoy a lobby reception and special exhibit entitled "A Jewell of a Collection" – featuring works from Tom Jewell's private collection of pieces from some of Loudoun's favorite artists. The exhibit is followed by highlights of the performers for 2018-19 season.
- **Ustad Shafaat Khan: Indian/Western Fusion Jazz Concert,** Saturday, Sept. 1, 7:30 pm. Khan is a world-renowned Indian Classical musician. Say no more. The evening ... will be magical.

And, don't forget to check out what's in the gallery – A Hot, Hot, Hot summer challenge and art sale through Aug. 26.

For more information on all of it, go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

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Five-times-cool no cook recipes

ANDREA GAINES

As August comes around, it's too hot to move ... much less cook. Here are four, beyond delicious summer recipes that not only take advantage of the fruits and vegetables in season right now, but also require – ta dah! – absolutely no cooking.

Chilled Corn Soup

Next time you make corn for dinner cook up some extra ears and put them in the refrigerator. Then, to make this soup, slice the corn off the cob, put that and the ingredients below into a blender (reserving about a cup of kernels) and chill for 1 hour. Before serving, sprinkle each bowl with some corn kernels and a dash of coriander. Make sure to salt and pepper to taste.

Ingredients:

6 ears of pre-cooked sweet corn
1 cup Greek yogurt
1 cup milk
1/3 cup lime juice
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
Pinch of cayenne pepper
Salt and pepper to taste



White Bean Crostini

For this recipe, thoroughly rinse and drain the beans, mixing with the thinly-sliced green beans, the Parmesan cheese, mint leaves, garlic and salt and pepper. Crush some of the beans as you mix to form a rough paste, and chill for 1 hour. Spread on toasted baguette slices, dust with some more Parmesan, and serve.

Ingredients:

2 cans cannellini or white kidney beans
4 ounces fresh green beans, sliced really thin on the diagonal
3 ounces freshly grated Parmesan cheese
Freshly julienned mint leaves
Salt and pepper to taste

1 clove of fresh minced garlic
1 baguette, sliced and toasted

Cheddar & Prosciutto Apple Wraps

Ingredients:

Dip: 1 cup Greek yogurt, 1 cup mayonnaise, 1 tablespoon coarse ground mustard, one tablespoon honey. Combine and chill before serving.

Apple wraps: Your choice of any tart apple – cut into 8 wedges, thinly sliced ham or prosciutto, and sharp cheddar cheese cut into thick squares. Wrap apple slice and cheese with a slice of the meat and dip!

Zucchini Rollups

Make a marinade of fresh chopped basil, fresh chopped rosemary, olive oil, white wine vinegar, and some salt and pepper. Use a mandolin to shave the zucchini into long thin strips, and marinate in a bowl in the refrigerator for one hour. Make a paste out of ricotta cheese, finely minced garlic and salt and pepper, spread it on your marinated zucchini stripes and roll. Top each roll with a cherry tomato

and drizzle with olive oil.

Ingredients:

2 cups ricotta cheese
1 clove of fresh minced garlic
2 to 3 zucchini
Basil
Rosemary
Olive oil
Cherry tomatoes

Very Berry Vinaigrette

Add all ingredients to a blender and pulse until combined. Chill before using to dress your favorite summer salad. Spinach with strawberries and pecans, arugula with apple and walnuts, or an iceberg wedge topped with crumbled blue cheese are three great options.

Ingredients:

1/2 cup fresh berries
1 tablespoon tart fruit juice – pomegranate, cherry or cranberry
2 tablespoons of a mild oil (I like grapeseed oil)
1 tablespoon white balsamic vinegar
Salt & pepper to taste

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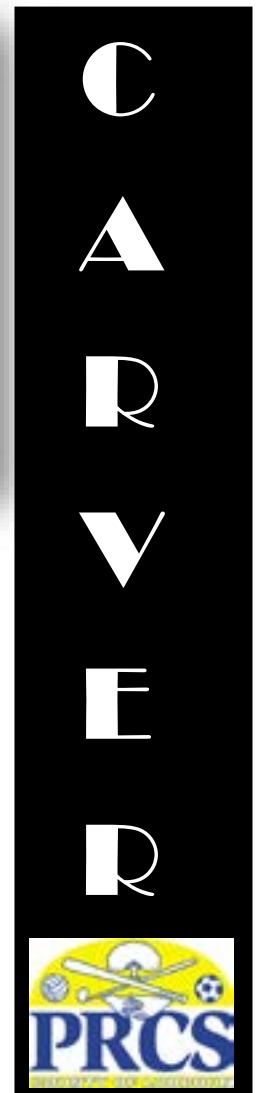
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BRMS teacher Benalayat attends educators' conference

Blue Ridge Middle School social studies teacher Patti Benalayat was one of 28 teachers from across the country chosen to attend C-SPAN's Educators' Conference in Washington July 23-24.

The conference provided educators with the opportunity to hear from guest speakers and explore C-SPAN Classroom's free teaching resources. Attendees learned how to incorporate those resources into their curricula and create engaged learning experiences for students.

Benalayat competed with middle school teachers from across the country to secure a place at the conference. C-SPAN provided roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations, and meals for the two days.

Participants were selected by a panel of C-SPAN representatives, and evaluated based on their commitment to learning new educational resources, applying them in the classroom environment, and sharing their professional development experiences in their academic communities.

"We're excited to introduce educators to C-SPAN's Video Library, an online archive containing more than 240,000 hours of searchable, sharable content that teachers and students can use as a primary source in the classroom," said Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN Manager of Education Relations. McAndrew said that C-SPAN has hosted Educators' Conferences for nearly 20 years.

The Educators' Conferences are sponsored by C-SPAN's Education Foundation, a charitable organization created by C-SPAN. C-SPAN Classroom is an entity of C-SPAN, which is funded by America's cable and satellite television companies.



Sarah Huntington opens photo studio in Middleburg

The photographer voted "Loudoun's Favorite Photographer" for more than 10 years in a newspaper readers poll, is opening a studio in Middleburg. Sarah Huntington, noted portrait photographer, has been a fixture in Western Loudoun, with studios in Lincoln and

Purcellville, is moving to Hunt Country. "I love Middleburg," said Huntington, "My first job was exercising race horses, and I waited tables at the old Coach Stop Restaurant. Since my family has moved to Paris, Virginia, this move just makes some sense." The new Huntington studio is at 15 Madison Street, behind Imagine A Holistic Approach. Huntington can be reached at 540 338- 7809.



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Long and winding budget road to first day of school

The Loudoun County Public School System begins the new school year Aug. 23, with the largest budget ever – over \$1 billion – \$1,189,803,590. Enrollment growth stands at 3.3 percent this school year, with budgetary documents noting that, “Next fall we will welcome approximately 1,483 additional students in our classrooms and serve a total of 83,105 in our 92 schools.”

The school budget represents a \$76.3 million increase over the FY2018 Adopted Budget, providing for, among other things, “a step increase for all eligible employees, additional restructuring to the teacher salary scales to enhance competitiveness, expansion of full-day Kindergarten, the opening of the Academies of Loudoun ... implementation of a mental health initiative and the restoration of textbook funding.”

The process for the development of the budget began in August 2017 with FY2019 Preliminary Fiscal Outlook documents.

By January of this year, the County had a preliminary Superintendents Proposed Budget, followed by budget presentations by various departments, including the Department of Support Services, the Department of Business & Financial Services, the Department of Digital Information, and the Department of Human Resources & Talent Development.

More refined budget documents followed. In April LCPS had reconciled its budget with the final budget for the County as a whole, and in June the final LCPS Budget for FY 2019 was adopted.



Next fall we will welcome approximately 1,483 additional students in our classrooms and serve a total of 83,105 in our 92 schools.

LCPS school year calendar 2018-2019

August 23: First Day of School

September 3: Holiday (Labor Day)

October 8: Holiday (Columbus Day)

October 22: Student Holiday (County-wide Staff Development)

November 2: End of the Grading Period

November 5-6: Student Holidays (Planning/Records/Conference Days)

November 21-23: Holiday (Thanksgiving)

December 21-January 1: Winter Break (Classes Resume January 2)

January 17: End of Grading Period

January 18: Moveable Student Holiday

January 21: Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

February 18: Holiday (Presidents' Day)

March 28: End of Grading Period

March 29: Student Holiday (Planning/Records/Conference Day)

April 1: Student Holiday (County-wide Staff Development)

April 15-19: Holiday (Spring Break)

May 27: Holiday (Memorial Day)

June 7: Last Day of School/End of Grading Period



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Listed by the prestigious firm, Washington Fine Properties, Newstead is described as “an extraordinary equestrian-property, rich in history.” The property includes a stunning, 15,000 sq. ft., 6 bedroom/7 full bath/2 half bath main residence, a large office, guest and tenant houses, barns, a sand ring and a grand prix field.

This property is in turn-key condition and under Virginia Outdoor Foundation easement, with great opportunities for tax credits. In 3 parcels, its 350+ scenic acres have exquisite mountain views, ponds, stone walls, and beautiful gardens.

And, it also has the added equestrian pedigree of once being the home of 1980 Kentucky Derby Winner Genuine Risk.

Property: Newstead Farm, 33542 Newstead Lane, Upperville, VA 20184
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Listing Agents: Washington Fine Properties, Debbie Meighan, 571 439-4027, Debbie.Meighan@wfp.com
Kathryn Harrell, 540 687-2215, Kathryn.Harrell@wfp.com



ENVISION LOUDOUN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suburban infill, and devising innovative uses of open space and farmland. The public also favors limits on high-impact commercial activities such as data centers.

But, in a Power Point slide from the July 19 meeting entitled “Public Input – High Level Recommendations” the public’s input is expressed as seven generalized themes – simple wordsmithing changes in some cases – versus the growth controls that the public is demanding.

The public is looking for “more declarative language” on important issues, reads the language developed by County staff. With respect to transportation, the public wants to know more about how that subject relates to land use, and on the issue of “design goals,” it asks for refinements to clarify intent. The public does not like the increased densities proposed for old Ashburn. It wants to see an expansion of and/or a reorganization of the “Quality Development” and “Sustainability” sections of the plan, and it hopes the County will “... establish numerical targets for policy statements where feasible.”

Stakeholders assert control

The industry-dominated Stakeholders Committee, which has taken center stage in the Draft Comprehensive Plan sees more and more growth as a win-win for County residents, even if those residents do not.

With respect to development densities and housing, for example, the Stakeholders are urging the Planning Commission – which will take up the Draft Comprehensive Plan on August 9 – to:

Increase densities in the Urban Policy Areas “outside of” the one-quarter mile radius of transit stations “so that there is a distinct difference between the densities” allowed in the Suburban Policy Area and the UPAs; and

Revise the “Housing Vision Statement” to put more emphasis on housing options. Specifically, “Encourage housing options that can accommodate a variety of lifestyles, households, ages, cultures, market preferences, incomes, and special needs through the private marketplace.”

Increase densities in the TPA and transfer some RPA lands to the TPA, so that greater densities can be achieved there, as well.

Supply of land

For pro-development groups, it’s all

about the “supply of available land,” even in the rural west. And, the County’s deliberations about how much economic development can be squeezed out of what’s left – is producing development scenarios no one dreamed of even 10 years ago.

As the draft plan notes, “Between 2000 and 2016, 5,653 residential units have been built in the RPA.”

The draft analyzes this rate of growth, not in the context of the public’s waning appetite for development, but in the context of the expected “build out” of the west. The draft notes that “... 91,000 acres of land is uncommitted to development projects [in the west] ... and this results in the potential for up to 11,643 residential units under current policy and entitlements ...

“The forecasted development from 2016 to 2040 in the RPA is 7,500 residential units based on current trends and the base density allowed by current zoning ...” continues the draft, “... and the ultimate residential buildout for the RPA may be much lower than projected above if property owners continue to retain and preserve large areas of land for agricultural, equine activities, open space, and rural economy uses.”

But, even this language, which seems to acknowledge the public’s determination to save the rural west and other places, is tempered by other July 19 documents which say: “Following an analysis of the public comments received during the Round III outreach effort ... Staff forwarded ... [the] seven recommendations to the Stakeholders Committee for their position on revisions to address the public input. Of the seven recommendations, the Stakeholders Committee endorsed only one ...” Not even protection for old Ashburn won Stakeholder approval.

Fiscal impacts of aggressive growth: none, according to some

On July 6, the consulting firm Tischler Bisce presented to Loudoun County a Fiscal Impact Analysis Report to “evaluate the impact of future growth under the proposed Loudoun 2040 Comprehensive Plan ...”

“A fundamental question,” according to the report, is whether the plan will be “fiscally positive” – with public revenues exceeding costs, “fiscally neutral” – with revenue equaling costs, or “fiscally negative” – with costs exceeding revenues. Each of the four growth scenarios analyzed, says the report, will “have a positive fiscal impact” – i.e., under none will costs to the public exceed revenue.

This includes “Scenario 1: Loudoun’s current Revised General Plan Baseline Forecast” – with 45,292 new residential units, 122,113 new residents, 22,948 new school students, 55,719,985 sq. ft. of new nonresidential development, and employment growth of 87,079 ... all the way up to what’s called “Scenario 4, Loudoun 2040 High” – with 59,424 new residential units, 155,633 new residents, 28,867 new school students,

65,031,044 sq. ft. of new nonresidential development, and employment growth of 101,526.

Next steps

The Planning Commission will conduct a review of the draft plan between August and December. It will present recommendations to the BOS in January 2019 or earlier, with the goal of adopting a final plan in early 2019.



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HEROS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

uniforms, training materials, medical equipment, field trip fees, food at meetings, and all other incidentals. Donations from the Purcellville Rescue Squad and the Loudoun County Combined Fire & Rescue System keep the costs down for the kids. Trained and vetted adult advisors – with at least two in attendance at all times – provide the instruction and organization. Parents, are also always welcome to come and observe as the advisors plan, teach, chaperone, and work directly with the young explorers.

Fire & EMS Career Exploring is the real thing. The youth in the program spend time in the classroom to get some fundamentals under their belt – earning a CPR card, being certified in blood borne pathogens, and completing advanced first aid classes. With an adult mentor by their side, they get their own stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, and first aid kit. They learn to treat burns, bleeding situations, allergic reactions, and



other trauma/medical emergencies. They are also given the opportunity to experience the career on field trips and at community service events.

The origins of EMS in the United States are linked to the Civil War. So, explorers visit the Civil War Medical Museum in Frederick. Fire and rescue personnel can work at a variety of sites, so explorers enjoy field trips to fire stations, AirCare3



A field trip to AirCare3 at Leesburg Airport where the Explorers learn about being a flight medic and helping critical care patients.

at Leesburg Airport, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Fire/Rescue Stations at Dulles Airport, and other places.

Explorer Post 6140 currently operates at the Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad at 500 N. Maple Avenue in Purcellville. To become involved, stop into the Rescue Squad to pick up an application or email purcellvilleexplorer@gmail.com.

ALDIE CHURCH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

petition that reads in part: “We are residents of what the County describes as the Aldie Mountain Village community and are writing to express our serious concerns regarding application number SPEX-2017-0029 submitted by the St. Pope Cyril Coptic Orthodox Church (the “Applicant”) to build a structure and church facility on Old Carolina Road in Aldie, Virginia. We believe the facility as proposed is incompatible with our community and should not be approved in its current form ...”

That petition gathered over 150 signatures, with signers warning that special exceptions should not be

driving Loudoun's zoning process, that the church was too big for such an historically sensitive area, and that the church traffic would overtax the area's rural roads.

Supporters of the project, including individual members of the BOS, pointed out that the applicant had reduced the size of the church from some 36,000 sq. ft. to 22,000 sq. ft., and finally, to 19,000 sq. ft. The congregation had also committed to reserving 70 percent of the property for open space, had changed service hours to reduce traffic impacts, and also had pledged not to offer child care services, which could generate even more traffic.

AIRBNB, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

registration and taxation. The survey is part of the county's effort to collect and evaluate information from the community that the Board of Supervisors will consider in making decisions about possible

future ordinances and ordinance amendments. The Board is expected to consider the topic in late 2018.

A link to the survey, which will be open through Sept. 7, is available at www.loudoun.gov/ShortTermRentals.

MEADOW FIGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

and while they did decline to put a lien on the property or to fine us immediately, they refused to rescind the violation, and have informed us that if we sell the property, the meadow must be mowed as a standard suburban lawn before they'll approve the transfer.”

The Pugh's case opened in the Loudoun Circuit Court in Leesburg starting Wednesday,

August 1. For future updates go to www.BlueRidgeLeader.com.

The Pughs have documented their fight to preserve the meadow in an emotional and informative YouTube video, arguing that while the HOA fights the meadow, it has let slide a number of “unmanaged HOA messes” – including abandoned stands of barbed wire and refuse. See the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ra_KsQT0klo&feature=youtu.be.

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Take a Glimpse into a Hollywood Inspired Master Bathroom Remodel

The Master Bathroom is the place where most of us start our day. It sets the tone. A bathroom that is organized and has a calming, spa-like feeling in the design can help you prepare for your day in a pleasant and streamlined fashion that can help you become more successful in your life. Recently, a couple came to Abbey Design Center knowing they needed to upgrade and change their master bathroom. They wanted a more open and organized structure that fit their needs. They commissioned Abbey Design Center to remodel their master bathroom and create a functional bathroom space with ample storage which was warm, inviting and included luxurious hints of Hollywood glamour.

The Northern Virginia homeowner's bathroom renovation wish list included more storage, better accessibility, a larger shower and that "Hollywood"

style. Once Abbey's designers knew what their clients wanted, they also knew exactly what had to be removed and revised from the current space. Abbey's professional redesign of the bathroom floor space made it open and functional. They accomplished this by removing the corner tub and tearing down the wall separating the existing water closet. This opened the room up to bring a more organic flow to the space. These seemingly small changes made a big impact and showed off an enlarged open floor plan for the bathroom.

Abbey Design Center's professional team of craftsman then installed a vanity to replace the corner tub and enhanced the space with a custom-built cabinet bench with a quartz top. This luxurious touch also provided extra functional seating and storage. The shower was then enlarged and took over the space

that was once an enclosed water closet. The smaller, dated bathroom vanities were replaced with two tall cabinets that made a dramatic visual impact as well as giving the homeowners even more storage for bathroom essentials. Lastly, new built-in linen cabinets were installed to accommodate the spa essentials of any Hollywood inspired retreat.

Finishing touches like the natural textured stone tiles and warm desert color palette brought this glamorous California dream to life. The result was an earthy and organic luxury spa-like bathroom that this couple was happy to enter into and start their mornings in each day. Abbey Design Center took their project beyond expectations to deliver this project. Let Abbey help you turn your house into a home that you will be happy to come home to each day.



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