

# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

SEPTEMBER 2018

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## All politics is local and so is friendship

BY ANDREA GAINES

A short time ago, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall got quite the unexpected call. On the other end of the line was a gentleman named Eddie J. Carthan from Holmes County, Mississippi. Carthan is an old-style public servant.

Elected mayor in one of the small towns in his area at the age of 26, he now serves on the Holmes County Board of Supervisors at the age of 77, along with fellow supervisors Henry Anderson, James H. Young, Debora Mabry, and Larry Davis.

Carthan was calling Randall to

propose what he described as “an inter-local county agreement.” I’ll call it a county-to-county friendship, an opportunity for Holmes – as one of the poorest counties in the country, and Loudoun – as one of the richest, to share ideas on how to get things done, how to meet challenges, how to better serve the public.

The median income for a family in Holmes County is a little over \$21,750 a

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## Purcellville Tag Sale set for Saturday, Oct. 13

Purcellville’s 15th Annual Tag Sale is set for Saturday, Oct. 13. Vendors will have booths along Main Street, and residents will conduct sales at their homes throughout Purcellville neighborhoods.

To register for a prime vendor location on Main Street, go to [www.purcellvilletagsale.com](http://www.purcellvilletagsale.com). The fee is \$25

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## It’s only H2O but we have a lot to learn



Left to right: Superintendent Scott House, Town Manager David Mekarski and Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Frazer.

BY ANDREA GAINES

300 million people – the majority of Americans – get their tap water from public water systems. This includes the households of western Loudoun served by the water and sewer systems in the incorporated Towns of Hamilton, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Round Hill and Purcellville; small, medium and sometimes large and growing operations charged with providing basic water and sewer to an increasing large number of people.

In Purcellville, the issue of water has taken on a new urgency.

The Town’s main wastewater treatment plant, built in 1985, was expanded in 2008 by a prior administration to provide for and enable record rates of growth.

Pro-growthers argued at the time that the Town would recoup the \$40 million cost of the plant through thousands of new residential and commercial hookup fees.

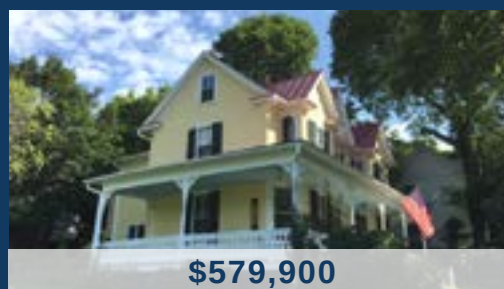


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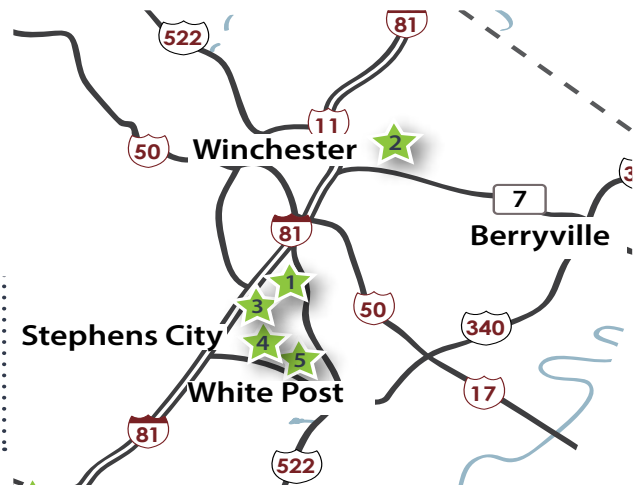
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# Sacred music on the wing

## Piedmont Singers travel to Oxford, England

BY HEATHER HUMPHRIES

Six months of rigorous twice-a-week practices, 41 pieces of music and an intense dedication to beautiful sacred music paid off mightily for 50 area singers who recently had the incredible experience of serving as the resident choir for a week at the stately, ancient Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, England.

The Piedmont Singers is an outreach ministry of Middleburg's Emmanuel Episcopal Church, founded by Wendy Oesterling, music director. "My vision in 1999 was to give people the opportunity to praise God together, singing beautiful music," she says. "At that time, I had no idea what wonderful blessings would follow and how important and cohesive a group the Piedmont Singers would become."

The choir has members ranging in age from 19 to 85, and includes many music teachers, performers and church musicians as well as singers from church choirs in Loudoun, Clarke, Frederick, Fauquier, Fairfax, DC, and even more distant areas. In addition to performing sacred music each



Photo caption: According to British sources, the Piedmont Singers group was one of the largest visiting choirs to perform in a major cathedral. The author of the article is pictured 8th from the right in the first row.

year for Christmas and Holy Week seasons, every three years the choir travels to serve in one of the major cathedrals of Great Britain when its choir takes a summer vacation.

Though the words of the traditional worship services have been handed down through the centuries, the musical settings sung by the choir were written by contemporary American composers. They included Georgiann Toole (Shepherdstown), James Laster (Winchester), and Kathryn Smith Bowers, who with her husband David came from

their home in Colorado to sing with the choir for the week. The settings by Dr. Toole and Dr. Laster were composed especially for the Piedmont Singers. The choir also performed an early American shape-note tune arranged by Winchester composer William Averitt and rousing renditions of African-American spirituals that resounded mightily in the ancient limestone walls of the majestic cathedral.

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# Harvest time – September

BY ANDREA GAINES

It's September in Loudoun County. We've been enjoying fresh and delicious local fruits and vegetables for months now. But, in September, with the sun a little weaker and the days a little shorter, the agricultural world around us takes on the bright orange, red, blue, purple, and peachy aura of harvest time ... as our fields, trees, vines, and bushes offer up their final treats of the season.

Here are some great fruits and vegetables at either peak harvest time for September, or, on their way out and worth tucking away, in some form, for later use – with tips for how to do that.



### Pears on parade

Ripe pears can be eaten, canned, or preserved in fruit juice or sugar right away. They can also be picked in a not-so-ripe stage, and left to ripen in a cool, dry, and dark place, such as a basement or garage. Pears ripen from the inside out, which is why they do so beautifully when picked early and left to ripen off the tree. So pick up some extra not-yet-ripe of these beauties. And, if you are really industrious, look up a recipe for pear sauce, pear relish, or pear butter.

**Fun Fact:** The average Virginia farm is about 180 acres. The average Loudoun County farm is considerably smaller – 97 acres.

### Gracious greens

For the wonderful fall salad greens, herbs, and cabbage varieties available in Loudoun's fields and gardens from now until the first frost, the idea is simple: *harvest, mix, and blend to your heart's content.*

Carefully prepare and mix a combination of herbs – from your garden or your local farmer's market – into a

## Why our area is so special

– PHOTOS FROM READERS –

The Monocacy Aqueduct near Point of Rocks is one of the most important features of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal system. According to the National Park Service, Monocacy is the largest of eleven such structures erected along the waterway. Many of the large granite stones making up the aqueduct were quarried at Sugarloaf Mountain. Photo by Jill Devine.

good quality olive oil. For maximum freshness, use within about a week – to flavor dishes, as a marinade, or as a base for salad dressing.

Mix the larger leaves of basil right into your spinach leaves or whatever you are using for your lettuce in a salad. Mint leaves can be harvested and used in this

way, too.

Combine shredded cabbage with a sturdy green such as kale, and use as a bed of sorts for your protein. Dressed up with a bit of your herb mixture and some vinegar, it's a beautiful way to serve up a piece of fish, a hamburger, or a steak.

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# Just like nothing (else) on earth: the Bluemont General Store

BY TIM JON

Let this be a good reminder – even in this day of the almighty Amazon and crowded mega-malls – that you never really know when you’re going to need to rely on the next total stranger you encounter – or where you’re going to happen to be when near-disaster strikes; I was a couple of miles outside of the little unincorporated village of Bluemont (many miles, and multiple centuries from my home) when I experienced my first roadside emergency .... Probably since I was a slightly-less responsible teenager in another part of our country.



JON

My quickly-deflating tire told me that I’d better make haste slowly back to the only civilized location within crawling distance – that sleepy community under the Mountain, which I loved to visit, but where I really knew no one in particular. On this special day our beloved Deity had allowed me to absent-mindedly forget my phone at my house – so you may be able to imagine my relief in at least making it into Bluemont where I parked my now-three-legged vehicle across from the familiar façade of the local General Store (just off Clayton Hall Road and Snickersville Turnpike); fate had not finished with my morning’s plans, as I discovered the wheel nuts absolutely un-budge-able in my attempt to simply put on the dubious-looking temporary spare. Deciding against breaking the wrench or part(s) of my body (more likely, at my point in life’s timeline), I chucked all the implements back in the trunk and made my way to the front door of ... well, what evidently had been my true destination since I’d left Leesburg.

Now, I’ve worked behind lunch counters and vividly remember the levels of multi-tasking required in those

positions – as well as the rapid pace expected by most managers and owners, so when I stumbled in out of the heavy rain (Oh, yeah!), I registered a bit of pleasant surprise to hear not only a friendly greeting, but very quick acquiescence when I explained my predicament and asked to use a phone. Stephanie (Stephanie Keefe – for anyone desiring to meet an honest-to-goodness Angel of Mercy) even interrupted her preparation of daily customer treats to make sure I got connected to the Powers that Be at my local Subaru dealership.

Admittedly, I had not set out that morning with dreams of simply perusing the wares of the Bluemont General Store, as interesting as they may have been; I had much larger aspirations: I’d hoped to catch some of the misty fog sliding off the Mountain along Ridgeside Road – which is about as ‘out in the middle of nowhere’ as you’re going to find in Loudoun County. I had delivered mail along this stretch in former years and remembered some striking geography and at least a couple of memorable man-made structures along the way. I – in my innocent bliss – well, fairly innocent, anyway – had even made tentative plans to head home by way of Airmont Road (catching a few shots of the Airmont Crossroads Store) and swinging up through Round Hill (again, getting a few images of some truly striking – and unique – local architecture); heck, I would have had a collection of great photographs of three wonderful spots for this hopefully-ongoing story series. Yes, I would have....except for...those too-familiar words: car trouble.

Well, I spent about an hour all told in the historic establishment, making calls, pestering Stephanie for information about her day-to-day business at the General Store and such (like, why they keep a few chickens out back for eggs – but no longer have the flock of guinea hens



– and, yes, I really do enjoy conversations like this), and taking a few shots to help recall the atmosphere inside this rarity in 21st Century Northern Virginia: a place to feel welcome, to explore one’s quirky interests, and to leave all the better to face the rest of whatever we may encounter in this time and place. Honestly – I still regret the loss of that collection of photos, the ones I just know I’d have been able to capture along the Blue Ridge and on the way home (I don’t like wasting time, energy or opportunity – especially concerning my ever-fewer chances in grappling with creativity), but I’ll always remember the hour or so that I got to spend hanging out at the Bluemont General Store, contemplating the importance of life’s little blessings – like finding a friendly soul when you emerge from a rainy morning of vehicular emergency in the hinterlands of Western Loudoun County. It’s good to be back.

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## — Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider Psy.D.

### 8 Signs that your child or teen is addicted to video games

The World Health Organization has made it official this summer – digital games can be addictive, and those addicted to them need help. This isn't surprising to me a bit since, as a psychologist in private



DR. MIKE

practice, a good amount of my time is spent helping children, teenagers and their parents create a balance with various forms of technology. And while excessive gaming is usually

a secondary issue to a larger primary one (e.g., social anxiety or depression), more and more, excessive gaming is becoming the primary reason parents and their children show up in my office seeking help. Excessive gaming can be a tough problem for parents to successfully address.

Understanding the difference between normal and acceptable gaming and compulsive or addictive gaming is important. Gaming is a real problem to contend with when it negatively impacts the child or teen in his social life, his academic life and his home life. These 8 signs are good indicators that your child has a gaming problem.

Your child socializes exclusively on-line during games but rationalizes that he has a social life and plenty of friends: Yes, generally children and teens spend a lot of time with screens and social media these days, but youth who game too much typically suffer socially. Although children that game excessively will beg to differ, virtual friendships or on-line back and forth dialogue during gaming is not commensurate with real friendships.

Your child grossly minimizes the amount of time he spends gaming: Most children I work with will say that they spend a couple of hours a day gaming, but after closely reviewing their schedule, the number is much higher. When your child is spending 4, 8, or 12 hours a day gaming, the impact on important other areas in his life will undoubtedly be great.

Your child no longer finds joy in the activities he used to enjoy: Many parents tell me that their child seemed much happier and was more engaged in activities before gaming took over. In addition to their social life suffering, athletics can also be an area that is compromised by excessive gaming.

Your child no longer participates in family activities because that would mean leaving his games: Family meals and events outside the home can become

irritants for the excessive gamer. In extreme cases, parents will have the family activity without the child (e.g., a dinner or a vacation) because it's just easier to give into the youth's need to game than it is to fight with him.

Your child is overly preoccupied with the games he plays: Children who game excessively will sometimes even go so far as to say that they can make money or have a career due to their proficient gaming skills. Yes, certain individuals on YouTube can make a living playing Minecraft or Fortnite, but it wouldn't be wise for your child to count on that. Some children will also assert their strong desire to one day become a game designer simply because they enjoy gaming so much. And excessive gamers only want to talk about their games in conversations. A number of children I've worked with have even preferred listening to video game music over popular music.

Your child demonstrates irritability when you interfere with his gaming: In severe cases, children that game excessively will become angry and even aggressive if their parents try to limit their gaming time to schedule other activities. As a psychologist, I have had many sessions where parents will show up in the waiting room without their child because they have refused to stop playing.

Your child spends a lot of money on games: For children that game excessively, the need to play new games can be endless. Like alcoholism or drug addiction, a child will require more and more to feel satisfied. These children will typically overplay a game, lose interest, and then move on to another game. And sometimes they will steal money or use their parents' credit cards to purchase games.

Your child's gaming has caused significant problems across the important areas of his life: So, if your child is experiencing one or more of the above-mentioned warning signs, time to step-in. If increased structure (i.e. setting time limits or a reward plan for gaming) doesn't fix the problem, then I recommend a consultation with a child psychologist. It may be the case that your child just needs some help to create a more balanced life. Or it may be the case that your child is gaming excessively because of a larger issue such as low self-esteem, depression, anxiety or another mental health matter.

It's also important to note that the start of the school year can be an additionally

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— Charles Houston on Leadership —

# We need a superhero

It's frustrating.

Conservationists have a record with too many losses in the critical war to protect western Loudoun's countryside from metastasizing subdivisions and choking traffic.

Let me set the stage.

Homebuilders, the Chamber of Commerce crowd, realtors, and their ilk are licking their chops at the idea of turning, say, Lucketts into Levittown.

Nobody likes these groups, but they usually win. How do they do it?

They corral organizations like NVBIA (builders), DAAR (realtors), the Chamber of Commerce (the its-all-about-the-

money crowd), and lawyers (paid mercenaries). They choose specific targets, such as four-laning Route 15, to open up new territory for subdivisions, or stacking the Stakeholders cabal. They devise a coordinated attack, shovel money to pro-development Supervisors, work hard and bulldoze away. Literally.

When matters come before the Board of Supervisors for decisions, they use mouthpieces like the attorney whose half-truths and untruths glide from her mouth as easily as a hockey puck slides on new ice.

Developers plot and plan, they wait patiently and then they pounce.

We're fighting them every step of the way, right? We are, but why do we usually lose?

I recently urged two big land trusts to do a self-assessment to find out why they've not gotten more conservation easements in western Loudoun north of Snickersville Turnpike. You should never ask someone to do something you wouldn't do yourself, so now it's our turn. The conservation movement, of which I am one of many members, needs its own self-assessment ... because we are losing.

## Here are my observations.

Popular movements succeed when there is a singular leader with a clear vision.

Mahatma Ghandi who wrested independence for India is one example. So were Winston Churchill and George Washington.

That's my central point: Conservation forces must have a strong, charismatic, effective leader who can build an unstoppable army of energized supporters.

Loudoun County has some excellent conservation leaders. Their names are well-known, I respect and like them, and am amazed at their energy, but I'll still ask the same question I asked the land trusts: Why haven't we succeeded?

There are several problems, and we-the-people are one.

Developers' careers require spending endless hours to get what they want; they are professionals out for profit while we are individual volunteers with other responsibilities; most conservationists can only devote a few hours here and there.

A handful of conservationists invest extraordinary energy and time, and are great advocates, but we still see more defeats than victories. Developers put up a lot of money to win those battles; we don't. Developers approach land-use fights dispassionately; conservationists are so driven by passion that sometimes we waste energy and political capital on secondary issues. Developers are much better at teamwork, planning the next battle, schmoozing with politicians, and stuffing their campaign war chests and being patient. They gladly prevaricate as needed. Conservationists get angry and passionate, but we are reactive, and let developers set the agenda. At least we tell the truth, but, again, look at the deteriorating situation we face.

A majority of the current Board of Supervisors is usually pro-growth. The county population is dominated by eastern Loudouners, and we've never forged an alliance with them. We ineffectively defend ourselves from canards, like being "rich horse people" or "special interests." One major organization has objected to everything and anything for so often and so long that Supervisors groan when its representatives take the podium at zoning hearings; we need to choose our battles more selectively. Worst of all, our fundamental opponent is terrifying: The Washington metropolis that generates sprawl on the scale of a tsunami.

Depressing, isn't it? What can we do? What do we need?

We must have a leader who can motivate and mobilize an army of supporters. When the body politic acts in unison, it can prevail. Here are some traits this leader needs:

- Vision
- Charisma
- Gravitas
- Presence
- Intelligence
- Wisdom
- Focus
- Hard work
- Ease with confrontation
- Planning
- Messaging
- Negotiating skill

That's a tall order.

Now, relax, I lack many of those traits and am definitely not volunteering for the job. What's more, every one of these

traits are present in the Loudoun County conservationists who live and breathe saving this beautiful place, are they not?

So, how do we pick such a person? We don't. Leaders usually rise naturally. Leaders usually rise naturally, after an a-ha moment followed by a new sense of duty.

Perhaps the leader will come from conservation ranks or maybe from business, but I think our Moses will probably be a local politician – a sitting Supervisor or a new candidate for the Board – since they are experienced at organizing, raising money, and fighting political battles.

A politician who aspires to lead a populist movement can expect arrows from all directions – even from supposed allies – so add steadfastness and courage to the list. With a stalwart army and new bonds with eastern Loudoun, our leader will wield great countywide power, so humility is another necessary trait.

We need a superhero.

Some current Supervisors come to mind but almost everyone on the Board would first need an epiphany, a revelation like the one Saul of Tarsus had when he suddenly realized that he had been wrong in persecuting Christians, reversed his views and became the great apostle Saint Paul. In Loudoun's case, we want politicians to admit that growth has been uncontrolled, threatens the county, and must be checked. Repentance bestows great credibility and wins followers.

All nine seats on the Board of Supervisors are up for election in 2019. This is a perfect opportunity for us to build relationships with politicians, to understand their constituents' needs, to find common ground with the east, to make a persuasive case for conservation, and to open our checkbooks.

Perhaps this is wishful thinking, but it might be a roadmap to salvation.

You can help pave that road.

Here are the current Supervisors and their email addresses. You can contact every one of them, not just the one from your election district. Tell them you're looking for a superhero. Copy me if you like – [CharlesHouston3@yahoo.com](mailto:CharlesHouston3@yahoo.com). I can suggest organizations which could use your time and commitment. You might even be

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## OPINION

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Please include your name, address and phone number.

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



## The priceless value of remembrance

The Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today would like to mark the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in Washington, D.C., New York and Pennsylvania with this simple message: We will never forget the thousands who died that day, and strive, every day to make the United States and the world a place – with more opportunity, more hope, and more love, for all.

– The Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today staff



— Amy and Dan Smith’s Planning for Life —

# Caregiver connections

Whether in-person or online, connections fostered among caregivers provide long-range benefits.

As the populations for our country ages, the face of caregiving is changing along with it. Today, 80 percent of those providing long-term care in the United States are not healthcare professionals—instead they are family members and even friends. There are 40.4 million unpaid caregivers of adults ages 65 and older in the United States. Most help one aging loved one, but 22 percent help two, and an impressive, but likely overwhelmed, 7 percent help three or more.\*



AMY AND DAN SMITH

With this shift from the clinical to the familial comes another change. A majority of those same individuals do not self-identify as “caregivers,” despite providing assistance to loved ones on a regular basis. This may not seem like a problem, until you consider that caregivers who don’t truly understand their role are less likely to connect with those around them for, support and encouragement.

## A Caring Community

Fostering connections with those who understand what you’re going through can make the road you’re traveling easier to navigate. By standing together, caregivers create a community through shared experiences that’s widespread and accessible anywhere, both in their local area and through online platforms.

Many caregivers enjoy participating in community events, attending support groups or gathering over brimming cups of coffee. Group text messages are easy to create and maintain, and provide a safe space to exchange well wishes, best practices, uplifting messages and more. Scheduling regular get-togethers with nearby caregivers is another way to connect, providing an outlet as well as a wealth of resources.

## Tap Into Your Virtual Network

An internet connection can also play an important role in your caregiving experience, cluing you into new advances in medicine and technology. Not only that, but a majority of caregivers who have accessed online information say that it has helped them cope with stress.

When venturing into online spaces, search out message boards with discussions that reflect your own experiences, pencil in video chat dates with faraway friends, and read up on all the internet has to offer—from in-depth research to lighthearted blog posts. There’s no limit to what you can find.

## Connect and Reflect

As a caregiver, you’re a part of a community of empowered individuals who give themselves to better the lives of those they love. And since we’re on the topic of connections, it’s important not to forget the greatest connection that can be strengthened during your time as a caregiver; the one you share and are fostering each day with your loved one.

## Next Steps

- Connect with someone who can relate to your caregiving experience.
- Explore a message board for added caregiving insight.
- Have a conversation with your advisor about the financial implications of caregiving.

Sources: bls.gov, pewinternet.org;  
\*Pew Research Center

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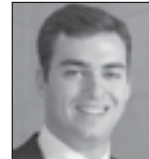


## A year full circle

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

What change a year can bring.

Last September, I told you I missed my face. A column borne out of a desire to publicly speak of the longing for the things lost. One of the many feelings found within the tapestry that is the human experience. The column corresponded with the launch of a website and blog on Sept. 1, 2017 – exactly eight years to the day that my life changed forever.



MOORE-SOBEL

To say my mother and I felt a bit of trepidation coming forward would be a giant understatement. We had spent years writing, speaking, and sharing our hearts. Unveiling the inner struggles inherent in this journey meant that this story would no longer belong to the Moore-Sobels. Parts of my scars – our scars – now displayed to the world.

The year to follow unfolded at a breakneck pace. Last October, my mother and I traveled to attend our first Phoenix Society World Burn Congress held in Dallas, Texas. We shared our story with countless burn survivors and their families. The incredible response we received was entirely overwhelming. The words offered by each and every gentle soul we encountered did much to encourage us as we navigated further into the unknown. We returned home to speak to groups both large and small, marveling at the stories others told just moments after we descended from the stage. After spending years in what felt like the desert, it was all the sweeter to feel as if I had finally reached the Promised Land.

Herein lies another beautiful outgrowth of facing adversity. It teaches us to treasure the beautiful moments, and the times during which all goes well. To intentionally cultivate hope in the present, regardless of the circumstances faced. For joy can be found even in the most trying of days.

We have learned that our world is filled with hurting people, and that pain does not simply evaporate with the passage of time. I said recently that every day offers the opportunity to begin anew. Sometimes, we are faced with the same battles that met us yesterday; other days, the battles are entirely new. The combination of faith, family, and friends can help remind us that we have what it takes to face whatever comes our way.

Despite the wonderful gifts granted over the course of this year, challenges have remained. Not everyone felt the same strong conviction we did as we set out on the course laid out before us. There have been a handful of detractors, those

who made their disappointment well known. One extended family member even has argued that speaking of the past revealed a strain of weakness.

Such a statement reflects a belief held by a certain subset of American culture. Vulnerability is viewed as weakness; openness regarding struggles faced is judged as evidence of a lack of growth. Such sentiments are a complete distortion of the truth. To those attempting to share your stories, keep speaking. Do not let others silence you, no matter how well intentioned their words may be. For the world is in need of the words you have to offer and the stories you have yet to tell.

Other challenges have arisen as I have taken my story to wider audiences. A unique set of obstacles not always fully anticipated beforehand. In a recent talk, I spoke of the intimacy inherent in scars. How I can count on one hand the number of times I have allowed someone (other than a medical professional) to reach out and touch the marks on my face. Twenty minutes after I finished speaking, a man approached.

“Can I see your scars?”

Moments later, as he reached out his hands to touch my face, it must have been a humorous sight to see me dodging my head back and forth as the man tried to keep up.

Despite the challenges, I have yet to consider changing course. As Teddy Roosevelt once said, “Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing, unless it means effort, pain, difficulty...” Sharing this story has never been easy. Neither is pursuing healing.

So we carry on, eager for the publication of our work and grateful for those who have so faithfully followed us on this amazing journey. Sharing has brought a newfound sense of both peace and acceptance – a destination that once felt nearly entirely out of reach.

So this Sept. 1 – as my family and I spend the day celebrating the life we have and the things to come – I reflect upon both the joys and pains experienced over the past year. Still missing what was marred, while remaining grateful for the healing experienced along this incredible journey, which has made the burden feel a bit lighter. After all, full healing is rarely attained in one fell swoop. The battle is won by taking careful, incremental steps – all while weathering the unpredictable ebbs and flows along the way.

And as for the missing, you may ask? Who knows what another year may bring?

*Samuel Moore-Sobel is grateful for the opportunity to share his scars with others. To find more of his work, visit [www.holdingontohopetoday.com](http://www.holdingontohopetoday.com).*

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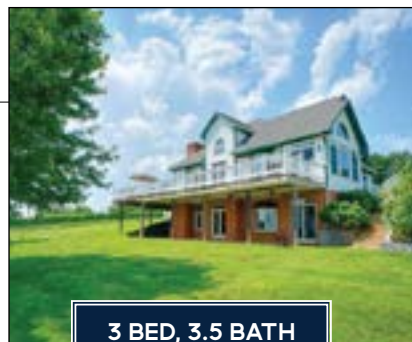
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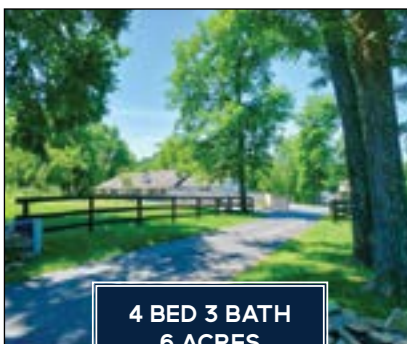
This home boasts gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances, granite and heated island. Relax in the Finlandia Sauna or steam shower with twin shower heads. Entertain on the spacious deck, screened porch, sun room with heated floors or enjoy coffee on the sunrise deck. Basement includes exercise room & wine cellar. LO10326408

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22 ACRES



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6 ACRES

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# Remembering Joyce Ann Trickett

BY MARK GUNDERMAN

Joyce Ann Trickett, 75, church leader, community volunteer for the needy and homeless, and 35-year government worker, died at Reston Hospital Center July 29 after a brief illness.

Trickett was a lifelong member of the Dranesville Church of the Brethren where she was Leadership Team Chair and served in many ministries, including efforts to shelter the homeless and feed the indigent in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties and Washington, D.C.

She was a past Board Chair of the Good Shepherd Alliance, a Loudoun County organization for the homeless, and served with the LINK Food Pantry in Sterling. She received the Loudoun Volunteer Services 2005 Adult Volunteer of the Year award in Leesburg in April 2005 and the National Council of Negro Women 2005 Outstanding



Humanitarian Award in Washington, D.C. in October 2005. On September 27, 2006, Trickett was honored by former Representative Frank Wolf after being mentioned in the Congressional Record for her work

in addressing and alleviating homelessness and poverty. Trickett also received a commendation from former State Delegate Tom Rust and the Virginia General Assembly in 2006 for her valuable service and devotion to the citizens of Loudoun County and Northern Virginia.

Trickett was a key player in the founding of Mary's House of Hope in Purcellville. Her desire was to provide shelter, counseling, education, love and support to homeless women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. She established a partnership with the Town of Purcellville, coordinated HUD Community Development Block Grants administered by the Loudoun County Department of Family Services and solicited extraordinary acts of kindness from the community.

Trickett perceived volunteering as something she needed to do. "It

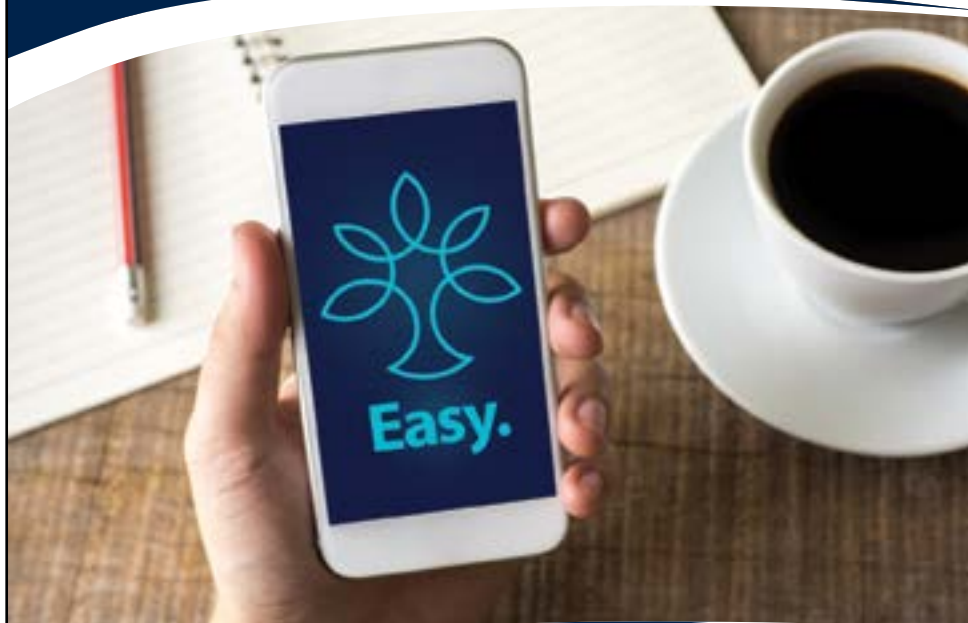
is very scriptural," she said, "we are supposed to help those who struggle to help themselves." She asked that each of us grow closer to our Lord's call, to give freely of our love and compassion to our brothers and sisters in need. She took great pleasure in witnessing young people volunteer and always asked to know their age and where they went to school or if she knew their parents. She mentored folks about acknowledging God's time versus our time and how best to express God's love and faithfulness to others. Her favorite scripture was Matthew 25:35-40, "...for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."

Trickett's life encompassed many other achievements as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even a book would not be enough to capture all of her wonderful works and accomplishments.

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# Town ends contract for maintenance of Aberdeen Property

BY VALERIE CURY

The Town of Purcellville has terminated its relationship with farmer Chris Tranchitella after he pulled out of an ongoing agreement to help maintain the Aberdeen property, bush hogging when needed, and planting various crops. In explaining the change, Mayor Kwasi Fraser reaffirmed the Town's

## GOVERNMENT

plans to pursue new income-generating agricultural and other activities.

The Town of Purcellville's 189-acre Aberdeen property is northwest of town on Short Hill Road, and near the public water treatment facilities. The administration of former Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro bought the property in 2009 for \$2.1 million, to increase the Town's water capacity. The Town conducted no water

filtration tests on the site's water wells, in effect purchasing the property "as is". Since then, the property has often remained fallow. Fraser and colleagues have been exploring possible uses for the land, including growing organic hops.

There was a farming lease on the property from 2011 to 2016; and leaders recently discovered that after that time, the farmer continued to farm the property, based on an oral agreement with the previous town manager.

Purchase of the Aberdeen property was possible with Internal Revenue Service tax-exempt bonds. The Town leased the property to Tranchitella at \$25 an acre. Tranchitella agreed to bush hog the property, which yielded some cost savings to the Town, since it did not have to retain the services of a bush-hogging contractor.

In 2017, Fraser, with Town staff members, secured a refinancing of the Town's debt, and removed IRS restrictions placed on the Aberdeen property and Fireman's Field by the tax-exempt bond arrangement. This move was a big step forward to monetizing these Town-held assets.

The next step was to determine uses for the properties, particularly the Aberdeen property. Purcellville Town Manager David Mekarski, found, when reviewing details related to the Aberdeen property, that Tranchitella had only five remaining days to plant corn on the property, in accordance with his previous informal arrangement. In addition, Tranchitella said his contractor had already sprayed 120 acres of the property with Roundup, which cost him \$32,000.

Mekarski informed Tranchitella that he could no longer continue farming without a legal contract from the Town Council, and to that end he must include a revised certificate of liability insurance. Mekarski discovered that past practices on the property had been determined by oral agreement, with minimal record keeping.

Vice Mayor Ryan Cool said at a June 21 Town Council meeting, "To the folks that say 'status quo,' if that doesn't boggle your mind that \$2 million went to this property, and this is what you are hearing - \$25 per acre, and the going rate should be \$45 per acre ... And you have chemicals being sprayed all over 120 of those acres, and there is nobody managing it? If that doesn't cause any concern to citizens, I don't know what to tell you."

Cool added that the situation further demonstrated the need for an operational audit of town administrative practices.

Fraser and Council Member Nedim Ogelman expressed concern about the impact on the wells from the Roundup application.

When the Blue Ridge Leader contacted Tranchitella in mid-June, he said he was

not sure whether he could even plant anything on the property because of all the rain, which put him one month behind farming his various leased properties.

At the July 10 Town Council meeting, staff indicated that Tranchitella's contractor had sprayed Roundup on only 20 acres at the cost of \$5,000. Cool again pointed out that the property had never been managed "in any other way than by spoken word and handshakes. This ain't the wild, wild west anymore. We have got to get our hands around this contract stuff."

According to Town staff, Tranchitella appeared to violate the 100 ft. buffer around the well heads with the spraying.

Mekarski said, "There is no question that past management practices did not properly process and manage this contract."

Tranchitella now had only five days to plant soy. Town staff recommended extending the contract, to which the Town Council agreed with stipulations. Fraser requested protective language regarding spraying of chemicals on the property. He said he wanted the farmer to, "notify management of the type of fertilizer, herbicide, and sprays he intends to use, and seek permission of management prior to the applications."

After much discussion with Town Attorney Sally Hankins, who questioned how to enforce oversight of the farmer's spraying of chemicals, the Town Council agreed to proceed with a contract only through the end of December 2018.

Ogelman said, "We want to put the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens on that land above monetary factors." He continued, "Just two weeks ago, when we brought up and asked staff to look into the feasibility of organic hops farming on ten acres of the Aberdeen property, staff put out a series of standards for environmental protection and water safety that are much more rigorous than the ones we are talking about here - 1,000 ft. protection around the well head to protect water. I have a hard time believing that our staff does not have the skill set to be able to evaluate something this week that they were capable of evaluating two weeks ago."

Cool said, "I am not comfortable telling people we are spraying Roundup all over their future well sources."

At the end of July, Tranchitella informed the Town that he did not have time to farm the property, and would not need a contract.

Tests conducted in July to assess possible water table Roundup contamination tested negative. The Town continues to explore potential uses of the Aberdeen property, including resuming plans to grow organic hops, for an equestrian center, or even for the agricultural use of drones.

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# Boards to review possible redevelopment of Main Street Shell Station

On Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, the Town of Purcellville will hold a joint special meeting with the Board of Architectural Review and the Planning Commission to discuss the possibility of redeveloping the Walsh property at 140 West Main Street, the current Shell gas station.

The 1.25-acre property is currently zoned C-4, Central Commercial, and is in the Historic Overlay District – which makes it subject to design review. The Shell gas station currently has two fuel pump gas station, a mechanic garage and a safety inspection building.

The proposal includes the removal of the vehicle service use, the addition of four fuel pumps, and the construction of a 4,200 sq.ft. convenience store and an eating establishment with outdoor seating. It also includes additional public parking of approximately 35-39 spaces to include several electric vehicle parking spaces – with a possible wall along the

southern border to separate the property from the residential district in the back. Holtzman Oil Company is the prospective buyer.

The proposed project would not significantly modify the entrances along Main Street, but it would most likely add an additional entrance along South Nursery Avenue.

The current zoning does not allow for a fueling station, however the existing fueling station was built prior to the change in the ordinance that now prohibits fueling stations in the C-4 district – so it is grandfathered and can continue with its current use. To expand the use to add additional pumps might require a text amendment to the zoning ordinance.

Since the property is located in the Historic Overlay District, it will require a Certificate of Design Approval. And due to its visibility and location in the downtown area, the buildings should fit in with the historic character of the area.

**GOVERNMENT**

# Turn restrictions Monday – Friday on 33<sup>rd</sup> and Country Club Drive

As part of the ongoing efforts to address cut-through traffic on Country Club Drive, the Town of Purcellville reminds motorists that turns on N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street are restricted, Monday through Friday, during the following hours:

From 6 a.m. – 9 a.m., turns are prohibited from Main Street northbound on N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.

From 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., turns are prohibited from Country Club Drive southbound on N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Purcellville Police Officers will be present at various times to enforce the turn restrictions. Motorists should be advised that if convicted of failure to obey traffic control devices, the Department of Motor Vehicles will assign 4 demerit points to their driving record, which could raise their insurance rates, and the court will impose a fine of up to \$30 plus \$61 in court costs.

Motorists are encouraged to use other routes, including Main Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Street, and Allder School Road.

The restricted turns, Monday through Friday only, for N. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street will remain in place at least through the end of September, possibly longer. School buses and emergency vehicles are exempted from these restrictions.

Town Manager David Mekarski is responsible for administration and implementation of the Town Council's direction to undertake a series of pilot projects to address cut-through traffic issues in this neighborhood. After the pilot program is over, Mekarski will implement a more permanent solution based on input from the Technical Advisory Committee, residents, and data collected over multiple pilot projects. Pilot programs over the past several months are tools for data collection and not necessarily the final outcome.

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It meant making sure that the space was used efficiently and had the best storage options. They made modifications to the cabinet layout to make sure they were taking advantage of all storage possibilities. They even cut the soffits to allow installation of

taller cabinets and widened a doorway to make the space feel more open and inviting. Every inch of storage space was put to use, including adding in corner cabinets and using pull-out shelves in the built-in pantry.

To achieve the new modern look they selected a warm gray finish for the outside of the cabinets along with stainless steel appliances. For an updated touch, a simple glass subway tile backsplash was added as a focal point which gave the kitchen a beautiful finished look. Then, to make the space feel even more open and bright, they added recessed lighting. From the lighting to the colors and the choice of tile, the expert designers at Abbey Design Center knew exactly how to open up this small space and

make it seem bigger and better than before. The added storage would keep the space from seeming small and cluttered. The end result was a kitchen that the owner's fell in love with. They are happy to entertain or put together a family meal and they do not feel crowded in the space. It is modern, gorgeous and has the space they need.

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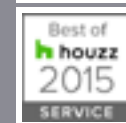


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Photo credit: Evin Wilmer

# Loudouners, WV locals challenge Rockwool plan

BY ANDREA GAINES

Surrounded by a sudden and intense burst of negative publicity, residents in western Loudoun are now wondering: what will be the impact of the “stone wool” factory being built in Ranson, West Virginia – just nine miles from our county’s border.

Stone wool – or mineral wool – is an insulation product made from a combination of actual stone and other

inorganic materials.

The Denmark-based Rockwool Group will invest \$150 million in the 130-acre, coal- and natural-gas fired stone wool factory, and employ up to 150 people “from management to the production line” – factors that have earned the support of West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, and others. Said Justice, “We’re proud to attract quality employers like Rockwool who provide well-paying jobs that make a difference to families in West Virginia.”

The land in question is part of a 400-acre annexation completed in recent years by the City of Ranson, and linked to investments in road construction and development along Rt. 9, which links Loudoun and Jefferson Counties as it sweeps through Hillsboro towards Charles Town, West Virginia.

The Jefferson Orchards property, as it was known, was selected by Rockwool for its proximity to “major population centers in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic,

and mid-western United States ...” Local, regional, and even international business groups such as Rockwool also like the idea that industrial development here will provide funds for highway improvements and growth in the northern Virginia/West Virginia Rt. 9 corridor. Local planning officials like it, too.

But, the plant, while touted by many in state and local government, and Rockwell officials as a win-win for the people of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »



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# Here's what's on the Nov. 6 ballot – and what you need to know

## Proposed Constitutional Amendments:

**Question:** Should a county, city, or town be authorized to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property?

**Question:** Shall the real property tax exemption for a primary residence that is currently provided to the surviving spouses of veterans who had a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be amended to allow the surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption?

### GOVERNMENT

## U.S. Senate and House candidates:

United States Senate candidates are: Corey A. Stewart – R, Timothy M. Kaine – D, and Matt J. Waters – L. House of Representatives, 10th District candidates are: Barbara J. Comstock – R and Jennifer T. Wexton – D.

## Transportation Projects:

Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$152,585,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design and construct Braddock Road (Route 659 to Royal Hunter); the costs to design and construct segments of Crosstrail Boulevard; the costs to design

and construct improvements to Evergreen Mills Road (Northstar to Stone Springs); the costs to design and construct improvements to Farmwell Road (Smith Switch to Ashburn Road); the costs to design and construct Intersection Improvements throughout the County; the costs to design and construct Prentice Drive; the costs to design and construct a Route 9/Route 287 Roundabout; the costs to design and construct Route 50 Corridor Improvements; and the costs of other public road and transportation projects approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

## School Projects:

Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$98,820,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct, and equip ES-23 Dulles North Elementary School; the costs to design, construct, and equip ES-29 Dulles South Elementary School; the costs to design, construct, and equip School Security Vestibules; and the costs of other public school facilities as requested by the Loudoun County School Board?

## Town Elections:

The Town of Hillsboro will be voting on write-in candidates for mayor and five town council seats.

Three candidates are running for mayor of the Town of Leesburg: C.B. "Kelly" Burk, R.E. "Ron" Campbell, and Thomas S. "Tom" Dunn II. Five candidates are vying for three Town Council seats: Fernando J. "Marty" Martinez, Neil R. Steinberg, Kari M. Nacy, Suzanne D. Fox, and Vanessa R. Maddox.

In Middleburg, residents will vote for one candidate to fill an unexpired term ending on June 30, 2020. The candidates are Kurt T. Abendschein and Chris W. Bernard.

## Registration:

Deadline to register, or update an existing registration, is Monday, Oct. 15. Check your status, make sure you are registered at the correct address, find out where to vote, see what's on your ballot by going to [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov).

## Absentee Voting Schedules:

Sept. 21 – Oct. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, plus Saturday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be extended office evening hours the last week before the election. Weekdays, Oct. 29 – Nov. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In-person absentee voting is also available at Cascades Senior Center and Dulles South Multi-purpose Center beginning Saturday, Oct. 27, through Nov. 3. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekday hours are 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The last time to request by-mail absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Oct. 30. Marked absentee ballots must be received in the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Apply online at [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov) to have a ballot sent to you.

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

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# Sustainable beauty on Furnace Mountain Road

BY ANDREA GAINES

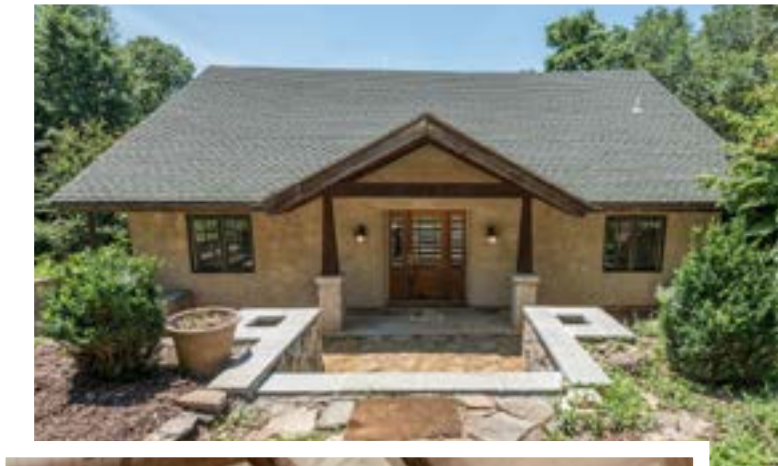
The simply beautiful property at 12883 Furnace Mountain Road might be described in many ways. It's a mountain hideaway. It's a spectacular forested retreat drenched in "eco-chic." It's a sustainable, straw-bale construction home with rustic trails leading to rare and wild frontage on Catoctin Creek.

**REAL ESTATE**

How about if we just say, that it is the perfectly-designed and perfectly-built, environmentally-sensitive, 2,300 sq. ft. dream home. Because, the truth is, from a practical point of view, if this is the home you've always wanted to build for yourself, it will have everything you would have made sure to provide for your family, or yourself.

Half of the property is in permanent conservation easement. Features include radiant floor heat, stainless steel appliances and rustic concrete counters, slate and flagstone floors, loft areas, spacious vaulted ceilings, ample shelving, a wood-burning stove and hand-built hearth, lovely beamed ceilings, tons of light, and recessed windows. A large and tidy basement – with workshop and studio space – is waiting for whatever future you might give it, with lighting, shelving, and much more. And, there's more. Cooling is provided for with ceiling fans and central air conditioning, and the heat is provided via the radiant heat floors and wood stove.

The property also has a large barn



– also with workshop or studio space – and lots of areas for gardening. And, the landscaping is designed to burden you with very little mowing. Nice.

While the large property and location affords lots of privacy, hi-speed internet is available. It is also just 15 minutes from Leesburg and the MARC train.

And, one additional thing. This property is represented by an outstanding realtor, Kris Consaul. "I know houses," says Consaul. "I know

community, and I am not your average realtor. You will find that I am straight forward, no nonsense, tenacious and fun. I strive to deeply understand my clients, so that I can inspire them through what can be a daunting process, and guide them calmly through the excitement of selling and buying their homes."

Eco-chic, sustainable, perfectly-designed and perfectly-built. Call Kris and see this property.

**Address:** 12883 Furnace Mountain Road, Lovettsville  
**MLS:** LO10290052  
**Beds/Baths:** 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths  
**Total Acreage:** 28.47 acres  
**List Price:** \$624,900  
**Bonus:** \$10,000 seller subsidy  
**Agent:** Kris Consaul, Keller Williams Realty, (cell) 703 727-4247, (office) 703 669-0033  
**Website/email:** [kconsaul.kw.com](http://kconsaul.kw.com), [kris.consaul@gmail.com](mailto:kris.consaul@gmail.com)

## Fireman's Field continues upgrades

The Town of Purcellville is considering new proposals for the management of Fireman's Field.

The Purcellville gem has been under new management since late December 2017, undergoing a series of facility and programming upgrades under the watchful eye of Shaun Alexander Enterprises, with assistance from Play To Win Sports Management.

**GOVERNMENT**

SAE gave notice to Purcellville in early August that it was seeking to end its contract with the Town. The company then indicated it might be able to continue managing the historic complex – a place that Shaun Alexander himself has taken a special interest in.

As a result, SAE has agreed to continue its discussions with the Town. While the Town, eager to stay on schedule and keep its options open, is looking at five new management

proposals from Discover Purcellville, Play to Win (on its own as the single contractor), Party Pals, the Purcellville Teen Center – which had managed the complex previously, and Shaun Alexander Enterprises.

SAE will continue to manage the facility until the final permanent management team is selected.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser wrote in a mid-August statement, "Our relationship with SAE has enabled the Town to obtain almost twice the revenue – \$60,000 – in six months which took almost two years to obtain under the previous concessionaire arrangement. SAE transformed the Tabernacle into a more inviting gathering place by making needed repairs and upgrades ... We intend to learn from this partnership opportunity as we decide on the best path forward to obtain optimal economic

and social value from these two heritage assets. Over the past weekend alone, I have received four communications of interest to take over management of the facility with equal or better terms. We are reviewing all potential options regarding the short-term management of the facility to ensure continuity for our users and have begun the process to develop an RFP [request for proposal] to address the long-term management of both the Bush Tabernacle and Fireman's Field."

Fraser's statement refers to the fact that in just six months, SAE was on track to generate nearly four times the amount of annual income over what the Town had realized under the previous management contract. To date, the Town has received \$60,000 for six months under SAE's management. Under the Teen Center, the Town received \$32,000 annually.





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# Brainiacs – where being a nerd is fun

BY ANDREA GAINES

Change, in the form of new, profoundly significant personal journeys, can start in the most unusual of ways. For western Loudoun resident Stacy Salmanson, the moment came the day her young daughter came home from school and announced: “I’m never going to be good at math. I’m never going to be good at math ... ‘cause I’m a girl.”

Fast forward to August 18, 2018 and the grand opening of a STEM-based “discovery center” in Lovettsville.

**BUSINESS**

Salmanson, true to form, according to the people who know her, had turned what she described as “one of the most heart-breaking moments in my life,” into a top notch science, technology, engineering, and math educational opportunity for local kids. Said, Salmanson of that moment, “I knew right then that I needed to do something to change her perception of herself.” And, she did, in a big way.

STEM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, and math, has come to represent our private and public educational system’s renewed emphasis on making sure children learn the basics of these disciplines, and get more intensive instruction in one or more of them, if the child is oriented that way.

It relates, of course, to public and private school curricula. But, it is also influencing child care concepts, day care, after school programs, and extracurricular activities and programs. And it drives whole categories of employment, and whole industries dependent on STEM skills. Recent studies show that the United States is just above the 50th percentile of countries – 38 out of 71 – in math, and 19th in science. So, it is also a matter of national pride and competitiveness.



Cool robotics technology, a recent Brainiacs event, Open House cookies in the shape of laboratory flasks.

But, back to Lovettsville, and Salmanson’s Brainiacs Discovery Center.

The Brainiacs August Open House welcomed record crowds – “We stopped counting at around 150, 160 people,” said Salmanson. It featured live science and technology demonstrations and experiments, and gave a full background on the programs being offered. Brainiacs programs are for children pre-kindergarten through grade 12, and focus on the four STEM disciplines via a rotating schedule of eight weeks of classes, a preschool, after school classes, and “mommy and me” classes. Brainiacs also works directly through the school system, and provides transportation – giving it a wide reach and providing lots of convenience for parents and educators.

Brainiacs puts great emphasis on both learning and fun – at the same time. “Both my husband Josh, and I, have the nerd gene,” said Salmanson, who has a background in childcare and IT, and

has staffed Brainiacs with people with backgrounds in education and related skills. “Parents need a source, a place where they can augment their kids’ education. The time frames in public school are limited. Students can’t really explore the specific subjects that interest them. But, here, they can. And, here, they can have fun.”

Other than the three-hour Monday through Friday after school programs for kids in kindergarten through fifth

grade, the eight-week classes generally meet once a week for 45 minutes to an hour. The costs for the once-a-week classes range from \$115 to \$200. The Discovery Center’s website lists its programs and schedules. The center is located in the town’s old Post Office building at 2 East Broad Way, Lovettsville, VA 20180. Contact Salmanson at [stacey@brainiacs-stem.com](mailto:stacey@brainiacs-stem.com), 703.999.5178. website: [www.brainiacs-stem.com](http://www.brainiacs-stem.com).

## August new business ribbon cuttings



Jack’s Run Brewing Company – under new management, 108 North 21st Street, Purcellville, 540 441-3382

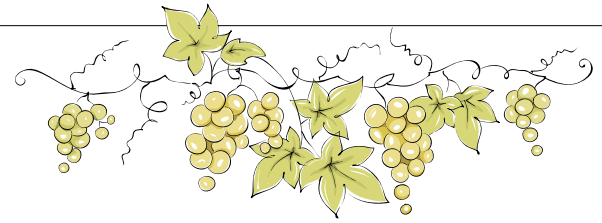


Pop Culture Craft Pops – great popsicles, 737 East Main Street, Purcellville, 571 408-9605



## SMALL BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

### Fall Forward



#### Another Turn Tack and Apparel - PURCELLVILLE

#### The Bluemont Store BLUEMONT

#### Red School House Antiques MILLWOOD

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

THEME FOR OCTOBER

“Harvest Moon”

THEME FOR NOVEMBER

“Friends & Family”

THEME FOR DECEMBER

“Wild and Wonderful”

Loudoun County skies, trees, and fields start to get really dramatic this time of year. With the changing of the season, sometimes it's just nice to take a drive. You've chosen a few spots to stop, but not many. Let the day, and how it unfolds, take over. But, here are three fun shops that you will be sure to enjoy.

#### Not just for the horsey set

Western Loudoun is full of small businesses that serve the horse industry – riders, teachers, the animals themselves, the people who maintain barns, etc.

One of these places is a sweet consignment shop in Purcellville called Another Turn Tack and Apparel.

It is at once very horsey and sophisticated, and very welcoming. You can find used saddles and other bits of tack here, as well as clothing, equipment, and horse supplies, of course.

But, even if you are not into horses, it is a fascinating place to shop. Come in here and find something fun to buy – for yourself, for your home, as a gift. A friend of mine recently redecorated her bathroom, using old barn wood for the walls, antique soap

dishes to dress up the sink area, and old linens for curtains. Wouldn't a little used horse blanket look pretty draped over a towel rack?

Another Turn Tack and Apparel is located at 701 W. Main Street, Suite D, in Purcellville, 540 441-3591, [www.anotherturntack.com](http://www.anotherturntack.com).

#### The old-fashioned truth

Don't let the fact that the quaint Bluemont Store has a website – that cold modern reality of all retail businesses today – fool you.

The Bluemont Store, around in one form or another since 1840, is as authentic, and charming, and old-timey as it gets.

Signs out front advertise sandwiches, ice cream, fresh eggs, pies, black walnuts, hot coffee, and other delights. And, add to that, “harness bells,” “conversation,” and “laying hens.” Once inside, you'll likely see things you've never seen before. The choices in old-fashioned candy, for example, are amazing, as are the sandwiches, the ice cream, and hot and cold drinks.

The store is a great source of local specialties, too, including truly farm-fresh eggs, and grain-free, no hormones, no

antibiotics, no feed lot meats. And, yes, you really can buy laying hens here, and peeps, and roosters, and guineas.

The Bluemont General Store is located at 33715 Snickersville Turnpike in Bluemont, 540 554-2054, [www.bluemontstore.com](http://www.bluemontstore.com).

#### A hidden gem

Red School House Antiques, located in Millwood, describes itself as “A hidden gem in some of Virginia's most beautiful landscapes.” The village of Millwood is indeed one of our area's most beautiful landscapes, and this antiques business fits right in. Red School House is owned and operated by a couple based in Scotland – Robin and Lorraine Murray. Their antiques and collectables come from Europe, including the British Isles, and America, with “shipments” – exciting! – arriving regularly. The business features a shop and a barn. And, the collection is artfully organized in types and groups – painted items, coffee tables, decorative pieces, dressers, cupboard, original artwork.

Red School House Antiques is located at 1014 Bishop Meade Road, Millwood, [www.redschoolhouseantiques.net](http://www.redschoolhouseantiques.net), 540 837-3033.

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# Bred to love

## Providence Hill Australian Labradoodle



BY ANDREA GAINES

Tom and Kay Harris have one of the most fascinating animal-related businesses you will ever find: They breed and raise the increasingly popular dog known as the labradoodle.

This exceptionally sweet dog was invented in 1989 to provide a guide dog for a blind woman whose husband had allergies. An Australian breeder had the idea of mixing a Labrador – an excellent service dog, with a poodle – known both for their intelligence and the fact that they are hypo-allergenic. And, the labradoodle was born.

**BUSINESS**

As far as the breed is concerned, say the Hills, you can't get a more family-friendly dog than a labradoodle. They are medium-sized. They are gentle, and happy – and they are great with kids. They are hypo-allergenic. They have "the characteristics of the Labrador Retriever ... and gregarious nature with the Standard Poodle ..." says the Providence Hill website. "Combine them, and you have a delightful dog ..."

Labradoodle experts know that there are some technical things families need to understand when welcoming one of these sweet little bundles into their home ... there's "first crossing" issue, "F1, F2, F3" and so forth "generations" of dogs, and different kinds of potential health concerns – hip dysplasia, for example.

But, Providence Hill has that all worked out too, ensuring that every pup they produce has predictable characteristics, and has the best chance for living a long and healthy life.

They also take care of the other basics – spaying and neutering, microchipping, delivery of your dog if needed, and routine health screenings.

And, the Hills also have something called the "guardian program."

Providence Hill loves each and every labradoodle that starts out its life with them, including the ones they use for breeding. No dog should live in the equivalent of a kennel for breeding, however fancy or well maintained. And, no dog should ever be denied a permanent, forever home.

For this reason, the dogs that serve as Providence Hill male and female breeders live, not in a kennel, but with a family, their family, coming back back to Providence Hill for veterinary checkups, a quick visit to be mated, and then a slightly longer stay when the females are ready to give birth and nurse their puppies. Once the puppies are weaned, the guardian dogs go back to their family again. Families working through Providence Hill to get their labradoodle can participate in the guardian home program, or not. Regardless, the dog is theirs – lock, stock, and curly tail.

"We strive to be one of the best labradoodle breeders on the east coast, and feel that we have well balanced labradoodles that will produce sound, loving, beautiful labradoodle puppies," says their website. And, it appears that is just what they have succeeded at doing.

For everything you need to know about this remarkable labradoodle resource, go to [www.providencehillaustrailianlabradoodles.com](http://www.providencehillaustrailianlabradoodles.com), or call the Hills at 703 819-7391.

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# Reminisce, weave, laugh, and wonder at Franklin Park

Franklin Park Arts Center rounded off its late Summer/early Fall season with a spectacular performance by Ustad Shafaat Khan in an Indian/Western fusion jazz concert, Sept. 1. The growing performing arts center has lots more wonderful performances, entertainment spectaculars, arts and crafts classes, and exhibits coming up this month, including special evenings sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center and its Gold Star series. Get your tickets and make your reservations for:

## COMMUNITY

- **Weekend Coffeehouse**
  - **Staged Reading of the comedy, “Tour Package”** Saturday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.
  - **Side-by-Side Artist’s Talkback Exhibit** featuring collaborative pairs – married couples, teacher/student, siblings, friends – Sunday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m.
- **Traditional Basket Weaving Workshop** Pick a basket and a date. Local artist and master basket weaver Deborah Wells will teach you the technique, how to lash on a rim, and add color. Create and take home a basket in each workshop. Saturday, Sept. 8, berry basket. Saturday, Sept. 15, Tanabata star basket. **Sunday, Sept. 23**, fish-shaped basket. Workshops take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. \$25 per

workshop, with \$15 supply fee due to the instructor. Call 540 338-7973 to register.

- **Bob Brown Puppets – Dragon Feathers** Fanciful and funny dragon marionettes will thrill the little ones with their silly antics. Wednesday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.
- **Planetarium Show – “Sky Stories”** Explore the constellations that we earthlings can see this time of year as the show’s Digitalis Delta 4 inflatable planetarium takes the stage. Sunday, Sept. 16, 2:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 4 p.m.
- **Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv Show**, Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.

- **Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon** is a band known for its simply majestic tributes to music legend John Denver. With famous hits such as Rocky Mountain High, Take Me Home, Country Roads, and Annie’s Song. You’ll recognize the music and remember the night for a long, long time. Saturday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m.



Photo courtesy of BoulderCanyonBand.com

For more information, go to [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).

## Artists in Middleburg equine sculpture workshops

Artists in Middleburg (AiM) is holding a series of fantastic equine sculpture workshops in September, October and November. The workshop instructor is the extraordinary Goksin Carey. Goksin’s art is on display at the National Sculptor Society, the Fairfax Art League Village Gallery, Artists in Middleburg, the Turkish Cultural Foundation, and the Saatchi online websites. All are invited, including those who have never sculpted or painted before. To register go to [www.theartistsinmiddleburg.org/classes](http://www.theartistsinmiddleburg.org/classes) or call 540-687-6600.

*“I find myself drawn to the horse, almost to the exclusion of all else, something about them stirs my soul.” – Goksin Carey*



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HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

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

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# Three savory apple-of-my-eye recipes

BY ANDREA GAINES

Dozens, if not hundreds of different apple varieties are available here in Loudoun – and they are not just for pies. Here are three recipes that take the common apple and turn it into a smoothly-delicious soup, a crunchy and satisfying salad, and a buttery entree.

## Sun-Kissed Apple & Barley Salad

With this recipe, simply cook up 2 cups of barley, and roast up some cubed butternut squash. As each is cooling, mix up your dressing, adding the diced apricots, shallot, and mint to the liquid to soften the dried fruit and flavor the mixture. You can then toss the barley, almonds, squash, and apples together, adding the dressing a little at a time for your favored consistency. Chill and serve.

### Ingredients:

- Two cups cooked barley
- 1 cup of roasted butternut squash (1-inch cubes)
- 1 cup of peeled, chopped apples (a tart variety)
- 1 cup of diced dried apricots
- 2 tablespoons slivered almonds
- 1 small shallot, finely diced
- 1 cup fresh chopped mint

### Dressing:

Equal parts orange juice, light olive or grape seed oil, and apple cider vinegar, 1 tablespoon raw honey, salt, and pepper to taste.

## Savory Apple & Tomato Soup

Warm butter over low heat, stirring in shallots until translucent. Put the butter/shallots mixture in a soup pot, and add the diced apple, crushed tomatoes, and apple juice. Heat this mixture on low heat until the apples are cooked through. Remove 1 cup of this chunky mixture and set aside in a bowl, blending in the chopped basil. Back at the pot, add in your cream, bring to a soft simmer and season with salt and pepper. To serve, turn the soup off, re-add the chunky mixture you set aside and ladle into bowls, topping off with the shredded cheddar.

### Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 1/2 cup diced shallots
- 3 apples, finely diced (a sweet variety)
- 3 super ripe red tomatoes, blanched, peeled, and crushed
- 1 cup fresh basil, finely chopped
- 1 cup cream
- 1 cup apple juice
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

## Rosemary Chapple Drumsticks

This dish combines chicken drumsticks with sliced apples and rosemary. Sauté the sliced apples in a covered sauce pan with 2 tablespoons of butter and onion, until both are soft and translucent, but not mushy. Do the same with the chicken (uncovered) with the remaining tablespoon of butter and the rosemary. You are looking to brown the chicken without burning the butter. Now, combine all of your cooked ingredients in one deep, covered pan (a cast iron pan works great), adding the apple juice, and letting the liquid cook down a bit. Salt and pepper to taste, and serve.



### Ingredients:

- 6-8 chicken drumsticks
- 2 sliced apples, skin-on (any crisp variety works here)
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 1 small, thinly sliced sweet onion
- 1 heaping tablespoon of fresh rosemary, finely chopped
- 1-2 cup apple juice

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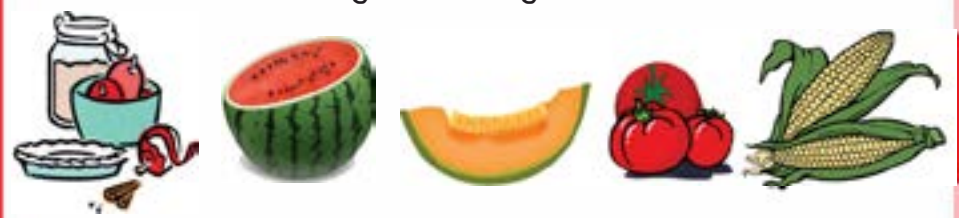
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# Tuskie's Upcoming Events

## STONE TOWER WINE DINNER



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# Bluemont Fair Sept. 15 – 16

(So exciting we can't stand it)

The Bluemont Fair describes itself as “A country fair in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains,” and this year is a special one – the official 49th annual. Somehow it sounds more exciting to say “the 49th annual,” rather than the “50th annual,” as, burning with anticipation, you walk through the same fields the first fair-goers walked through in 1970 – almost, but not quite, one half century ago.

The Bluemont Fair, organized each year by the Bluemont Citizens Association, is one of the most treasured and enduring events in western Loudoun. And, it's almost here – celebrated this year on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16.

The fair is a wonderfully authentic mix of country food, arts and crafts, music, history displays and activities, fun things for kids, and antiques. It also has the things that define the area's new rural culture, including a beer and wine garden, and a local authors area. And, it has the unusual, including the popular Indian Village wigwam, and a Pickles & Pie competition.

For admission and other details go to [www.BluemontFair.org](http://www.BluemontFair.org), or call 540 554-2367.

## Kids ... enter the fair's poetry contest

Soon-to-be-famous poets aged 5 through 16 are invited to enter the fair's poetry contest.

Young rhymers can stop by the Poetry Tent – on the walkway from the parking area to the Community Center grounds – and submit up to three original poems in the 5 to 8, 9 to 11, or 12 to 16 age categories.

There will be one winner in each category, with winners chosen and notified by Sept. 30.

Winners will receive a \$20 gift card and a fair t-shirt. And the “Best in Show” poet will receive a \$50 gift card and t-shirt. To enter, mail your poems, with submission form to Bluemont Fair, Attn: Poetry Contest, PO Box



217, Bluemont, VA 20135. Mailed entries must be received by Sept. 10. And, you can also deliver your entries to the Poetry Tent on the weekend of the fair.

Submission forms are available at [bluemontfair.org/childrens-poetry-contest/](http://bluemontfair.org/childrens-poetry-contest/). Or, contact Lori Seeley at [lseeley.bluemont@pcarch.com](mailto:lseeley.bluemont@pcarch.com) for more information.

## Discover Purcellville is calling all artists for holiday decorations

Discover Purcellville a community non-profit is seeking artists to donate their talent to paint large Holiday decorations. The finished decorations will be placed along Main Street and Old Town Purcellville this Holiday season for all to enjoy. Last year there were 125 pieces displayed throughout the town and they will go up again along with 50 more that will be painted this year. All creative individuals apply – please contact Michael by text at 540 383-0009 or email [dpurcellville@gmail.com](mailto:dpurcellville@gmail.com) for more info.



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# LTV to host 2nd annual Tour de Conservation Easement

On Saturday, Sept. 29, the Land Trust of Virginia will hold their 2nd annual "Tour de Conservation Easement" through the beautiful Virginia countryside, much of which is protected by conservation easements.

Choose either the 20-mile (32km) or 62-mile (100 Km) over gravel and paved roads with three great pit stops, food and fun. The location will be Upperville and for more information go to: [www.bikereg.com/tour-](http://www.bikereg.com/tour-)

[de-conservation-easement or visit www.Landtrustva.org](http://www.Landtrustva.org) or call 540-687-8441.

What makes this ride special? The ride will go through several private properties providing unique and stunning experiences. Proceeds will support LTV's mission of protecting land, which keep roads rural and helps preserve quiet gravel roads. Every rider will receive a prize following the ride: free wine tasting at Slater Run vineyards.



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## Carver Events - September

### Decluttering for Seniors

(Ages 55 & up) Learn to declutter. First two classes run 30 minutes longer. Non-members pay a \$2 drop-in fee. Wednesdays 9/5-11/14, 10-11 a.m.

### Pop Culture in DC

Educational and entertaining presentation by Carver favorite Brad Berger. Non-members pay a \$2 drop-in fee. Fri 9/7, 11 a.m. - noon.

### Jerry's Jukebox

(Ages 14 & up) Basic Ballroom Dance instruction. Non-members pay a \$2 drop-in fee. Tuesday 9/11 and 9/25, 6:30-8 p.m.

### Monthly Movie

(Ages 55 & up) Lunch & movie in the Club Room: *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi (2017)*. Reserve your lunch by calling 571-258-3407 before noon on Thursday. Sept. 14, noon - 2 p.m.

### Seniors Tell Their Stories

This class will provide you with step by step instruction for enhancing your story-telling skills. Non-members pay a \$2 drop-in fee. Wednesdays 9/19-12/5, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

### Harvest Dance

Come shake it up with your Carver friends at this casual dance which combines Line Dance selections and partner dancing. Friday 9/21, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.



Millie and Bill Testa

### Carver Lunch Bunch

(Ages 55 & up) Ford's Fish Shack, Landsdowne \$4 transportation fee, diner pays for own meal and tip. Friday 9/28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**COMMUNITY**

### Slow, Slow Line Dance

For Seniors who have difficulty dancing fast or complicated steps. Mondays, on-going, 12:30 p.m.-1 p.m.

### Services for Seniors

Confidential assistance linking seniors to services and support. 1st/3rd Mondays, on-going 9 a.m. - noon.

### Harmony Singing Group

Folk songs and rounds to piano accompaniment. 2nd, 4th Tuesdays, on-going, 11 a.m. - noon.

## Sudoku

*Solution on p.32*

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been divided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

		7		4				3
	4				6			
6	5		2					
8		9	4	5			2	1
7	2						3	4
4	3			2	7	5		6
					5		1	7
			9				8	
3				8		9		



## Amateur (Ham) Radio license classes

Across town, around the world, even in outer space, Amateur Radio operators are everywhere. People from all walks of life have found it to be a fascinating hobby. Experienced Radio Amateurs from the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group, based in Leesburg, plan to hold a series of eight weekly class sessions for the beginner Technician Class amateur radio license starting on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for persons age 10 and up. Classes will be held at the Leesburg VFW Hall, 401 Old Waterford Rd. Classes will

give students the information needed to be able to pass the Technician Class license test, plus additional information about Amateur Radio culture, operating practices, what to consider when setting up your first station, and making that first contact with another Radio Amateur. No prior electronics knowledge is necessary and there is no Morse code requirement.

Registration will close on September 13. More information can be found at: [k4lrg.org/education.html](http://k4lrg.org/education.html).

## Battle of The Bartenders hosted by Catoctin Creek Distillery

120 West Main St. Monday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m.

Local bartenders will compete for the title of Loudoun's best bartender. Competitors include Jeff Berry of The Wine Kitchen; Phil Duong of AhSo Restaurant; Andrew Jennings of Sense of Thai St.; Sam Scarlett of WK Hearth; and Samett Yukskgonul of The Conche. Guests get to sample each cocktail and vote on the winner. A welcome drink



will be provided, along with appetizers from Monk's BBQ.

Cost is \$35 per person, with half of the evening's proceeds going to the CORE Foundation, which benefits children of restaurant employees navigating life-altering circumstances. For more information go to [www.catoctincreek.com](http://www.catoctincreek.com).

## Dragon Hops Oktoberfest and medieval fest – Sept. 15 and 22

Dragon Hops Brewing, located at 130 East Main St in Purcellville, is hosting the following activities in September:

**Saturday, Sept.15 Mini Medieval Fest noon til late night**

Real both heavy and light armored fighting knights from SCA, Society of Creative Anachronism. Chef Marvin Taste of New York catering, Dragon Hops Brewing Craft brewed beers and ales, live Music 7-10 p.m., costumed performers and local vendors, games inside and out, face painting, fresh farm produce, cookies, ice cream,

bakers and more.

**Saturday, Sept 22 (through Oct. 7) Inaugural Dragon Hops Brewing Purcellville Oktoberfest starting at noon with the official tapping of the first keg – and continuing each Saturday and Sunday noon – 10 p.m through Sunday Oct. 7.**

Live music each Saturday night. Outdoor service with seating and dancing areas, Bavarian Pretzels, snacks, sodas, appetizers and local world champion butcher Lothar Erbe will make wursts from Dragon Hops beer.

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ROCKWOOL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

West Virginia, is now facing what can only be described as explosive opposition.

In discussion for a year or more, the decision to permit and build the plant is being questioned by a local school board, citizens' groups, and environmental groups. The Shepherdstown Town Council made the plant the topic of a recent community meeting. Area local governments, including the Harpers Ferry Town Council, have come out against it. And, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall expressed her opposition to the factory in her Aug. 29 newsletter.

Ironically, it was the high-profile groundbreaking in July attended by Gov. Justice, Senator Manchin, and others that seemed to set the whole thing off.

The nonprofit organization 350 Loudoun warns against the approximately 140,000 tons of air pollutants that will be released by the factory on an annual basis – pollutants such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, formaldehyde, particulates, and sulfur dioxide.

Says the 350 Loudoun website: "... Rockwool will be a major source of at least nine different categories of air pollution that deteriorate air quality and harm human health ... Western Loudoun, Clarke, and Frederick Counties could easily be on the receiving end of the toxins emitted from this factory."

According to 350 Loudoun spokesperson Chris Tandy, who has lived in Loudoun all of his life, the plant – located across Rt. 9 from an elementary school – will create an unsafe situation for people in the immediate area and beyond, with prevailing winds putting Loudoun County right in the pollution's path.

In late August, the newly formed citizens group that has emerged as the center of local opposition to the plant – Concerned Citizens Against Rockwool – issued the following statement: "Concerned Citizens Against Rockwool (A Project of Jefferson County Vision) filed formal objections and demanded action from the leading state and local departments responsible for the invitation and approvals for the Rockwool site, as well as requesting U.S. Senator Joe Manchin to 'reconsider' his support of the massive industrial facility near Jefferson County schools." The statement went on to say, "Over 8,754 who have signed the petition to stop Rockwool are waiting for an answer, and continuing to pursue every available avenue to stop this assault on our way of life."

Rockwool spokespersons have noted that the plant meets or exceeds EPA pollution control standards. But, people in the area, living right alongside other high-impact activities such as the mountaintop mining of coal, are

extremely wary. A cryptic comment accompanying a promotional video for the plant on Facebook asked: "Any particular reason you are building right by Jefferson schools!?"

According to 350 Loudoun, known carcinogens to be emitted by the plant include, among others, acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, biphenyl, naphthalene, and benzene. The environmental organization compared the job-creation benefits of the plant to possible negative health effects: "[To put the] 150 jobs in perspective ... Jefferson County has 57,000 residents and 9,000 K-12 students who will be harmed by the facility."

The organization's analysis of the plant's impact includes the following statement: "These kinds of chemicals are linked to all sorts of problems. Formaldehyde, for example, is a neurotoxin that damages memory, concentration, behavior, and physical dexterity in children. This factory should be something that everyone in neighboring counties like Loudoun finds alarming, as airborne pollution like VOCs [volatile organic compounds] and particulates could be carried by the wind to farms, breweries, wineries, and schools in Western Loudoun. We need to find out as much as we can about exactly what might be emitted, and where it might end up."

For its part, Rockwool is emphasizing that it "continues to work closely with the State of West Virginia, Jefferson County, the

Jefferson County Economic Development Authority, and the City of Ranson to ensure that the project is designed and constructed to meet or exceed building code and environmental standards ... " And, in another statement promoting its commitment to the environment, the company states: "Rockwool's products are environmentally sound, made with natural rock and recycled slag. Any production waste we create in our facilities is recycled – with no waste going to the landfill."

The plant, when up and running, will be online 24 hours a day. Community groups are asking that Jefferson County officials halt the permitting process for more study, wanting additional details on its potential impact on air quality around area schools and waterways.

With the issue heating up, the company held a series of open houses in late August, which drew huge crowds of protesters.

The Jefferson County Development Authority is now discussing hiring a consultant to do additional studies to address the safety concerns raised by residents.

Meanwhile, clearing and construction preparations continue at the site of the old Jefferson Orchards, with building anticipated to begin in October, and a projected factory opening scheduled for the year 2020.

For further updates, go to [www.BlueRidgeLeader.com](http://www.BlueRidgeLeader.com).

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## Favorites from Facebook, September ... Dental angels and more

*Thanks to the readers and friends who shared these fun Facebook posts recently ...*



Photo courtesy of Norbo Dental

- From Norbo Dental, posting about how Dr. Kirk and a staff member traveled down to Wise, Virginia to participate in Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic, providing dental care to the uninsured and underinsured.
- From the Loudoun County Animal Services folks: we love their post about a great program that introduces young people to possible careers working with animals.



Photo courtesy of Crooked Run Orchard



Photo courtesy of Loudoun County Animal Services

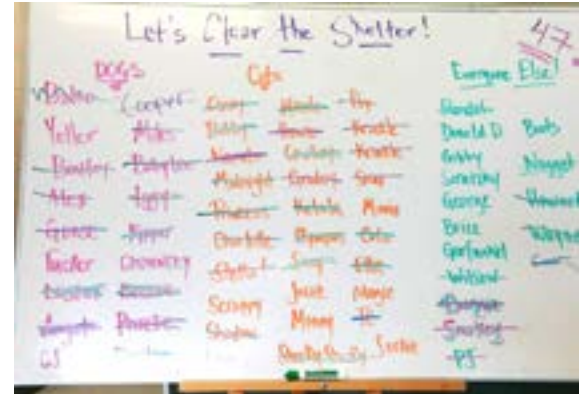


Photo courtesy of Loudoun County Animal Services

- Another one from Loudoun County Animal Services – a photo of a white board with the names of 47 needy animals adopted by loving homes in their Clear-The-Shelters event.
- From Crooked Run Orchard in Purcellville, a cool flock of wild turkeys on the farm.



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Phyllis Randall, Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Allison Silberberg, Mayor of Alexandria, Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Chair, Corey Stewart, Prince William County Chairman At-Large, Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair. Photo taken at the recent Northern Virginia Regional Elected Leaders Summit.

## **POLITICS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

year; in Loudoun, in the range of \$115,500 – or, over five times that of Holmes County. Based on that, I asked Carthan, who, has worked in local government since he was first elected mayor – over 50 years ago – what he thought Loudoun County and Phyllis Randall could learn from him. “Well,” said, Carthan, “We do a lot with a little. Loudoun could learn a lot from that, how to maximize the minimum and minimize the maximum, as I like to say.” Take a small amount of county funds, for example, and, as Carthan explained, “stretch the heck out of it.”

In terms of what he could learn from Loudoun, Carthan said “The battery of needs we have, for a better educational system, more economic opportunities, better infrastructure, improvements in healthcare, we can look at how Loudoun prioritizes things, and make plans that benefit both counties.” No matter how much you have to work with, said Carthan, “leadership plays a big role ... we can see how a place like Loudoun sets different initiatives in motion.”

For her part, Randall, who is very active in various local government organizations, sees a situation where a sharing of information and ideas could give the leaders of both counties a fresh perspective on things.

Such leaders routinely share ideas at events such as the Northern Virginia Regional Elected Leaders Summit, which took place on Aug. 29 at Sterling's Waddell Theater. Randall was a featured attendee at the event, which also showcased leadership from each jurisdiction across Northern

Virginia, including individuals such as Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair, Corey Stewart, Prince William County Chairman At-Large, Allison Silberberg, Mayor of Alexandria, and Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Chair.

We do this kind of thing only in formal settings, reasoned Randall. Why not in informal settings as well?

Said Randall, “Despite the income disparity, there is a lot we can learn from one another – I can learn from Mr. Carthan and he can learn from me.” He has to accomplish a lot with a small amount of funds for education, she noted. Loudoun has a much bigger educational budget, but, the principle challenge is the same: how to give the highest quality service to their constituents.

Randall also likes the idea of bringing the Holmes County Administrator and the Loudoun County Administrator together, even if it's not face-to-face.

Interestingly, Holmes is identified as the birthplace of the 4-H movement, something very familiar to the people of agriculturally-based Loudoun County. Peruse the various websites dedicated to Holmes County, and you see other things quite familiar to Loudouners – a large and beautiful brick courthouse, historic homes, historic markers, small community colleges, and agricultural institutions.

And, there's something else that Loudoun and Holmes counties share: a love of the place they call home.

Sounds like a good basis for what should be a great a county-to-county friendship.



**TAG SALE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

per 10' x 10' space. To register a sale location off Main Street or at your home the fee is \$10. Vendors or home owners who register by Sept. 25 will be on the Purcellville Tag Sale map.

Event sponsor Michael Oaks of Discover Purcellville and Re-Love It said, "This year we're continuing the tradition of vendors on Main Street. We're anticipating a great event, even better than last year." Discover Purcellville is also the Town's sponsor of other events, such as the Halloween Block Party and Painted Adirondack Love Seats around Purcellville.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said,

"Since its inception, the Purcellville Tag Sale has been recognized for its positive economic impact and community enhancement. It's a pleasure for the Town Council to partner with Discover Purcellville and our entire community to make this year's 15th annual Purcellville Tag Sale a success." Fraser encouraged everyone to participate in the Purcellville Tag Sale – Loudoun County's largest yard sale.

For more information, go to [www.purcellvilletagsale.com](http://www.purcellvilletagsale.com), or text Michael Oaks at 540 383-0009. More information about Discover Purcellville is available at [www.DiscoverPurcellville.org](http://www.DiscoverPurcellville.org).



**HARVEST, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

**Tempting tomatoes**

Tomatoes-on-the-vine, heirloom tomatoes, and tomatoes grown for snacking are three trends in the ever-expanding world of this fabulous fruit. In Loudoun you can find all three of these options, and, tomatoes have a long harvesting season – July through October. So, become a tomato artist. Mix yellow, green, purple, and red varieties into a

fantastic salad. Add bits of tomato to baked goods such as bread. And, turn that big, juicy beefsteak tomato into an edible bowl for your next tuna or chicken salad.

**A savory look at apples**

For this, go to our recipes on page 21. We feature three options – an appetizer, a soup, and an entree, each of which uses apples in a savory fashion.

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**WATER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

That grow-your-way-out-of-debt strategy not only failed, but was resoundingly rejected in the last three election cycles. And, today, the Mayor and the majority on Town Council are working, not to maximize the speed at which new hookups can be added, but to use the taxpayer's investment in the plant to ensure water quality, to maximize financial efficiencies, and to stop the rising tide of water bills. They are also working to innovative how water – and wastewater – can be processed, reused, and delivered to water and sewer system customers.



The people rising to this challenge are the employees of the Town's Department of Public Works, which oversees four Town divisions: Water, Wastewater, Streets and Maintenance, and Capital Projects and Engineering.

In a recent visit to the plant – with Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Town Manager David Mekarski, Water Plant Superintendent Scott House, and technicians Lindey Siebert, and Emma Watts in attendance – the Blue Ridge Leader got an inside look at what goes on.

The challenge facing municipalities across the country is our aging water and sewer management workforce and the lack of interest young people have in pursuing this field.

For that reason, Fraser has begun discussions with Northern Virginia Community College, the Nextide Academy in Purcellville, the Makersmiths organization and trade schools to develop a curriculum for water and sewer management.

Fraser's goal is to get people interested in the field while benefitting the broader community by making the Purcellville wastewater facility a laboratory for these institutions. Said Fraser: "With a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility, Purcellville has an opportunity to partner with educational institutions to develop a skilled labor force for future jobs in wastewater treatment and management. Many municipalities across the nation are at risk of not being able to fill critical water management positions.



Left to right: Technicians Lindey Siebert, and Emma Watts.

### Where it comes from, how it's managed

Purcellville gets its water from surface and underground sources. Surface sources include the the J.T. Hirst Reservoir. Built in 1955 it has an operational capacity of 300,000 gallons per day and a storage capacity of 29 million gallons. The reservoir is maintained via three springs – Harris Spring, Potts Spring, and Cooper Spring – which connect to the system at various points and through various means.

The accompanying Bashim Simms water treatment plant is quite sophisticated. It is a high rate water filtration plant with additional chemical purification capabilities.

There are two water tanks and 47 miles of pipeline in the system serving 2,259 residential and 295 commercial customers.

The cleanliness, usage and treatment statistics of the system are reflected in a series of ongoing measures and documents such as a Source Water Protection Plan, a Water and Wastewater Rates and Fees Schedule, ongoing Drinking Water Quality and Demand Reports and Charts, and more.

We want to help turn that situation around."

Mekarski, who came to Purcellville in April with over two decades of municipal management experience has said how impressed he is with Purcellville's clean water record. "The effluent from our plant is cleaner than some people's well water, and our contribution to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative is an amazing story ... In some places the quality of the water at the point of discharge is better than downstream," said Mekarski.

Tertiary treatment refers to the process which improves the quality of water due to be reused, recycled or discharged – put back into the environment. And, as both Mekarski and House described, the Purcellville plant employs the best of that kind of technology and approach.

According to Superintendent House, the Town's system addresses wastewater treatment from three angles: biological, chemical and physical.

Biological features help the organisms already present in waste to do their work, to continue the breakdown process. Chemical treatments and agents work to sanitize. And, physical or mechanical parts of the waste treatment use super-fine membranes, or filters to aid in the process. Ultraviolet light plays a role, too, as does a sophisticated form of aeration. With respect to sewage treatment costs, Purcellville has also been able to take advantage of what is known as water quality credit trading. A water quality credit is a financial bonus of sorts. If Purcellville is able to use the technology it has to treat and clean wastewater to a level above that required by things such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, it receives a water quality credit that can be sold for cash to another user/permit holder. Purcellville is doing this, and quite successfully; selling credits and reducing its own water treatment costs.

It's only water. But, we all depend upon it.

It's only water. But, we have a lot to learn, and Purcellville is doing a pretty good job of leading the way to a cleaner wastewater future for western Loudoun.

## Save at the faucet, showerhead and hose – some perspective

The average American family uses 250 gallons of water per day.

Save up to 8 gallons of water per day by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth.

Save up to 6 gallons per day by turning off the tap while you scrub your hands.

An energy-efficient dishwasher uses 4 gallons per cycle; hand washing dishes ... up to 20 gallons.

Outdoor water use accounts for 30 percent of total household water use, 50 percent of which is lost due to wind, evaporation, and runoff caused by inefficient irrigation systems.

Watering your lawn for 20 minutes a day for 7 days is like running the shower 24 hours a day for 4 days or taking 800 showers.

The typical shower uses up to 30 gallons of water; a 5-minute shower, 10-25 gallons.

Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge,

rather than filling a glass of water by running the faucet until it is cold.

Bottled water is up to 3,000+ times more expensive than tap water.

Of the 326 million trillion gallons of water on earth, only 0.007 percent is available to drink; use it wisely.

**PIEDMONT SINGERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

As Leesburg resident Pamela Butler, a second soprano who serves as a music director at Christ Episcopal Church, Lucketts, noted, "Many of the lyrics and chants we perform have been sung for hundreds of years in sacred buildings much older than any found in the U.S. This connection to our common history is moving and profound."

Todd Grivetti, music teacher at Horizon Elementary School in Sterling and organist at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Herndon, served as the cantor, leading the choir during the prayers at the Evensong services with his beautiful voice.

"It was very special to watch the faces of those in the congregation who were obviously touched by our music

and to participate in the emotion that was created in the ambiance and beauty of Christ Church Cathedral," he said.

Bass singer Daniel Garrett, a retired ordained United Methodist Minister who traveled with his wife Susan (also a retired UM minister), was moved to be at the place where John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism, were educated.

"It was a special thrill to be at Christ Church Cathedral, where both men were ordained," he said. A metal plaque is inset in the paving stones with their names and dates.

The choir members were accompanied by 30 friends and family members who attended the services and joined the choir members for meals and local sightseeing. Although the daily schedule included two rehearsals as well as a choral

service, the group was able to do a little touring in Oxford and the surrounding area. This included Blenheim Palace (Winston Churchill's birthplace), Highclere Castle (featured in Downton Abbey), Warwick Castle and Shakespeare's home at Stratford-upon-Avon.

The choir received much praise from congregants attending the services and the cathedral clergy. As one said, "You have brought a thrilling intensity and a beauty in the music that was very special to us."

*Heather Humphries and her husband George lived the horse life in Loudoun County for 32 years. George passed away in 2015, but Heather continues celebrating the love and beauty all around from a retirement community in Winchester.*



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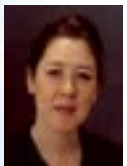
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## Arts council awards grant funds

The Purcellville Arts Council announced in late August that they have awarded a total of \$9,000 to five local organizations using 50 percent matching grant funds from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The five grant recipients are: Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers, Joshua's Hands, Loudoun Ballet Performing Arts, Loudoun Valley Viking Theatre Company, and the Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour.

The Purcellville Arts Council applied for and won a \$4,500 Creative Communities Partnership Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The purpose of the grant is to encourage local governments to support the arts. The \$4,500 awarded to the Purcellville Arts Council was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Town to award funds to the five art organizations that had applied and met the criteria.

Local art organizations were invited to submit applications for the funding by March 1. Interested non-profit arts organizations submitted a request letter to the Purcellville Arts Council outlining arts activity that the funding would support, a program budget, the audience

served/reached, the community impact, duration of program, other public and private sector involvement, and a description of the organization along with their 501 (c) 3 documentation.

"The funds that the Purcellville Arts Council awarded to local arts organizations helps support amazing talent right here in Purcellville while connecting these artists with our citizens," said Liz Jarvis, Chair of the Purcellville Arts Council. "Combining the funds from the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Creative Communities Partnership Grant with funds from the Purcellville Arts Council gives local performers a chance to be featured in professional caliber productions and will enhance the infrastructure that builds the foundation for future productions. Additionally, local artists will have more opportunities to feature their work."

The Purcellville Arts Council is a standing committee that supports visual and performing arts in the Town of Purcellville. The Council works to offer local artists more opportunities to share their art with the public while providing residents with a variety of ways to enjoy and learn about art.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

difficult time for the child with a significant gaming problem. I've seen many of the youth I've worked with lose an academic quarter, or sometimes even struggle over the entire school year, because of their excessive gaming. Thus, getting the school involved and seeking out additional professional help is oftentimes a must.

*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.*

### Sudoku solution

5	9	6	2	8	7	4	1	3
2	8	3	4	1	9	6	7	5
7	1	4	5	9	3	2	8	6
9	6	5	7	2	8	1	3	4
4	3	8	1	6	9	5	2	7
1	2	7	3	5	4	6	9	8
8	4	1	6	7	2	3	5	9
9	7	2	9	3	5	8	4	1
3	5	9	8	4	1	7	6	2

## Come Together Solution on p.35

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18								
19						20				21				
				22	23			24	25					
26	27	28		29		30		31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39									40	41				
42						43								
44				45	46			47				48		
			49	50				51		52		53		
54	55						56	57			58	59	60	61
62						63				64				
65										66				
67					68						69			

### ACROSS

- 1. Expert
- 6. "Rigoletto" composer
- 11. Be laid up
- 14. Hawaiian veranda
- 15. Innateness
- 17. Criminal's pals, to police
- 19. Its motto is "Lux et veritas"
- 20. Letter from Greece
- 21. Back up
- 22. The Righteous Brothers, e.g.
- 24. Social insects
- 26. Strike caller
- 29. Genetic info carrier
- 31. Downs' opposite
- 32. Get off the fence
- 35. Claims anew

- 38. Have a hankering
- 39. Eye \_\_\_ of America
- 42. Leaning against
- 43. Not moving
- 44. Ultimate degree
- 45. Basic chess tactic
- 47. 252 wine gallons
- 48. Gob
- 49. Bread maker
- 52. Persian, e.g.
- 54. Teased
- 56. Hotshot
- 58. Common contraction
- 62. Community college diploma
- 65. Quibbled
- 66. Christopher of "Superman"
- 67. Neon, e.g.
- 68. Gawk (at)
- 69. Beasts of burden

### DOWN

- 1. Boozer, slangily
- 2. "Two Years Before the Mast" writer
- 3. Organic compound
- 4. Mauled
- 5. Material for a whitesmith
- 6. MasterCard alternative
- 7. Come after
- 8. Fraternity letter
- 9. Abscond
- 10. Spring blossoms
- 11. Aloof
- 12. Clinches
- 13. Just in case
- 16. "\_\_\_ of Eden"
- 18. Is repentant
- 23. \_\_\_ Major
- 25. Mideast capital
- 26. Concentrated, in a way
- 27. Had in mind

- 28. Believers in an abstract deity
- 30. Poisonous gas
- 33. Shot
- 34. Basic belief
- 36. Go downhill fast?
- 37. Boatload
- 38. PIN requester
- 40. Accustomed
- 41. Hokkaido native
- 45. Summary
- 46. Charge
- 50. At the summit of
- 51. Critic, at times
- 53. Pledges
- 54. Report
- 55. Largest of seven
- 57. Give up
- 59. Burns up
- 60. Campbell of "Party of Five"
- 61. Caddie's bagful
- 63. Rap sheet abbr.
- 64. Diamond stat

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E	R	E	G			D	E	T	V	A	C	O	S	S	V
T	N	I	A			E	C	A		D	E	T	A	I	B
						U	R	R	E	R	N	A			
T	O	L				N	U	N		P		H	T	N	
E	T	A	M			A	N	A		I		T	I	N	A
N	O	I	A			I	C	O	S	S	A	K	A	N	B
E	H	C				S	T	R	E	S	S	A	E		R
T	P					S	P	U		N	R		M		U
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T	S	I	S			A	U	V	A	T	E	A	L	E	
S	E	T	A			C	O	S	S		N	W	O	N	K
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