

# Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

NOVEMBER 2018

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## Warner Brook Annexation Goes Down

BY VALERIE CURY

At its Oct. 23 meeting, the Purcellville Town Council voted 6-1 to deny the Warner Brook development's request for annexation, with only Council Member Joel Grewe voting in favor of the application.

Multiple speakers addressed the packed room. Although it is not unusual for votes like this to attract large crowds, the tenor of the proceedings was quite unusual, including particularly ugly expletives directed at Mayor Kwasi Fraser.

The Warner family's representative, Jim Herbert, spoke in favor of the annexation.

*"I move that the Purcellville Town Council deny the annexation application of the Warner Brook Property."*  
— Vice Mayor Ryan Cool

Also in favor was former Town Council Member Doug McCollum, who noted that individuals attending an earlier Warner Brook charette wanted the development. McCollum was referring to a 2014 charette attended, mostly, by individuals from Bowman Consulting which was representing the Warner family, and

residents from Sterling and Ashburn who were in favor of the additional sports fields the project might bring. Purcellville residents were not invited to the charette.

Purcellville resident David Eno said, "The vote tonight should be no. Public opinion is over 90 percent against this plan ... we are against the revolutionary change that this could bring." Wright Farm resident Owen Brown, whose neighborhood would be directly impacted by the development, said of the proposal, "This endangers western Loudoun, it will make it look like Fairfax ... And you know

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## Painted Adirondack Love Seats Auction Nov. 17

The auction for those painted Adirondack love seats that you've seen around town all summer will take place Saturday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Purcellville Skating Rink, 250 S. Nursery Ave. All 44 love seats painted by local artists will be up for auction. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, and include beer, wine, and light food. For tickets, go to [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3496354](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3496354) or call 540 383-0009.



## Envision Loudoun's affordable housing decision-makers Higher densities everywhere

BY ANDREA GAINES

The Loudoun County Affordable Dwelling Unit Program was established to "assist in the provision of housing to persons of moderate income."

The current draft of Loudoun 2040 – the County's new Comprehensive Plan – places enormous emphasis on growing the supply of affordable housing of all kinds in all areas; via infill and renovation in the Suburban Policy Area, greater densities and new "place types" in the Transition Policy Area and elsewhere, and Town-style densities in the Rural Policy Area, including its extensive Joint Land Management areas.

This puts enormous power and influence in the hands of the eleven members of the ADUAB, who come to

their posts as appointees of the Board of Supervisors and with strict requirements for both their expertise and their private and/or public roles in the County real estate and development world.

The program – which falls under Article 7 of the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance – is overseen by the Loudoun County Zoning Administrator with the assistance of the Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board.

The eleven-member ADUAB "advises the Board of Supervisors regarding the establishment of the amount and terms of all sales and rental prices of affordable units." This includes making recommendations with respect to the "costs of prototypical single-family

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# PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

**This Winter is the Ideal Time to Make the Switch.**

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

"I have been buying propane from Hunt Country for about a year now. My previous propane provider was much higher priced. The staff was rude and didn't seem to care if you gave them business or not. When I was shopping around for a new company, thankfully I found Hunt Country. The staff is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and genuinely cared that you gave them your business. Hunt Country prices are consistently lower than their competitors. I highly recommend that you call Hunt Country Propane, if you don't, you're making a BIG(\$!) mistake. Thanks Hunt Country!" —Ed, Leesburg



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# Go Out Without Going Far! Franklin Park Arts Center

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## Robin and Linda Williams: An Evening of Bluegrass Music

November 17 8:00 pm  
 Tickets: \$27 All Seats

For more than three decades, Robin & Linda Williams have made it their mission to perform the music that they love, "a robust blend of bluegrass, folk, old-time and acoustic country that combines wryly observant lyrics with a wide-ranging melodicism." Their repertoire includes original songs and those gleaned from the rich musical heritage of the Carter Family, Jimmie Rogers and Hank Williams. Sponsored by the Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center as part of their GOLD STAR series.

### Frog Town Puppets: Legend Of The Banana Kid

Nov 7 @ 10:00am Tickets: \$5 Pay at Door



Little Chucky heads to the Wild West to outwit outlaws in this cowboy adventure! With a fistful of bananas, Chucky rides into town on his trusty goat for a showdown with Big Bad Bart and his gang of bandits.

### JAZZ&CO Dance: Fall Concert

Nov 9 & 10 @ 7:30pm Nov 11 @ 3:30pm  
 Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors and Students

This pre-professional contemporary company from The Loudoun School of Ballet showcases diverse and dynamic choreography.



### Loudoun School of Ballet: Companies in Concert

Nov 10 @ 3:30pm Nov 11 @ 1:30pm  
 Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors and Students

Protégé, ShowKids and Loudoun Taps performing companies from the Loudoun School of Ballet.

### Planetarium Show: MARS

Nov 18 @ 2:30 pm, 3:15 pm, 4:00 pm Tickets: \$8/person Pay at Door

Step inside our Digitalis Delta 4 inflatable planetarium to learn about the Red Planet and NASA's missions to explore it. Shows typically last 30-40 minutes and are appropriate for ages 4 and up with mostly floor seating.

YOU MUST CALL TO REGISTER 540-338-7973

### Gallery Coffeehouse Readers Theatre "Tour Package"

Nov 18 @ 6:30 pm Tickets: \$10/person Pay at Door

(Ages 16 & up) Local playwright Rich Fink presents a NEW comedy play about two business partners who pack their bags, grab their wives and head south to a tropical paradise. With an untrained driver at the wheel of their bus tour, the trip goes downhill quickly. Coffee and refreshments included.



### Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv

Nov 23 @ 8:00 pm Tickets \$14 Adults, \$12 Seniors, \$10 kids

Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs, the perfect post-Thanksgiving activity for the whole family! A group of talented performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games.

### Run Rabbit Run: Once Upon A Christmas Carol

Nov 29, 30, Dec 1, 6, 7, 8 @ 7:30 pm Dec 2 & 9 @ 2:00 pm

Tickets: Advance \$20, Adults, \$15 Seniors/student, \$25 at door

When the ghost of Scrooge's old business partner visits him Christmas Eve and warns him of his dire future, Scrooge is unrepentant, but when he's visited by three more spirits - The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future - they'll take him on a magical musical journey to re-discover his heart!



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# Thanksgiving Harvest

## Triumphs, failures, beauty from the back yard

BY ANDREA GAINES

For this issue of the Blue Ridge Leader, we asked readers and friends to tell us some stories, share some wisdom, and have some fun with three subjects. What have been your greatest triumphs and failures in the Thanksgiving kitchen – from the best dish you ever made, to the disasters?

From snacks to dinner to desert and beyond, what are you serving for Thanksgiving? If we put everyone's list together, what wild and wonderful ideas might we spark along the way?

Finally, if you had only your back yard from which to fashion an alluring centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table, or a festive holiday swag, what would you gather?

### The Flaming Duck

We received word of lots of kitchen triumphs and failures for this story.

"I tried cooking a duck for Thanksgiving one year," one reader wrote, "... for my father-in-law. I used a rotisserie grill, but, something went wrong. Half way through

*"I once went to a Thanksgiving celebration that started in a park. The hosts had laid out an outline that was the actual size of the deck of the Mayflower. Hot peanut soup was served on a cold day. Then we all went our separate ways for dinner. The deck of the Mayflower was small."*

– Frannie Taylor

the duck turned into a fireball. I dosed the fire, and called my husband. 'Can you pick up a few steaks?' I asked."

For triumphs: "My biggest Thanksgiving coup was frying five turkeys. Eighteen people came – from five families. I marinated five small birds the day before, then I fried them in peanut oil. Everyone took a half-eaten bird home. No boney leftovers for me!" Ahhh. Maybe the lesson here is to fry the bird, but make it small, and make it turkey.

### Thanksgiving menus

Readers and friends submitted dozens of items for our Thanksgiving menu list, sometimes with a few tips. Maybe this will give you some ideas for some new traditions of your own.

Turkey: "Best tip ever! Don't roast a bird at all. It's a big waste of time and effort. Instead buy a smoked turkey, and spend your cooking time and oven time on what people really want – sides."

Appetizers: Smoked salmon with capers, cheese and crackers, vegetable crudité, minced clam balls with herbs and white wine, water chestnuts wrapped in bacon.

Apple sauce: "I do a combination of chunky, and smooth with cinnamon and raisins."

Cakes: Pumpkin cheesecake, black forest cake, carrot cake, and pumpkin bread with lemon icing.

Casseroles: Popeye's green bean casserole, roasted butternut squash stuffed with zucchini risotto, and root vegetables with mascarpone cheese.

Cranberry sauce: "Homemade. It's easy," and "Always use whole berries, nuts, and



a little citrus," and "Cranberry and orange sauce. It is spectacular on everything."

Potatoes: Scalloped potatoes, sweet potato, and butternut-pecan-sweet-potato mash.

Pies, tarts and crumbles: "My Uncle Floyd

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Blessed be the bird

## Third annual turkey pardoning noon, Nov. 10, Town Hall

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and members of the Town Council invite one and all to join them for the 3rd Annual Purcellville Turkey Pardon, Saturday, Nov. 10 at noon at the Town Hall.

The honoree of the event – the luckiest turkey in town! – is named Big Red. And, yes, he is indeed lucky, as he will get to spend the rest of his life at the certified organic Harpers Ferry Family Farm of Bob and Linna Walz.

Everyone is looking forward to the event, including the mayor, who said, "Some people think that the ceremonial duties of small town mayors have no real meaning. I actually look forward to them. They are a chance for the community to come together. In the case of the annual turkey pardoning, it is also a chance for us all to recognize all that the animals do for us. I'm told that Big Red had a foot injury when he was little, but recovered to grow to market size. Now he'll have the opportunity to live out his life with some really kind folks."

During his young life, Big Red was featured in promotional materials by



Dan Hine of EatLoCo with Big Red

Dan Hine of EatLoCo, to promote local farmers markets and healthy eating. "EatLoCo is pleased to sponsor Big Red for the Town of Purcellville ceremony, after which Red will be transported back to Purcellville's very own certified-organic Harpers Ferry Family Farm," said Hine.

Everyone is hoping for a beautiful day, especially Big Red. Refreshments will be served inside following the ceremony. The address is 221 S. Nursery Avenue, Purcellville.

## Crazy about fungi

BY ANDREA GAINES

They go by scientific names such as Amanita Muscaria ... Bondarzewia ... Trametes ... and Entoloma. Or, by common names such as chicken of the woods, lion's mane, chanterelle, button, old man in the woods, and oyster.

Hearing these common names, you might have figured out that these are varieties of what we know as wild mushrooms.

Some quick reading on the subject will tell you that although all mushrooms are fungi, not all fungi are mushrooms. Rather, some kinds of fungi produce the equivalent of a flower, or a fruit. The fruit is otherwise known as a mushroom. And, the mushroom produces spores, the equivalent, in a plant, of a seed.

But, no matter what fascinates people about mushrooms, the most fun to be found in all of it is the urgent and sometimes mystical search for them; that quiet foray into the woods after a good rain at the right time of year to the exact spot where you found them before. The careful and delicate harvest with a sharp knife, a fine brush to remove soil and bits of bark, and a secure container in which to bring home your prize.



Photo courtesy of Katie Watkins



The Facebook page of a group called Virginia Mushroom Hunters is bursting with excitement this time of year, with people from Purcellville to Richmond to Roanoke posting pictures, describing where they found their mushrooms and under what circumstances, and asking for help to confirm what is OK to eat, or touch, or not.

One avid mushroom hunter called his journeys into the woods for the elusive

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— Just like nothing (else) on earth —

# Balls Bluff National Cemetery and Regional Park

BY TIM JON

I usually look forward to writing these pieces with almost unbounded enthusiasm, but not (entirely) this time; I started noticing the same feeling I'd get (now decades ago) in accepting a major role on the stage (that feeling of "Oh my God what have I got myself into?!") and I get the sense that today's emotional response stems from similar sources; honestly asking myself if I can do justice to the material. The prospect of delivering a bad (or perhaps worse – boring!) performance in live theatre can be truly unnerving (especially if you're dealing with revered playwrights or performing in major theatres) – you're pretty much baring your soul to the crowd, and sometimes all you can do is hope for the best; now, when I visit a local destination with this series of stories in mind, I always feel a responsibility to treat the subject matter with appropriate honor, attention, empathy or even the humor it deserves – and this is nowhere as true as when the site contains a burial ground holding remains of fallen soldiers in American uniforms. I could be speaking of any number of our larger cemeteries in Loudoun County, but I'm focusing today on – to my knowledge – one of the smallest: Balls Bluff National Cemetery and the Regional Park which surrounds it.



JON

I'm not sure if this holds true for others, but I simply cannot pay a visit to this acreage without making the hallowed ground about those graves my primary objective; I can feel the pull even as I'm parking my car and getting reacquainted with the lay of the land. So - on my last visit, the quick hike through the wooded high ground seemed to melt away in just seconds, the square retaining wall and

US flag came into view, and I made a beeline for the little burial plot. A couple of Civil War-era canons also mark the spot where the Union officers – all that time ago – saw fit to inter their fallen comrades.

Was it my imagination, or could I still feel the tension in the air from that terrible battle between opposing forces, the Union and the Army of the Confederacy? And, if I could sense that feeling, imagine the souls of the dead soldiers, whose remains lay in circular formation within that thick stone wall.



Now, I still recall my repulsion in – for the first time – listening to the details of that ill-planned martial engagement, during my earliest days in Leesburg (I saw part of my duties as Wage Radio's news director to understand the local history), and I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing to bestow a sense of peace over the place of so much violence. Now, the Battle of Balls Bluff may seem like a minor conflict in comparison to the major stand-offs of the Civil War – Gettysburg, Antietam, and even the

Manassas engagements. But this one occurred right here – literally a few steps from some of our current residents' back porches.

Records show that the National Cemetery at the site contains the remains of 54 soldiers, and I recall losses of life – both sides combined – barely exceeded one hundred, with somewhere around five hundred Union forces captured by the Confederates. The engagement saw the death of a close friend of President Lincoln – Colonel Edward Baker – the sole United States Senator killed in Battle. The events of that October Day in 1861 included reports of Union Soldiers – attempting to re-cross the River, only to bog down in the swampy Potomac, many taken prisoner, many drowning, all leaving us with this story of confusion, horror, and even sordidness.

So, now, we attempt to honor the dead – not just the 54 within the little burial ground, but all who fought that day at Balls Bluff, all who served in those years of Civil War, and – because we may – all those who fought for the American flag in any military action. The Stars and Stripes unite them all. I've long believed that part of how we honor that service is in the conduct of our lives, and I often feel that I keep coming up short on my end of the bargain; I ask myself: have I comported myself with the level of commitment, selflessness, grace, and generosity that US soldiers – not just at Balls Bluff, but wherever we see American uniforms – have? ...well, in any case, I will keep trying.

And that sense of fear – of not measuring up to Thespis, and Garrick, and Brando – or my subject matter of today? I can say that I usually found the more depth in characters corresponding to the level of terror I experienced on entering the process; I still haven't faced my audience for this one. Most of them are in the ground.

## Quiet No More

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

"It's important to understand how memory works in a traumatic event," wrote author Patti Davis in a *Washington Post* op-ed. "Your memory snaps photos of the details that will haunt you forever, that will change your life and live under your skin," she penned.



In the piece, she shared a harrowing account of sexual assault, a rape she endured decades ago. A story to which many can undoubtedly relate, especially in light of recent statistics suggesting that

one of every five women will experience rape during the course of her lifetime, while one of every ten rape victims is male. Reportedly, an American experiences sexual assault every 98 seconds, affecting millions each year.

While few dare to challenge these staggering statistics, many seem intent on denying the veracity of those brave enough to come forward, no matter how credible. As if a person deserves to be automatically discredited the moment he or she speak out.

None of this is meant to downplay the importance of the presumption of

innocence. Have previous claims of sexual assault been proven false? Absolutely. Yet at the same time, it seems quite a stretch to say that everyone who has ever come forward with a story involving sexual abuse is telling a falsehood.

Perhaps efforts to discredit survivors stems from a place of denial. After all, such claims typically break through the façade once possessed regarding a person's character. I have seen the same story play out again and again. The fear on the part of survivors at the thought of coming forward, scared of possible loss of relationships that might result. The ridicule they may endure. Not to mention the feelings that are nearly guaranteed to resurface, the re-living of the events that many have tried so very hard to

forget.

The courage it takes to reveal, only to find that such news leads to the realization of a survivor's worst fears. The lack of empathy shown on the part of those on the receiving end of the revelation. The relatives and friends who respond by immediately attempting to discredit the account, working actively to poke holes in the perceived inconsistencies of the evidence offered. All the while lauding the accomplishments of the typically well-respected assailant, pointing to an excellent reputation as evidence of predetermined innocence.

This line of logic completely ignores the reality that many of those accused have

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## — Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider Psy.D.

# The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Competitive Youth Sports

As a psychologist, I frequently work with children and teens involved in competitive team sports, and while there are certainly advantages to being a great athlete at a young age, there can also be a number of challenges.



DR. MIKE

### The Good.

The positives of youth sports are manifold. Research studies have shown that highly athletic children do better academically, socially and emotionally and are more physically fit when compared to children who do not participate in competitive organized sports. Research has also shown that high school athletes display greater self-confidence and self-respect, possess significantly more leadership skills, graduate at higher rates and actually end up earning more money later in life than their non-athletic peers -- one study found that former competitive high school athletes earn somewhere in the ballpark (pardon the pun) of 5 to 15 percent more across their careers than students who did not participate in organized competitive sports. Interestingly, that study did not find higher earnings for students later in life for any other extracurricular high school activity.

### The Bad.

Competitive youth sports can be very time consuming. When a child or teen athlete goes from the recreational level to the competitive level in any sport, free time becomes harder to find. Conditioning requirements, nights and weekends being booked with games and travel and daily practices, altogether leave most competitive youth athletes little to no time to participate in any other sort of extracurricular activities or social moments.

Between fees, equipment, travel, etc., competitive youth sports are also expensive. One research study found that some families are spending as much as 10 percent of their incomes on their children's sports. With a low of around \$1,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 annually, that study revealed what a lot of parents know too well, that the investment into a child's athletic endeavors can place a strain on a family's finances.

### The Ugly.

The emotional commitment to a competitive team sport can also be great. While the pressure to perform and to always be expected to give 110 percent can increase a child's grit and resilience, it can take a toll on others. If not managed, excessive pressure and stress can lead to a host of larger psychological problems and harmful behaviors such as burnout, anxiety, depression, substance and alcohol use, steroid use and eating disorders.

Even with the right technique and approach, getting hurt while playing sports competitively is also an unavoidable reality for our youth. It is well accepted that the risk of serious injury increases with contact sports such as football or hockey, but injuries can also occur for any sport. Overuse injuries are actually quite common in competitive youth sports and injuries can become chronic -- and even lifelong -- conditions if not adequately addressed. I have worked with many professional athletes over the years as a psychologist, and several of them are adamant about not allowing their children to enter their field for this very reason. A highly successful athlete recently expressed to me that he is in constant pain due to the main injuries he sustained over the course of his career. It is also an unfortunate reality that the likelihood of sustaining a concussion increases when playing contact sports, and recent research in this area has found a link between playing tackle football in preadolescence and later developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

Excessive parental pressure and strained parent-child relationships can also be an ugly aspect to competitive youth sports. It is important for parents to reflect on their own motivations and behaviors when it comes to their child or teen's participation in competitive sports. Our children are extensions of ourselves, and because of that, what we want for them can become emotionally blurred with what we want or need for ourselves. It is also important to remember that regardless of how talented your child is in a given sport, his or her decision to continue to play or not, should not be yours alone to make. Sometimes even the most gifted child may want to stop playing a sport,

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# Press Releases 2019

*Editor's Note: Before you know it, it's 2019. The fictitious Metropolitan Post purports to quote members of the Loudoun Board of Supervisors on their reactions to a poll showing the citizens' state of mind about the County's never-ending growth. For those who are easily confused, remember that all of the quotes in this column are wholly made up, as are the names of the Metropolitan Post reporters. The real author says he wholeheartedly embraces the populist idea that the County belongs to the people.*

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

## Citizens Revolt in Loudoun The Metropolitan Post February 13, 2019

Loudoun citizens are irate at the continued growth and congestion of their once-bucolic county, to the point of open revolt. In the County's latest Survey of Citizens,

some 87% of residents said growth and traffic were their two largest problems. These issues have been the top complaints on these surveys since at least 1999, but the population has still swelled from 158,000 in 1999 to 400,000 today. Citizens have never been so unified in opposition to what's become intolerable. One local, John Brooke of Ashburn, summed it up, "The elections in November [2019] will be our message." Many others shared Brooke's sentiment; we did not find anyone who advocated for more development.

Loudoun's Supervisors seemed shocked at the widespread, fervent anger directed at them. All nine addressed the survey via press releases, abridged versions of which are below. Most sided with the citizens.

### Chair Phyllis Randall

"Loudoun simply cannot let this happen."

"I am not surprised at the citizens' opinions. In fact, I share them. This is a defining issue that has united eastern and western Loudoun. Exponential population growth and hideous congestion affect the quality of our daily lives and pocketbooks. This must stop.

"I will bring motions to the Board regarding downzoning. Our staff estimates that some 29,000 new houses can be built by right, and I've seen projections that show that these houses could cost taxpayers over a billion dollars. Loudoun simply cannot let this happen.

"I want to reinforce this: Loudoun belongs to its people, not the Board of Supervisors, not to developers, and not to business."

### Vice Chairman Ralph Buona

"... I've been wrong."

"I'm not running for reelection, and that makes it easier to admit, frankly, that I've been wrong. I've always pushed for economic growth, and believed that prosperity would make us happy. But I see that we've passed that point, and continued growth has angered everyone except developers. I'm a capitalist, but now citizens have made me realize that quality of life can be more important than money.

"My constituents have become conservationists. Our neighborhoods are world class and people don't want to lose that to world-class congestion. The growth must stop."

### Supervisor Tony Buffington

"... whatever government gives, it can take away."

"Loudoun's future isn't a partisan issue. I've voted with both Democrats and Republicans, and against both of them, too. The Blue Ridge district includes Loudoun

citizens in the east, in the transition area and in the west. Every day I hear complaints from all of those areas about how big we've become; how bad traffic is. I'm glad that the survey puts an official stamp on that.

"New zoning controls are important, but whatever government gives, it can take away. That's why I've been pleased to see enthusiastic backing for my conservation easement initiative. With it, we can protect much of Loudoun forever."

### Supervisor Geary Higgins

"I vote no."

"We have come to a crossroads. Do we want to let Loudoun become just another crowded bedroom community or do we want to save it? The answer is clear – listen to the citizens. There have been some divisive issues here, and I've tried to help find mutually agreeable solutions. This survey proves that all our citizens feel the same way; there is no divisiveness. This is probably true for the Board as well.

"We hold our positions of trust not because voters believe we're smart – we're not always smart – but because they want us to vote in their interests. And to more growth, more sprawl, and more congestion, I vote no."

### Supervisor Matt Letourneau

"... more houses just make things worse."

"My specialty has been fiscal matters, and I'm proud of our credit rating, I'm proud that citizens are generally well-off, and I'm proud that the Board has been able to decrease the tax rate. But I have had an epiphany. As deeply as I've studied County finances, I always thought growth would be good for us all. Today I know that it's made residents angry and feeling that they have suffered. They are not happy, and they have let me know it. I agree with them now – more people and more houses just make things worse.

"If my constituents see fit to re-elect me this November, I pledge to use my experience to find ways to preserve Loudoun."

### Supervisor Ron Meyer

"It's the right thing to do."

"Property rights are important to me, but they have limits. Zoning is an example. The citizen survey is an eyeopener. People in Broad Run want better zoning. They are tired of traffic, tired of blocks of data centers, and tired of feeling crowded. Proper limits on how much we grow will protect their property rights.

"I believe the eastern suburbs and the western landowners are together on this, and I will support them. It's the right thing to do."

### Supervisor Koran Saines

"... growth cost taxpayers a lot of money."

"Sterling will have mixed feelings about this survey. Parts of Sterling are thriving, but some neighborhoods aren't. The County needs to consider their needs. Some of my fellow Supervisors have convinced me that growth costs taxpayers a lot of money, so if overall growth is controlled, everybody benefits. I have a good compromise: A rehabilitated Sterling can absorb some growth, which would mean that other areas which are against growth can be left alone. Then we can all be pleased."

### Supervisor Kristen Umstatt

"... I will take a hard look at cost avoidance."

"Loudoun County is blessed with great schools, and whatever we do must support them. Land use in Leesburg, which I represent, is a town responsibility, but educating Leesburg children is done by the County. The County and the town need to work together. I made a hard decision in 2018, and voted to put a data center in a new area. I took a lot of criticism, but I wanted tax dollars for the children. Anything we do because of this Survey of Citizens must put children first.

"I do understand the citizens' passion. As the saying says, 'A penny saved is a penny earned,' so I will take a serious look at cost avoidance, not just revenue generation."

### Supervisor Suzanne Volpe

"... growth [pays] for better roads."

"I need to think some more about this survey. For one thing, was it really fair or did special interests dictate the results? We are happy in our Algonkian district, and are on the right path. I've studied the economics of growth, and have been shown a number of studies that say growth is profitable, and generates enough new taxes to pay for better roads. I always listen to citizens first, but you also need to listen to experts."

Loudoun's citizens are upset. The Supervisors espouse new-found convictions on congestion and growth, and affirm the ideal of government by, for, and of the people. What is not clear is what the Board of Supervisors will actually do. This is an election year and the people have leverage. Loudoun will know the answers on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

– Metropolitan Post staff writers William Tennent and Mary Kilgore

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

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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.

— Amy and Dan Smith's Planning for Life —

# What happens to my debt when I die?

A question often asked by an heir of an estate or a person who has been nominated to be the administrator of an estate is: Am I going to be personally liable for the debts of the decedent? The answer is that, unless you undertook joint liability with the decedent during his/her lifetime, as a general rule you will not be liable for his/her debts. Nevertheless, the debt of a decedent can affect the heirs significantly.



AMY AND DAN SMITH

If husband and wife signed a mortgage as owners of the residence and one of them dies, the survivor continues to be liable for the mortgage debt. The survivor may be able to adjust payments to manage the debt burden, but failure to make the required payments could lead to foreclosure.

If the debt is owed by the decedent alone (that is, there is not a joint debtor), then the estate of the decedent is liable for the debt. This can affect the heirs in different ways. For example, assume that the decedent had a car loan. If the estate does not have sufficient assets to pay off the loan, the car may be repossessed and resold. To the extent that the value of the car is insufficient to pay off the loan, the creditor (eg, the bank or other financing company) can attempt to recover the remainder of the debt from the estate. Secured creditors (eg, the car lender) come before the priority list of creditors discussed below.

Creditors holding unsecured loans fall into the category of "General Creditors." An example would be a credit card issuer. Assuming that no one was on the credit card except the decedent, the balance due at the time of death is a debt of the estate. Here's how that works. Pursuant to statute, creditors have different levels of priority in their claims against the estate. Costs of administration of the estate, family and spousal statutory allowances, funeral expenses, federal and state tax liabilities, and some medical expenses are at the top of the priority list. At the bottom of the list are general creditors. After payment of the priority creditors, the general creditors share proportionately in whatever assets remain. Subject to some exceptions, only after all the creditors are paid do

the heirs receive their shares. Thus, even though an heir is not personally liable for the debt of his/her decedent, such debt can directly affect his/her inheritance.

The term "estate" applies to assets passing under a will or by intestacy. It is important to note that the claims of creditors apply equally to the revocable trust of a decedent which he/she created during lifetime, even though assets transferred into that trust during lifetime avoid probate.

An estate administrator incurs no personal liability for the decedent's debts simply by assuming the office of administrator. However, the administrator can incur liability by failing to administer the estate according to the rules and safeguards established under the Virginia Code. For example, paying a general creditor ahead of a priority creditor can generate personal liability for the administrator.

There are some circumstances (beyond the scope of this article) where the assets of the estate after passing into the hands of an heir can be recalled to pay debts of the estate. The heir is not personally responsible for the debt but the asset(s) he/she receives may be subjected to a claim of an estate creditor.

*The foregoing article contains general legal information only and is not intended to convey legal advice. For legal advice regarding estate planning, the reader should contact his/her lawyer. Dan Smith is a lawyer who has practiced in Loudoun County since 1980. Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Amy V. Smith CFP® offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Suite 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (Tel.703-669-5022, [www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com](http://www.amysmithwealthmanagement.com)) Dan Smith is not affiliated with Raymond James. Certified Financial planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, and CFP® in the U.S., which it awards to individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.*



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# Western Loudoun transportation town hall meeting

## Monday, Nov. 19 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Carver Center

A “Western Loudoun Transportation Town Hall Meeting” is set for Monday, Nov. 19, at the Carver Center in Purcellville. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the meeting is to run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting is being hosted by Sen. Richard Black, Del. Dave LaRock, and Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser.

While any Western Loudoun transportation topic may be addressed, the primary emphasis will be on planned improvements to Rt. 7, Rt. 9, Rt. 287, and Rt. 7-Business that impact the daily

commutes of Western Loudoun residents, particularly those in Purcellville, Round Hill, and Hamilton.

In announcing the meeting, Delegate LaRock (R-33) added, “I hear from others, and know from my own experience, that driving on our local roads can be frustrating if things don’t work as they should. Meeting with the public in this transportation town hall, and others in the future, will help identify and address needs ranging from a pothole that needs attention today to interchanges that are needed for tomorrow. I hope our

constituents will agree, and will come out to be part of this event.”

Senator Black (R-13) said, “Building an efficient, smoothly functioning roadway system is vital to families in Loudoun County. We are working to accomplish this, while preserving the beauty of our woodlands and farms. We want to share recent developments with our neighbors and hear your ideas as well.”

Purcellville Mayor Fraser said, “As the economic hub and center of commerce in Western Loudoun, Purcellville is uniquely challenged with increasing

traffic congestion. This traffic congestion increases work commuting time, pollution, and the likelihood of accidents. We understand that building more roads is not the answer, and as such, we need practical and innovative approaches to this major quality of life challenge. This is the first of many meetings with all stakeholders to obtain status on current projects, influence the velocity of their implementation, and brainstorm other practical and innovative solutions.”

The Carver Center’s address is 200 Willie Palmer Way.

### What you need to know about in-person absentee voting and required photo IDs

Back in the day, voting meant going to your polling place, putting x’s by the names of the people you wanted to vote for, and leaving. It’s become a little more complicated.

#### In-person Absentee Voting

In Loudoun, if you want to cast an in-person absentee ballot, meaning physically going to a place to cast your ballot before election day, Nov. 6, here are your options: Go to the Office of Elections, 750 Miller Dr. SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175, during the following dates and times: Monday, Oct. 29 through Friday, Nov. 2 - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., or Saturday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 3 - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Or go to either of the following places. Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling, VA 20165 or Dulles South Multipurpose Center, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, VA 20152.

These places will be open for voting Monday, Oct. 29 through Friday, Nov. 2 - 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 3 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Virginia Photo Identification Requirements

Virginia law now requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Any

voter arriving at the polls without photo ID will be required to vote a provisional ballot, and will have until noon on the Friday after the election,

Nov. 9, to deliver a copy of one of the forms of acceptable identification to the electoral board for the provisional ballot to be counted. Virginia’s photo ID requirements apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections as well as people who vote on election day. Acceptable forms of identification for in-person voting include the following.

- Valid Virginia Driver’s License or Identification Card
- Valid Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles-issued Veteran’s ID card
- Valid United States Passport
- Other government-issued photo identification cards (must be issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth)
- Valid college or university student photo identification card (must

### Conservationists will call on voters to challenge draft Loudoun 2040

The Piedmont Environmental Council and the Loudoun County Preservation Coalition have launched an election day campaign designed to reach out to voters on election day. In this case, the groups seek not to influence the votes that individuals cast, but to convince them to weigh in on the County’s new Comprehensive Plan after they leave the voting booth.

Campaign volunteers will be positioned at each of Loudoun’s voting precincts with the goal of talking to voters as they exit and offering them an opportunity to sign up in support of a statement about the risks to residents in the new Comp Plan, otherwise known as Loudoun 2040. Both groups disagree with Loudoun’s continued effort to, not rein in growth, but promote development in virtually all areas of the County.

Volunteers will also provide information on the specific next steps/public input opportunities in the Loudoun 2040 process, including Planning Commission 2040 Comprehensive Plan Work Sessions on Nov. 10 and Nov. 15, a Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on Nov. 14., and a Planning Commission Public Hearing on Nov. 27.

According to the campaign’s promotional materials, “Residents like you are the primary stakeholders in the outcome. It will affect all aspects of our daily lives for the next decade and beyond: our commutes, neighborhoods, schools, parks, recreation, and environment—in short, our quality of life. Too much growth will increase taxes and limit services for existing residents.”

The groups describe the campaign as a wholly non-partisan, non-electoral effort.

- be from an institution of higher education located in Virginia)
- Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business

- Virginia Voter Photo ID Card obtained through any local general registrar’s office
- Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6.  
Go to [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov) to find out where to vote and what’s on your ballot.

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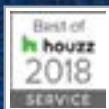
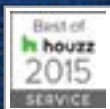
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# Chapman releases video addressing firearm discharge

Know the law, be safe, and be considerate of those around you. That is the message from Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman in a recent video released in response to the increase in complaints about the discharge of firearms in Loudoun County. Over the past year, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has responded to incidents of discharged rounds from handguns and rifles hitting nearby homes. These incidents most frequently involved target shooting.

"As firearms can be deadly, it is important that we all understand both gun laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as Loudoun County ordinances that pertain to the discharging firearms. It is also important that you exercise your Second Amendment Right safely and be considerate of those around you," says Chapman in the video.

The safety message includes information about the Code of Virginia

for reckless handling of a firearm (§ 18.2-56.1); requirements from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for certain weapons or attachments, such as fully automatic weapons and silencers, that require a specific stamp, and about Loudoun County Codified Ordinance 684, regarding the discharging of firearms within the County.

The Loudoun County Codified Ordinances outline required distances for outdoor shooting, as well as where individuals are allowed to shoot within the County. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit, unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission. Further restrictions prohibiting the discharge of firearms in certain parts of the County are also addressed. "For example, it is illegal to discharge a firearm 50 yards from a highway and 100 yards from any park, school, or occupied building. It is also illegal to shoot across a road and within

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »

## Leesburg seeks nominations for 2018 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Awards

The Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission is seeking nominations for the 2018 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Awards. The award program recognizes students, community groups and individuals who conduct or participate in activities that benefit the Town's environment. Nominations must be submitted by close of business on Friday, Nov. 16.

Activities that benefit the Town's environment include:

- Innovative use of recycled materials (including composting, collection programs for materials that are recyclable or reusable)
- Pollution prevention
- Waste reduction
- Protection of the natural environment

- Habitat Improvement
- Beautification of the environment
- Environmental education
- Monitoring the condition of Leesburg's environment (streams, habitat, etc.)

To make a nomination go to [www.leesburgva.gov/eac](http://www.leesburgva.gov/eac) and click the link to fill out the nomination form. The form requests a brief narrative describing the person or group being nominated, why they deserve to be recognized and contact information for the person making the nomination. Please be specific about their efforts and achievements and include quantifiable measures of success, if possible. Photos and other supplemental information may also be submitted. The 2018 Tolbert Environmental Achievement Awards will be presented at a future Leesburg Town Council meeting.

## Technical Advisory Committee meeting Nov. 7 to review pilot program for Country Club Drive area


The Technical Advisory Committee will have a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The purpose of this committee is to review the pilot program being implemented by the Town and discuss next steps as the Town

works to address current traffic concerns in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Country Club Drive, and Glenmeade Circle areas.

For questions about the meeting, contact Dawn Ashbacher, who will be facilitating the meeting, at [dashbacher@purcellvilleva.gov](mailto:dashbacher@purcellvilleva.gov) or at 571-528-5915.

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# Dr. Larry Belote heads for retirement ... and the next adventure

BY ANDREA GAINES

Very few people are able to capture their lives and careers in their own words, especially as they prepare to retire and move on to the next step, the next excitement to be found.

To do it right takes a rare kind of honesty, and a faith that the lives lived, and the choices made, were good ones.

Dr. Larry Belote, a beloved Purcellville family practitioner, has that rare quality to tell a story about one's own life and career in a way that inspires others towards their own accomplishments – and happiness. Belote is due to retire soon – after serving the people of Purcellville for nearly 35 years. The Blue Ridge Leader caught up with him recently, and asked him to reflect on that.

“I spent the first nine years of my life in the town of Onancock on the Eastern Shore of Virginia,” said Belote. “We moved to Leesburg, where I grew up and went to Loudoun County High School. I went to Hampden Sydney College and majored in physics to prepare for the space program. Watching my twin brother suffer from allergies and asthma with limited treatments available in the 1950s discouraged any interest in medicine.”

This early experience with a loved one facing a dangerous illness clearly made an impression on Belote. He aimed high when it came to science. Struck out towards the stars – even if, at first, medicine didn't seem to be in the cards.

“With a decline in the space program funding around 1970,” he continued, “I became interested in neuropsychiatry and brain mapping. That interest eventually led to medical school – five years after my twin brother – following a three-year tour as a Naval line officer on an ammunition ship and pre-med classes.”

This may be where Belote's interest in medicine as a family affair, a people business, started.

“I pursued family medicine because it allowed me, as someone very shy, to get to know people on a more personal level than I would have been afforded by my shy nature. I am so grateful, for example, for the relationships I have developed, and the depth and breadth of the experiences within them, since I started practicing in Purcellville in August 1983,” he said.

Are there particular stories, healing stories, that

stand out in your career as a doctor?, we asked Dr. Belote.

“There are so many stories and cherished memories, but two stick out. As a fourth-year med student, I had been told by a mentor that a lady had died in the ICU because ‘her prayer life just wasn't good enough.’ I took exception to this, and silently protested that perhaps our medical care



Dr. Larry Belote (left) in a fun-loving snapshot with his twin brother, Keith. The photo was taken at Belote's church, where they were organizing a medical mission trip to Jamaica.

wasn't good enough. Years later in our own ICU, a lady who had an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest was not responding, in spite of five hours or more of continuous bedside efforts of a cardiologist and me. She had an external pacemaker, IV fluids, oxygen, and meds to stabilize her blood pressure and cardiac rhythm. Her church family asked to pray over her bedside as I wrote notes to chart all the events. An hour later, taking my last look at her before heading home to catch a few hours of sleep – sleep that was sure to be interrupted by a change in her clinical condition – I found everything that we had been unable to affect had been accomplished.

“She had a stable heart rate and BP, oxygenation, and her kidneys were making urine. The next day, she was able to sit up and talk to family who had arrived from out of town before, she again deteriorated and died.

“A second memory,” Belote said, “is that of

a young child who had a Ewing's Sarcoma that engulfed his shoulder blade and had spread to regional lymph nodes and his lungs. His prospects for being disease-free in five years were dismal. Just a few weeks into chemo, he developed a fever and had to be re-studied. Much of his disease had disappeared. The doctors had never seen this response before, and called it a miracle. They didn't know how to proceed with the protocol after those unexpected events. We knew that thousands of people were praying for him, and felt that once again prayer accomplished what medicine alone was unable to do or even expected to do.”

And, back to Purcellville and the people Belote has served so faithfully for so many years. And, the rare honesty of this wonderful doctor.

“I will never be grateful for the sufferings I have witnessed, just as observing sufferings in my twin brother was so painful. But I will always be grateful for the personal relationships I had with patients whose sufferings brought me into their lives. I love our community and the patients it has brought to my doorstep. Each of them have been special in their own way, and defined my life for 35 years.

“The practice of medicine has become complex and often depersonalizing. Getting adequate reimbursement for care to meet budgets, referrals, insurance drug formularies, pre-approval for tests, and the arrival of hospitalists have distracted us from the relationships we have with patients, and are disruptive of the continuity of care. The rapid growth of Loudoun County, and the diversity of needs, expectations, and perspectives bring challenges for the future.

“Inova Health Systems – my group – remains committed to meeting that challenge, and I retire confident within that.”

Dr. Larry Belote sure will be missed here in Purcellville. But, he has already set his sight on his next excitement, and we are as grateful for the years we had him here serving us, as we are thrilled that he will continue to excel at and enjoy everything he does.

“Eight grandchildren, a golf game that may be too late to rescue, and travel will fill my agenda,” he said.

Sounds like the perfect prescription, Dr. Belote.

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## Remembering James L. Towe, M.D.

James L. Towe, M.D., devoted country doctor who loved his patients and the practice of medicine, suffered a stroke and left this life on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Towe was born in Suffolk, Virginia, on Oct. 8, 1934 to Frances Halsey and Luther Otmer Towe. He and his sister, Mildred, enjoyed a busy childhood in Richmond, Virginia, where he attended public schools and was a leader of the neighborhood ball games. Summer and holidays were special times spent with his cousins at his maternal grandmother's home, Lessland, in Orange County, Virginia.

He attended Virginia Tech, graduated from UVA, and earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia (VCU). Following an internship at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Ohio, he served two years in USAF at Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

A rural scholarship led the way for his coming to Purcellville, Virginia, in 1965 where he practiced for over 35 years. Beginning in the little office on Main Street (now Grutos), Towe began a lifetime of dedication to the many families who were treated by his skill and his humor. His great joy was delivering babies and watching them grow. House calls were made in his red Corvette as he called on his older folks who welcomed him to visit and share

stories.

In 1956 Towe married his high school sweetheart, Eleanore Craig, who followed him on his journey to the house on the hill, Windmont, which they filled with family and friends. In 1997 James Halsey Towe, M.D. joined his dad in his medical practice where he learned the "art of medicine" taught by the "country doc."



Left with wonderful memories are his children; Jeanne (Burton)Seitler, Kathryn (Steve) Zumbaugh, James Halsey and Emilie Towe, Larry and Stephanie Towe, and his grandchildren: Steve Zumbaugh, Jack, Craig, Andrew, and Bella Towe.

James Towe ran up the stairs, whistled in the halls and his booming voice gave him the nickname of the "red tornado" at Loudoun Memorial Hospital. In keeping with his love of life and joyful soul, his family is hosting a Celebration of Life Open House for Towe on Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Loudoun Golf and Country Club, Purcellville, Virginia, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be sent in his name to: Foundation Fighting Blindness, 7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, Maryland, 21046.

Arrangements by Hall Funeral Home, Purcellville. Visit [www.hallfh.com](http://www.hallfh.com) to express online condolences to the family.

## Remembering Thomas Thaxton Baber

Thomas Thaxton Baber, 72, of Charlottesville passed away at his home on Monday, Oct. 15. Born June 7, 1946 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of Thomas Frank and Grace Fuqua Baber of Hillsboro. He was preceded in death by his wife; Susan Fogel Baber.

After graduating from Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, he continued his education, at Virginia Tech, where he received his bachelors in engineering in 1969 and his MECE in 1975. After receiving these two degrees, he served his country in the U.S. Army.

Following his military service, he attended University of Illinois where he received his Ph.D. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, National Academy of Transportation Research Board, American Academy of Mechanics, and the National Society of Professional Civil Engineers. He was an engineering professor at the University of Virginia for 37 years. Baber was an accomplished woodworker and made several tables, an avid nature photographer, and a gardener who particularly liked

starting native plants from seeds to plant in the woods where he lived. He enjoyed a wide variety of music, especially blue grass and classical, and could spend hours listening and reading, another of his favorite past times.



Baber was a loving and devoted son, husband, father, and brother. He is survived by two sons: Michael T. Baber of Stewartstown, PA, and Matthew S. Baber of Charlottesville; two sisters; Lina B. Burton of Aldie, and Bonnie B. Davis of Hillsboro, and one grandchild. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his half-sister, Frances Elizabeth Hudson of Clearwater, Florida.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, October 21, at First Presbyterian Church with Reverend David Forney officiating. Interment followed at Riverview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to either the First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, or to the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA. Condolences can be sent to the family at [www.hillandwood.com](http://www.hillandwood.com).

# Orrison Road gem is filled with light

BY ANDREA GAINES

The 4-bedroom, 3-full bath, 4,000 sq. ft.-plus home at 13214 Orrison Road in Lovettsville, built in 1980, is a pretty, pretty place – bursting with stunning contemporary lines softened by the wonderful light pouring through the windows.

The home has all of the features that today’s more discerning buyer demands: custom woodwork, hand-crafted flagstone walls and fireplaces, recessed lighting, wall-to-wall windows in all of the right places, skylights, gleaming floors, polished countertops, and more.

But, it also has something else: an exquisite sense of design, individuality and presence – with large open spaces that flow seamlessly from one to another, and a beautiful indoor/outdoor relationship with the land surrounding it. It’s almost as if the house was here first, and the trees, sloping terrain and mountain ridges you see from every window stepped in a little closer to welcome it.

The photos here show beautifully-decorated room after beautifully-

**Address:** 13214 Orrison Road, Lovettsville  
**MLS:** LO10157016  
**Year Built:** 1980  
**Beds/Baths:** 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths  
**Total Acreage:** 10.19 acres  
**List Price:** \$645,000  
**Agent:** Marcy Cantatore  
**Phone:** 540 533-7453  
**Website:** [www.marcyc.com](http://www.marcyc.com)  
**Email:** [marcyc@marcyc.com](mailto:marcyc@marcyc.com)



decorated room. But, that has as much to do about the seller’s fine tastes in furniture and art, as it does the home’s layout, and carefully thought-out lines. In other words, make this home yours, and no matter what your decorating style, your most treasured furniture and belongings will look just perfect here. One special room features custom shuttered windows, a cathedral ceiling framed by huge skylights, and French doors that open out to a spacious deck.

This is a truly-custom home that fits beautifully into its ten-plus acres. Said

agent Marcy Cantatore, “The kitchen alone will take your breath away. Not only does the home offer main level and upper level master suites, there’s an abundance of natural light, stone walkways, covered porches, a deck, beautiful grounds, views, and stream.

There is the potential to convert one of the upper level rooms to a 4th bedroom. In addition, tons of work space and storage options are available.”

The sought-after address also gives you easy access to the MARC train and Leesburg.

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Etc.

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The Philomont General Store

PHILOMONT

Middleburg Christmas Tree Farm

ROUND HILL

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THEME FOR DECEMBER

“Wild and Wonderful”

THEME FOR JANUARY 2019

“All Things New”

THEME FOR FEBRUARY

“Loudoun's Heartbeat”

## Friends & Family

BY ANDREA GAINES

I Cherish the month of November. Holiday season is here, but, it has not yet reached its panic peak. You have lots to do, but, the December Holidays are still some weeks off – there’s air to breath, walks to take, and memories to make with friends and family.

Here are three Loudoun destinations that are just perfect for those friends and family moments. With a casual atmosphere, indoor or outdoor activities, inexpensive refreshments, and great local farm products, arts and crafts, and more, why not may a local day trip of it?

Tons of artistic talent ... all in one place Loudoun County is one of those places where artists go, not to retire, but to thrive.

There are artists who make goat cheese, artists who make wine, artists who make music, and, increasingly, home-grown crafters.

This latter category of people who love to make fun, beautiful and sometimes whimsical things, have found a home at a cute little Round Hill shop called Etc.

Etc. is a new Loudoun County destination for people who love to buy

and sell anything homemade.

The goods for sale include a beautiful teal green leather tote, and fun things such as Mountaineer Popcorn from a company in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, delicate gemstone drops on pretty gold chains, a wine bottle rack made from weathered deer antlers, grapefruit bath salts, hand-knitted hats, and felted wool creations.

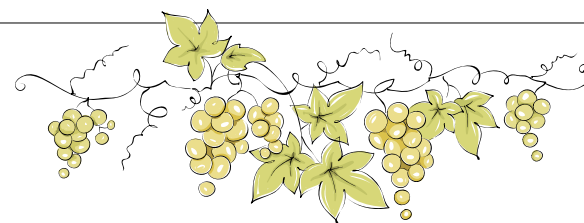
Stop in ... and putter around. Etc. is located at 20 Main Street in Round Hill – 571 266-1050.

### Soup, salad, and history

One of Loudoun County’s treasures, the Philomont General Store, changed hands recently. But, just like that favorite pair of jeans you can’t wait to get into when the weekend comes around, this place just gets better with age.

Locals know the place, and folks who love to come to Loudoun County for a refreshing, authentically country experience know it, too.

Owned and cared for for many years by Madeline and Mark Skinner – the eighth owners in more than 100 years of operation – the store is now owned by



Drew and Brandi Bishop.

Just like that old pair of jeans, the beauty of the Philomont General Store lies in its simplicity – as in “just what you need at the moment:” a cup of coffee, some laundry detergent, a gift, a basic grocery item, a deli lunch or something to snack on, a newspaper, and, more recently, a nice bottle of wine or a gourmet food item.

There are little bits of history everywhere you look – including an old fashioned working Post Office. Pick up lunch and then move on to your next friends and family destination.

The Philomont General Store is located at 36550 Jeb Stuart Road in Philomont – 540 338-5792.

### Pick-your-own ... tree

When you’ve got it ... flaunt it. The Middleburg Christmas Tree Farm is proud to be known as one of “the oldest and largest Christmas tree farms in Loudoun County.” Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenery as they search for the tree with the perfect height, perfect shape, perfect scent, and perfect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »



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# November and Thanksgiving in Loudoun

## What's open, what's closed, what's happening

Somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 million people eat out for Thanksgiving. Another 4 million place a take-out order for turkey day.

Local government offices take a holiday, and so do our schools.

But, there's lots happening and lots of fun things to do with holiday guests and for yourself.

Here are the closings you need to know about, and some highlights ...

### Loudoun County Government

Wednesday, November 21, 1/2 day –

CLOSED in the afternoon

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22 – CLOSED

Friday, Nov. 23 – CLOSED

### Loudoun County Public Schools

Wednesday, November 21 – CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22 – CLOSED

Friday, Nov. 23 – CLOSED

### Special events

Friday through Sunday, Nov. 2 – 4, 70th Annual Christmas Shop, Middleburg Community Center. 25 artisans selling a variety of gifts, including wreaths,

Breweries, wineries, art galleries, theater companies, performing arts centers, libraries, historic spots, distilleries and others offer live music, special exhibits, and performances throughout the holidays. The website [www.visitloudoun.org](http://www.visitloudoun.org) has a complete calendar.

clothing, jewelry, handmade baskets, gourmet foods and more. Sponsored by Emmanuel Church. (540) 687-6297. [www.emmanuelmiddleburg.org](http://www.emmanuelmiddleburg.org).

Through Nov. 5, Temple Hall Farm Fall Festival & Corn Maze.

This 286-acre farm offers so many wonderful things – animals, tours, scavenger hunts, the corn MAiZE and more. [www.novaparks.com/parks/temple-hall-farm-regional-park](http://www.novaparks.com/parks/temple-hall-farm-regional-park).

Through Nov. 6 – Pumpkin Village & Fall Festival, Leesburg – lots of activities, from giant hill slides, to hay rides, to moon bounces and more. [pumpkinfestleesburg.com](http://pumpkinfestleesburg.com).

Nov. 9 & 10, Virginia at War specialty tour, Davis Mansion Open House, Morven Park. Learn how Virginia's home-front Governor, Westmoreland Davis and First Lady of Virginia Marguerite Davis contributed to the WWI effort. [www.morvenpark.org](http://www.morvenpark.org).

Nov. 10 & 11, Catoctin Holiday Art Tour, Lovettsville. Two dozen artists in their local studios – beautiful scenery, friendly folks, and local art. [catoctinart.com](http://catoctinart.com).

Nov. 10, Reading the Land – Historical Ecology Nature Walk & Talk, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Historical ecologist Dr. Emily Southgate uses old maps, aerial photographs, plants and pollen (!) to revisit the historical land cover of the County. [www.loudoun.gov/bansheereeks](http://www.loudoun.gov/bansheereeks).

Nov. 11, Veterans Day Commemoration at the Marshall House, Leesburg. Ceremony honoring veterans of all conflicts, followed by a BBQ. [events@georgemarshall.org](mailto:events@georgemarshall.org).

Nov. 17, Freeze Your Gizzard 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run, Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, Leesburg. Benefits Loudoun Hunger Relief. The 5K race start time is 9 a.m., and the 1 Mile Fun Run begins at 9:45 a.m. Register at [www.prraces.com](http://www.prraces.com).

Holiday Tree Lightings happening

throughout November ... see [www.visitloudoun.com](http://www.visitloudoun.com) for locations

### And looking ahead to early December:

Dec. 1, Christmas in Middleburg, Dec. 1, Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Show, Ida Lee Park Recreation Center.

### Restaurants open on Thanksgiving

Goodstone Inn & Restaurant, Middleburg, [www.goodstoneblog.com](http://www.goodstoneblog.com)  
Landsdown Resort, Landsdown, [www.destinationhotels.com/landsdown-resort](http://www.destinationhotels.com/landsdown-resort)  
Harrimans Virginia Piedmont Grill, Salamander Resort & Spa, Middleburg, [www.salamanderresort.com](http://www.salamanderresort.com)

The Restaurant at Patowmack Farm, [www.patowmackfarm.com](http://www.patowmackfarm.com)

Clyde's Willow Creek, Broadlands, [www.opentable.com/clydes-willow-creek-farm](http://www.opentable.com/clydes-willow-creek-farm)

Girasole, The Pains, [www.girasolva.com](http://www.girasolva.com)

### Thanksgiving to go

Magnolia's at the Mill, Purcellville, [www.magnoliamill.com](http://www.magnoliamill.com)

Landsdown Resort, [www.destinationhotels.com/landsdown-resort](http://www.destinationhotels.com/landsdown-resort)  
Tuscarora Mill, [www.tuskies.com](http://www.tuskies.com)



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# Volunteer Day At HeroHomes

HeroHomes, a Loudoun-based organization that builds homes for returning veterans, held a volunteer day in Hillsboro in mid-October. The day's project involved building a home for veteran Sgt. William Slease. Slease, an M1A1 tank commander, spent three years in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and is 100 percent disabled.

Southern Electrical wired the entire house in about four hours, with all work done on a 100 percent volunteer basis. Sgt. Slease was present for the event, and enjoyed a home made lunch donated by members of the community.

**COMMUNITY**

HeroHomes was founded in 2015 by Jason Brownell and Matthew Lowers. The organization is about to complete its third house, and is well on its way to building five homes in five years. It is a 100 percent volunteer organization. Brownell, with his construction industry background, handles the building side of things, while the rest of the team takes care of the tasks involved in running the 501(c)(3) organization, fundraising, compliance, management, events, etc.



19 Volunteers from Southern Electrical of Leesburg donated their time on a Saturday and wired the house in four hours – pictured here with Sgt. Slease and his daughter.

*We build houses, jobs, and community for those who have fought for the preservation of freedom and democracy for others.*

Loudouner and Iraq War veteran Tony Porta is the impetus for the creation of HeroHomes. The organization built Porta a home in Lovettsville several years ago.

Sgt. Slease retired from the Army due to medical causes after being diagnosed with severe PTSD and chronic depression, and has sustained a traumatic brain injury. He has undergone neck and shoulder surgery, and requires additional surgery.

The home being built by HeroHomes will provide a safe and quiet place for Sgt. Slease, his wife Alice, and his daughter Maggie.

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



## LVHS celebrates military Nov. 12

Loudoun Valley High School Veterans Club invites veterans, their families and other members of the community to a day of recognition for all of our military.

Our theme of this year's program is "If Not Me, Then Who?" The importance of self-sacrifice is the oath our men and women of the military take to defend our country. This quality of self-sacrifice is especially exemplified in our keynote speaker Rob Jones – who is a Loudoun Valley graduate and grew up in Lovettsville.

Please join us in celebrating Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 12 – and the program times are 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information contact LVHS Veteran's Club adviser at 540 751-2400 or email [Leslie.Bower@LCPS.org](mailto:Leslie.Bower@LCPS.org).

**COMMUNITY**

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Clip and Save

## Favorites from Facebook, November ... Butter, lions and skeletons

The fall is a great time for our Favorites from Facebook feature, including:



- Two sweeter-than-sweet bunnies available for adoption from Loudoun County Animal Services – Butter and Luna.
- A celebratory photo from a scene from *The Lion King, Jr.* courtesy of the Loudoun Centre Theatre. The show played to sold-out audiences at Franklin Park in October.
- A very creepy greeting from two 10-foot skeletons at a house in Round Hill, posted by Kathleen Connelly Kuzma.

**COMMUNITY**



Luna, photo courtesy of Loudoun County Animal Services



Butter, photo courtesy of Loudoun County Animal Services



Creepy greetings, photo courtesy of Kathleen Connelly Kuzma



*The Lion King, Jr.*, photo courtesy of Loudoun Centre Theatre

## Not-Your-Kid's Spelling Bee

The Loudoun Literacy Council held its *Not-Your-Kid's Spelling Bee* on October 25 at the Ida Lee Banquet Hall in Leesburg.

Raffled off at the event were some great prizes – including lunch at Clyde's of Willow Creek with the man who some say is the most popular LCPS Public Information Officers in history – Wayde Byard, an authentic Junior Beetle kid's car from the

Volkswagen Group of America, and other delights.

LLC serves at-risk kids and their families through familiar programs such as Head Start, Sweet Dreams and Baby Book Bundles. Youth and adults 18 years and older can attend the organization's year-round classes at various Loudoun County sites. Founded in 1980, LLC has served more than 4,000 adults and young people in its nearly 30-year history.

**COMMUNITY**

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

Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services

**ENVISION LOUDOUN**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

detached, single-family attached, and multi-family units.”

For home purchasing purposes, moderate income households are defined as those whose income is greater than 30 percent and less than 70 percent of the median income for the Washington Metropolitan Area. For renters, the income thresholds are greater than 30 percent and less than 50 percent.

The program benefits developers by allowing them to increase the number of residential units on a particular piece of land, or within a particular space when those units meet certain affordability criteria. In the process, home purchasers

and renters are, ostensibly, getting access to a more affordable home.

According to the County Code, two members on the ADUAB must be “civil engineers and/or land surveyors and/or architects or planners, all of whom shall have extensive experience in practice in Loudoun County.” Dwight Stonerook, owner of DRS Architecture, and Douglas Wagner, director of engineering for Bowman Consulting are the BOS appointees in this area.

One member “represents a lending institution which finances residential development in Loudoun County.” That individual is Darius Saeidi, an assistant vice president and loan officer with the

*As draft Loudoun 2040 has taken shape, the ADUAB has conducted a review of Article 7 to weed out provisions and regulations which might “impede or otherwise constrain the development of affordable housing.”*

Bank of Clarke County.

There is also “a representative of the Board of Supervisors or its designee” on the ADUAB – a spot filled by Supervisor Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian).

The Loudoun County Planning Department is represented by planning professional Joseph Carter.

“A residential builder or developer with extensive experience” in producing single-family detached and attached dwelling units is developer and real estate industry representative Roy Barnett. And, a builder/developer with expertise in the production of multi-family dwelling units is Steve Schulte.

One member represents a qualified non-profit housing group providing service in Loudoun. That person is attorney Angela Plowman.

The real estate community representative is agent Dawn Billow. And, finally, program participant Bobby Klancher serves on the board and John Mossgrove represents the public at large.

As draft Loudoun 2040 has taken shape, the ADUAB has conducted a review of Article 7 to weed out provisions and regulations which might “impede or otherwise constrain the development of affordable housing.”

A July 17 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Status Update from the Transportation and Land Use Committee notes that “Issues discussed included, but were not limited to, density bonus options, the number of required Affordable Dwelling Units ... the cash contribution formula [for those units], and the ADU Program processes and procedures.”

Specific recommendations from the Board may ultimately include changing or eliminating income thresholds so that the program is available to more people, while also changing density requirements so that program might be applicable to more developments, including those in the Transition Policy Area.

The Board has also explored expanding the program’s use in areas around the new Silver Line Metro Station, clarifying how the program might apply to other zoning designations, including R1 (Residential 1), JLMA-1 (Joint Land Management Area 1), CR-1 (Countryside Residential), and TR-1 (Transitional Residential 1), and increasing bonus density rewards so that developers will be encouraged to add more units that meet the “affordable” criteria in projects that might otherwise be exempt.

# Sleigh bells ring, are you hearing?

<p><b>Occupational Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages Birth through 21</li> <li>• Sensory Integration Therapy</li> <li>• Fine motor delay</li> <li>• Upper body and core weakness</li> <li>• Handwriting Without Tears program</li> <li>• Animal Assisted Therapy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speech Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatric through Adults</li> <li>• Auditory/Language processing</li> <li>• Articulation/Fluency/Stuttering/Dyslexia</li> <li>• Vital Stim for Swallowing Disorders</li> <li>• Fast ForWord (Reading Intervention Program)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Audiology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatrics through Adults</li> <li>• Comprehensive Hearing Evaluations</li> <li>• Hearing Aid sales and service</li> <li>• Current Technology</li> <li>• Major Brands &amp; Accessories</li> <li>• APD Testing</li> </ul>
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November is a great time to take in a show at Franklin Park. So many will be here for you: Shrek, the Musical (from Main Street Theater), Frogtown Puppets' Legend of the Banana Kid, choreography and ballet, Scrooge & Marley (Village of Montessori School Players), Run Rabbit Run Theatre's Once Upon A Christmas Carol, the Digitalis Delta 4 inflatable planetarium, bluegrass, and comedy, and more.

**COMMUNITY**

This means there will be things for families and kids, and for a parents'/couples' night out. An Evening of Bluegrass Music from two stars long featured on public radio's A Prairie Home Companion – Robin and Linda Williams – comes Saturday, Nov. 17 ... and is not to be missed. For more information, go to [www.franklinparkartscenter.org](http://www.franklinparkartscenter.org).



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**WARNER BROOK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

what – that is a politically correct way for us to say we don't want Purcellville to turn into Ashburn."

This sentiment was echoed by new Purcellville resident Perri Mekalainas, who said, "I have already lived your future ... I chose to escape with my family here, I am praying that you vote no."

Lydia Clark quoted Town Council member Chris Bledsoe's campaign thank you letter to voters right after his election. In it, he said that he "... looks forward to working for the citizens of Purcellville as we bring about a new level of responsive governance, and stop rampant annexations that bring more problems and costs than solutions."

The Town Council received close to 300 emails on the Warner Brook annexation, with the overwhelming majority writing in opposition.

**Warner Brook in brief**

The Warner LLC's property is located north of Rt. 7 along Purcellville Rd. Currently in the County, the property is zoned JLMA-3 – one house per three acres. Developing it under its current zoning designation would allow for approximately 42 homes.

The Warner Brook developers requested annexation into the Town of

Purcellville in 2015, giving them access to Town utilities and allowing them to increase densities from 42 homes to 160, 24 acres of industrial (150,000 sq. ft.), a nine-acre sportsplex (120,000 sq. ft.), and 11 acres of mixed-use commercial (70,000 sq. ft.), and ball fields that would be used until the market demanded more intense uses.

**Mayor and council comments**

Council Member Joel Grewe made the classic growth-cures-deficits argument in reference to the water and utility fund and possible utility rate increases. Council Member Tip Stinnette seemed to want to delay the vote pending a water and transportation study – but said he was prepared to vote no "in the now."

Council Member Nedim Ogelman disagreed with the Utility Fund argument. "This idea that you have an either-or choice – you grow or you die – that there's no other alternative – that you are going to be hit with these tremendous rate hikes – I say it's a false dilemma."

Ogelman pointed out that the mayor has "refused to look at the world in that way," and instead is, "looking at ways to raise revenues by monetizing Town assets." He mentioned a book by Eben Fodor *Better Not Bigger*, pointing out that there is a "fundamental myth

that growth is always good for us, and more development will bring more tax money, more needed jobs, lower housing costs, and reduced property taxes." Continued Ogelman, "The real winners," in that scenario, "are land speculators, developers, mortgage bankers – those folks that use local government to divert public resources into growth-inducing investments. The benefits from exploiting the community commons accrue to a few, while the costs go across to the entire community."

"The problem we have here is that local government is hobbled by these forces to such a degree that growth-promotion becomes the essence of local government. And when the mayor or other people on Council try to come up with entrepreneurial ways to tackle these issues – that is what they are really up against – The essence of local government is growth promotion," which comes with road repairs, storm drainage, fire stations, sewers, and other infrastructure.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser said that the Town is at a critical juncture, and the decision "made will be echoed for generations to come." He said that in the past, the Town had accumulated significant debt in anticipation of growth. "Now we are being told by some that the extension of our borders into the County will take us

out of debt and will bring us prosperity ... The citizens of Purcellville and western Loudoun County know that development does not pay for itself. It temporarily provides the cash needed ... but does not account for the total cost of ownership."

Fraser said that even with recent debt and expense reductions, the Town faces more than \$1 million of increase in debt service, and unchecked growth adds to the burden. "My fellow citizens, this gives us two to four years ... to develop and to implement innovative strategies with sustainable revenue streams to service our debt, and not overwhelm our infrastructure with growth that does not equate to prosperity ..."

Fraser went on to say that the "so-called" potential nine percent utility fee increases trumpeted by supporters of the Warner Brook Annexation "is not based on any degree of precision or fact – it is a



A member of the Warner family objecting to a citizen email comment.

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scare tactic.”

Fraser read an email from a citizen who urged the Council to vote against the annexation. The writer questioned the “legacy” the Warner family wanted to leave for Purcellville: “But what legacy is this? Crammed houses? Overburdening the water system? Taking business away from downtown? Major traffic impact ... It’s clear that this is mostly about filling the space to make as much money as possible off their property ...” At this point, the tenor of the meeting changed, as members of the Warner family started shouting at the mayor, saying that they were not doing this for money, and that they wanted to leave something for the Town.

**Governmental Malpractice?**

Then Ogelman said, “This is about values. That is the core of the issue here, and I don’t agree that we have done any governmental malpractice.” Ogelman was referring to Stinnette’s comments at an Oct. 9 Town Council meeting, when he said that it was representative governmental malpractice because the Town needed to do more time consuming studies on the proposal.

“...We are in peril of a different kind of malpractice,” said Ogelman. “That is we are in peril of

representational malpractice.” He went on to say that as elected representatives, “our biggest responsibility is to say what we plan to do clearly and transparently – and show the electorate who we are and what we stand for ... so that all the citizens can make choices with their eyes wide open ...” He pointed out that this annexation request has been at the “heart of the past two elections.”

He added, “Tonight you will bear witness whether we ... as elected representatives, engage in representational malpractice, serving as a Trojan horse, saying one thing to get elected only to do the opposite once in ... I am not going to engage in this representational malpractice; I am not going to be one of these Trojan horses.”



L to R: Council Member Ted Greenly, Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Council Member Nedim Ogelman.

In response to Stinnette and Council Member Chris Bledsoe, who wanted more studies, Vice Mayor Ryan Cool said, “Analysis paralysis, you get to 80 percent. Do you ever get to 100 percent? I argue you never get to 100 percent ...Traffic studies, we talked about doing a traffic analysis, we already know we are surrounded with D and F intersections ... but this annexation isn’t going to make it better ... We just decide to do nothing; more analysis is doing nothing. I am ready to make a motion.”

Fraser addressed the Warner family before the vote and said, “When you submitted this application, from my perspective, you became a contractor. I view contractors or developers as individuals that will have a social contract and an economic contract with the people of Purcellville. So, whatever I said tonight, please take it not as an attack on the Warner family, but a focus on this application.”



Citizens talking to Mayor Kwasi Fraser while a member of the Warner family was yelling at him.

This clearly did not satisfy the Warner family.

After Fraser’s comment, one of the Warner family still seated up front mouthed an obscenity in the direction of the mayor. Speaking into the microphone, Fraser responded, “Mr. Warner, I did not appreciate what you just stated.” At that point another family member said in a low voice another obscenity directed at the mayor.

The meeting ended, and as people were leaving the room, the first family member who had mouthed the obscenity walked up to the dais, and continued berating the mayor.

**County Government Calendar, November 2018**

**Advisory Commission on Youth Board of Directors**

Nov. 26, 7 p.m., Parks, Recreation & Community Services

**Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board**

Nov. 1, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building  
Nov. 8, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building  
Nov. 13, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building  
Nov. 27, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building

**Animal Advisory Committee**

Nov. 28, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center

**Art Advisory Committee**

Nov. 27, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Government Center

**Board of Supervisors Business Meeting**

Nov. 8, 5 p.m., Government Center

**Board of Supervisors Public Hearing**

Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Government Center

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

Nov. 15, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Government Center

**Chair Randall’s Rural Summit**

Nov. 16, 8:30 a.m., Salamander Resort

**Commission on Aging Advisory Board**

Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Parks, Recreation & Community Services

**Communications Commission**

Nov. 20, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Legislative Recommendations Committee, Government Center  
Nov. 27, 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Government Center  
Nov. 28, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Government Center

**Community Criminal Justice Board**

Nov. 14, 5:30 p.m., Government Center

**Community Policy Management Team**

Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Shenandoah Building

**Economic Development Advisory Commission**

Nov. 2, 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Schools Administration Building  
Nov. 16, 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Department of Economic Development

**Electoral Board**

Nov. 8, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., Office of Elections

**Disability Services Board**

Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., Government Center

**Facilities Standards Manual Public Review Committee**

Nov. 7, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Government Center

**Family Services Advisory Board**

Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., Shenandoah Building

**Finance/Government Operations & Economic Development Committee**

Nov. 13, 6 p.m., Government Center

**Heritage Commission**

Nov. 13, 5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Strategic Planning, Tuscarora Mill Restaurant  
Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m., Government Center

**Historic District Review Committee**

Nov. 19, 6 p.m., Government Center

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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**FUNGI**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

chanterelle his “search for spilled gold.” Another said, “I’m dancing!” and posted a photo of what he’d just found.

Now, the woods, pastures, and back yards of western Loudoun have some of the most beautiful vistas and trees and waterways you will see anywhere. But, the fungi you may see or search for are not always the most attractive of living things. Said one property owner of the gooey, bright orange and black, finger-like thing sprouting near her compost “What is this, and how do I get rid of it!?” Ironically, her reaction was a very common one. The mushroom, in this case was the notorious “stinkhorn”.

Still, at this time of year in Loudoun, fall rains and cooling temperatures tempt all kinds of beautiful and delicious mushrooms to break through the surface of the forest floor, piles of decomposing leaves, and the stumps of old trees. You always need to know what you are looking at, and if it is safe to eat, or handle. But, if you do your homework – get the scoop from an expert – the rewards can be great.

Like flowers, mushrooms sport a variety of colors – grey, yellow, red, even lavender. They have a scent – chanterelles, for example smell like apricots. And, they have distinctive flavors. Chicken of the woods tastes just like it sounds – with the flavor of chicken. While other varieties have a seafood-like, or even sweet, taste.

One Loudouner, Hollie Satterfield from Purcellville shared how she makes all manner of uses from what she calls “wonderful, nature-provided fungi.” Mushroom lovers love to gush with great abandon when asked to share their thoughts about their passion. Said Loudounder Chris Petro, “I live in Loudoun County and am an avid mushroom hunter. I’ve been foraging for local



Photo courtesy of Matt Abicht



Photo courtesy of Neil Farmer



Photo courtesy of Chris Petro

restaurants for a few years, and also have worked with farms around the area regarding mushroom cultivation ... This is something I am very passionate about!”

Said mushroom hunter Katie Watkins, “I live in the middle of a city, but I’ve managed to find enough wild mushrooms in a five- to ten-mile radius to feed myself for weeks. I don’t think most people have an understanding of just how varied edible mushrooms are, and how surprisingly common they are in your own

backyard.”

The extraordinary biological properties of the mushroom add to its lore. The spores, or seeds, “fall in a fine rain of powder from the cap,” describes one source. Spore “prints,” or patterns/impressions, along with the color they produce, are used to differentiate between mushroom species.

Mushrooms are secretive. And, mushrooms can be comical.

The common Scotch bonnet, also known as the fairy ring mushroom, can be completely dried and then brought back to life. Sugars in the mushroom allow it to be rehydrated to the point where it will even produce fresh spores, or seeds, again. The fairy rings are not a series of individual mushrooms, but one larger plant or organism – producing fruit above the surface. It is described as growing “gregariously in troops, arcs, or rings,” sporting quite the personality.

And, mushrooms bring our hearts and our stomachs so much joy.

Said one hunter of the chicken of the woods mushroom, “Cut at the root, tear into leaf-size pieces, soak in saltwater for 24 hours, lightly sauté, grill, or fry in olive oil six to eight minutes in a frying pan and ... yummm!”

Finally, mushrooms and other fungi perform essential ecological services for us by aiding in the decomposition of all kinds of organic matter. As one hunter observed, “If we didn’t have decomposers like mushrooms, we’d all be hip-deep in dead stuff and poo.”

And, mushroom hunters – as wild and crazy as many (admittedly) are – share something else in common: an abundance of caution. As our friend Katie Watkins says, “Always be safe, always do your own research, and when in doubt, throw it out!”

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**HARVEST TIME, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

made little mini-lemon meringue tarts in cupcake tins every Thanksgiving. One for each of us." The list: apple, cranberry apple, pumpkin, and pecan pie; cranberry with walnut crust, and cranberry apple tarts; and blackberry crumble.

Salads and fresh vegetables: "I make a hearty salad with nuts and dried apricots, and a light tossed salad to balance out all of the heavy food for light eaters." The list: Spinach with blueberries, apple-slaw.

Soups: Butternut squash bisque, apple rutabaga soup, and potato leek soup.

Stuffing: "Oooooo ... I love to make stuffing! I make it simple but good, with toasted bread cubes, chestnuts, pork sausage, thyme, sage, and onion." One other was submitted: sage, apple, and corn stuffing.

Vegetables: Butternut squash, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, Harvard beets, and parsnips.

Whipped Cream: Some interesting tips here. "Sweeten with honey and cinnamon," and "Add marshmallow fluff as you whip, for texture."

**Back yard arrangements**

Lots of things from the back yard make nice Thanksgiving arrangements. Readers suggested fall leaves, acorns or seed pods, small gourds, pumpkins and pears, pine cones, the seed sprays from



*"One of my favorite dishes is Butternut-Pecan-Sweet-Potato-Mash: A healthier sweet potato casserole with butternut squash, sweetened with maple syrup, and topped with toasted, lightly-sweetened pecans. The perfect side dish for fall and holiday gatherings."*

**- Lillian Rohrer**

ornamental grasses, and the last of the season's roses – beautiful against more muted fall colors such as tan and brown. We received some other ideas that were quite creative:

Multi-flora roses leave bright red sprays of small rose hips; beautiful shape, beautiful color, and easy to use in arrangements. Just



watch out for the thorns.

Osage orange -- those big, bright green, fragrant balls from the Osage orange tree -- litter the ground this time of year. Scatter on a table or add to a glass bowl with fall leaves.

Siberian iris pods. These flowers – and many varieties of iris – leave behind a stiff stalk with a tapered, three-part seed pod at the top. You can find them for sale on arts and crafts websites, but why not raid your own or a neighbor's back yard?

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family.

**CHAPMAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

a right-of-way," notes Chapman.

The video can be viewed at <http://sheriff.loudoun.gov/FirearmsSafety>.

Residents are also encouraged to take the following precautions when target shooting or hunting in the County.

- Know your environment and where your target is in relation to residences around you. Use updated satellite imagery, such as Google Maps, to determine where homes and other buildings are in relation to where you plan to shoot.
- Establish a proper backstop, such as a berm, for the types of weapons you plan on shooting on the property. Although this is not required by law, establishing a berm is helpful to ensure that rounds don't travel beyond their intended targets.
- Know your weapons and the type of ammunition required for each weapon.

For more information, contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at 703 771-5278.



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## Rural Summit Nov. 16 – sign up now

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall invites residents to join her for a Rural Summit in Middleburg. Learn more about the opportunities and challenges facing rural Loudoun County. You'll also hear some ideas and ways to

### COMMUNITY

preserve and maintain the area. Save your seat by sending an RSVP to Elizabeth Bennis at [elizabeth.bennis@loudoun.gov](mailto:elizabeth.bennis@loudoun.gov). The Summit will be held on Friday, Nov. 16 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Salamander Resort and Spa, located at 500 N Pendleton St, Middleburg. Attendance is free.



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DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and if they're stopping for good reasons, then it is best for parents to be supportive.

In summary, I am a huge fan of competitive youth sports, but I also know that balance for a child is essential for happiness and success. If a child functioning across the most important areas of his or her life is good – his or her social/emotional life, academic life and home life – than adding a competitive sport into the mix is fine. Also, in my experience working with competitive athletic youth, the children and teens that have natural talent, passion/drive and

good social skills most often do best.

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.

*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.*

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

been powerful figures, seemingly risking it all by engaging in such abhorrent behaviors. Perhaps power has a way of emboldening some to act upon their darkest instincts, spurring them on towards completing acts entirely divorced from their public personas. This plays out not just on the national stage, but undoubtedly in communities all across the country. Yet reputation alone is not enough to defend oneself against serious and/or credible accusations.

I believe in the power of truth, and in the importance of telling it. Trauma is an inevitable part of the human experience. Internalizing the pain and ignoring the past does little to spur healing. As painful as it may be for some to either tell or hear these stories, they must continue to be told. Sexual assault must no longer be swept under the carpet, carefully hidden from public view.

Recent political drama has seemingly painted this battle as a political one. Yet the fight against sexual abuse should not be characterized as a Republican or Democratic issue, but simply a human one. Americans should not be forced to take political sides when it comes to preventing these heinous acts from being carried out against future generations of both boys and girls. In our current divisive political climate, it seems plausible that this is something to which we can all readily agree.

Our democratic system demands that Americans be dedicated to the act of working towards creating a stronger

and more honest nation. Implicit in this responsibility is to both confront and root out evil wherever it is found. More must be done to stem the tide of sexual assault. Policy prescriptions can be debated, non-profit organizations can be founded, bold initiatives can be taken by brave members of local communities across this great nation.

To those who have experienced sexual abuse, you are valuable, and your stories are powerful. Keep educating, inspiring, and spurring others towards action.

For the rest of us, we must make every effort to listen. To refrain from offering a heated rebuttal, and instead choose to focus on the strength required to speak up.

So, the next time someone shares an account of past sexual assault, take a moment to check your biases at the door. There will be time for the examination of evidence, along with follow-up questions to validate the credibility of the account. Yet, even just for a moment, remember the humanity of the person recounting past pain; and, in the words of Patti Davis, "...think about the courage it takes for a woman to say: Here is my memory. It has haunted me for decades. It changed my life."

You can be a part of transformation by supporting those who have endured and are ready to share.

Change begins with you.

*Samuel Moore-Sobel believes that stories are meant to be told. To read more of his work, visit [www.holdingontohopetoday.com](http://www.holdingontohopetoday.com).*

GRAPEVINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

color.

The owners and staff, by the way, love to talk up the history of different Christmas tree varieties. For example, did you know that the Norway spruce was introduced to the United States by Hessian soldiers during the Revolutionary War?

The farm offers the Norway, as well as Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir,

Concolor fir (also called white fir), and others, and also welcomes everyone with a cozy fire pit.

Family dogs are welcome too – more perfection.

Middleburg Christmas Tree Farms is located on Christmas Tree Lane in Round Hill – 540 554-8625. It opens for the season the day after Thanksgiving, as do many of the area's tree farms.

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# Historic Waterford hosts historic concert Nov. 1

## Famous Brooklyn band teams up with locals

BY ANDREA GAINES

It is said that “Of over 2,000 National Historic Landmarks, Waterford is the only one of its kind.” The village is a Loudoun County Historic and Cultural Conservation Site. It is on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. And, for almost one-half a century the village and its surrounding farmlands have been designated as a National Historic Landmark District – one of only three in the entire United States.

You can imagine, then, what it might mean when Roy Chaudet – an entertainment director with the Waterford Foundation, the keeper of the historic flame in this tiny place – tells you that a group of musicians as well known in the music world as Waterford is in the historic world will perform a concert at the Waterford Old School on Nov. 1.

The concert’s opening performers are local phenomes Danny Knicely, a mandolin master, and Aimee Curl, a bassist with one of the most heavenly voices, ever. Taking the stage for the main

event is what Chaudet describes as “this very hot band from Brooklyn, New York – Sam Reider and the Human Hands.

Knicely, says music enthusiast Chaudet, “does things on the mandolin ... that make you wonder ‘how does he do that?’ “

Chaudet continued, “The Human Hands are some of the most in-demand acoustic musicians on the Brooklyn music scene. They include Sam on accordion (who has played with Sierra Hull), Eddie Barbash who

also plays the fiddle part on alto sax and has played with Jon Batiste and Stay Human (on *Late Night with Stephen Colbert*), one of the top young mandolinist Dominick Leslie (The Deadly Gentlemen, Hawktail), Phoebe Hunt (Dominick’s wife both from Nashville) on fiddle and vocals, guitarist Roy Williams (Stephane Wrembel), and

bassist Dave Speranza (Jim Campilongo). They are outrageously fun!”

In addition to these great musicians, Marty Fair of Fairbuilt Guitar will be showing his instruments. There will also be local hot food and soup, and local beer and wine.



**COMMUNITY**

# Carver Events – November

**Friday, Nov. 2**  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
**Winterize Your Car**

**Monday, Nov. 5**  
12:45 p.m. to 1:45 pm  
**Franklin Park Art Center Excursion**

Carver art class students’ work has been selected for the juried Barns and Farms Art Show. Bus leaves Carver Center at 12:45 p.m.

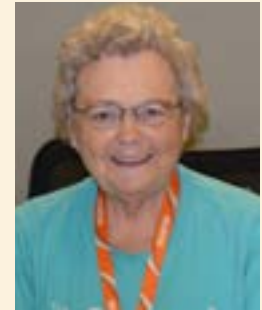
**COMMUNITY**

**Friday, Nov. 9**  
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Senior Play**  
Carver Center Theater Group performs their Fall Skits and hilarious play.

**Tuesday, Nov. 13**  
10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
**Veterans’ Day Celebration**  
Engage with our veterans and hear about their experiences. Enjoy Carolyn Bledsoe’s performance of a moving song which honors a veteran

**Thursday, Nov. 15**  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
**Thanksgiving and Volunteer Appreciation Turkey dinner**  
Entertainment by the Hamilton Trio. Please bring a canned good for the food bank collection. Lunch is by donation for those 60+ and \$4 for 55-59. Please sign up by noon, Friday, Nov. 9.

**Mondays, on-going**  
12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Slow, Slow Line Dance**  
For Seniors who have difficulty dancing fast or complicated steps.  
**2nd, 4th Tuesdays, on-going**  
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.



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**Harmony Singing Group**  
Folk songs and rounds to piano accompaniment. All levels welcome.

**1st/3rd Mondays, on-going**  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Services for Seniors**  
Confidential assistance linking seniors to services and support. Please call 571-258-3400 to sign up for one or more one-half hour time slots.

**Mondays, Nov. 19 to Dec. 17**  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**Drawing Class**  
\$50/\$58 non-members

**Wednesdays, Nov. 28 to Dec. 12**  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**Holiday Card Workshop**  
\$30/\$36 non-member

**Fridays, Nov. 9 to Dec. 14**  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**Beginner Watercolor**  
\$50/\$58 non-members

**Monday, Dec. 3**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**AARP Driver Safety Course**  
\$15 AARP/\$20 non-members. Check made out to AARP due at class.

**GOV’T CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23**

**Housing Advisory Board**  
Nov. 8, 4 p.m., Shenandoah Building

**Parks, Recreation & Open Space Board of Directors**  
Nov. 3, 7:15 a.m., Parks, Recreation & Community Services

**Planning Commission 2040 Comprehensive Plan Work Sessions**  
Nov. 10, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Government

Center  
Nov. 15, 6 p.m., Government Center

**Planning Commission Public Hearing**  
Nov. 27, 6 p.m., Government Center

**Rural Economic Development Council**  
Nov. 6, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Government Center  
Nov. 27, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Government Center  
Nov. 28, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Government Center

**Rural Economic Business Development Strategy Committee**  
Nov. 27, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Government Center

**Transit Advisory Board**  
Nov. 15, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Gun Springs Library

**Zoning Ordinance Action Group (ZOAG)**  
Nov. 14, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Government Center  
Nov. 21, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Government Center

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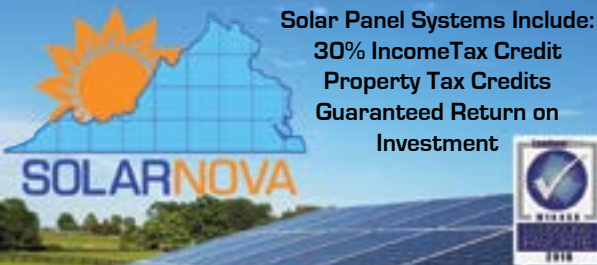
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