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Citizens and Mayors to Planning Commission

Please don't destroy "One of the most special places in the world"

BY ANDREA GAINES

To the residents fighting to convince the Board of Supervisors to strike a balance between the growth and development that wants to come here, and the growth that is appropriate, the newly-designed Loudoun County government website must really pull at the heartstrings.

GOVERNMENT

The website is polished, and clean. And, with exquisite photos of one-of-a-kind historic stone bridges, juxtaposed with kayakers and bright new athletic facilities, it is the perfect balance of old

and new.

But the November public hearing of the Loudoun County Planning Commission showed the deep, ongoing controversy behind what is shown on that new website and the reality behind the scenes in the Envision Loudoun planning process – which is rewriting the zoning laws that will apply in Loudoun County between now and 2040.

Western towns speak out

Speaking at that packed public hearing, Hamilton Town Council

member Matt Clark may have said it best: "We are here to stand up for one of the most special places in the world, and we need your help."

But, as last month's public hearing showed, select members of the Planning Commission, including Chairman Cliff Keirce have a vision of Loudoun woefully out of sync with citizen sentiment and the image portrayed on the government website – and in perfect harmony with the industry-dominated Envision Loudoun Stakeholder's Committee and pro-development groups.

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Redskin Josh Norman sheds cleats for dance in *The Nutcracker* – LVHS, Dec. 14

BY ANDREA GAINES

He is six feet tall and comes in at a trim and muscular 200 pounds.

COMMUNITY

As a cornerback for the Washington Redskins, he is famous for forcing fumbles and otherwise making the lives of wide receivers miserable.

So how is it that Josh Norman will take the stage at Loudoun Valley High School on Friday, Dec. 14 as the Arabian Prince in a Loudoun Ballet Performing Arts Company (LBPAC) production of *The Nutcracker*?

The short answer to the question is



Photo exclusive to the Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today.

that Norman is a decent, down to earth human being who sees his celebrity status as a way to do good. A part of the

proceeds for the evening will benefit Norman's Starz24 Foundation, which helps youth develop interpersonal skills and "awareness of the world around them."

The longer and perhaps more complicated answer is that Norman has a love of the inner strength, and discipline, and personal growth that can develop out of athletic movement.

In the spring of this year, Norman showed that no athletic challenge could scare him off when he competed on the 27-season television sensation *Dancing with the Stars*. He finished

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Interim solution to Rt. 287 north and Rt. 7 west in place

An interim solution to the congestion at the intersection of Rt. 287 North and Rt. 7 West was put in place Nov. 30.

VDOT engineers determined that one of the existing signal heads for northbound Rt. 287 could be replaced with combination signal heads. This modification includes a left-turn arrow, without having to rebuild poles and mast arms. This allows northbound drivers a distinct indication when left turns can be made without conflict from southbound traffic, and when they have to yield.

DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »



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- William Shakespeare



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Alan Ogden and the unlatching of the mind

BY ANDREA GAINES

Albert Einstein once said, “Life without playing music is inconceivable for me. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music ... I get most joy in life out of music.”

He also said, when asked from where he drew the inspiration for his many scientific achievements, “The answer is simple. Mozart.”

Few people know that Albert Einstein had many intellectual loves, the most foundational of all was music.

But, Alan Ogden, one of the area’s most beloved, and sought-after music teachers, knows.

Ogden, most at home in front of the piano or organ but familiar with dozens of instruments, has been teaching music for well over 30 years, living in Loudoun for most of that time.

Ogden’s studio is centered in his house.

He purchased “a wonderful piano” some years back, he said. But, it’s not just about piano. “There is no limit to how many people may get involved,” said Ogden. “My business is flexible in

that way.”

For example, he himself plays piano, trombone, and pipe organ. And, he works as a pianist, and organist at his church. But, his students are not restricted to the instruments he plays. Rather, his business is set up as a music-learning community, pulling in teachers – including his son – with an expertise in a wide variety of instruments. In this way, no matter what the student wants to learn, all can join in.

As Ogden told the Blue Ridge Leader, musical training is not just about learning how to read notes, and play a particular instrument. It’s about “setting off a little explosion in your mind.”

He has “a particular slant,” he said, a fine set of beliefs about this thing called music – what kind of endeavor it is, why we should care about it at all, how it should be taught, and what outcome people who are drawn to it should aim for.

That something, according to Ogden, is unleashing our natural brainpower.

Music is a snap unsnapped, a latch unlatched, a door in the mind now

opened just a bit wider, and flowing with new thought.

The process of listening and learning about music spurs intellectual growth. It leads us to a place of emotional growth – including the ability to experience empathy. It hones our fine motor skills, our ability to connect minute physical movements to our thoughts, and our decision-making. And, it enhances our ability to compose – to put things together.

Tend to your garden, and you create a landscape. Tend to your mind through music, and you create beauty of a different kind – a smile, a loving emotion, an understanding of how someone else... feels.

It is for this reason that Ogden preaches, and unapologetically so, about the essential connection between music and what most people would consider the more intellectual, scientific, mathematical pursuits in life.

Said Ogden, “If I were in charge of the public schools – I’m not, but if I were – this would be the first sentence of the first paragraph of the schools’ mission statement: ‘The most important subject



in our curriculum is classical music, because we want to teach creativity.’”

Here’s that theme again. Music unlatches that latch so that the prerequisite to learning – an open, curious, and yearning mind – is there to receive and run with it.

Albert Einstein said something like this, feeling that Mozart’s music, for

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Please pass the strudel

On Friday, Nov. 30, Governor Ralph Northam announced that Little Austria, LLC will create five new jobs and invest over \$371,000 to build a new commercial bakery in Sterling. The company, founded by Austrian-born Helene Gallent, had been operating out of a shared-use commercial kitchen in

Ashburn and selling at area farmers markets. With the assistance of grants

from the Governor’s Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund and the Loudoun County Economic Development Department, the company has opened a new, stand-alone commercial bakery in Sterling, enabling them to enter retail and wholesale markets. Little Austria, which participates in the “Loudoun made, Loudoun grown” program, is committed to source apples from Virginia.

“It’s exciting when state and local efforts supporting entrepreneurs can help our small businesses grow and reach new markets – bringing additional jobs, investment, and opportunity to their communities,” said Governor Northam. “I congratulate Little Austria

“Through their commitment to using Virginia-grown apples in producing their gourmet Austrian-style apple strudels, Little Austria is ensuring that their success will also be supporting Virginia’s agricultural community.”

— Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

on their success and am confident they will continue to thrive from their new home in Loudoun County.”

“Little Austria’s growth and investment in Loudoun County is great news for Virginia’s agriculture sector and for our economy overall,” said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring. “Through their commitment to using Virginia-grown apples in producing their gourmet Austrian-style apple strudels, Little Austria is ensuring that their success will also be supporting Virginia’s agricultural community.”



R to L, Delegate John Bell and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring trying their hand at making strudel.

Virginia apples are grown on more than 16,000 acres in over 100 commercial orchards across the state, producing over 5 million bushels of apples and contributing an estimated \$235 million to the state’s economy each year.

“Little Austria was started in 2017 with the idea to bring traditional Austrian strudels made with high quality local ingredients to market. With this generous AFID grant provided

by the Commonwealth of Virginia, we will be able to expand that vision while supporting our local, hard-working produce growers,” said Little Austria founder Helene Gallent. “We greatly appreciate the continued support from Loudoun County Economic Development. Vanessa Wagner and her team have been a tremendous help over the last months.”

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

To spank or not to spank . . . that is the question

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a formal policy statement this month against corporal punishment citing evidence that spanking is only minimally effective in the short term with later larger negative consequences. More specifically, recent research has shown a correlation between spanking and negative cognitive, social, behavioral and emotional outcomes for children.



DR. MIKE

I agree with the AAP's position that fear based parenting as a practice is unacceptable, and there are many time tested strategies for successfully extinguishing negative behaviors and increasing desirable ones for children such as:

- Rewarding and praising good behaviors
- Ignoring and consequencing negative behaviors and allowing natural consequences to occur
- Planning and preparing for transitions and difficult moments
- Modeling
- Compromising and providing options
- Withdrawing from conflict to help with self-regulation (e.g., time out)
- Teaching new skills
- Taking away privileges

However, I have spoken to many parents over the past couple of weeks who have expressed concern and even disagreement with the AAP's most recent position on corporal punishment. "I was spanked and I turned out okay" and "It's good for a boy to fear his father" and "I don't know where I'd be today if it wasn't for those nuns and their paddles when I was a kid in catholic school" are just a few of the comments parents have made in my office in response to the AAP's guidelines. Some parents have also expressed guilt and remorse over spanking too frequently, questioning whether they have caused their children permanent damage.

What I have told parents is that spanking has always been, and continues to be, a controversial topic with recent surveys showing that as many as 65 percent of parents in the US still approve of spanking their children as a form of punishment. Currently no state has a law that explicitly bans corporal punishment in the home, and surprisingly, 19 states still allow public school personnel to use corporal punishment with students from Kindergarten through high school.

I have also reminded parents that while the research in this area has shown that the potential risks for lasting harm far outweigh the immediate benefits for compliance when it comes to spanking, no parent is perfect. I can recall a time from several years ago when my four-year-old son purposefully disregarded

me and began to walk into the parking lot on his own. I grabbed him quickly, spoke to him firmly about the danger of his actions and also gave him a couple of taps on the bottom to send my point home. In that moment, I do not believe that my firm voice and messaging or

the spanking itself was harmful; rather, I believe it altogether helped to make my point, and it worked. But while my son did not walk in a parking lot alone again after that exchange, it certainly was not one of my proudest parenting moments.

In summary, the AAP's most current position that parents should never turn to corporal punishment as a form of

discipline with their children may seem extreme, but keep in mind that it was determined by research. Sure there is a difference between using aversive and harmful disciplinary strategies such as hitting, yelling or shaming a child and the rare spanking, but it is probably best to avoid physical force of any kind. If and when you find yourself getting triggered or too upset with your child, it is better to disengage, think through your anger and address things once calm.

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.

"As your kids grow up they may forget what you said, but they won't forget how you made them feel."

- Kevin Heath

Where is the joy?

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

Do you ever find yourself longing for something more?

Human nature often prevents us from being truly satisfied with what we have. Even if we have achieved great success,



MOORE-SOBEL

we still struggle to remain content in the present. In theory, it seems rather simple to enjoy the gift of life; yet, in reality, it is far harder to carry out this practice on a daily basis.

With the holiday season in full swing, it is tempting to focus on the elements of our lives we feel are lacking. The

professional goals still to be reached, the certifications not yet possessed. The deeper friendships we desire, or the presence of a significant other. All good things for which to long, unless we allow these wants to dampen our joy in the present.

I once believed that circumstances are powerful enough to shape our sense of happiness. As a teenager, I made an internal list of all I wanted my life to one day resemble. Things such as earning a college degree, with the hope of obtaining a high-paying job. A group of close friends, and a life filled with plenty of adventures. I thought if

I achieved all that I dreamed, life would finally "allow" me to be happy. As if excellent circumstances ever guarantee immediate and perpetual happiness.

None of this is to say that ambition is a bad thing, or that we should refrain from continually striving to better ourselves, personally or professionally. Rather a caution to enjoy life as it comes. For whether we realize it or not, our present circumstances are molding us for the future we envision.

In a recent conversation with a friend, I hearkened back to one of the first jobs I secured after graduating from college. I was working in a role that looked promising to all outside observers. However, as the opportunity unfolded, I soon realized that in that role I was never going to be able to fully

use my intellectual capabilities. While I tried to put on a brave face throughout the experience, both the job and the environment began to plunge me into a negative state of mind.

At the time, I thought the work experience was a complete waste. I failed to see how I could use the skillset that I acquired in the future. Years later, after securing a new position, the failure in my logic was revealed. Many of the skills cultivated during those early days helped prepare me for my current role, leading me to believe that if I had obtained the job I have now just after college, I likely would have been ill-prepared to succeed. Sometimes, the things we dislike the most are preparing us for a better opportunity to be revealed in time. We

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Arcola

BY TIM JON

Ghosts from the past: that's what many of the structures here reminded me of; it seemed as if I could feel the sweep of time rushing by as I stood next to some of these familiar shapes. How many times had I sped by on my way through this little, unincorporated community? And how many others have done the same, over and over again? Spending a few moments close to these buildings, I sensed a turn of the clock, speeding up to a brisk breeze in much the same way as the commuter traffic blurs by on their way to more urgent needs. Or, so my imagination tells me, as I took a brief stroll along some of the properties just off the busy intersection of Evergreen Mills Road and Stone Springs Boulevard in the don't-blink-or-you'll-miss-it village of Arcola.

The iconic Evergreen Store, with its 'Live Bait' signs – one upside-down, the other still maintaining its equilibrium – as well as placards hawking the opportunity to play the lottery (I wasn't sure how I felt about my chances here), or to purchase alcoholic



libations (perhaps after taking a shot at winning a million bucks). Standing smack-dab at this familiar crossroads, having witnessed goodness knows how many vehicles pass its windows – the structure still displays its uniqueness after all these years (having yet to enter its doors, I feel as if I should attempt to befriend the little market after intermittently whizzing by for over two decades, mere feet from the steps).

And just up the hill, an abandoned home, falling to disrepair, yet (at that time) still exhibiting its former grace, opulence and comfort for whomever enjoyed their days there; a derelict barn, smaller shed

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JON

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The Planning Commission's Deceit

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

The Planning Commission's public hearing on its new Comprehensive Plan filled the Board Room on Harrison Street, mostly with conservationists but with a smattering of the Greed Brigade – special interests with nothing on their mind but maximizing the dollars to be made from weakening Loudoun's zoning laws.

The hearing continued the ongoing Envision Loudoun disaster, a not-so-sneak attack to line builders' pockets. The citizens' input was promptly ignored after the developer-dominated Stakeholders Committee took control of that process, its job to mesh comments from various sources into a preliminary document to be refined by staff and presented to the Planning Commission.

The fix was in for higher residential

densities and thousands of new houses. Supervisor Matt Letourneau once famously asked the group: "What planet are you from?" Yet, the Stakeholders' version became a draft Comprehensive Plan with which the Planning Commission could play.

PC Public Hearing, November 7, 2018

The hearing began with housing policy, an item so fraught with contention that almost no other issue was mentioned.

The PC Chairman (King?) Cliff Keirce, wants the county to meet *unconstrained* housing demand. That's planner-lingo for letting in everybody who would like to live in Loudoun, opening the floodgates in the all-important Transition Policy Area, and destroying it as the key buffer between the suburbs and the farms.

Every citizen would have to pay higher taxes to build the schools and infrastructure new residents would require, and there would be less land for outdoor spaces. Congestion would become exponentially worse. The west would be the developers' next target, paving historic rural roads, creating huge housing tracts, ending traditional agriculture and doing terminal harm to rural businesses' \$1.8 billion in tourism revenues. Unconstrained growth equals unconstrained nightmares. Protecting the TPA is a battle we must win and the citizens seem ready.

Almost every speaker made the same requests. Save the west permanently. Protect the TPA as a buffer and as a nice place in its own right. Encourage farming and the rural economy. Save Loudoun's history and rural roads. Plant vineyards and open wineries. Respect Loudoun's famed equine industry – worth \$180 million annually as noted by the Loudoun County Equine Alliance.

There were too many conservation groups to name, but only a few pro-growth organizations: The Northern Virginia Building Industry Association, the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, the Dulles Area Association of Realtors, and lawyers pitching specific projects – slammed by Commissioner Eugene Scheel.

When pro-sprawl groups asked their supporters to stand ... only a few individuals responded ... and quickly sat back down.

Every 1,000 houses cost taxpayers at least \$40 million initially, more money every year, and generate 10,000 additional automobile trips per day. Some estimates are that 60,000 new houses will come, unless the Board of Supervisors will save the county. When the east feels crowded and congested, the west sees its own future. We are on the same team.

The Transition Policy Area

The TPA has various uses, though it's predominately large-lot residential or rural. Under current plans and codes "The

Transition Policy area is ...intended to be a land use transition between the Suburban and Rural Policy Areas ... It is predominantly residential ... and large amounts of open space, trails and parks are encouraged ..."

Developers see the TPA as the Promised Land and want to cram it full of tract housing. Ordinary citizens get a handful of public hearings, developers get one-on-one access and influence.

Two builder-types followed each other at the lectern to remark on the TPA. The unplanned verbal juxtaposition of their words was hysterical. The NVBIA representative claimed that he "wants to protect the TPA." The next builder lost his copy of the script, and blurted the developers' true intentions, "The TPA must absorb new demand as it was designed to do."

A Deal with the Devil

According to many scholarly papers, affordable housing can be solved only by greater supply. When more houses are built on a given amount of land, home prices can fall.

But wait. Despite their virtuous intent, affordable housing advocates may have knowingly cut a deal with the Devil. Developers earn 15 percent average returns. Building one \$800,000 house per-acre is less profitable than four \$400,000 houses on quarter-acre lots. The math is simple: One acre and one house is worth \$800,000. The developer's 15 percent margin is \$120,000. But use Affordable Housing as an emotional appeal, and that one acre suddenly becomes four quarter-acre lots. Add a smaller house on each for a package price of \$400,000, and the developer grosses \$1,600,000 and his 15 percent profit is \$240,000.

It takes two to make a bargain and we know one party is the development community. Who else is in on the scam?

I ran into someone with an affordable housing shirt. I was naïve and concerned that developers were using affordable housing and taking advantage of the good will of sincere advocates for less expensive housing. I shared my concern with this man. He startled and hurriedly backed away. Affordable housing advocates claim the moral pinnacle, but at ground level, perhaps they have already cut a cynical deal with developers: "We'll support higher densities if you give us a few cheap houses along the way." A deal with the devil.

COLT

The cavalry came to the rescue in the form of COLT – The Coalition of Loudoun Towns. A politically savvy group which shares conservationists' goals to save our rural character. COLT is represented by the mayors of Round Hill, Hamilton, Purcellville, Middleburg, Hillsboro, Lovettsville and Leesburg. These towns are being hurt badly

by current growth; new houses are their single biggest cost-driver.

COLT showed the Planning Commission how infill development elsewhere can make a sizable contribution toward solving the affordable housing issue, adding perhaps up to 12,000 new housing units to accommodate some growth without ruining the TPA. Purcellville's Kwasi Fraser spoke of "velocity of growth" and warned that the TPA is a major concern, remembering that the True North Data Center vote was a tragic inroad.

Public Anger

The importance of the public meeting was not discussion about Comp Plan particulars, but public distrust in general. The public was always skeptical of the Envision operation. Now we fear the renegade Planning Commission ... and its power.

The Board of Supervisors will save Loudoun County or kill it.

I like a number of Supervisors but there is a core of pro-growth Supervisors whom I pray will have a change of heart on land use issues. Not too long ago an entire Board was ejected over growth issues. It can happen again. The current Board of Supervisors will be up for reelection in November 2019 and here is a popular warning: "Winter is coming."

Treachery

Three days later the Planning Commission met in a "work session." Keirce slammed COLT's thoughtful proposal of using infill development to help provide Affordable Housing, saying that the Suburban Policy Area and the Metro areas are fully planned out. That's silly – plans change, which is exactly what the PC's new plan is trying to do.

Citizens' requests were ignored. Several imaginative land use concepts were not just excluded, but the PC sentiment seems to be a Comp Plan that specifically rules out these concepts. Does the Planning Commission even care about the people who live here?

Solutions

Debates on the Comp Plan continue almost daily. Important things will have happened by our next issue. In the meantime, all of us can think of many solutions to the growth problem. I'd like to hear them all. You can comment on this article in the paper's on-line edition, or email me at CharlesHouston3@yahoo.com.

Next year will be a battle royale but we can win. We have a few weeks' respite and I can't think of anything better to say than, "Merry Christmas."

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

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Publisher & Editor
Valerie Cury

Creative Department
Pam Owens, Layout/Design

Advertising

Sabine Bibb SabineBibb@gmail.com 571-437-9953	Tonya Harding THarding455@gmail.com 703-314-5200
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Editor:
(letters to the editor & press releases)
editor@BRLeader.com

Special Editorial:
Andrea Gaines – andrea@andreagaines.com

Hot News Tips:
Valerie Cury, 703-943-8806 – tipline@BRLeader.com

Webmaster:
webmaster@BRLeader.com

Mailing Address:
PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325

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Save – don't pave our gravel roads

BY JOHN P. FLANNERY, II

There is a growing effort to save Loudoun County's old gravel roads from being paved.

By some accounts, Loudoun has more unpaved roads than any other County in the Commonwealth – about 250 miles – down from what some say was once 500 miles.

The County has, especially in the West, resisted attacks to develop and destroy the County's pastoral setting; but, if something isn't done, there will be fewer miles of unpaved roads.

Some walk or ride down Lovettsville's Georges Mill, nearby Axline Road, Picnic Woods Road, or Ash George Road.

Over by Waterford, there's the Clover Hill Road, and Downey Mill Road.



Along Long Lane Road

There are an array of roads south of Lincoln, Virginia. In every direction near Middleburg, there are unpaved roads to discover worth a walk, a run, a trot, or a ride.

Tim Jon, a columnist for the Blue Ridge Leader, has been cataloguing the beauty of the roads of Loudoun County for years.

The effort to save these roads has prompted a partnership by and between America's Routes and the Mosby Heritage Area Association, hoping to underscore the hundreds of years of history and beauty and country peace that these roads represent.

The objective is to inform and persuade Loudoun County leaders that this network of gravel roads should be preserved, not further compromised, that they must protect these weaving, tree lined avenues, running parallel to stone walls, and creeks

and streams, that pass by three and four board fences, inclosing livestock paddocks, that they cross historic bridges like the Feather Bridge near Waterford, and slide past long used churches and stores and civil war battlefields.

Proponents of the gravel roads find it impossible to understand why someone moves into a home at the end of an historic and scenic gravel road in horse and hunt country in Western Loudoun, and then wants to pave the road.

The most frequent objection, mostly by newcomers, but not exclusively, is that you can't drive a car as fast and dust gets on your car.

These gravel and dirt roads, supporters say, were there when some who object bought their homes.

There are many who knew what they were getting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



Feather Bed Bridge on an historic dirt road over Catoctin Creek



Georges Mill Road



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We are collecting donations for the Loudoun Pet Pantry at our Main St Purcellville Office (above Hunt Country Jewelers) from now through the end of December.

Rural Summit engaging, inspirational, poignant

Loudoun County Board of Supervisor's Chair Phyllis Randall (D-At Large) held a third in a series of summits Nov. 16 at the Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg. Randall hosted a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Summit in April, and a community faith-based Substance Abuse Information Session and Training Summit in September.

Speakers at the Rural Summit included experts in rural preservation strategies, professionals from the fields of zoning, economic development, and agritourism, as well as many organizations working hard to keep rural Loudoun thriving.

Highlights of the event included:

- **A discussion of available conservation tools.** Jeremy Criss, agriculture manager in Montgomery County came with information on that state's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program.
- **Helping future farmers.** Pamela Hess, Executive Director of the Arcadia's Veteran Farmer program, focused on how to support and grow Loudoun's next generation of farmers.
- **Rural businesses share their strengths/challenges.** Sara Brown from Oakland Green Farm, and Jonathan Staples from Vanish

Brewery shared their local success stories, including the hard work that goes into their businesses every day.

- **Industrial hemp.** Buddy Rizer, Chair of Loudoun County Economic Development floated the fascinating idea that Loudoun County could emerge as a producer and processor of industrial hemp, saying "Hemp ... is real."
- **Special tribute.** The family of Malcolm Baldwin paid a special tribute to the much-beloved Loudoun County leader. Baldwin passed away in mid-November.

Visit Loudoun, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Virginia's Department of Commerce and Trade for Rural Economic Development, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Loudoun Farm Bureau, Virginia State University's Small Farm Outreach Program, The New Ag School, the Loudoun County Equine Alliance, Clarke County, the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, and others were also represented.



Summit organizers and facilitators engaged participants and solicited ideas from them on what direction western Loudoun should take.



Ten generations of Sara Brown's family have lived at and worked Oakland Green Farm.



The summit featured both formal presentations and informal panel discussions.



The summit played to an exceptionally large audience.



Malcolm Baldwin's daughters, Rebecca and Alice pay tribute to the much-beloved Loudoun County leader.



Board of Supervisor's Chair Phyllis Randall

Some last words from a true friend of the land ...

In an especially personal and poignant moment, Chair Randall shared some of Malcolm Baldwin's final words to her on the topic of conservation in Loudoun County: "Looking forward," said Baldwin, "My hope is that you will be able to bring together a bipartisan approach to solving our key issues, most immediately county aid to help donors meet their high upfront costs that now inhibit the growth of conservation easements."

LCPS middle schoolers celebrate computer science education week

While Computer Science Education Week is this Dec. 3-9, many of Loudoun's middle schoolers are learning computer science year round, assisted by the Coding at Middle School (CAMS) program.

In CAMS, students learn the fundamentals of computer programming, including problem solving, collaboration, and project design. Students also learn how computer science impacts various industries. At Blue Ridge and J.L. Simpson Middle Schools, during the week, students will listen to presentations from persons associated with Booz Allen Hamilton, Google, and other corporations. Students will then conduct their own research into the use of computer programming in areas

such as virtual reality, gaming, artificial intelligence, and prosthetics.

Angie Fraser, Coding at the Middle School teacher at Blue Ridge and J.L. Simpson, said, "There is no doubt that computer science is propelling innovation throughout all industries, including education. CAMS gives students the opportunity to have first-hand experiences as technology designers and innovators in preparation for the workforce of the future."

Among the many hashtags circulating on social media sites is #CSForAll – a nod to the endeavor to make computer science education available to all students across the nation. Said Mrs. Fraser, "Well, in Loudoun County, we can proudly share #CSforLCPS" because of the CAMS program."

GOVERNMENT

County Government Calendar, December 2018

Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board

- Dec. 11, 8 a.m., Shenandoah Building

Animal Advisory Committee

- Dec. 19, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Government Center

Board of Supervisors Business Meeting

- Dec. 4, 5 p.m., Gov't Center
- Dec. 20, 5 p.m., Gov't Center

Board of Supervisors Public Hearing

- Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m., Government Center/Board of Zoning Appeals
- Dec. 20, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Government Center

Communications Commission

- Dec. 18, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Legislative Recommendations Committee, Gov't Center
- Dec. 26, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Cable TV Franchise Performance & Renewal Committee, Gov't Center
- Community Criminal Justice Board, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m., Government Center
- Community Policy Management Team, Dec. 20, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Shenandoah Building

Economic Development Authority

- Dec. 13, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Department of Economic Development
- Economic Development Advisory Commission Dec. 14, 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Department of Economic

Development

- Electoral Board, Dec. 6, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., Office of Elections

Disability Services Board

- Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., Government Center

Facilities Standards Manual Public Review Committee

- Dec. 13, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Government Center
- Dec. 19, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Government Center

Finance/Government Operations & Economic Development Committee

- Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Gov't Center

Heritage Commission

- Dec. 4, 5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Strategic Planning, Tuscarora Mill Restaurant
- Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. - Government Center

Historic District Review Committee

- Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Gov't Center

Housing Advisory Board

- Dec. 12, 4 p.m., Shenandoah Building

Joint Board of Supervisors & School Board Committee

- Dec. 5, 5 p.m., Gov't Center

Local Emergency Planning Committee

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

Lyme Disease Commission

- Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., Government Center

Multicultural Advisory Committee

- Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Gov't Center

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Board of Directors

- Dec. 1, 7:15 a.m., Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Planning Commission

- 2040 Comprehensive Plan Work Session - Dec. 6, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Work Session - Dec. 13, 6 p.m., Government Center
- Public Hearing & 2040 Comprehensive Plan - Dec. 18, 6 p.m., Gov't Center

Rural Economic Development Council

- Dec. 4, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Government Center

Rural Economic Business Development Strategy Committee

- Dec. 11, 11 a.m. - 12:30 a.m., Government Center

School Board Capital Improvement Presentation to Board of Supervisors

- Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., Government Center

Transportation & Land Use Committee

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

Zoning Ordinance Action Group (ZOAG)

- Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Government Center
- Dec. 12, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (Rural Uses Subcommittee), Government Center
- Dec. 19, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Government Center



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Leesburg Town Council swearing-in ceremony Dec. 20

On Thursday, Dec. 20, the newly elected members of the Leesburg Town Council will be sworn in for their terms beginning on Jan. 1.

The Honorable Jeanette A. Irby, Loudoun County

Circuit Court Judge, will administer the oath of office to Kelly Burk for her second term as Mayor; to Fernando "Marty" Martinez for his fifth term as Council Member; and to Neil Steinberg for his first

term as Council Member. The Honorable Gary Clemens, Clerk of the Loudoun County Circuit Court, will administer to the oath of office to Suzanne D. Fox for her second term as Council Member.

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. at the Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, in the Lower Level Banquet Hall. The recreation center is located at 60 Ida Lee Drive, N.W. A reception will follow the swearing-in ceremony.

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PLANNING COMMISSION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The George Mason University housing study, and testimony from the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association at the BOS's 2017 Housing Summit, advocating for policies that would add tens of thousands of new residential units – “everywhere” – continues to drive the conversation, now in the form of cheaper housing options for the workers needed for Loudoun’s growing economy.

Two western Loudoun economies

As citizens and mayors of Loudoun’s western Towns made clear, there are two Loudoun economies, and two Loudoun qualities of life vying for the Planning Commission’s attention: a suburban, mixed-use residential/commercial/data center economy, which would take the Washington metro/suburban growth from east to west to its limit, and the modern version of western Loudoun’s economy, with agri-tourism, small towns and villages, and open space fueling the area’s livelihoods.

With respect to what should happen in western Loudoun, the Planning Commissioners heard this:

“My name is Joe LaFiandra. I live just outside the Town of Purcellville ... my home and 134 other homes around Purcellville are located in the Purcellville JLMA and zoned JLMA-



Purcellville Resident
Joe La Fiandra

3.” This is area “intended to accommodate future Town growth,” LaFiandra went on to say, and “This provision of the proposed County’s General Plan is seriously flawed ... Developed areas should not be included in a Town’s JLMA plan. It’s common sense that JLMA zoning should only apply to annexation of undeveloped land. How can you manage the use of land that has already been decided?-

“I and all of the neighbors I’ve talked to, don’t want to be included in any plan that makes us part of Purcellville’s expansion. We don’t need the Town’s water and septic systems because we have our own ... In terms of the ‘land management’ part of JLMA, we don’t want to be managed any further; the ‘management’ of our property was determined decades ago when our residential communities were approved by the Town and the County ... This zoning error is a time bomb that will explode in our faces some time in the future.”

Coalition of Loudoun Towns: COLT

Middleburg’s newly elected mayor Bridge Littleton also spoke out against both the County’s approach toward working with its western towns, as well as the fiscal impact of more and more growth, and more and more houses.

“We are deeply concerned about the elements in this



Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton

plan that are going to expand growth westward in an ill-advised and unconstrained manner,” said Littleton. “There was a commitment to work with the towns on greenbelts, and a commitment to work with the towns on joint planning. Eighteen years later that has yet to materialize.

“We cannot continue to think that we will grow our way into prosperity through more residential development. Residential development is the number one County cost-driver, not revenue driver.”

On the issue of taxes and revenues, Littleton did not mince words. “In your Tischler report from the May version of the plan, it already says that there will be \$400 million of net cost to the County, which is not accounted for in taxes Regarding the TPA, there is ... \$725 million net negative in cost to the County with four dwellings units per acre.”

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser likewise did not mince words.

“We recognize that a managed and assessed growth strategy is necessary for the continued vibrancy of the County, but are concerned with the conditions in the draft County Comprehensive Plan that meter the pace of future development in the County, particularly the higher velocity of that growth enabled by the current draft



Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 »

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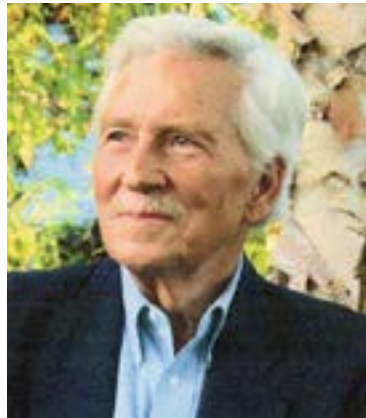
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Remembering Malcolm Forbes Baldwin

Malcolm Forbes Baldwin, 78, passed away on Monday, November 12 at his home in Lovettsville, after a decade-long battle with prostate cancer.

Born April 5, 1940 in Rochester, NY, Baldwin was the son of Schuyler Forbes Baldwin and Doris Hawkins Baldwin and brother of Gordon Brewster Baldwin and Beryl Baldwin Punt, all now deceased. He is survived by his wife Pamela Lane Baldwin and his children Peter Lane Baldwin of Dummerston, VT, Rebecca Baldwin Fuller of Waterford, VA and Alice Baldwin O'Keefe of Bend, OR, as well as grandchildren Malcolm, Aidan and Kyleigh Fuller and Penelope O'Keefe.

From the ages of 2-18, Baldwin attended Harley School in Rochester, an independent school where his mother taught. He followed his father and brother in attending Haverford College, where he nurtured his lifelong interest in history. He was also a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, choosing afterwards to apply his legal knowledge to the then-nascent field of environmental law and policy.



While working under Russell Train at the Conservation Foundation, he convened the first national conference on environmental law, and co-wrote and edited Law and the Environment, a book that helped guide the then-emerging field of environmental law. He and his wife Pamela co-authored Onshore Planning for Offshore Oil, based on the Scottish experience with North Sea oil development. He served as senior environmental law and policy specialist at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) during the Carter Administration, and as Acting Chair of CEQ in the opening months of the Reagan Administration while attempting to preserve the Council's work in the face of new leadership. He also chaired the board of Defenders of Wildlife in the 1980s.

In tandem with Pamela, a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), he lived in Sri Lanka from 1988 to 1993. There he led a team fielded by the International Resources Group (IRG) in helping local officials establish national environmental laws, policies and

procedures that remain in force today. His later IRG assignments included leading development of a USAID-funded Environmental Partnership Program and establishing an Environmental Business Program.

Upon retirement in 2002, he dedicated his energies and the rest of his life to growing wine grapes and raising sheep at WeatherLea Farm, and to preserving rural land and businesses in Loudoun County. He served on the Loudoun County Rural Economic Development Council and on the boards of the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Land Trust of Virginia and Save Rural Loudoun. He was also an active member of the Loudoun County Democratic Party and he ran for County Supervisor in 2011 for the Catoctin District.

Above all, Baldwin will be remembered by family and friends the world over for his kindness, generosity of spirit and twinkle in the eye, as well as by the many people whose lives, careers and interests he touched and nurtured.

A celebration of Baldwin's life was held at The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, MD on Dec. 1. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a conservation fund for the preservation of family farms being established in his memory by the Land Trust of Virginia at www.landtrustva.org.

Remembering Charles Frank "Frankie" Ellmore

Charles Frank Ellmore, JR, passed away on Monday, Oct. 29, at the age of 71.

Ellmore, affectionately known as Frankie, was a lifelong resident of Purcellville, where he graduated from Loudoun Valley High School in 1966.

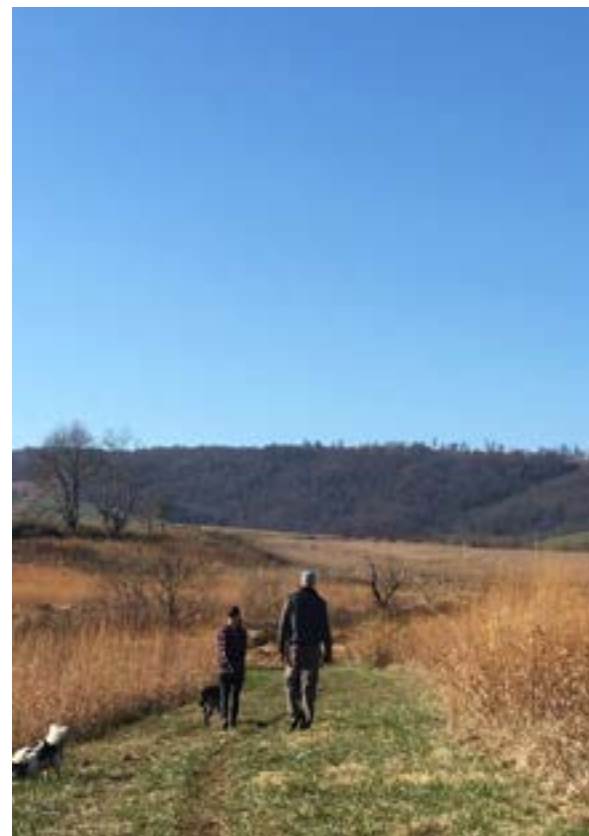
Throughout his life, Ellmore worked for Creative Urethane, Middleburg Bank, and Abertnethy and Spencer Greenhouses. Ellmore was full of life and could tell a story like no one else. Included in his



hobbies were antiques, floral design, and a love for interior decorating.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Charles Frank Ellmore, SR and Rachel Smallwood Ellmore. Surviving Frank in death are his brother, David "AD" Ellmore of Winchester, his nephew, Andrew Ellmore of Falling Waters, WV, and niece Allison Braithwaite of Inwood, WV.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to go to Blue Ridge Hospice.



Private moments

Father, daughter and doggies

What a special place this western Loudoun County, is.

This photo shows Lincoln resident Chris Dukes, daughter Alex Dukes, and doggies Boris and Pedro sharing a private moment over the Thanksgiving holiday.

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THEME FOR FEBRUARY 2019

"Loudoun's Heartbeat"

THEME FOR MARCH

"I've Got A Secret"

Have a Wild & Wonderful holiday

BY ANDREA GAINES

We have a simple message for December 2018: may you enjoy the beautiful place known as Loudoun County in a wild and wonderful way this holiday season. We won't elaborate. We leave that to you, and three small businesses that make the holidays so easy wrap your arms around – the winemakers at Breaux Vineyards, the cheese folks at George's Mill Farm, and Raven's Revenge, Inc. baked goods.

Here's to the fruit of the vine

Breaux Vineyards is having their Annual Holiday Open House Dec. 8 and 9 – consider a stop here as you are out holiday shopping. It is free and no reservations are required.

The event features local craft vendors, mulled wine and music.

Breaux will also have wine barrel tastings, wreath-making workshops, food specials and special sales on wine.

And, the man and woman in red and white – Mr. & Mrs. Santa – will also be there.

Breaux Vineyards is located at 36888 Breaux Vineyards Lane, Purcellville, VA. Call (540) 668-6299 or visit www.breauxvineyards.com for more information.

Here's to the goats

Georges Mill Farm in Lovettsville is a pre-Civil War treasure – in the same family for eight generations.

The goats rule here – as is proper and fitting – in the form of luscious, handmade artisanal cheeses crafted (sort of) by a herd

of Alpine dairy goats.

For the holidays, the farm is offering holiday gift baskets in partnership with Lone Stone Farm, ranging in price from \$20 to \$90. The Goat Lover's Box features a caramel, a tomme, goats milk soap, and, yes, goat tattoos. Imagine that under the tree.

Learn more about everything – including the farm's bed & breakfast – at www.georgesmillcheese.com.

To go with your wine and cheese

Beer bread, pumpkin pecan bread, eggnog bread. As we wrote when we first launched Small Business Grapevine, just about 1 year ago this month, "What could be more delicious." Each of these creations, and many more holiday specialties are the the product of Round Hill professor and businesswoman Marlena Bremseth.

Bremseth is a semi-retired lecturer. She has always loved to bake, to nourish – and to live life to the fullest. We featured her business, Raven's Revenge, Inc. in Small Business Grapevine in Dec. 2017. The name is inspired by the notion that "the best revenge is to live well." In addition to the breads listed above, this holiday season Raven's Revenge, Inc. is offering Almond Joy Pound Cake, Glazed Butter Pecan Pound Cake, Glazed Bourbon Cake, Chocolate Cherry Cake, Whiskey Walnut Spice Cake, and Glazed Lemon Poppy Seed Bread, and more.

To order your own sweet revenge, call (540) 338-8403 or email rrnevermore@aol.com. Bremseth's delicacies are also sold at Nall's Farm Market, Its Bazaar, and other local stops.

– Holiday Tip –

Colorado Blue Spruce trees from a Virginia Century farm

BY ANDREA GAINES

Crooked Run Orchard is an official Virginia Century farm, owned and operated by the same family for generations, and protected by permanent conservation easement with the Land Trust of Virginia. For people who know Sam and Uta Brown – the current proprietors of the place – the steady supply of pick-your-own produce they provide to their customers is one of the distinct pleasures of living in western Loudoun County.

What many people don't know is that for the last several years Crooked

Run has been selling a limited number of absolutely beautiful, 5-to-8 foot, fresh-cut Colorado Blue Spruce trees for Christmas. As the phone recording from Uta Brown says, any tree can be purchased for \$70, and "we'll provide the saw!"

What a cool thing to be able to tell anyone



Sam Brown preparing Scotch pine branches harvested on the farm.



Colorado Blue Spruce sports a heavenly blue color adding drama and beauty to the holiday home.

gazing upon your tree that it had come from a farm that has been in operation for over 100 years. That the land upon which your tree was grown was first settled by Pennsylvania Quakers who came down here in the 1740s and 1760s. That the Brown family has long-standing connections to the Village of Lincoln. That Lincoln still houses the Goose Creek Meeting House, which Sam Brown's father attended from the time he was born in 1908 until shortly before his death ... just shy of the age of 95.

"This is the third year we have sold Christmas trees," said Sam Brown. "We have beautiful Blue Spruce trees up to 8 feet tall. We also have

our handmade Christmas wreaths and swags –from Scotch pine grown on the farm. I look forward to seeing everyone."

What a great way to share your holidays with the families that make Loudoun County so special today and have done so for over 100 hundreds years.

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Stunning in any light, beautiful from every angle

BY ANDREA GAINES

Completely unexpected and undeniably captivating, 19967 Telegraph Springs Road in Purcellville is a custom-built gem located in the heart of Western Loudoun's hunt country.

This "Hampton Style" home is an architectural marvel, featuring a beautifully updated interior with hardwood floors and thoughtfully designed formal and informal spaces. It's easy to imagine cozying up to the stone fireplace in the charming Morning Room, or gathering in the Family Room around a welcoming hearth with an attractive wood stove insert.

REAL ESTATE

Perfectly married to those spaces meant to be enjoyed casually, is a floor plan that was clearly intended for entertaining on a grand scale. The expansive front foyer creates a natural flow into the spacious dining room and living room, both great places for guests to gather if they aren't already enjoying the multifaceted front porch, three-season porch, or large detached deck. A gourmet kitchen with a double



oven and updated appliances means meal-prep for your guests will be stress free, so you can spend more time with those you care about.

After a long day, the Master Bedroom suite offers a relaxing retreat. Off of the main bedroom area is a sitting room that leads to an elegant space for dressing with two large closets

Address: **19967 Telegraph Springs Road, Purcellville, VA**
 MLS: 1009950552
 Year Built: 1989
 Beds/Baths: 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths
 Total Acreage: 3 acres
 List Price: \$824,500
 Agents:
 • **Sam Rees**, onthemarketwithsamrees@gmail.com, 703-408-4261
 • **Ray Rees**, onthemarketwithrayrees@gmail.com, 703-470-0680
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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BY ANDREA GAINES

You can garden in it ... in January.
 You can watch the Super Bowl in it ...
 with the snow flying outside.

You can read, play games, and celebrate
 family birthdays in it.
 You can entertain in it.
 You can birdwatch, stargaze, and enjoy

the beauty of nature from it.

I'm talking about what is commonly known as "the sunroom."

The owners of large estates used a grand version of the idea – the conservatory – as a place to grow exotic plants and trees, including orchids and citrus.

A newer version of the idea became popular in the 1940s and 50s, as families sought to turn outdoor places such as patios and porches into indoor places.

And, in the 1960s, new glass, insulation, and structural technologies began to make sunrooms not only commonplace across the country, but welcoming of whatever activity you chose to use them for.

Today, according to Dan Grubbs, Director of Business Development for Winchester's Four Seasons Sunrooms, one of the country's most experienced and successful sunroom companies, these spaces have evolved into central features of the home.



Three big benefits

Sunrooms, at whatever price point and in whatever form, have three major benefits.

First, they add additional interior living and entertainment space to the home, while enhancing the other rooms they flow from or into – a formal dining room, a kitchen, a living room.

A huge selling point, too, is that sunrooms greatly expand your family's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »

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SUNROOMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

ability to enjoy an outdoor feel within your home, regardless of the weather and the temperatures outside – a fantastic benefit in Loudoun County and surrounding areas where there is so much outdoor beauty to enjoy.

For gardeners and growers of all kinds, sunrooms also keep your green thumb in top shape 365 days a year, giving you a greenroom for herbs, flowers, and container gardens.

The sun room that wasn't ... is fading away

Driving around our area's back roads, new subdivisions, rural villages, and small towns, you'll see more and more versions of the modern sunroom – a new, European-style garden room addition on an old home, a rebuilt high-tech conservatory at an equestrian estate, a glassed-in family/entertainment room where a porch used to be, a simple log cabin – the stone patio and outdoor fire pit that is now enclosed with a wonderful new atrium.

You'll also see spaces that homeowners use as the equivalent of a sunroom, without the structural components and technological advances now available.

Even when homeowners never got around to insulating that enclosed porch area, for example, they use that part of their home in that way ... letting in as much light as possible, stacking their potted plants in it in the winter,



caulking and re-caulking windows, putting in space heaters to regulate the temperature, and humidifiers/dehumidifiers to control moisture.

According to Grubb, this is “the sun room that wasn't” ... and he sympathizes.

But, sunroom structures are “so varied in terms of cost,” he said, “so doable” regardless of the style, age, and construction of the home that they are being added to, and “so practical,” homeowners who have ever wanted to explore the concept should not deny themselves their sunroom dream ... or at least a simple inquiry into it.

Said Grubb, “It is rare that a homeowner comes to talk to us about the possibilities for a sunroom project, and goes away seeing fewer possibilities than before they came in. I love what my company can do for a family's quality of life, whether it is a simple, all-weather, glassed in patio or a conservatory-style addition.”

Four Seasons Sunrooms are surprisingly adaptable

The LifeRoom is one of Four Seasons' newest sunroom concepts. Remote control screens, special lighting, and humidity and air movement features control every aspect of the ambient environment in the space, giving it a spa-like feel.

But, while all of Four Seasons' sunroom plans and options use the latest technology and construction techniques,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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Loudoun community cat coalition to host fundraiser

The Loudoun Community Cat Coalition will host its annual “Whiskers & Wine” fundraiser, Saturday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., at 8 Chains North Winery, 38593 Daymont Lane in Waterford. Marnie Russ, from National Kitten Coalition and Manager of the Kitten College at Animal Welfare League of Arlington, will be this year’s featured speaker. Russ will share stories of love, and laughter, and how the rescue of kittens will fill your world with warmth.

COMMUNITY



Reserve your seat in the “Cat-tastic” room upstairs for \$30 which includes: glass of 8 Chains wine, a raffle ticket for the grand-prize valued at \$300, a chance to win \$100 Amazon gift card, yummy treats, “pawty” favors, music, and shopping with vendors from the Artisans of Loudoun. Seats are limited and there are two sessions available at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. You can also choose a \$20 ticket which includes a chance to win the grand-prize and access to

great shopping and music. 8 Chains North Winery will also donate 10 percent of all wine bottle purchases between 1 p.m.-5 p.m. to LCCC.

All proceeds will benefit the “trap, neuter, return” efforts of LCCC. “Whiskers and Wine” sponsors include realtor Beth Lam of Platinum Group Real Estate and Happy Pets Pet Sitting. To purchase tickets and find more details, request TNR assistance, make a donation, or volunteer, visit www.loudouncommunitycats.org.

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Photos from readers ... and friends



The dog ... and wedding ... whisperer

The request came in and canine professional Joe Pillera knew just what he had to do: serve the dogs, and the people, and the special bond between them to the utmost of his ability.

“I was asked a couple of months ago – by a client’s Mom – to be the dog handler at her daughter’s wedding,” Pillera said.

“Ashley Klevenhagen and Tommy Curtain were the bride and groom,” he continued. “The rehearsal and wedding were to be held at the Shadow Creek events facility, on Silcott Springs Road, on the backside of Purcellville. The Klevenhagens have been clients of ours for years. She said she would have no one else be responsible during

the hectic time that involved the rehearsal and the wedding ... but me. The dogs – greyhounds – were rescues and used to run at the racetrack. Leon and Gambell were their names. I was responsible for picking the dogs up, escorting them to all the activities, and bringing them home again. I did get to walk them down the aisle, too. It was a real honor to be a participant in their special day and I had a blast watching over Leon and Gambell.”

Greyhound Leon is shown in the photo on the right, Gambell on the left and master canine handler, Joe, in the middle.

Pillera, who owns Your Virginia Pets R My Pets can be reached at 703 867-7158, virginiapets@comcast.net.

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Purcellville Christmas Parade – Dec. 15, noon

Back by popular demand, the Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee is hosting a Christmas Parade Float Contest.

COMMUNITY

Purcellville Chick-Fil-A is sponsoring, the first-place award of \$200, second place award sponsored by Magnolias at the Mill, is \$100 is and the third-place award, sponsored by Dunkin Donuts is \$50. Members of EDAC will judge the floats and decide

the winners.

Join one of Purcellville's best traditions and one of Loudoun County's largest Christmas parades. The 15th Annual Christmas in Purcellville Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15, at noon. Businesses, organizations, clubs, individuals, and families are invited to join in the fun with a float, a decorated car or truck, or you and your friends in your favorite holiday-themed outfits – walkers are

welcome.

The new parade route will start at Loudoun Valley High School on North Maple Avenue, turn right onto Main Street, then right onto 21st Street, ending at the Train Station with parent pick-up and float dismantling at the Cardinal Concrete Plant.

Christmas in Purcellville's Festivities and the 15th Annual Christmas Parade take place in the heart of historic downtown Purcellville. The parade,

combined with other festivities throughout the day, make for a great holiday experience.

More information about all of the Christmas in Purcellville festivities, including the tree lighting, parade, Santa's Visit, the ornament workshop, and more is available on the Town of Purcellville website at www.PurcellvilleVa.gov or contact Hibah Salah at hsalah@purcellvilleva.gov.



Governor Ralph Northam kicked off computer science education week on Monday Dec. 3. He made a stop at Moorefield Station Elementary School in Ashburn and spoke with educators and students.

Carver Events – December

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

COMMUNITY



Ernice Sims and Michelle Cook

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ukulele Performance. Carver Ukulele Group will play and sing their own Song of Thanks during lunch.

Friday, Dec. 7, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Lunch and a Movie: Frozen.

Friday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lunch Bunch -- Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, MD. \$4 transportation. Lunch and tip on your own.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Carver Center Advisory Board Meeting.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Diabetes and Food Presentation.

Presented by Purcellville Pharmacy.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ukulele Holiday Performance. The Carver Ukulele Group will serenade you during lunch with their fun Holiday Songs.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Clear Captions Presentation. Information on a phone and captioning service for those with hearing loss.

Friday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Holiday Party. Entertainment by the

barbershop quartet Dominion 4.

Fridays, Jan. 4 to Jan. 25, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Basic Watercolor. \$50/\$58 non-members.

Wednesdays, Jan. 9 to Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Intermediate Watercolor. \$50/\$58 non-members.

Mondays, Jan. 14 to Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Drawing Class. \$50/\$58 non-members.

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Across from Harris Teeter Shopping Center on Main Street, Purcellville, right after the traffic circle

Franklin Park, December 2018

An award-winning Ebenezer Scrooge and more

Franklin Park started the Christmas season early with an enchanting performance of Run Rabbit Run Theatre's *Once Upon a Christmas Carol* on Nov. 29.

The show will be here for six additional performances this month



– December 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 & 9, with both matinee, and evening time-slots.

Once Upon a Christmas Carol features thirty-six actors portraying more than 140 characters, including Ebenezer Scrooge himself, along with the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Don't miss this award-winning production, recognized in years past as a DC Metro Theatre Arts Best

Performance "destination."

Other December events include the Puppet Show, the Old Dominion Chorus Holiday Concert, the Franklin Park Big Band, the Planetarium Show, Last Ham Standing Comedy Improv, and others.

For more information, go to www.franklinparkartscenter.org.

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Yuletide Call for Artists

14th Annual Western Loudoun Artist Studio Tour

The application process is open for the 14th Annual Western Loudoun Artist Studio Tour. Loudoun County visual artists may apply to open their Western Loudoun studios or as Guest Artists.

Applications are due Feb. 1, 2019. Sixty or more artists are expected to participate.

The tour takes place Saturday and Sunday June 1-2, and is presented

by the Franklin Park Arts Center, the Round Hill Arts Center, and The Friends of Franklin Park Arts Center.

Christmas in Purcellville

Friday, November 23 - **Christmas Tree Sales**- Every weekend until sold out
For more info please visit, <http://purcellvillefire.org>

Friday, December 7 - **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**- 6:30 p.m.
For more info please visit, <https://www.purcellvilleva.gov>

Saturday, December 8 - **Breakfast with Santa**- 7:30 a.m.
For reservation requests email, breakfastwithsanta@live.com

Friday, December 14 - **Holiday Lights Tour** - 6 p.m.
For more info please visit, <https://www.purcellvilleva.gov>

Saturday, December 15 - **Holiday Festivities & Parade** - 10 a.m.
For more info please visit, <https://www.purcellvilleva.gov>

Sunday, December 16 - **Holiday Lights Tour** - 5 p.m.
For more info please visit, <https://www.purcellvilleva.gov>

Saturday, December 21 & Sunday, December 22 - **Santa Rides Through Town on the Firetruck**- 6 p.m.
For more info please visit, <http://purcellvillefire.org>

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Thank you to the Sponsors of the 2018 Christmas in Purcellville!



Holidays happenings in Loudoun

Tree lightings, parades, letters from Santa, music, dance ... even ice sculpture

Special events

- * Now thru Dec. 13, Kids, register with Parks & Rec. to get a Letter from Santa. You'll get a letter written just for you, a North Pole Newsletter, a craft idea from the elves, and a holiday recipe from Mrs. Claus. Register online at prcsregister@loudoun.gov, or call 703-430-9480.
- * Dec. 1 - Dec. 30 (select dates), Morven Park Holiday Tours, Leesburg, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. See how early 20th century holiday customs became the ones we love today. Children, adults and groups welcome. 703 777-2414, www.morvenpark.org.
- * Dec. 7, Leesburg, Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Town Green, 6 p.m.
- * Dec. 7, Lovettsville Lantern Parade, Lovettsville Community Center, 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Make this German custom part of your holiday traditions. 540 822-5284, or email lovcc@loudoun.gov.
- * Dec. 7, Purcellville, Town Lighting Ceremony, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- * Dec. 7, Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, Rock'in with Rudolph & Friends, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Santa will be here dancing and taking pictures with the kids, Pre-registration required, through WebTrac|Leesburg, VA, in person at Ida Lee or via phone 703-777-1368.
- * Dec. 8, Ida Lee, **Jingle Jam Concerts**, 11:30 am Junior Jam, 2:30 pm, and 8:30 pm. Leesburg's holiday rock n' roll concert features many local and regional. In-person tickets sales only, at Ida Lee.

- * Dec. 8, Leesburg Annual Christmas and Holiday Parade, 6 p.m.
- * Dec. 9, Nutcracker Ballet by Ravel Dance Studio at Dominion High School, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Trained dancers, lavish costumes, beautiful sets and scenery. 703 437-9664, www.tututix.com.
- * Dec. 14, Lucketts Community Tree Lighting, Lucketts Community Center, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Call 703 771-5281 or email lucketts@loudoun.gov.
- * Dec. 15, Purcellville Christmas Parade, 12 noon.
- * Dec. 16, Middleburg Concert Series "A Christmas Serenade," Middleburg United Methodist Church, 4 p.m. Voice, cello, organ, piano, violin and classical guitar. Visit www.middleburgconcertseries.com

Special mentions

- * Leesburg's First Fridays, starts at 6 p.m. and is

wonderful this time of year.

- * Local wineries, breweries, and distilleries are featuring holiday tastings, book signings, wreath workshops, live music, and more. Go to www.visitloudoun.org for a complete calendar.
- * Loudoun's **Christmas tree sellers** are ready for you with a great tree, hot cider, gifts and more. A full list of tree farms can be found at loudounfarms.org.
- * There will be a **Live Ice Sculpture demonstration** on Dec. 21 at Landsdowne Resort & Spa, 7 p.m. Watch a talented and experienced artist turn a block of ice into a work of art. Call 703 729-8400 or go to www.destinationhotels.com/landsdowneresort for details

What an idea

- * In early December the cookie mavens come out, exchanging recipes, sampling new ones, sorting

COMMUNITY

through their cookie tin collections and deciding who is going to get what kind of deliciousness from them this holiday season.

- * It also just happens to be – Ta Da – **National Cookie Exchange Week**.
- * Every neighborhood, every old country road needs a cookie exchange. So, think about having a cookie baking party or organizing a cookie exchange. 'Tis the season.

Government holidays

- * **Loudoun County Government**
Dec. 24 – Dec. 25 Closed
Dec. 31 – Jan. 1 Closed
- * **Loudoun County Public Schools**
Observes Winter Break
Friday, Dec. 21 - Tuesday, January 1



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Santa to land at Virginia Village Dec. 15

Santa Claus will be trading his sleigh for a helicopter visit at Virginia Village (34 Catoctin Circle SE) on Saturday, Dec. 15 beginning at 10 a.m.

Following his landing, he will visit with families at The Santa House for photos and special treats. Kids will also have the opportunity to pick out a gift for mom and dad in the kids-only store, at no cost.

In preparation of Santa's landing, Fairfax Street will be closed to traffic from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Access into the Virginia Village parking lot will also be closed during that time. Free parking will be available in the following locations:

- 10 Loudoun Street, SW
- 61 Church Street, SE



- 204 Liberty Street, SW
- 146 Loudoun Street, SE
- 37 Catoctin Circle, SE

Participants are encouraged to bring a new toy, office supplies or athletic equipment, which will be donated to the local YMCA. The Farmers' Market will also be open, weather pending, from 9 a.m. to noon.

To register for the event, visit www.vavillageleesburg.com/santas-village.

COMMUNITY

INTERIM SOLUTION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While VDOT discussed the interim solution with County staff, VDOT resources were used to make the changes. The installation was done in coordination with Purcellville Public Works.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser said

in a statement that, "This is an interim solution, while we await the permanent solution for which Supervisor Tony Buffington was able to secure \$11 million in funding. The permanent solution will include turn lanes and other longer term improvements."



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Sweet Rose Bake Shop

Changing lives one sweet bite at a time

BY ANDREA GAINES

Tanya Goon and her husband Andy, their son Shae, and partner Liz Zadik, have quite the sweet thing going. Make it part of your holiday 2018, and your life might just change forever.”

Tanya and Liz are partners in the Sweet Rose Bake Shop in Purcellville. Tanya provides the decorating expertise and Liz is the top baker. And, with a combined 40-plus years in the business, together they are capable of creating pastries, cakes, and sweets as spectacularly beautiful as they impossibly delicious and flavorful.

Andy works the shop and contributes to its success in a myriad of ways. And, in the partnership’s ultimate stroke of genius – or luck – Shae provides a service that anyone in the business of selling something you need to taste with your eyes as well as your mouth would die for: captivating photography. Photography that drips with butter and sugar and spice and flavor.

Sweet Rose designs, bakes, decorates



and sells every manner of baked good you can imagine, from donuts to croissants to brownies to cookies to turnovers to cheesecake, and more. And, pies. This time of year, in particular, Sweet Rose turns out hundreds and hundreds of pies, including pumpkin, blueberry, apple and coconut cream.

They have a great walk-in retail



Sweet Rose Gingerbread House Contest Dec. 1 – Dec. 14

Sweet Rose wants to see your very best holiday ginger bread house, and is now accepting entries! All entries must be handmade – no kits, and no electrical or moving parts on the houses.

Children and adult competitors welcome. Entries will be accepted from Dec. 1 to Dec. 14 (by 5 p.m.).

Winners will be announced on Facebook on Monday, Dec. 17 at 12 noon.

Adult 1st Place winners receive a \$200 gift card, 2nd Place, \$100 gift card, 3rd Place, \$50 Gift Card. Kids winners (4 to 12 years old) – 1st place winners receive a \$50 gift card, 2nd Place, a Christmas Platter, 3rd Place, a \$10 Gift Card.

See the Sweet Rose Facebook page for details – www.facebook.com/SweetRoseBake.

business, and also serve delectable coffees and drinks to go with your sweet tooth.

But, what they also want to be known for are their custom cakes, for anniversaries, birthdays, baby showers, and special events, including, perhaps, the most notable event of all – weddings. The wedding cake is, of course, where the masters of flavor, texture and decoration, Liz and Tanya, shine. The shop offers “a consultation and tasting” for wedding cake orders to make sure customers “achieve the best tasting cake ... to compliment your event.” I love the way the bakers show as much attention to customer satisfaction as they do to the sweet and beautiful things that emerge from their kitchen.

For this group bakers, business owners – and yes, photographers – that sweet, creamy, fragile thing that exists in uneaten form for sometimes just minutes, is an absolute labor of love.

As the Sweet Rose Facebook page says, in an equally sweet way, “Baking was always something we did as parents, as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

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GRAVEL ROADS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

into, wanted country living, and these gravel roads as their retreat from the homogenous sameness that engulfs society at every turn elsewhere.

Some "save the road" supporters claim a gravel road is not just scenic and historic but safer for themselves, their children, for their pets, to walk or run, and to trot a horse from a barn or adjoining meadow.

The Georges Mill Road, as one example, going back at least since 1759, ran down to the Potomac river where you could make your way along the bank to the Virginia side of Harper's Ferry.

It's a road that appears pretty much the way it was when Union soldiers encamped in the field by the historic Georges Mill School House.

In November 1864, shortly after President Lincoln's re-election, Mosby's men climbed through the woods over the Short Hill Mountain from the West to attack the Union troops.

Harrison Sherwood, who lives off Stevens Road, itself off Georges Mill Road, has walked and studied this hallowed ground on a quest to discover historic treasure, and found a bayonet and other civil war artifacts.

Mr. Sherwood insists that he found the path that Mosby's men took over the Short Hill Mountain when they engaged General Devin's men by Georges Mill School House.

If you had been sitting in Mr. Sherwood's living room in 1864, he suggests, "chances were very good that those cracking twigs up the hill



John Moberly

were Mosby's men and his 'berserkers' sneaking around up there."

"If you knew what was good for you," Mr. Sherwood said, "you'd put another log on the fire, pull your blanket up around your ears, and hope to hell Mosby's principal, a man named Moberly, wasn't here to relieve you of your horses or your daughters, 'cos if he wanted 'em, he took 'em, and you had no say in the matter."

Loudoun is thick with history that we must preserve and protect.

It's also has miles of road intertwined with that history.

John Flannery practices law in Leesburg and is a regular guest commentator in print, TV, and radio on law and politics.

SUNROOMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

one size does not fit all.

These spaces need to make themselves a part of an existing structure, while seamlessly enhancing it, transforming it at a cost that works budget-wise, while also looking like it has always been part of the home.

This is where Four Seasons' expertise, experience, and market-reach pay off.

Homeowners working with the company on a more limited budget can opt for a glass atrium roof set atop pre-existing walls – transforming that part of their home into an entirely new space, and enabling them to use and enjoy it in totally new ways.

People with larger budgets, who might have at one point considered selling their home and moving to something bigger, now have a brand new glass-enclosed addition, complete with a fireplace and kitchen upgrade.

The style can reflect European influences, have the sleek modern look of an ocean-front property, or the rustic and earthy look of woodsy cabin.

"The features you choose reflect what you want the space to give you," said Grubb – an open yet intimate dining setting, a fireplace to cozy up to, a place to grill, an indoor-outdoor living room, or any combination thereof.

The common factor is a space flowing with openness and light during the day and the stars and moon at night.



Four Seasons Sunrooms/Total Remodeling Systems Northern Virginia is located at 118 Creekside Lane in Winchester. Go to www.fourseasonssunrooms.com or call 703 665-1345 for a complimentary quote. Feel free to ask for Dan Grubb directly to discuss your sunroom project. The Four Seasons family of companies is happy to review the special pricing and other promotions available during the holiday and winter season.

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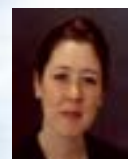


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TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and other outbuildings flanked the overgrown residence, adding to the allure of wondering what activities took place here, and for how long, and why, now, the acreage no longer served common human purposes. I could (and now, only in the mind) see where the clothesline stood, out in the yard to catch the warm, summer breeze – but couldn't quite make out the figure of whomever carried the basket of washing out to hang, with the classic, old wooden clothespins, used by our mothers or grandmothers, and even some of us, still. And, time had sped by this old home as well, in my imagination, much quicker than had the nearby vehicles, trafficking up the street.

Not so with the iconic firehouse a bit further along the pike; the historic structure has maintained pace with advancing years – adding vehicles, equipment, square footage and personnel, to keep up with times of growing population and ever-diversifying types of facilities popping up on surrounding properties. Among these – a constant increase of new homes – some seen right here in 'downtown' Arcola, others a bit further out from the edge of the little community; the emergency crews of Company Nine answer the calls when and where needed – despite increasing challenges from many sides. Time has buffeted the bricks and doors and windows, but the volunteer fire house remains in operation.

The Fates have been less benevolent to the nearby, former Arcola Elementary School, as we head back down toward our point of origin and the familiar intersection; the historic educational building opened its doors in 1939, hosting countless children in its three decades and more of teaching. Now

its boarded windows remind us of the relentless turn of the years; its facilities no longer useful to one of the fastest-growing school systems in the country. Now, a new Arcola Elementary School welcomes students along Tall Cedars Parkway in nearby Aldie.

And, heading back toward the familiar Evergreen Store, near our starting point, time – in its accordion-like ability – has placed me again at the site of the former homestead – only now, on a more recent morning, bulldozers and other giant machines work on dismantling the abandoned house of white, the nearby barn and other outbuildings, even the post for the clothesline. And I no longer tell myself I can almost make out the form of loving matriarchy hanging out the wash. I have pictures of the neglected property – in pixel form as well as the etchings on the mind's eye – and other sense memories of my visit, when I simply walked about the yard, relaxing, musing, imagining the former lives spent in this space, the simple activities here. I never met them, but I'll always remember their home and my last look.

And time – seeking neither to create, preserve or destroy – also allows me to share one other memory of that classic intersection in the little community: in vivid contrast to the unceremonious destruction of the abandoned residence, just across the street, we see a homey, carefully-maintained and manicured house of blue and white which evidently enjoys hosting a caring family. The passage of the years, for this home, has been far kinder than to its peer. And, so now - I hope – in my future traverses through Arcola, I can always take in the familiar façade of blue and white – while I remember its friend across the street – now erased by time from the physical world – living on in pictures of the mind.

ALAN OGDEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

example, represented a "part of the inner beauty of the universe waiting to be revealed."

So, we wanted to know of course, what Ogden's favorite piece of music or composer, is. It was from Mozart, of course. And, we loved his response.

"This is a question which is impossible to answer, in a way," Ogden said at first. "There are many pieces which, when I am hearing that piece, is my favorite piece at that moment.

"If I have to choose one, though, I guess it is Mozart's 'Requiem.' A grand piece for full orchestra, full chorus, and four soloists, which is really a prayer for the salvation of humanity.

"I have played trombone in performances of that work, and have

also sung in the bass section in others. One of those performances was for a commemoration of President John F. Kennedy, fifty years after his death, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston."

Requiem, composed in 1791, is one of Mozart's last pieces of music. He died before it could be completed. It is fascinating both musically and historically. No wonder Ogden loves it.

It is clear to see that Alan Ogden has a great reverence for this thing called music. And, we are all the more rich for it.

"In teaching music," said Ogden, "we are giving students the power of thought, and empathy. We are giving them to power to create ... beauty."

To find out more about Alan Ogden and his musical instruction go to ogdenmusic.org.

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

can choose to be content even when life gets challenging, once we consider that every day offers the opportunity to grow and change, serving as preparation for something far greater.

I recently came upon an interview I heard long ago, featuring a musician named Sam Baker. During the interview, he happens to play a few lines from his song, "Pretty World."

"Before the sun...before the heat... before we untangle from our sheets... before the summer day unfurls...pretty world."

He goes on to repeat those two words - "pretty world" - throughout the song, a haunting rendition of the beauty found on this earth. Remarkable, especially considering the life of the musician. His musical career began shortly after he suffered injuries as a result of a bomb planted by a Peruvian terrorist group. His songs borne out of great suffering.

Along the way, he learned a few important lessons. The value of

"empathy," parsed out as a result of the discovery "that we suffer, you suffer, that we all do..." Leading him to embark upon a journey in which he actively shares his work with the world. "I think that my job is to reveal as much as I know and hope that it's helpful to somebody," he told Fresh Air host Terri Gross.

A great reminder during this holiday season: To rest in the knowledge that our current circumstances may be preparing us for our next chapter. To treasure the lives we have, even if more is desired. To cherish every breath we breathe, no matter how unpleasant the circumstances of our lives have become. To remember all that we have for which to be grateful; and, to never forget the privilege it is to wake up and breathe in the morning air each and every day. For, we undoubtedly live in a "pretty world."

Samuel Moore-Sobel is hoping you find joy this holiday season. To read more of his work, visit www.holdingontohopetoday.com.

REAL ESTATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

and a bay window. The master bath features two vanities with Uba Tuba granite countertops, a whirlpool tub and walk-in shower. Other upper level bedrooms will accommodate the rest of your family and/or guests in comfort and convenience, while unfinished spaces on the lower walkout level and in the attic offer opportunities for further expansion.

Nestled between Purcellville and Middleburg, this location is convenient to fantastic local shopping and activities, including notable world class equestrian events such as the Gold Cup, Twilight

Polo and Jumpers and seasonal trail rides.

The historic village of Philomont is only three minutes away and offers an active community center, the famous Philomont General Store and the Volunteer Fire Station.

Commuting is easy to businesses along the Leesburg-Sterling-Dulles corridor. Dulles International Airport is only 45 minutes away, and bus services in Purcellville support travel along the Dulles Greenway into Washington, D.C.

You won't want to miss taking a peek at this beautiful Loudoun County home. See the wonderful video of this property at bit.ly/telegraphspringsvideo.

SWEET ROSE BAKERY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

kids, and as family and as friends here in Sweet Rose Bakeshop. When the ground was soaked and the sky was dark, a cup of milk and a snickerdoodle was our indoor escape. When the air was cold and the winds howled with shards of ice, a hot chocolate and a slice of butter cake was our warm blankets around the wood stove."

The Sweet Rose site also goes on to say: "It was the long trek through hard times, tiring days of do-it-yourself projects, and cold mind numbing corporate retail jobs that wore down and refined our dreams into an escape for

anyone and everyone from the struggles of our times. Because we are here to bring a smile to your day, and our story is about your story."

Hinting at how running this kind of business, while backbreaking at times, is, in the end, what these folks were put on earth to do. Said Andy, "I have never regretted one minute of it."

Sweet Rose Bake Shop is located at 201 North 23rd Street in Purcellville, phone: (540) 441-7996, info@sweetrosebakeshop.com. The shop is open Sunday and Monday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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LITTLE AUSTRIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

“I’m so excited about this local success story that uses our locally grown produce in new and delicious ways,” said Congresswoman-elect Jennifer Wexton. “I’m so proud of everything Little Austria has accomplished, and honored that they chose to grow their business right here in Loudoun County.”

“I’m excited that Little Austria has chosen Virginia and specifically Sterling as the best place for their business. Little Austria’s use of Loudoun-grown products which will then be crafted into high quality products by Loudoun bakers showcases the best of Virginia and further solidifies the Commonwealth’s position as a great place for business,” said Delegate John Bell. “I warmly welcome Little Austria to the 87th District and Virginia and look forward to a long and successful partnership.”

“Little Austria is the latest example of an organization leveraging Loudoun’s entrepreneurial ecosystem and capitalizing on partnerships with local agriculture businesses to create an amazing farm-to-fork product,” said Loudoun County Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Rizer. “This expansion will allow Little Austria to enter new markets, including grocers and restaurants, and help the company grow their #LoudounPossible story.”



Gallent with the finished product ready to eat.

The Commonwealth is partnering with Loudoun County, Loudoun County Economic Development and Little Austria, LLC on this project through the AFID Fund, which is administered by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Governor Northam approved a \$13,700 grant from the Fund, which the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will match with local funds pending a vote by the Board at a future meeting.



L to R, company founder Helene Gallent and her team getting the strudel ready to put in the oven.



Chief of Staff for Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Bo Machayo addresses the crowd. Head of Loudoun County Economic Development Buddy Rizer, far right.

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PLANNING COMMISSION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

of the Plan. We understand that this version of the draft Plan is based upon the recommendations from the Stakeholders Committee, and not necessarily supported by County staff, but we are specifically concerned with the conversion of the three identified Rural Policy Areas to Transition Policy Areas.”

Speaking directly to the draft Plan's suggestion that nearly 1,000 acres of rural land now be part of the TPA, which, itself, would also be developed at far greater densities, Fraser said, “The current draft states that the Transition Policy Area includes 937 acres of land designated Rural Policy Area in previous plans. The Plan does not provide any rationale behind the shift of Rural Policy Area to TPA, giving the appearance that many of the concerns voiced in the three rounds of community engagement, as well as much of the on-line feedback received to this point, have not been addressed ...” Fraser then said he wanted the County to provide a rationale for this dramatic policy change.

“While the Stakeholders may have felt that the identified areas more naturally favor TPA characteristics,” Fraser said, “any further advancement of TPA into the RPA makes it difficult to ‘hold the line’ on westward encroachment, and results in loss of our valuable rural areas that define the character of Loudoun County ...” Here, Fraser made note of the True North Data Center, approved for a site adjacent to Goose Creek, one of the most distinct features of Loudoun County as an historic and rural place connected to hundreds of millions of dollars in rural business income.

“We recommend that any conversion of RPA lands be removed from the Plan,” Fraser said.

Failing to address the rural economy point all together was Eric Johnson, representing the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. The “limited supply of land remaining in the Suburban Policy Area,” and the “lack of diverse and affordable inventory of rental and owner-occupied housing” were forcing Loudoun's graduates to leave the County, sending “the tax dollars we invested in their education” elsewhere. To the Chamber, the march of growth from east to west needs to be accelerated.



Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance

Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance said that although the commissioners “asserted that the unspoiled land in the TPA constituted the only real alternative for filling the anticipated housing needs,” COLT submitted a detailed example of a potential area redevelopment in

the Suburban Policy Area. COLT identified a 54-acre site, which is currently low-density flex service and industrial in a prime location near shopping, schools and transportation corridors. COLT felt the site could yield residential units, along with affordable units and office or commercial space along with open space.



Lovettsville Mayor Nate Fontaine

and protected to encourage the economic engine of western Loudoun.”

Lovettsville Mayor Nate Fontaine noted that 69,000 residents make their lives in western Loudoun County. “Western Loudoun is a unique place,” he said, representing “communities that are quickly disappearing across the Commonwealth and the nation.” Western Loudoun is “The tourism engine” of the County, he said. He noted that it generates \$1.8 billion in annual revenue, 18,000 jobs, and nearly \$700 million in wages. This is “the definition of successful land use planning.”

REDSKIN JOSH NORMAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as second runner up, bested, not by an actor with a talent for dance, but an Olympic bronze medal figure skater. Whether launching his body across a football field to effect a tackle, or mastering the steps in the Paso Doble, Norman understands the artful precision behind both.

Norman has been practicing for his role in *The Nutcracker* with both great enthusiasm and great modesty.

When asked how *The Nutcracker* rehearsals were going, Norman said, “I

was so intimidated at the first rehearsal for the Arabian Prince. Just like on the field, the timing and precision of every step in the dance is critical. But I studied the film,” Norman laughed, “and by the second rehearsal, I was in the game! Lisa Startzman, the LBPAC Artistic Director, is the perfect coach. As she breaks down the steps and teaches the technique, I fully understand why football players are encouraged to study classical ballet to improve their game.” Norman added with a smile, “My Mom and brothers are coming up to see *The Nutcracker*

performance.”

Startzman was equally nervous about Norman's first rehearsal because she had never before had to so quickly teach a non-dancer to perform a classical ballet partnering role. Norman has far exceeded all of her expectations. Startzman said, “Josh really is a joy to work with – so focused, strong, and has a great intuition for partnering. I could actually go on and on! Josh is a true gentleman as a partner.”

LBPAC is northern Virginia's largest pre-professional ballet company. It

serves nearly 60 dancers ranging in age from nine to 19-years-old. The company will present five *Nutcracker* performances over three days: Friday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 15 and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Norman will be the special guest artist in the Friday evening performance.

Tickets for *The Nutcracker*, including Norman's performance, may be purchased at www.lbpac.org/, or by emailing lbpactickets@gmail.com. Ticket prices are \$65 for adults, and \$45 for children 12-years-old and under.

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