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'Personal Recreation Fields' free to turn rural Loudoun into dumping grounds

BY ANDREA GAINES

In an impassioned letter dated Jan. 24, 2019, Cattail, LC, a limited partnership of family members who have over 800 acres of farmland under Nature Conservancy easement outside of Hamilton, showed the Board of Supervisors the necessity of dealing with an almost wholly unregulated landfill approved by the County.

The letter was accompanied by a stunningly raw video showing what can only be described as massive landfill activity, "masquerading," says the partnership, as what is known as a "Personal Recreational Field." That field is, in fact, an 18-acre tract of land – 30 feet high in some places – and strewn with piles of dirt, massive chunks of concrete and asphalt, construction debris, plastic waste, and, in some places, liquid waste. The waste is brought in by large dump trucks accessing the site from old Business 7. The trucks enter – dozens and dozens per day, dump their waste, and exit, day in and day out – a process that has been going on intensively for more than three years.

Cattail, LC owns land – Digges Valley Farm – that is adjacent to landfill that is part of Gable Farm.

In 2015, Gable Farm received approval from the County to create the Gable Farm Personal Recreational Field (PRF), approving the land to be a receiving area for excessive fill – soil, rocks, and other materials that construction companies and others are



Aerial photos, video, and an explanation of the case can be seen at www.LoudounRuralLandFills.com.

For a copy of the Cattail, LC "Open Letter to The Board of Supervisors, Jan. 24, 2019," go to BlueRidgeLeader.com.

required to dispose of in a particular manner.

The Rural Economy Plan for the Gable Farm (REST-2015-0003) applies to four rural parcels zoned Agricultural-1 (AR-1). According to the requirements of the plan, the area receiving the infill is to be "not open to the public or used for any commercial purposes." The erosion plan sets limits on the infill that can be deposited and graded at the site for its use as a recreational field.

In the January letter from Henry Harris, Managing Partner, Cattail, LC, since being approved, County records show it is noted that the Gable Farm PRF may have accumulated a level of infill waste up to 14 feet over what is allowed in the plan.

The letter goes on to say that the Gable

Farm PRF "is, in fact, a landfill of more than 18 acres. The landfill rises more than 30 feet and dominates a quarter-mile-long boundary with our land. We estimate, conservatively, that the volume of the 'approved' landfill is at least 220,000 cubic yards. Recent surveys suggest that it may actually contain over 420,000 cubic yards of waste: a total of about 28,000 truckloads that originated off the site. The revenue from dumping this much waste is potentially in the millions of dollars.

"We believe that such dumps of 'excessive fill' – whether called 'landfills,' 'dirt stockpiles,' or 'personal fields' – are not an appropriate land use in western Loudoun,"

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Loudoun, show your love for Cannons baseball; Team seeks host families

BY ANDREA GAINES

The opening of the baseball season is some months away, but the Cannons organization is working hard and fast to put the finishing touches on the 2019 team roster.

This time of year, in addition to recruiting players, the team's Housing Coordinator, Brian Haas, is looking for host families, places for the guys to live during the season.

Haas is a self-described "baseball fanatic," and has experienced personally the value of community generosity. He is one of the beneficiaries of the local Hero Homes project, which provides housing to injured veterans. Volunteering as the Housing Coordinator for the Cannons is one way for

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PROPANE COSTS TOO MUCH!

This Winter is the Ideal Time to Make the Switch.

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

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



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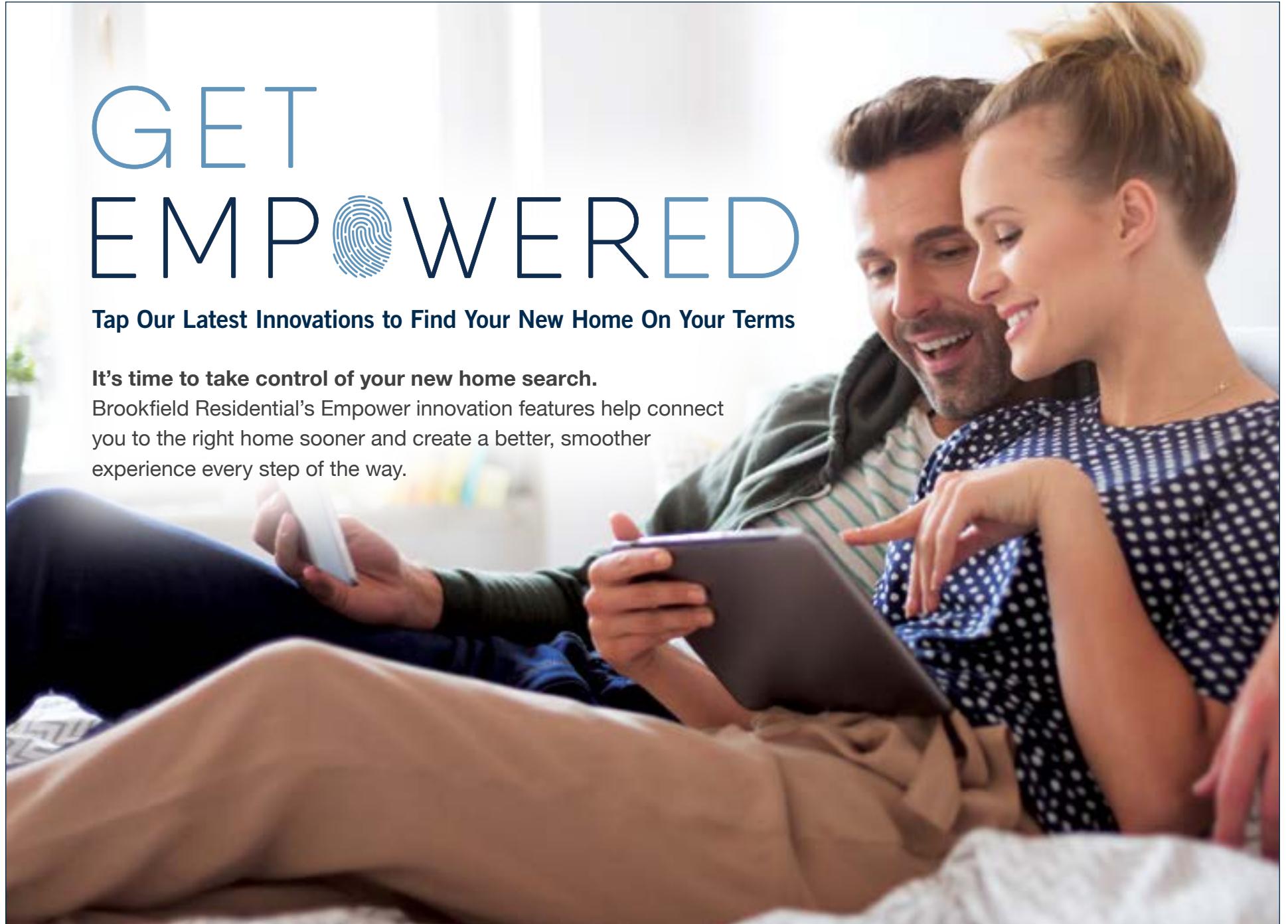
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Crazy about beating cancer

BY ANDREA GAINES

Cancer has the ability to turn a life upside down. But, love, love has the ability to turn it right-side up again. And, to hold it there, with the support of family and friends, until there is a better day to be had.

This is the beautiful and enduring spirit of positivity working its way around Loudoun County in the form of ten high school students who call themselves LoCo On Cancer.

The team is committed to raising \$50,000 in a seven-week fundraising effort running from Jan. 10 to March 2. The full name of the campaign is



LoCo On Cancer team members pictured, left to right: Antwain Stokes, Ryan Ruscitella, Trae Ballinger (captain), Makenzie Robinson (captain), Hunter Robinson, Sarah Rubin, and Ashlynn Cool.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Student Of The Year (SOY) Campaign.

Loudoun Valley High School student Makenzie Robinson formed the group, added captains, and recruited others. All ten students are running for the SOY title as a whole.

The three team captains are Makenzie and Nick VanZandt, both LVHS juniors, and Trae Ballinger, a Woodgrove High School junior. VanZandt, by the way – a nationally ranked Loudoun Valley kicker – just wrapped up a “kick it for cancer” campaign which raised over \$2,000 for “Alex’s lemonade stand,” just weeks before starting the current campaign.

The students working with them are Hunter

Robinson, Ashlyn Cool, Antwain Stokes, Ryan Ruscitella, Riley Draddy, and Katlyn Money – all Loudoun Valley students, and Sarah Rubin, a student Woodgrove. Robinson is also in the running for the National Capital chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Student of the Year.

And, this is where the love comes in.

Makenzie Robinson became involved with LLS after her mom, Tracy Robinson, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Tracy took the cancer head on, and has so far beaten the odds – with the love of her family and friends, and that same beautiful and enduring spirit of positivity these students are showing. Tracy also took on the challenge of running in the Man and Woman of the Year campaign for LLS in 2016.

Makenzie Robinson is following in her mom's footsteps. In a January presentation to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Makenzie said, “Unlike my mom's campaign, I have chosen to run as a team made up of students from both Loudoun Valley and Woodgrove High Schools.”

In the “SOY” effort, Makenzie continued, “The title of ‘Student(s) of the Year’ will be awarded to the team who raises the most funds. Our team has set our sights

high, with a fundraising goal to be \$50,000!”

The students are dedicating their efforts to a very special friend – Sara Willis. And, the battle against cancer is personal for everyone on this team. Each has had a mother, a father, a sister, an aunt, a grandma, or a granddad with cancer.

Said Makenzie in her BOS presentation, “With your help I am confident that we will reach our goal, and be able to fund a childhood cancer research grant in the name of who Sara Willis ... Sara Willis was a senior at Loudoun Valley battling brain cancer for the second time. Just days after we made our decision to dedicate the campaign to her, Sara sadly passed away. This was extremely

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BRMS 6th Grade math students and staff pictured with soup mix jars that were donated to the Tree of Life Food Pantry to support the local community.

Blue Ridge Math Students Give Back

Sixth grade students from Blue Ridge Middle School, under the guidance of their math teachers Mrs. Farrey, Mrs. McDole, Mrs. McFarland, and Mrs. Taylor, turned an understanding of fractions into 150 dried soup mixes that were donated to the Tree of Life Food Pantry in time for the holiday season. “This project was important to me because it worked on my fraction skills and it contributed to the community ... it felt good to know we were helping other people,” said 6th grade student Ciara Rosenberger.

While exploring the topic, students applied their knowledge of the content to a real-world application of fractions when working with recipes. According to Mrs. Taylor, “Students had to determine if we had enough of each ingredient and to make predictions about the number of jars we could make. For example, if we collected 76 containers of dry onion and there were 1/2 cup of onion in each jar, how many jars could we make if we used 1/4 cup per jar?” As a culminating activity, students collaborated to measure and assemble dry ingredients into individual pint and a half size jars. Each jar was labeled with instructions, decorated with a festive holiday fabric, and included a hand-made card with holiday wishes from students.

The project was possible thanks to the generosity of 6th grade families who donated the soup ingredients, canned tomatoes, jars, and fabric tops for the project.

Touch base with the first-responder in you

Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company seeks volunteers

BY ANDREA GAINES

“It's a matter of local pride,” said Chief Scott Maple. “It says something special about our community.”

Maple was talking about the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company's ongoing efforts to keep that word “volunteer” in their name.

As an all-volunteer force serving the area since 1923, the Company only recently added four paid staff. And, that was with the help of County dollars when Loudoun stepped up to help PVFC cover some of their most difficult shifts.

But, volunteerism – and camaraderie, and community spirit, and just the simple act of one person helping another in a time of need – has always been and always will be the heart of what makes a man or woman become a member of such a committed group of people.

The size of the challenge on the PVFC's plate has grown steadily.

A large number of calls – all coming in from a 911 dispatcher – used to be 500, annually.

But, in 2018 this fire company took 1,000 incoming calls.

Sometimes the volunteers are called to help someone with a carbon dioxide leak. This time of year chimney fires are common, or structural fires. A good part of the work also involves sending out an EMS team for someone in physical distress.

But, regardless of what the team is called upon to do, all of it takes tremendous focus, tremendous organization, steady professionalism – and, most importantly, the heart of a volunteer.

Maple talks very highly of the Company's dedication to excellence.

“We run a fire engine,” he said, “that requires a minimum of one driver, one officer, and one firefighter ... but preferably, two!”

“We have a tower. And, for that we a driver and an officer – again, that's the minimum,” he continued.

“And,” Maple said finally, “We have a tanker that requires at least one driver, but again, we'd prefer to have two. This all adds up to a lot of people, a big and ongoing need for volunteers.”

To explore the possibility of helping out in a big or small way with the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company, go to their website – PurcellvilleFire.org – or email President Brad Quin, who coordinates volunteer recruitment, at BQuin@Purcellville-Fire.org.

Battling a Sea of Regret

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

Eagles wide receiver Alshon Jeffery will probably never forget the moment he dropped a pass in the NFC Divisional Game against the New Orleans Saints.

We had gathered at my parent's house on a snowy January afternoon to watch the game (my father insisted my brother and I be there to provide, in his words, "good ju ju," a play on the words Robert De Niro's character in "Silver Linings Playbook" uses consistently throughout the film). It was quite funny, especially coming from my father, who is typically not a superstitious man. A nearly lifelong Eagles fan, he was intent on leaving nothing to chance.

With less than two minutes left in



MOORE-SOBEL

the fourth quarter, the Eagles appeared poised to score a game-winning touchdown. Trailing 20-14, Jeffery's ill-fated drop resulted in an interception, putting an end to the Eagles postseason run. My father, quite unhappy with the result, screamed, "How could he drop that ball!?"

Jeffery's upcoming journey is likely foreshadowed by the words of another wide receiver. Former Bengals Cris Collinsworth, now an NFL commentator, talks often about his team's Super Bowl XVI and XXIII losses to the San Francisco 49ers. He had some memorable drops in those games, contributing to the Bengals' defeats. "Honestly," Collinsworth said, "there used to be [that] there wasn't an hour that went by that I didn't think about it...now it's probably not a week that goes by that I don't think about it...

you always think about it." There must be something about dropping footballs that sticks with you.

Or perhaps this speaks to an important part of the human experience. While many of us have been spared from having our mistakes broadcast live for the viewing pleasure of millions, we have all made errors, dropping the "euphemistic" football as we move through our lives. Losing at the highest levels of professional sports likely magnifies a feeling that so many of us possess as we travel through this world. A wave of palpable regret.

The word regret is defined as, "to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over (something that has happened or been done, especially a loss or missed opportunity). How many among us regret not taking that job, or refraining from

pursuing higher education? Dropping a football may pale in comparison to the feeling of regret summoned by a painful breakup, heart-rending divorce, or the thought of an estranged family member.

Regret, in its very nature, is the act of looking back instead of moving forward. Of reflecting on what might have been, instead of working towards what might be. While it is undoubtedly important to digest the past in order to avoid making the same mistake in the future, I wonder if regret can have a paralyzing effect upon those who traffic in its ways. Causing people to feel chained to their mistakes, instead of empowering them to reach for the future.

I grew up in a home where my father was often regretful about the past. In contrast, my mother was typically

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— Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Dr. Mike,

Our 27-year-old son still lives at home with us and we can't get him to be his own independent man. We've tried everything, but nothing has worked. He dropped out of a 4-year college, then NOVA twice and he hasn't held a job for more than a month. He's been out of work for over a year, and he just sits around and plays video games. He doesn't help out with anything, which just adds insult to injury for us as parents. My husband has started calling him "loser" and "dead beat." On Jan. 1, my husband's new approach has been to be mean and to restrict the car, money and everything from our son. He still eats our food, but he's holed up in his room with his video games all day and night. Help! – Upset in Loudoun



DR. MIKE

Dear Upset,

While I appreciate your frustration, being mean to your son or withholding your love from him isn't a good idea; the concern being that it will likely only make him feel badly about himself, and it also likely won't help him to move out any sooner. The first thing you need to figure out with your son is what exactly is keeping him from being age appropriately independent. I understand that he left school repeatedly and can't

keep a job, but based on what you've written, it isn't clear to me why that occurred or why he's still at home. Does he have an undiagnosed mental health condition (e.g., depression or anxiety)? Is he an alcoholic or does he abuse substances? Does he have an undiagnosed learning or developmental condition (e.g., Autism)? Or maybe there's nothing seriously wrong with him, and he's just immature and overly dependent. Understanding why he's living the way he is should determine how you approach the problem.

If your son does have a real problem that is interfering with his ability to be more independent, then get him the help he needs before expecting him to move out. If he doesn't have a significant problem, then you and your husband should put together a step-wise plan with him to increase his autonomy, and start with his video gaming. It seems that playing video games is your son's go-to for comfort and possibly to escape, and the amount of time he's playing is certainly keeping him from being productive. Thus, I recommend that you take the gaming device or controls from him and let him know that he can only play video games after he's managed your expectations on a daily basis. I would also limit his gaming to two hours a day, which will force him to do other things with his time.

Since he doesn't have a job, you could give him daily chores and errands that keep him active throughout

the day, get him out of the house and provide him with a sense of purpose – doing the family's dishes, grocery shopping and laundry, are a few examples.

Getting a full-time job should also be a must. If you wait on him to get a job, it likely won't happen. Help your son to apply for jobs online and even go with him to fill out applications. If you attack the job hunt aggressively by applying to several places a day – online and in person – someone will hire him. In the meantime, he could drive for Uber or Lyft, walk dogs and/or volunteer to start being productive while he job seeks.

I think your son should also pay rent once he starts working. It may take time, but by participating more as a family member, by getting a full-time job, and by limiting his gaming time and time at home, your son should start to feel more competent and confident. I also think you should plan a realistic move out date for him. In situations like yours, I often recommend that parents return their adult child's paid rent money to live at home for a rental deposit or rent later outside the home to speed up the process.

In time, your son may begin to tire of having a job, and he may begin to think about his future and what he truly would like to do for a career. I recommend that you support his decision to return to school or learn a trade

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Paeonian Springs

I will, next time, pay closer heed to my instincts' urging, that – when a road looks like it's going nowhere, at least sometimes it is; having been lulled into a sense of complacency by a pretty good signage system in Northern Virginia,



JON

I quickly reverted back to my cellular memory while exploring an interesting little series of conundrums on a recent quest. Paeonian Springs had been on my radar for

an official literary visit for a long time – probably since I began this monthly collection; I finally placed myself, my vehicle and my camera all in that charming community and found far more than I would have guessed.

Having taken a closer look at the familiar log-cabin style general store just off the main drag of Route Nine, I quickly noted the surprising number of stately homes along the smaller corridors running through the village. The sweep of historic architecture helped tell the story of Paeonian Springs; the village enjoyed status – in the early days of the former century – as a resort town away from Washington – where one could enjoy fresh air, inspiring views, and of course the healthy spring water tapped in the locality. I understand the fluid was even shipped out of the community by rail – some into the halls of Congress, no less. Paeonian Springs – though lacking today's commuter traffic – enjoyed a definite sense of popularity – for a while.

Well, times changed and the Greek God of medicine (Paeon, a physician among his peers) no longer possessed his former clout, the liquid elixir lost its allure with the public, and other factors (like the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad going off the rails, so to speak) combined to see this vibrant little community evolve into a quieter, perhaps more peaceful existence – in which I found it – still – on my last trip. The historic post office (dating back, now, close to 90 years) still maintains operations within a stone's throw of the familiar recreational trail and former, aforementioned, railroad track. And I saw – for the first time since setting foot in Loudoun County over two decades ago – the actual Paeonian Spring – sitting innocently along Simpson Circle – a little south of the post office and trail.

How cool, I thought – folks living in these parts have their own wishing well! Maybe this was where ol' Paeon was hiding out, after all these years. If so, he



remained hidden in the sheltered little spring house. Possibilities of the divine just may create spontaneous inspiration – or at least, that's how I was feeling.

Combined with the impressive architecture, narrow streets, and obvious history in virtually every direction, my explorations had (so far) so well rewarded me that I boldly set forth out into some of the outlying areas; having just left the spot of the romantic spring, I abruptly came upon a series of cramped alleyways – marked as officially maintained streets – simply ending in a driveway or two – or someone's yard – necessitating some fancy wheel-turning to make it back to a main stem. I wouldn't care for a negotiation of these little roads in anything like inclement weather – what with their inclines, blind curves and tight pivoting radii – not to mention residential property almost within reach out the window. Those abrupt changes in elevation across the locality were another factor I discovered for the first time that morning; the number and grade of hills certainly would have added to Paeonian Springs' former allure as a true resort destination – enjoying the feel of being 'nestled in the mountains.' If you care to follow some of the smaller corridors to their origin, you'll find front lawns strewn with items of less romantic nature – and certainly lacking the dignity of a Greek figure of mythology.

But the charm of the little village in the hills is what remains as I recall the visit – now in the warmth and relative cleanliness of my writing study; I found a story of entrancing history, bygone attractions, hills and ravines of green, forgotten corridors of transportation – and I was left with a trail of bread crumbs in hopes of finding the God of Medicine. If you're out and about in this little community of charm, and bump into some guy who calls himself Paeon (and not just any peon) – let him know I want to talk to him; I bet he has some good stories.

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A February “Soulstice”

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Soulstice. That’s neither an astronomical mistake nor a misspelling. It’s a neologism, a newly coined word. Since I created it, I will define it ...

The familiar word “solstice” is from the Latin, meaning “to stand still.” I created “soulstice” to mean a period of equanimity and rest, any time of the year. That’s what I’m feeling now while I’m trying to take a break.

OPINION

With elections, a new Comprehensive Plan and the usual gamut of land-use problems coming up, the year ahead looks nasty – an annus horribilis – and I cannot completely ignore the portents.

Richmond

The non-profit Virginia Public Access Project, an apolitical organization ded-

icated to transparency in government, reports daily on affairs in Virginia’s capitol. VPAP’s stories make clear that our local squabbles are minor. Businesses, especially Dominion Power, control the legislature. Real estate interests are particularly powerful, so expect some anti-conservation news. (See our story on page x about Richmond’s attempt to seize control of how Loudoun regulates wedding venues.)

Envision Loudoun

This pig continues to root in the mud. During my soulstice I’m not following it closely, but Envision flickers in and out of my peripheral vision.

County planners are making some revisions after the draft Comprehensive Plan was raucously condemned by citizens in the Planning Commission’s required public hearing. Stunningly, a few days later citizens’ protests were blown off by the tone-deaf leaders of the Planning Commission in a “work” session.

PC’s Grand Poobah, Cliff Keirce is pushing for a westward expansion of the Transition Policy Area, moving hundreds of acres of Rural Policy Area lands into the TPA, and pushing for far more new houses in the TPA than anyone but realtors want.

The next version of the plan will be interesting. It goes back to the Planning Commission and thence to the Board of Supervisors later this month. It will be a dilemma for both.

The Planning Commission has already signaled its pro-growth wishes and developers are happy. One member of the PC even proposed that the Comp Plan state affirmatively that Loudoun should not have a Transfer of Development Rights program.

Like parents whose patience has

boiled away, the Board slapped the PC by enthusiastically directing staff to study a TDR program. Thank you, Supervisors!

Trails

Some good news: The Board, by an 8-0-1 vote, endorsed an “Emerald Ribbons” trails system to create much needed trails and parks. The Emerald Ribbons plan will be refined by a new citizens committee. Working out the details, eventually parcel-by-parcel, will take hard work, but as co-sponsor Ralph Buona said, “Rome wasn’t built in a day.”

Local Politics

I’ve appreciated our generally non-partisan political environment, where elected officials and citizens debate local issues. With elections coming in November, candidates are donning their Republican and Democratic uniforms and that disappoints me.

I offer you advice: Support candidates who will sincerely work to protect Loudoun’s countryside, but be cynical since every candidate will give lip service to that goal. For example, Forest Hayes is challenging Geary Higgins in the Catoctin District and protecting the west is one of his talking points. But why are his top six donors all from the developer-realtor cabal, to the tune of \$47,000?

Land Trusts

I’ve written before that land trusts need to become more efficient and focused. The Piedmont Environmental Council does good work on environmental issues, but my personal concern is to get permanent conservation easements in place to protect Loudoun’s AR-1 area from an explosion of subdivisions.

PEC’s website says it has “helped permanently protect over 400,000 acres ...”

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation says that a statewide total of 240,134 acres have been protected, someone’s math is off by 160,000 acres. PEC recently noted that it secured two conservation easements last year, both in Orange County, though none in Loudoun. County documents shows all conservation easements made in Loudoun over the past years, by all land trusts. The PEC had only one 68-acre easement and that was back in 2012.

If your worry is having a subdivision pop up where the next-door pasture used to be, look to land trusts which focus specifically on conservation easements and have a recent track record of success.

More Arrows in the Quiver

To preserve our countryside, the more tools we have, the better. One arrow has already hit the target: The Conservation Easement Assistance Program is now in place to help landowners with the front-end cost of doing a conservation easement.

Board members have just nocked two more arrows and let fly. The first is a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program which allows landowners in “sending areas” to sell their development rights (e.g., the right to build more houses) to developers in a “receiving area” more appropriate for increased density.

The third arrow is a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) in which the County buys development rights on vulnerable properties. While that initially costs the County, taxpayers profit greatly in the long run by not having to bear the significant initial and annually ongoing costs of new houses.

Both TDR and PDR programs are under study now.

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Blue Ridge LEADER & LOUDOUN Today

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
---	--

Here’s How to Reach Us
Email advertise@BRLeader.com or call 540-338-6200

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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Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.



Where do you stand?

Dear Editor:

I always try to keep an open mind on candidates for public office. What I’ve heard in the last week from Delegate Kathy Tran, Governor Ralph Northam, and Delegate Wendy Gooditis has shocked and disgusted me. This kind of extremism has no place anywhere, especially in our government. Our elected officials are in their places of power to protect the lives and well-being of their constituents.

The racist photos of Gov Northam aside, I am saddened to hear that local

Delegate Wendy Gooditis is not only standing by her co-sponsorship of the repugnant bill promoting abortion up until the moment of birth, she, along with other delegates, have even criticized the Republicans in the House of Delegates for bringing national attention to the bill. We deserve to be represented better than by the likes of Tran and Gooditis.

Another person seeking to represent us in Richmond, Mavis Taintor, has remained silent on these issues. While I doubt we will hear from Mrs Taintor due to her participation in the radically

pro-abortion women’s march held recently in Winchester, a lack of so much as a statement on something so pressing to local voters is unacceptable for someone who wants to have a hand in the critical decisions that will affect all Virginians.

I call upon Mrs. Taintor to join the vast majority of people who stand against this sickening bill and the Governor’s pro-infanticide remarks, as well as the recent disclosure of the Governor’s racist past. Continued silence on these issues is an answer in itself.

*Michelle Baker
Bluemont*

— Amy and Dan Smith's Planning for Life —

Applying for Medicaid Benefits

How do you apply for Medicaid?

Because Medicaid is administered by the states, each state has its own eligibility requirements and available benefits. Considerable variation can exist.



AMY AND DAN SMITH

To apply for Medicaid, you or your representative must use a written application on a form prescribed by your state and signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. Give the application to your state Medicaid office.

What information must you disclose?

The Medicaid application process will require the disclosure of certain personal information, including:

- Proof of age, marital status, residence, and citizenship (or lawful alien status).
- Social Security number.
- Verification of receipt of other gov-

ernment benefits, such as Social Security, SSI, AFDC, and veterans' benefits.

- Verification of all sources of income and assets for you and spouse. (Regarding assets, an indication as to how title is held (jointly, etc.) should be required.)
- A description of any interest you or your spouse has in an annuity (or similar financial instrument) regardless of whether the annuity is irrevocable or is treated as an asset.
- Lists of all transfers of income and assets within the applicable look-back period. This should include dates of transfer, name of transferee, consideration (if any) for transfer, and purpose of transfer.

For transfers made on or after February 8, 2006 (the date of enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005), the look-back period is 60 months for all transfers. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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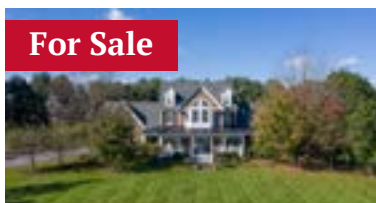


For Sale

OH THE LUXURY... Of Living IN THE PAST...

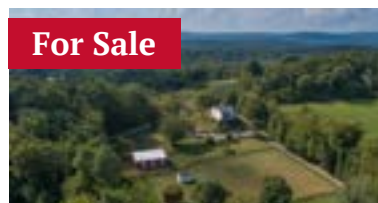


JUST LISTED: Fantastic 3 bed, 2.5 bath 1910 period home renovated with the utmost care by renowned builder. **One-of-a-kind** details blend seamlessly with the modern two story addition across the rear of home. Highlights include: wood floors, beautiful moldings, an entertainment scaled Family Room with **wood burning fireplace**, upper level with vaulted ceilings with reclaimed beams, 2 full upper level modern baths and a tremendous master bedroom with a large custom closet. The centrally located eat-in kitchen has stainless steel appliances, granite counters and **custom cabinets** (milled from local tree!) and the original front parlor and dining rooms offer additional main floor living areas. The unexpected **upper & lower screened porches** will harken you back to the pace of yesteryear, while the main floor laundry room, powder room and **2 car garage** will keep you in the 21st century! A charming front porch graces the front of the home and a highly functional deck and fenced yard complete the rear. This **premium downtown Purcellville location** is just a short stroll to Main Street and all it offers. **150 South 12th Street, Purcellville, VA 20132** Offered for \$524,500.



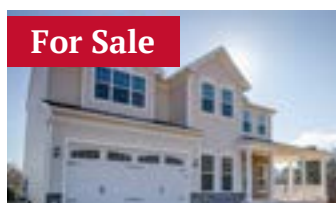
For Sale

PURCELLVILLE: Classically Sophisticated Custom Home on 3 acres, \$824,500



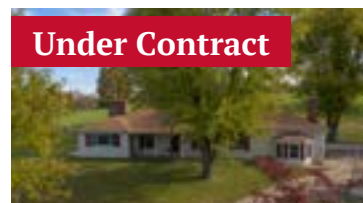
For Sale

PURCELLVILLE: Meticulously Maintained Farmhouse w/ Barn 4.61 acres, \$599,900



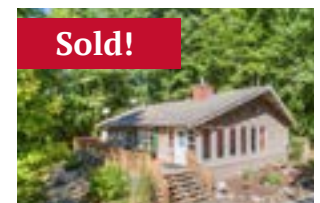
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BLUEMONT: Listed for \$324,900

Data Centers; how many and where: TPA, farmland – even plumbers? – at risk

BY ANDREA GAINES

According to the most recent figures, Loudoun County is now home to more than 70 data centers – 13.5 million square feet of them – with approximately 4.5 million square feet under development.

GOVERNMENT

Both the Virginia General Assembly – which awarded tech giant Amazon three-quarters of a billion dollars in subsidies in January, and the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development (DED), which gives data centers a hefty 6 percent sales and use tax exemption -- are giddy about the possibilities of this ongoing techno-boom.

This boom has now collided head on with the Envision Loudoun process, as the Loudoun County Planning Commission (PC) prepares its recommendations for where data centers, other new uses, and the tens of thousands of new residential units developers are clamoring for might be located. The implications for land use ... are huge.

The PC, as is becoming increasingly clear, is just as enthusiastic about data centers as DED Executive Director Buddy Rizer.

A recent email alert from the non-profit Transition Policy Alliance – a group in favor of Loudoun's three-part suburban east, transitional middle, and rural west growth management strategy – noted that "Buddy Rizer ... told the Commission that data centers are so hot right now that developers are hardly considering any other uses for land which permits their construction."

Noting the big financial and zoning incentives already in place for the industry, the Alliance repeated its opposition to any "further expansion of data center zoning in the Suburban, Transition, or Rural Policy Areas."

The group also referenced specific PC recommendations. "The area adjacent to the controversial True North data center on Goose Creek in the Transition Policy Area," said the Alliance, "would be expanded all the way west to Evergreen Mills Rd., adjacent to the Red Cedar community ... Current zoning already allows data centers along Rt. 50 all the way to the edge of The Meadows community and very close to other residential areas."

Far from a simple NIMBY (not-in-my-back-yard) sentiment, this argument may turn out to be as attractive to a residential neighborhood as it might be to a small business – a plumber, for example.

As the Alliance noted in a recent release, the enormous bidding power of industry groups such as data centers "can drive up the price of Loudoun County property for other businesses, especially the small service-oriented business that would compete for space in light industrial areas. Loudoun data center land can bring over \$1M per acre."

According to the Alliance, when Loudoun's 2014 Data Center Zoning Ordinance was enacted – adding data centers as a "permitted use" to areas zoned for commercial light industry, planned development office parks, research and development parks, and more – DED's Rizer made the comment that data centers "competed for space with other uses, and won ..."

Said the Alliance in its communication, "If Rizer's [most recent] predictions are correct, the kinds of businesses that use these spaces – building contractors, HVAC repair, electricians – and offices – will see even more of a cost squeeze from data center competition. If we can't manage this, we are on our way to a sea of soulless server bunkers and no plumbers ... this also drives up the price of land for schools and other public spaces as well ... changes the landscape.

"There is clearly concern that we could be riding this tiger too far," said the group, "That we will become too dependent on a single industry and pay the price later on when the market turns; and that land prices for offices and small service businesses will drive up their costs to unaffordability.

"Consider the recent Arcola Center decision. A previously planned walkable mixed-used office/residential/shopping area now has a huge fenced data center planned right in the middle, completely changing the nature of the development. What seems a financially sound decision for the county in the near term is a disheartening example of development to come. Although data center use is a windfall for those who own the property, most homeowners nearby don't want them in their neighborhoods ..."

The Planning Commission finalized the Land Use Chapter of its draft plan on Jan. 31 during a work session. The first formal chance for the public to comment will be as the Board of Supervisors takes up the draft in this month.

Citizens' group files challenge against Rockwool waterline approval

Jefferson County Vision, a large citizens' group challenging the legality, as well as the community and regional impact of the \$150 million Rockwool stone-

wool insulation factory in Ranson, West Virginia, has filed a formal complaint with the Public Service Commission in Charleston, calling

for an immediate cease and desist against what it describes as "unlawful work by Jefferson Utilities on the Rockwool waterline."

The plant is just 12 miles from the Loudoun County line and has also been challenged by citizens' groups and several Loudoun County municipalities, including Purcellville.

Rockwool announced earlier this month that it would be financing a waterline directly from Jefferson

Utilities, abandoning the agreement for state taxpayer financing and Jefferson County Development Authority (JCDA) ownership of the waterline.

According to a recent JCV press release, "The Public Service Commission approval for the Rockwool waterline project states: 'IT IS FURTHER ORDERED if there are any changes in the plans, scope, or terms of financing of the Project, or changes in rates associated with the Project, Jefferson Utilities, Inc., must petition to reopen for Commission approval of such changes ...'"

"The financing and structure of the waterline project, ownership of the line, and cost and rate impact have all changed," said JCV. But, "Jefferson Utilities has not filed a petition to reopen, as directed by the Commission Order, and is in violation of the PSC order and West Virginia state law.

Community meeting to discuss Loudoun County Draft Comp Plan

Carver Center Feb. 18 6:30-9 p.m.

Over the next few months, the Mayors of COLT will be meeting with Loudoun County Supervisors, citizens, and other key stakeholders to present their opposition along

GOVERNMENT

with alternative approaches to the Planning Commissioners' recommended development strategy for the Transition Policy Area in the Draft Loudoun 2040 Comprehensive Plan. On Tuesday Feb. 19, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and Hamilton Mayor David Simpson will be hosting a community meeting led by The Loudoun County Coalition to discuss the Draft Loudoun 2040 Comprehensive Plan as it relates to proposed development in the TPA and overall capital impact on the County. This community meeting will be at the Carver Center, 200 E. Willie Palmer Way, in Purcellville from 6:30 – 9 p.m.

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Purcellville Mayor Fraser to give State of the Town address Feb. 11

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser will give the annual State of the Town address at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 11, at the Purcellville Town Hall, 221 S. Nursery Avenue. All the public is invited to the free event. Mayor Fraser has said that he is eager to hear from residents of the community at the gathering.

GOVERNMENT

“Our annual State of Our Town is an opportunity for residents to join the conversation about the future of

Purcellville,” said Fraser. “This open gathering invites everyone to join in moving forward together. This is a time to also celebrate Purcellville’s accomplishments and look forward to the year ahead,” he said.



Mayor Fraser will be giving his fifth State of the Town address. Refreshments will be served.

Whitbeck announces run for Board of Supervisors Chair

Calling for lower Greenway tolls and better leadership to protect Loudoun’s future, attorney John Whitbeck has announced his candidacy for Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

“I want to be a Chairman who puts Loudoun County first and gets results,” said Whitbeck.

“That means fighting a war on traffic, having a real strategy for housing and development, preserving our rural west, keeping taxes low, and committing to strong and safe public schools. Our campaign will be about the quality of life issues that matter to Loudoun residents, not the angry partisan politics that have divided us for too long.”

Said Whitbeck, “Among other things, the recent vote by the incumbent Chair to side with the owners of the Greenway to guarantee toll increases every year convinced me that Loudoun’s leadership is completely off track, and motivated me to run for Chair.”

“Most of my adult life has been spent in Loudoun raising a family, building my



business, and working in the community as a family and mental health attorney. My children were born in Loudoun and attend Loudoun County Public Schools. My wife Laura and I are so blessed with the life we have in Loudoun County, and she has been my strongest supporter when it comes to giving back to this great community through public service.”

After graduating *cum laude* from George Mason, Whitbeck earned an A.B. in politics from Occidental College in Los Angeles. He practices law in Leesburg, focusing on individuals impacted by mental illness, and regularly represents children with disabilities in special education cases.

Whitbeck helped start the George Mason University Law and Mental Illness Clinic which provides *pro bono* legal representation to families of mentally ill individuals needing psychiatric treatment.

Call for local arts organizations to apply for funding

Local non-profit arts organizations (those with 501(c)3 status) may submit requests for funding to the Purcellville Arts Council by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 1, for arts activities that will be held in Purcellville between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. To help fund qualifying activities approved by the Purcellville Arts Council, the Town of Purcellville is

GOVERNMENT

applying for a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts’ Creative Communities Partnership Grant Program. The Town will match the amount awarded through that program. A total of up to \$9,000 will be distributed to independent arts organizations that have applied for and been awarded support for arts activities within the town.

Eligible applicants must be organizations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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Quartz Hill Farm

Perfect family home, perfect family vineyard estate

BY ANDREA GAINES

This beautiful vineyard property at 13902 Bronco Lane in Lovettsville will suit only the most special buyer.

Not because anyone would not die to live here. But, because it was designed and built to fulfill a country dream – the grow grapes, to have room for all manner of farm and other animals, perhaps to build a pond one day, and to cook and entertain while enjoying a fantastic view of it all through soaring windows, French doors and expansive porches and decks.

This is Quartz Hill Farm, an architect-designed custom home on 16-acres in an equestrian community – with no HOA – in Lovettsville. Your very own family vineyard with well-established vines ready to be harvested.

The home itself, is just beautiful. So open, and so bright.

It has hardwood floors throughout on the main floor, high-end kitchen appliances, a wrap-around porch, a lovely dining room, and a two-story foyer. The first-floor family room features a large, custom-built Tulikivi soapstone stove. The kitchen area and first floor also includes a coffee bar/

butler's pantry. There is also a powder room, mud room and laundry room.

The spacious bedrooms on the second floor – including the master suite – have the same bright and open feel, with beautiful views of the vineyards, paddocks and fields on the property.

And, the property is so picturesque and productive.

The established vines produce Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Verdot grapes. Three local wineries have purchased the fruit each year for their own excellent wines. The homeowners are ready and willing to provide the new owners with the information needed to continue their successful operation.

The property is divided in five sections – 16 acres total. There are two small streams which combine to one, and provide year round water and excellent potential for a pond. In the past the property has been used for horses and sheep, but it is currently used for hay and wine production. Some fencing is in place, and the property includes two large sheds, one of which could be converted from farm/vine equipment to a horse barn if desired.

Could this, should this, all be yours? Call agent Kimberly Hurst at 703 932-9651 and tempt the possibility.



**13902 Bronco Lane
Lovettsville**
MLS: Will be active Feb. 7
Beds/Baths: 4 beds, 3.5 baths
Total Acreage: 16 acres
List Price: \$825,000
Agent: Kimberly Hurst
703 932-9651
Website: YourCountryHome.net
Email: Kim@MiddleburgRealEstate.com

Va. House Committee fails in bid to make 'nuptials by-right' for agritourism areas

On Jan. 2, the powerful Virginia House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources voted to add wedding-related events to the long list of "agritourism" activities exempt from local regulation.

When the full Virginia House of Delegates to up the measure, HR2364 on Feb. 4, the bill was defeated by a vote of 60 to 37 with 2 not voting. But that does not mean the bill will not be back at some point.

As originally proposed, the "Weddings-By-Right" bill preserved the power of local government to regulate large events – attended by 250 people or more – while also limiting the exemption to farms, wineries, and other venues holding 12 or fewer wedding events a year. Reasonable, "site-specific conditions," as they are known, are a pow-

erful reality check on agritourism generally, acknowledging that you can't hold a 300-person wedding on a one-lane gravel road without compromising the safety of the public. You can't subject neighbors – or the farm operation next to you – to regular and potentially loud special events without reasonable restrictions.

But, in a move that surprised many, this language was stricken from the bill in committee, potentially allowing any business or individual in the loosely defined "agritourism" industry to churn out large special events 365 days a year.

In a newsletter to supporters, Piedmont Environmental Council Director of State Policy Dan Holmes said: "This bill, as amended, removes the opportunity for local governments to balance the impacts of traffic-generating events on neighboring residences and

agricultural operations."

Many believe the bill is more about promoting the events centers popping up all over rural areas than it is about supporting the concept of true agritourism.

In recent years, Virginia legislators have proposed and won approval for less and less local control, and more and more state control over issues relating to planning and zoning.

And that state control, particularly with respect to agritourism, is far-reaching.

Virginia defines "agricultural product" as "any livestock, aquaculture, poultry, horticultural, floricultural, viticulture, silvicultural, or other farm crops."

An "agritourism activity" is any activity "carried out on a farm or ranch that allows members of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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Loudoun's Hearbeat

SMALL BUSINESS GRAPEVINE

Red Fox Inn & Tavern
MIDDLEBURG

Conche Restaurant
LEESBURG

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

THEME FOR MARCH

"I've Got A Secret"

THEME FOR APRIL

"A Breath of Fresh Air"

THEME FOR MAY 2019

"Flowers, Flowers and More Flowers"

BY ANDREA GAINES

Loudoun's heartbeat – the essence of the place – is a beautiful combination of the old and the new. Loudoun County's business community seems to want to evolve, and act on new opportunities, while also staying the same, preserving the best of what it is.

For this February 2019 Valentine's Day Grapevine we feature two small businesses that celebrate the best of this idea – Red Fox Inn & Tavern in Middleburg, and The Conche "chocolate boutique" in Leesburg. Only in a place like Loudoun County will you find such a rarified combination of 18th Century charm and 21st Century entrepreneurship.

George Washington really did sleep here

The Red Fox Inn & Tavern – established in 1728 – is one of the most authentic places of its kind in the state of Virginia. George Washington – and Gen. Jeb Stuart, and John F. Kennedy, and Elizabeth Taylor – really did sleep here.

This elegant, warm, and delicious dining and sleeping spot has nineteen inn rooms, suites and cottages, a full service restaurant and bar, concierge services, and "surprising little luxuries and conveniences" that make its guests' stay extra special.

The tavern – quintessential old-time Virginia – has a lovely colonial atmosphere with gleaming woodwork, low ceilings, and candlelight. Overnight guests enjoy a daily hunt country breakfast. But, guest or not, stop by any morning, afternoon, or evening for a bite – all time-travelers are welcome.

Red Fox Inn & Tavern, 2 East Washington Street in Middleburg – 540 687-6301, www.redfox.com.

Covered in chocolate

"I'm ... thrilled to see more original concepts and artisans stepping up to open their own unique businesses throughout Loudoun County. It's such an exciting time ... !"

This is how celebrity chef Santosh Tiptur – whose personality is as bold

and extravagant as the savories and sweets at his Leesburg restaurant, The Conche – describes the economic opportunities present in today's Loudoun County.

The Conche – a little newer than the Red Fox – is a self-described "chocolate theme boutique restaurant." The term conche or "conching" describes a late 18th Century breakthrough in the production of chocolate – "a prolonged churning and stirring" that produces a product of the highest quality and most reliable consistency.

Everything Tiptur serves, from his Parmesan and Rosemary Fries (with Calabrian & Chocolate Dip) to his Shrimp Tagliatelle (with Broccoli Rabe Pesto) to his Sour Cream Layer Cake (with Muscovado Sugar Ice Cream), celebrates the idea that the best of the new is based on the best of the old ... and covered in chocolate.

The Conche is located at 1605 Village Market Boulevard in Leesburg, 703 779-1800, www.the-conche.com.



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Loudoun team shoots for Olympics

Team LoCo Motion recently participated in its first Virginia Junior Olympic State Championship, a qualifying match for the National Junior Olympic Championship. A total of five athletes competed in the 25-meter Sport Pistol event.

COMMUNITY

The team established an Olympic pistol squad two months ago, and the girls took third and fourth place, and the boys came in fifth through seventh.

The Virginia Junior Olympic Championship was held in Centreville and hosted by the Arlington-Fairfax Izaak Walton League.

The 25-meter Sport Pistol is an Olympic event which is regulated by USA Shooting, the national governing board for Olympic shooting sports in the United States.

Virginia athletes will be notified in mid-February if they have qualified for an invitation to compete in the national championship, which is held at the National Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. For more information about the team, visit www.locotionfoundation.org.

Left to right: Ethan Jardines, Jack Bright, Lauren Creese, Adam Jardines and Corinne Whisenant.



Purcellville Lions Club announces beneficiaries of golf tournament

The Purcellville Lions Club has announced that Tree of Life and The Loudoun County Salvation Army are the main beneficiaries of its 2019 charity golf tournament.

“The Loudoun County Salvation Army and Tree of Life are well-established local charitable organizations that we have long supported and both epitomize our Lions’ motto, ‘We Serve,’ said President Brewer.

COMMUNITY

When asked about their use of the unexpected proceeds from the July 1 tournament at the Loudoun Golf & Country Club in Purcellville, Director Nunaley said, “This will help fund our needs in affordable housing and our relief efforts for those who are hurting.” Captain Ramaji said, “Great for all programs and services needed by low-income families. We give 85 percent of donated dollars back to our community.”

Brewer added that the Lions Club will use its portion of the proceeds to support local programs and its eyeglasses,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

Lovettsville Co-op Market meeting, chili cook off Feb. 21

The Lovettsville Co-op Market will host its Annual Member Meeting Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 pm at the Lovettsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue event hall. The meeting will be preceded by a chili cook off, open to members and non-members, that will start at 6:30. Participants are welcome to bring a slow cooker of their favorite homemade chili at 6:20 pm to set up. Chili will be available for tasting by attendees, with guest judges choosing the winner, who will receive a \$50 gift certificate from the 1836 Kitchen and Taproom in Lovettsville. Local wine will

be available for purchase, as well as non-alcoholic beverages.

The first person to become a new member of the Co-op during the chili cook off will receive a complimentary ticket to the Farmer’s Feast dinner at Market Table Bistro this spring – a \$75 value.

Those interested in learning more about the Co-op’s mission, and its plan for a grocery store in the space currently occupied by the LVFR, are encouraged to attend in the 6:30 hour. Board members will be available to answer questions and provide short tours of

the future grocery store space.

The Lovettsville Cooperative Market and LVFR announced plans in the summer of 2016 to locate the future Co-op grocery store within the existing LVFR building on Berlin Turnpike. The collaborative agreement will go into effect after LVFR moves to a new station adjacent to its current location.

Inquiries about the Annual Member Meeting and chili cook off can be made by contacting info@lovettsville-grocery.com. To learn more visit www.lovettsville-grocery.com.



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Emerick shines

On Jan. 25 the 5th grade class at Emerick Elementary performed *My Son Pinocchio Jr.* to a packed crowd at Loudoun Valley High School. The whole 5th grade class – all 98 students – were a sensation. The overall message ... let your

COMMUNITY

children be who they want to be – it is important to accept them for who they are.

“I really enjoyed working with these students, as they were so responsible and committed to making this show our huge success,” said Cindy Eberhardt, music specialist at Emerick, the director and producer of the musical.

A big shout goes to Tiffany Mussmon who is the parent liaison at Emerick, the choreographer and assistant director of the production.

Stacey Marsh was the costume designer, and Jean Troup was the fairy designer.

Laura Ours and Lindsay Glass were the set designers, and Bryan Pecoraro was in charge of technical support.

Jim Willits was responsible for the idyllia machine and Josh Champney took care of the alphabet blocks. Marcos Salinas did the videotaping and Rockridge High School made Pinocchio's nose.

Said Mrs. Haddock, Principal of Emerick, “I am going to give a no homework pass next week.”

This drew a loud applause from the students who gave a magnificent and impressive performance. If there had been a scout in the audience, there would be no 5th graders left at Emerick Elementary!



Camp Counselors needed for upcoming summer program

The Town of Leesburg's Parks and Recreation department is recruiting camp counselors for their upcoming summer program, which will run June 10 to August 16, at Ida Lee Recreation Center.

COMMUNITY

Counselors will be responsible for the safety and supervision of children, between the ages of 3 and 14, while leading and implementing activities that include arts and crafts, recreational games, and sports.

All counselors must know and understand emergency procedures and follow safety guidelines associated with the camp program. Counselors must be CPR/First Aid certified prior to the first day of camp and attend a mandatory training June 3 to 6 from 4 to 9 p.m.

Interested applicants must be high school graduates and have prior experience working with children. To apply, visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/leesburgva.

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Washington, D.C.



Purcellville hires deputy police chief

David Dailey, a Captain with the Arlington Police Department has been selected as the Deputy Chief for the Purcellville Police Department. Dailey will begin his duties in this inaugural position as Deputy Chief on March 4.

GOVERNMENT

While with the Arlington Police Department, Dailey was the recipient of the Division Commanders Award, Life Saving Award, and Meritorious Action Award. During Dailey's 29-year law enforcement career, he epitomized collaborative relationships, strong ethical standards, and his superiors praise him for his strong work ethic.

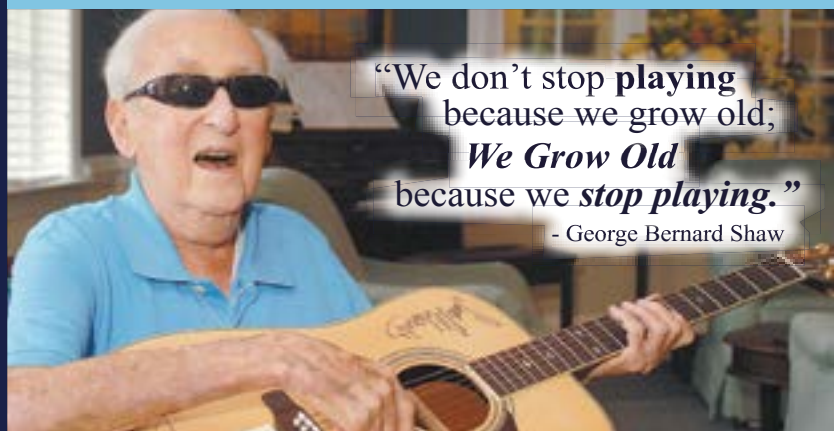
The Town partnered with Springsted/Waters Executive Recruitment to conduct a nationwide search. The town received 42 applications, and six individuals were chosen to move to the final selection process where an on-site interview, assessment panel, and final interviews were conducted. The final interview with the Town Manager, David Mekarski, concluded the process. "The creation of this position was one of the integral elements recommended by Chief Timothy Longo, Sr. of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police in the organizational assessment as part of the Final Public Report of Audit and phase 2 investigation.



the efficiency and effectiveness of the department," said Mekarski.

The audit and assessment includes thirteen recommendations to increase the level of service to the community, through rebuilding staff and command positions, relocation of police headquarters to a more secure and functional facility, training, as well as an array of administrative improvements to increase

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because we stop playing."
- George Bernard Shaw

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Remembering Bruce Herbert "Bud" Berry

Bruce Herbert Berry, 87, of Round Hill, born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, Jan. 20, surrounded by family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joy; three daughters, Margaret "Peggy" (Gary), Debra "Debbie" (Perry) and Susan "Susie" (Mike); seven grandchildren, Jennie (Scotty), Kim, Gary, Jr. (Kara), Jaime (J.R.), Krystle (Steve), Kile (Angela) and Saylor; eleven great-grandchildren, Logan, Skye, Sam, Trae, Maggie,



Ben, Zac, Alex, Chase, Rhys and J.J.; and numerous family members and friends.

A celebration of life will be held 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Carver Center, 200 East Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville, VA 20132. Burial will be private.

Arrangements are being handled by Enders & Shirley Funeral Home in Berryville.

To view the obituary and send condolences online, please visit www.endersandshirley.com.

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'Best Art Event in Northern Virginia' is back

Art of the Piedmont, Feb. 22

It started out as a way to promote local artists and raise a little money for small private Montessori School. Today is one of the most recognized and most anticipated art events in the area – full of exquisite art, great joy and great purpose.

The official name of the event is the 8th Annual Art of the Piedmont Art Auction & Reception and it is coming to the historic Middleburg Community Center on Feb. 22.

The event features nearly 30 fine local artists, delicious hors d'oeuvres from Field & Main in Marshall, and a bar sponsored by the Piedmont Fox Hounds, which also benefits the school.

Virginia Living Magazine readers took notice of the event in 2018 and voted it "Best Art Event in Northern Virginia." The stiff competition recognizes 1,000 winners in 320 categories.

According to BethAnn Slater, Head of School, the event has evolved to be the school's biggest annual fundraiser.

"We always wanted the event to be a win-win for the school and the artists," said Slater. "We're in our 8th year now, and every year we've been able to fill the walls with great, great art."

Every artist seems to sell something, and some ... sell everything."

The school splits the sales 50/50 with each artist – that's where the win-win comes in. And, importantly, emphasized Slater, everything the school takes in goes to two very important places – student scholarships and professional development.

Middleburg Montessori School is a nonprofit organization welcoming children from birth through 15 years into diverse learning communities, nurturing independence and a love of learning.

It has expanded its reach in the last several years and now serves families from Fauquier, Loudoun, Clarke, and Frederick Counties.

"Art of the Piedmont" is presented by Middleburg Montessori School, Feb. 22, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., ticket prices \$20 (general admission) to \$50 (early VIP reception). For tickets go to artofthepiedmont.org. Contact phone: 540 687-5210, email: infor@artofthepiedmont.org.

Art of the Piedmont features the who's who of local artists

Anthony Barham, Antonia Walker, Armand Cabrera, Bill Rock, Bonnie Hoover, Brittany Beiersdorf-Ross, Catherine Giglio, Cathy Zimmerman, Cody Leaser, Daphne vom Baur, Debbie Cadenas, Deborah Morrow, Gail Guirrerri-Maslyk, Jill E. Poyerd, Jillian Holland, Katherine Riedel, Kevin H. Adams, Laura Hopkins, Lee Newman, Marci Nadler, Mike Budzisz, Misia Broadhead, Ron Lieberman, Teresa Duke, Tiffany Budzisz, Tim Maloney, Tom Neel



Artwork by (top to bottom): Debbie Cadenas, Tiffany Budzisz, Teresa Duke, Ron Lieberman

Blue Ridge Eagles donate \$10K to local charities

The Blue Ridge Eagles, the Purcellville chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, in January donated a total of \$10,000 to four local charities.

The four are: Tree of Life of Purcellville, dedicated to aiding the poor; Ability Fitness Center of

Leesburg, a gym for people with disabilities; Loudoun Therapeutic Center of Leesburg, which uses horses' healing power to aid people with physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges; and Good Shepherd Alliance of Ashburn, which aids the homeless.

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CANNONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Haas to give back.

According to Haas, lining up host families can be difficult – but always rewarding.

“It always works out in the end,” said Haas, “But at one point, I myself put up five players. My house was known as ‘the bachelor pad’ ... ‘the Cannons’ hangout.’

“I like to be able have a housing program that provides 30 host families, with 10 back-ups,” continued Haas. “We also like to line up some part-time host families.”

The value of the host family to the team is reinforced by Ridge Fuller, Cannons Vice President, General Manager, and Assistant Coach. “Without support from loving hosts,” says, Fuller, “We would not have the ability to make lasting impacts on the lives of college-aged student athletes. Finding the host families is a big job with lots of demands.”

So who are these major league hopefuls, and what do they bring to the Cannons?

Well, the team announced recently that three infielders from Loyola Marymount University in California would be joining their bench. They are Tomas Delgado, who played shortstop at Bontia High School in California, and “excelled” on the diamond, Ryan Kawano, a switch-hitting second baseman who hit .274 in an exhi-

bition league last summer, and Matthew Piotrowski, a switch-hitting shortstop.

There is right-handed pitcher Greg Duncan from the University of Virginia. From Centerville, last year Duncan pitched in 60 innings with an ERA of 2.25 with four complete games and 45 strikeouts.

There is Lovettsville native Clayton Baine, who returns to the Cannons after hitting .313 over seven games last season.

From James Madison University is third-baseman/shortstop Carson Bell, a native of Montross, Virginia. According to the Cannons, JMU Coach Marlin Ikenberry has the highest of praise for Bell, saying, “Carson is a tenacious infielder whose wide array of talents really thrive on the left side of the field. He too is a three-sport athlete that can use his flexibility and agility to his advantage. He is a left-handed hitter who has made a reputation for himself as one of the best hitters in the state of Virginia.”

Another JMU player to go with the Cannons is right-handed pitcher Christopher Wallace, from North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Said Ikenberry of Wallace, “As a player, Chris shows a sense of determination and motivation that cannot be taught ... His variety of pitches allows him to

be unpredictable to hitters, which includes one of the best breaking balls I’ve seen.”

Also from JMU is popular catcher Kyle Hayes, who will be returning for the 2019 season, too. Hayes, according to the Cannons, “Possesses elite level catching skills with an unmatched ability to receive and frame pitches.”

Two players new to the Cannons 2019 roster are coming from nearly 5,000 miles away, having played for the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors baseball. This includes freshman right-handed hitting catcher/corner player Max Crabbe, and right-handed pitcher Blaze Pontes, who posted a 0.95 ERA in his senior year of high school.

And, New York – again via JMU – is helping the Cannons field another great team this year, too.

From the Bronx is left-handed pitcher Richie Rodriguez. Said JMU’s Ikenberry, “Richie is going to make his presence known when on the field. He’s a smart pitcher who knows how to pitch to the weaknesses of his opponents.”

So ... great new talent is coming into the Cannons’ orbit for the 2019 season from Hawaii to California to Pennsylvania to right here in Northern Virginia, adding to the great talent already here.

Everything’s falling into place, including, hopefully, a great roster of host families.

If you are interested in discussing the host family option, email Brian Haas at CannonsHousing@gmail.com.

According to the Cannons’ website, a season tickets pass for a family of four is currently discounted from \$100 to \$80. The season tickets pass for a family of six is discounted from \$125 to \$90.

For the most up-to-date information on the Cannons, go to the team’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/valleyleaguecannons.



Kenny Oyama, an outfielder with the Cannons last year, was hosted by the Gebhardt family. Oyama had a special bond with the Gebhardts’ young son.

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Registration for artist festival is open

Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun Campus have announced plans to launch an emerging artist festival highlighting the talents of young “makers and creators.” Lights on Loudoun provides a venue for area students to showcase their talents in the visual and performing arts. The event will be held Saturday, April 6, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the Loudoun campus located at 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling.

The festival offers a safe environment where young artists can share their work, meet up- and-coming artists, collaborate and learn from professional artists and performers. Event participants will have access to free installation workshops,

Q & A sessions, opportunities to discover higher education offerings in the performing and fine arts and a hospitality suite during the live event.

Students 14 and older currently attending a high school in Loudoun County or being home- schooled, and NOVA students with a valid ID for the spring 2019 semester, are eligible to participate. Submissions for work in all art modalities will be considered, including 2D visual art, 3D visual art, theater, spoken word, creative writing, improv comedy, live music, film and projected digital art. Current high school students under the age of 14 can contact alexander.beard@loudoun.gov regarding eligibility.

Interested makers and creators will find eligibility criteria, online application materials and event details at www.lightsonloudoun.com.

COMMUNITY

young “makers and creators.”

Lights on Loudoun provides a venue for area students to showcase their talents in the visual and performing arts. The event will be held Saturday, April 6, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the Loudoun campus located at 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling.

The festival offers a safe environment where young artists can share their work, meet up- and-coming artists, collaborate and learn from professional artists and performers. Event participants will have access to free installation workshops,

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'PERSONAL RECREATION FIELDS', CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Harris, "particularly without public hearings and much more stringent regulation of design and monitoring. Furthermore, we believe that our adjacent land has been, and will continue to be, negatively affected by this landfill. The 'original' landfill alone is an egregiously intrusive presence, magnified by the additional height of the unapproved layers of waste."

November 2018 County documents indicate that the infill operations at the site had exceeded what was allowed by the original plan, including grade (height) limitations. A Notice of Violation and Stop Work Order was issued by the Department of Planning and Zoning at that time.

According to the County, the landowner was in violation of five land use provisions related to the stockpiling of dirt, site plan requirements, zoning permits, and others, and was required to "immediately cease the acceptance of all fill material," and remove excess material from the site.

The Gable Farm property owner appealed the County's decision in December 2018, delaying any action until that appeal could be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals in February/March 2019.

As the letter from Cattail, LC said, "We believe that our land has been, and will continue to be, negatively affected by this landfill. We are also concerned that landfills masquerading as apparently innocuous recreational sites could be approved throughout rural Loudoun.

"Our estimate of the volume of the landfill ranges from at least 220,000 to more than 420,000 cubic yards ... a range from four (4) to eight (8) times larger than the County's 50,000 cubic yard 'threshold' that the Board had discussed in 2017 ... As detailed ... a 'dirt stockpile' having exactly the same physical characteristics as this 'personal field' would not be permissible on this site without a special exception, whether four or eight times larger ..."

Yearly aerial footage taken between 2015 and 2018 shows "land disturbances," says Cattail, LC, apparently "extending beyond the approved plan limits." County documents from Fall 2018 show that 12 sites within the



Gable PRF area are either outside of plan limits or at heights above approved elevation limits.

These and other apparent violations were noted as part of the County's November 2018 Notice of Violation and Stop Work Orders.

According to Cattail, LC, videos and photos also show that "The waste dumped at the landfill may be largely demolition and construction debris, but there are no manifests (records of contents and origin) available to the public ... We also observed the dumping of liquid waste at the landfill [with aerial photos showing] "probable traces of liquid dumping at the landfill."

Quoting groundwater experts, Cattail, LC has also noted: "Numerous investigations ... have shown that ... infiltration of water through refuse causes water-table mounding within or below the landfill."

"Water-table mounding causes leachate to flow downward and outward from the landfill ..."

"Downward flow of leachate may threaten groundwater resources."

"Outward flow normally causes leachate springs at the periphery of the landfill or seepage into streams or other

surface-water bodies."

Cattail, LC notes that there is no record of Gable Farm accepting fees for the dumping of the construction refuse. However, in documents submitted to the County, Cattail, LC made the following point: "Assuming a minimum per-truckload cost (no weight charges included) of \$420 ... the potential revenue from dumping this much demolition and construction waste at the landfill would be \$11.8 million. The word 'potential' is used intentionally: we do not know what, if anything, was charged for dumping at this 'non-commercial personal recreational field'."

"We are bewildered and astonished by the County's approach to the regulation of this activity, which has been termed the 'utilization of excessive fill.' The primary mechanism of regulation seems to be through an erosion and sediment control plan. There do not seem to be any other County regulations specific to the siting, height, extent, volume, or contents of such 'personal recreational fields.'"

"We are extremely concerned about the negative effects that this particular landfill has had, and will continue to have, on our adjacent land. We are also concerned that more such 'personal fields' could be built throughout rural Loudoun County: the potential revenues are enormous, and regulatory controls are apparently minimal."

Cattail, LC went on to make specific recommendations on how to address the problems it sees with the Gable Personal Recreational Field, and "mitigating the impacts of this particular landfill and for regulating future 'personal recreational fields'."

As the Gable Farm property owner appealed the County's December 2018 order to stop work, action on the issue is delayed until the appeal can be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals in February/March 2019.

If Gable Farm should decide to apply for the Special Exception (SPEX), the matter would be heard by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

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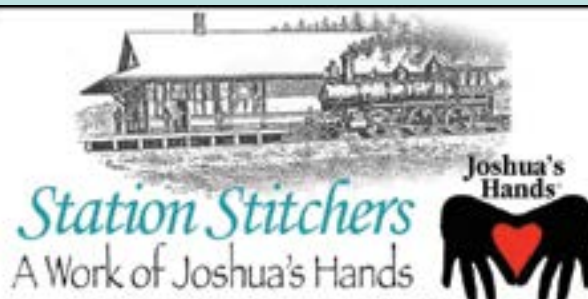
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Carter Center Events for February

Friday, Feb. 1, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monthly Lunch and a Movie—Groundhog Day. Call 571-258-3400 by noon Thursday to reserve a lunch.

Friday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Raptor Presentation. The Raptor Conservancy will bring a variety of raptors (hawk, owl, and falcon) and discuss natural history of the birds and the importance of conservation.

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Carter Center Advisory Board Meeting.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Lincoln Elementary

School Performance. Enjoy a light-hearted musical performance to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Food Labeling Presentation. Theresa Trader of Purcellville Pharmacy will share information on the importance of reading and understanding food labels for a healthier diet. Bring in your favorite food to go over the label in the class.

Friday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Valentine's Day Dance. \$3. Ages 55 and up.

Friday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Carver Lunch Bunch Blue Ridge Grill, Leesburg. \$4.00 transportation fee. Participants pay for own meal and tip.

Friday, Feb. 15 to March 8, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Basic Watercolor. \$50/\$58 Members/Non-members

Wednesday, Feb. 20 to March 13, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Intermediate Watercolor. \$50-\$58 Members/Non-members

Monday, Feb. 25 to March 18, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., Drawing Class. \$50-\$58 Members/Non-members

50th Annual Bluemont Fair Seeks Poster Design

Organizers of the 50th annual Bluemont Fair, to be held this Sept. 21 and 22 in historic western Loudoun County, invite artists of all ages to submit designs for consideration for this year's poster. The theme is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the old-timey fair. Submissions must be postmarked by no later than April 3.

As the release from the Fair reminds us, when the first Fair occurred in 1969, Nixon was President and the U.S. was still actively involved in the Vietnam War. Neil Armstrong and Ed Aldrin walked on the Moon. The Manson murders and the Stonewall riots shocked us. The Who released their rock opera "Tommy", and the Beatles released their Abbey Road album. It was also the year of Woodstock.

Meanwhile, in the little mountain village of Bluemont, residents banded together to figure out how to pay for their village's streetlights. Someone suggested that they put on a small country fair and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fifty years later Bluemont is still a small country village with a thriving historic district where not much has changed in appearance

from its earlier years. And Bluemont still hosts a country fair, although it has expanded and grown through the years with each generation of neighbors putting their own special stamp on it. This year's fair marks a significant milestone in the village's history, and yes, part of the proceeds still go toward paying for streetlights.

Poster designs should be rendered simply and with minimal color to facilitate replication on Bluemont Fair distinctive poster. Artists should include their contact information and a brief biography for inclusion in publicity. The selected artist's name will be printed on the poster and his/her work acknowledged in Fair publicity. Multiple entries from individual artists are permitted.

Artwork should be mailed to: Bluemont Fair Poster Design Competition, P.O. Box 217, Bluemont, Virginia, 20135 and must be postmarked by April 3. Individuals requesting return of their submissions should also include a self-addressed, stamped mailing receptacle.

For further information, call 540 554-2367 (voice mail), or email chair@bluemontfair.org. Visit www.bluemontfair.org for examples of past designs.

AMY AND DAN SMITH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

waiting period begins on: (1) the first day of the month during or after which assets have been transferred, or (2) the date of first possible eligibility for Medicaid (but for the penalty period), whichever is later.

Federal law generally requires state agencies to determine an applicant's eligibility for Medicaid within 90 days for those who apply on the basis of disability and within 45 days for all other applicants. State agencies must send each applicant a written notice of its decision. If the application is approved, the applicant will be notified of the effective date of his or her Medicaid eligibility (which can cover a retroactive period of up to 90 days from the date of the application), as well as a calculation of the applicant's "patient paid amount" or the amount of the monthly medical expenses that the applicant will be responsible for paying from his or her own income. If eligibility is denied, the reasons for the denial must be outlined, the relevant regulation cited, and an explanation of appeal rights outlined.

What are your appeal rights?

Federal law requires states to provide an opportunity for a fair hearing before the state Medicaid agency to any individual whose claim for medical assistance is denied or not acted upon with reasonable

promptness or to any recipient who believes the agency has acted erroneously. To appeal, you must sign the request for a fair hearing within the time stated on the notice of denial. The time frame is generally anywhere from 30 to 90 days.

Hearings are handled by administrative officers, with review authority in state courts of appeal, federal circuit courts of appeal and, ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the hearing decision is favorable to the applicant, the state Medicaid agency must make corrective Medicaid payments retroactive to the date an incorrect action was taken.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

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"Now we are getting requests from government employed families and those who are employed by government contractors who have lost their paychecks due to the shutdown," said Nunaley. Ramaji nodded and said, "We give assistance

to anyone throughout the year."

People, organizations, and businesses who want to help Tree of Life and the Salvation Army by donating to or becoming a tournament sponsor can go to www.lionsgolftournament.com.

Those who prefer to contribute by displaying their fairway skills should visit www.lionsgolftournament.com.

— Franklin Park, February 2019 —

Puppets and planetariums, ballet and improv

The Franklin Park Arts Center is a great place to be on a cold winter afternoon or evening. This month features the Danny Knicely Ground Hog Day Show, Red Herring Puppets, a Chinese New Year Event, a LoCo Improv Fest, the Ballet Theatre of Ashburn, and more. And, don't forget the great art on display in the art center's gallery, open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends during performances and on Sunday evening as part of Franklin Park's coffee-house series.



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

Download your Season 11 Franklin Park Arts Center Playbill on the County website: www.loudoun.gov/DocumentCenter/View/145129/Franklin-Park-Season-11-Playbill-PDF.

BEATING CANCER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

heartbreaking for all of us to hear, it made the importance of our efforts even more clear! ... “

Sara Willis died on Thanksgiving Day, 2018. This is tough stuff, and so very real.

These LoCo On Cancer students – undaunted and forever positive – are going right after the heart and soul of the fight, encouraging the wider Loudoun County community to focus on the good we can all do just by stepping up for that better day to be had. And, they are doing it with, not just determination, but also a bit of humor.

The team made a recent presentation to the Purcellville Town Council – in addition to its January presentation to the BOS – and has organized a series of ongoing and one-time events.

Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser and his family were the beneficiaries of the LoCo On Cancer spirit when a brightly-painted polka dot “Cancer Stinks” toilet bowl (yes, toilet bowl) showed up on their front yard recently.

The team’s ongoing Cancer Stinks fundraising effort takes the very bold tactic of placing the brightly painted polka dot toilet in the front yards of unsuspecting friends and neighbors. One person makes a donation and gets the toilet placed in their front yard of choice. A note on the toilet challenges the recipient to make a donation ... and pass the toilet bowl to the next unsuspecting person. People can also purchase “Tidy-Bowl Insurance” – a \$25

donation to make sure the toilet bowl passes them by.

Other events have included a late January Kendra Scott Gives Back Party, organized by team member Sarah Rubin. In this fun sales and refreshments event, the Kendra Scott jewelry and fashion brand donated 20 percent of each purchase at the event to the cause.

On Feb. 2, the team sponsored a Paint for a Cure event at a Purcellville artist’s home. Guests left with a fun painting of a snowman. Hundreds of dollars went to the cause.

Upcoming events include one at Harpers Ferry Brewing (Feb. 7) and Dragon Hops Brewing (Feb. 9).

As Mackenzie’s mom, Tracy, says, this is all about “ten kids, two schools, and one mission – to beat cancer.

“They are reaching out to everyone they can,” said Tracy, “But, businesses are contacting them, too.

“They are so motivated by the ‘why’ in all of this,” continued Tracy. “As my daughter said in her presentation to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, ‘With so many people being affected by cancer, it’s so important to me to be able to make a difference in their lives.’ “

To join in the LoCo On Cancer effort, contact Makenzie Robinson at 703 772-6876. More information can also be found at the following links: events.11s.org/nca/DCSOY19/tlocooncan, and www.studentseries.org/national-capital-area/article/about-student-of-the-year.

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DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

once he's mature and independent enough to take on that kind of additional responsibility.

I expect that your son will give you push back with a more structured plan since he's been overly dependent, but being consistent and firm – as long as your expectations are reasonable – will be essential for his success. Being firm and loving aren't mutually exclusive ideas. Encourage your son with loving care and warmth, and praise him for the changes he makes along the way no matter how small they may seem to you.

Your son's struggles are not unique. As a psychologist, I frequently work with young adults who struggle with becoming more autonomous and independent. Even for college graduates, with the job market being so competitive and Northern Virginia being an expensive place to live, it's not uncommon for adult children in their mid to late 20's to live at home with their parents before launching fully.

I'm hopeful that in time and with increased effort on your part, and your son's part for himself, your son's autonomy and independence will improve.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He has been featured on CNN, Good Morning America and several other outlets. He can be reached at 703 723-2999, and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

MOORE-SOBEL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

multiple steps ahead, eagerly plotting out a course to achieve their shared goals. They were (and are) perfect for each other in that way – my father reminds my mother to slow down and reflect, while my mother urges my father to begin anew. Watching them over the years taught me the importance of balance. Of allowing the past to inform both the present and the future, rather than allowing such reflections to cloud out all else. After all, as Jonathan Larson once said, "Forget regret, or life is yours to miss."

Despite these words, I still have plenty of regrets. Some involve outcomes I had little-to-no control over, yet still hold myself responsi-

LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

that focus primarily on the arts (i.e. production, presentation, or support of dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theater or visual or related arts); are incorporated in Virginia; have their headquarters and home seasons, or activities equivalent to a home season, in the state; have 501(c)3 status; and are for arts activities that will be held in Purcellville, between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Please note that funding cannot be provided for payment to performers for specific performances.

The Purcellville Arts Council will review the funding requests and make their recommendations on the distribution of the funding to the Town Council at its March 11, meeting. These recommendations will be included in the

Town's proposal to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Creative Communities Partnership Grant, which is due April 1, 2019.

The application for this grant is now available online on the Purcellville Arts Council page of the Town of Purcellville website: purcellvilleva.gov/669/Purcellville-Arts-Council. Eligible art organizations may either apply online or mail the completed proposal with all of the required documentation to Purcellville Arts Council, Attn: Creative Communities Partnership Grant, 221 S Nursery Ave, Purcellville, VA 20132 by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2019. For more information, email Amie Ware, Division Manager, Purcellville Parks and Recreation Division at aware@purcellvilleva.gov.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Finally ...

If it were not for individuals getting involved on behalf of saving western Loudoun, it would already look like Fairfax. There are many ways to help and this is a critical year. Email me at CharlesHouston3@yahoo.com and perhaps I can make some suggestions.

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

VA HOUSE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming, winery, ranching, historical, cultural, or harvest-your-own activities, or natural activities and attractions."

"An activity is an agritourism ac-

tivity whether or not the participant pays to participate in the activity.

Finally, an "agritourism professional" is "any person who is engaged in the business of providing one or more agritourism activities, whether or not for compensation."

For legislative details and updates, go to lis.virginia.gov.



See pages 20-21

ble. There are things I long to take back, decisions I wish I could revisit, and make again. A sentiment likely echoed by most readers.

I wonder if such thoughts are a symptom of a perfectionist streak, especially if the proper amends have already been made. Our high standards preventing us from acknowledging our humanity. A condition precluding us from sometimes accepting living a mistake-free existence. Despite practice and preparation, unforced errors are inevitable. Even if the circumstances align, and you feel victory is within reach. You may still drop the football, and that's OK. Sometimes strength can be found in weakness.

"I let my teammates down, I let the

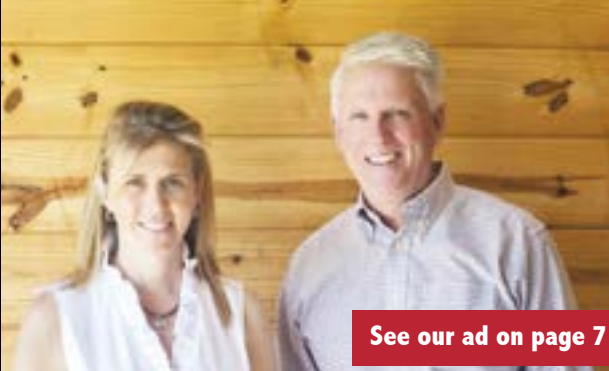
city of Philadelphia down. That's on me," Jeffery told the media after the game. He looked as if he was offering penance, apologizing to the same fans he helped deliver a Super Bowl trophy to just a year before. Despite the loss, life will move on. There will be more games to play, more balls to catch. Additional opportunities for redemption, perhaps making future victory all the sweeter.

Although this is all very unlikely to assuage my father's angst.

"I can't believe the Eagles lost," he said again and again. Chalk it up to bad ju ju.

Samuel Moore-Sobel is a freelance writer. To read more of his work, visit www.holdingontohopetoday.com

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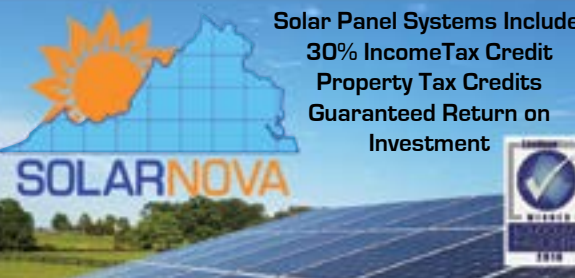
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