# From South America to Purcellville

Small town USA welcomes Guyanese Ambassador

BY ANDREA GAINES

Purcellville's Mayor Kwasi Fraser spent the first 11 years of his life in the South American country of Guyana.

The United States has been his home for many years now. And, having lived in Purcellville with his family for more than a decade - contributing to the success of several American businesses along the way – this, is home.

The connections he has established over time, however, endure. Those connections led to a very special "state" visit recently, when Purcellville's leadership hosted Dr. Riyad Insanally, CCH, Guyana's Ambassador to the United States.

As an all-American town seeking to innovate as it grows, Purcellville actually has a lot in common with the South American country, and both governments are eager to learn from each other.

Guyana is the world's fastest growing economy and is CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 »



L to R: Purcellville resident David Eno, Dr. Ashley Ellis – Assistant Superintendent for Instruction at the Academies of Loudoun, First Secretaries to the Embassy of Guyana – Mr. Jason Fields and Mr. John Chester-Inniss Ms. Lesley Dowridge Collins – Minister Counsellor to the Embassy of Guyana, Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Dr. Tinell L. Priddy – Principal of the Academies of Loudoun, Ambassador Dr. Riyad Insanally, CCH, and Dr. Nyah Hamlett -Chief of Staff at the Academies.

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# Chapman Brothers, LLC proposes 'floodplain hazard revisions' for its and neighboring properties

BY VALERIE CURY

A highly-technical bit of floodplain, "floodplain hazard revision," "Flood Insurance Rate Map," and developer-as-engi-

**GOVERNMENT** 

neer legalese is causing a lot of anxiety for residents in Purcellville's Old Dominion Valley

neighborhood. Presumably, the neighborhood's HOA is on alert as well.

The legalese came in the form of a letter notifying home owners that Chapman Brothers, LLC is applying for changes to floodplain designations, not just on its property, but theirs.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 28»** 

# Charming slice of western Loudoun

celebrates 50 years

BY ANDREA GAINES

"We wanted something groovy," said Deborah Snyder ... "And, we got it."

Snyder, Publicity Chair for the Bluemont Fair was talking about the annual logo and poster contest put on by the popular event.

Every year the organizers reach out to local artists and creative types for help designing the marketing identity for the event.

This year that person was Jody West of Fort Valley,

According to fair organizers, "Jody's design [and] CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 »







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# Welcome home little leaguers — Loudoun South caps off explosive season

In recent months, the boys on the Loudoun South Little League team pitched, hit, slammed, slid, scored, scrapped, scrambled, and bunted their way to within just a few innings of world little league history.

They didn't take the 2019 Little League Baseball World Series (LLBWS). That was an accomplishment reserved for Louisiana's Eastbank Little League as the U.S. team crushed a Curacao team in a decisive 8-0 win in the Little League World Series Championship on Aug. 25.

But, Loudoun South still made the entire region, the United States, Virginia – and their families - enormously proud as they ripped their way through the season.

Stone Ridge, Lenah, and Brambleton in tournament's 73rd year. District 16.

in Williamsport, PA.

The Little League competition that two brackets – a U.S. bracket and an international bracket



South Riding, Va.'s Brady Yates (15) trots down the third baseline after hitting a two-run home run off Barrington, R.I.'s Alex Anderson (2) during the fifth inning of a baseball game in United State pool play at the Little League World Series tournament in South Williamsport, Pa., Friday, Aug. 16. Virginia won 3-0. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

start to finish for baseball-loving 10-, the fifth inning. Home runs by Justin the distinction of being only the The Loudoun South Little League 11-, and 12-year olds, sixteen teams organization is a youth baseball eight from the United States and eight organization serving South Riding, international teams - played in the

The team was the first Virginia South scored in a gigantic win earlier game would be theirs. team in over a quarter of a century this summer by becoming the 2019 to compete in the 2019 Little League Southeast Region Champions, beating World Series playoffs, which took place Peachtree City, GA in a decisive 12-2

In that game, Loudoun South's Justin sent the team to Williamsport featured Lee hit a solo homer to start things off. Chase Obstgarten "went yard" in the second inning. And, the team

A global athletic extravaganza from followed that up by posting six runs in Lee and Colton Hicks, and a single by Matt Coleman made that fifth inning sparkle. And, inning-by-inning the pitching by Justin Lee and Liam Thyen To get into the competition, Loudoun doused any hopes of Peachtree that the

> The term "went yard" or "going yard" means that a ball has been hit with such force and such precision that it travels the entire length of the field, or baseball "yard." The origin of the term may be a take-off of the famous Camden Yard, home of the Baltimore Orioles

#### **Little League World Series Brackets**

United States ireat Lakes Region

New England Northwest Region Southeast Region Southwest Region West Region

Australia Region Canada Region Caribbean Regior Europe-Africa Japan Region Latin American Mexico Region

Peachtree City had defeated Loudoun South in the 2018 Southeast Region title game, so it was a sweet, back-at-ya win for

Once having secured a spot in the LLWS, Loudoun South won their first two games in Williamsport in style - without allowing a hit. That gave them second team from the U.S. to pitch

Chase Obstgarten (P/

#### **Loudoun South Team Roster**

Matt Coleman (1B/OF) Chase Triplett (IF/OF/P) Noah Culpepper (C) Michael Bowden (OF/

Brady Yates (3B/P)

Justin Lee (P/C/1B) Joe Ross (OF) Kian Henson (P/OF/3B) Brian Triplett Liam Thyen (P/CF) Colton Hicks (P/2B)

# Ladies ... everyone ... may I have your attention

Ketoctin DAR celebrates 70 years

Whitehall Farm, in Bluemont, Virginia.

It's one of the most time-honored places in the whole of Loudoun County. And, on Sept. 3 it hosted one of the most time-honored organizations, not just in Loudoun, but in the whole of the United States as the Daughters of the American Revolution – Ketoctin Chapter – celebrated its 70th Anniversary.

Present at the tea were many state and local dignitaries connected with the DAR, along with their guests. History was repeated ... in order to protect it.

On April 15, 1950 twelve local ladies met

at the home of Martha Kidd McComb -Whitehall – to organize the first DAR chapter in Loudoun County.

The DAR is a national organization with some 175,000 members; it's motto – "God, Home, and Country." Members must show, through a careful application process, that they are directly descended from an individual who "aided" in the American Revolution, as a soldier or in another role. DAR's membership is today spread across 3,000 chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and nations around the world.

Mrs. McComb served as the first Chapter

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 >



Photos courtesy of Ketoctin DAR



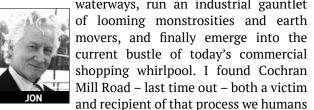


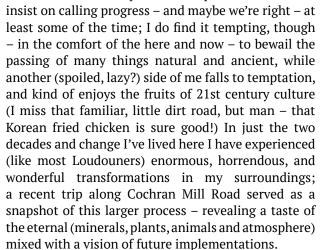
Just Like Nothing (else) on Earth:

# Cochran Mill Road

BY TIM JON

County; you start at a familiar crossroads, with a brief surroundings. I remember the sensations of warmth look at an historic home among primitive settings, work through seemingly untouched woods and





It was like an evolutionary trip through Loudoun to adapt to, and radically transform his (and my) County. and coziness – at the outset – in imagining a pastoral rural (mostly bygone) life, the quiet and solitude waterways, run an industrial gauntlet of nature in its untouched forms, the harshness



contrasted in the adjacent utility landscapes snapshot of this larger process – revealing a taste of electrical generation machines, excavation works the eternal (minerals, plants, animals and atmosphere) and transportation projects – leaving impressions of power, inevitability and even danger - and finally a still some beautiful scenery along the first portion Now, I had no such literary designs in mind as I sense of actual relief in returning to the undeniable started my journey that morning, but I couldn't help here and now experienced in one of our latest - and

but marvel at man's ability - for better or worse - familiar - 'live work and play' destinations in Loudoun

I had vaguely recalled that Cochran Mill's northern terminus no longer hooked up to Route Seven near the now-dormant local golf club – but I admit genuine surprise at the direct link to Russell Branch Parkway, and a close brush with the sensory overload of Village at Leesburg on my way home - this, after having just left the lunar landscape-like surroundings rendered by men and machines along the last bumps and grinds of Cochran Mill Road. My progress seemed to tell me, that morning, "Change is coming, and it's coming fast." At least, it sure did to that end of that particular dirt road – now smooth, and paved, and even given a new name. Just a mile or two before the quantum leap onto Russell Branch, I'd been more than a little concerned about getting my all-wheel-drive across some of the ruts on the worst sections of the 'heavy metal' segment along Cochran Mill. It seemed, not even the road enjoyed the effects of the large caliber artillery gauging and looming its way through the countryside.

The stark contrasts in the environment – in such short distance – at least stretched – if not sundered altogether – the sense of reality. But, we can still look back at the way we came – for now at least – there's - just after turning off from Sycolin Road south of CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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# Parsing Humor out of Tragedy

BY SAMUEL MOORE-SOBEL

SEPTEMBER 2019



consuming that, much to my chagrin, I had to

prioritize those efforts over completing a column last month. Happily, the stand our experiences. edits are now complete, with my book targeted for a 2020 release.

Needless to say, the accident has been on my mind lately. For those who don't know, I suffered second and third degree burns to my face and arms as a teenager due to the accidental explosion of sulfuric acid. September 1, 2020, marked the tenth anniversary of this traumatic event.

I've talked and written about this experience countless times before, yet each time I do, a part of me feels lar. as if I am still trying to make sense of it all. At the same time, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratefulness for simply being alive.

With this in mind, I've come to believe that it is important to celebrate certain milestones. Many of us celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, but I think it's just as important to celebrate other meaningful dates on the calendar. Whether it be an anniversary involving work, a friend, or survival, they all hold a precious symbolism worthy of commemoration.

Admittedly, I approached this year's anniversary with a bit of trepidation. The importance of commemorating ten years of survival was not lost on me. I thought long and hard about how to best capture the meaning behind the journey I have traveled. A daunting task, considering all that must be incorporated into a September 1 celebration. Perhaps it would have served me well to take some advice I received years ago.

While in high school, I participated in a summer program at the College of William and Mary. One night during dinner - about halfway through the program - someone inevitably asked me about my scars. I was taken aback, but readily divulged my story. At the time, the second anniversary of the accident, September 1, 2011, was just weeks away. Such a revelation garnered a unique response from one of my peers. "You should get a cake!"

Summer is one of those seasons that Those of us who have experienced flies by in an instant. I trauma know that retelling the past have been hard at work garners a myriad of responses. Some this season, putting the empathetic, some hurtful, and even finishing touches on my some humorous. The painful part of long-awaited memoir. sharing pieces of ourselves with the The edits were so time world can be the reactions of other people. Yet, it's the humorous moments that can sustain us when we encounter people who don't under-

After a few seconds of awkward silence, I laughed in response to this unsolicited exclamation, with the rest of the table joining in shortly after. It provided a bit of levity during the story that I was just learning to tell.

Weeks later, I marked the second anniversary of the accident by posting on Facebook. I know, spoken like a true Millennial. The encouraging comments on my post brought a smile to my face, especially one in particu-

"You should get a cake!"

The comment was left by one of my friends, who quickly followed up his comment by sending me an apology-laden text message. I was in no way offended; in fact, I welcomed the humor. Rather than a cake, my mother had made a cobbler that night. Did that still count?

"It's worth celebrating!" he told me, in reference to September 1. "You should buy a cake every year!"

A sentiment that could apply to nearly all of us. Undoubtedly, certain dates on the calendar are worthy of celebration. Days that hold special meaning to us and our loved ones. Days containing important reminders of where we've been, who we are, and who we are working to become. And, certainly there are days worthy of indulging in a piece of cake (or whatever means by which you choose to celebrate).

Suffice it to say, even after all of these years, I have never enjoyed a piece of cake on September 1. As the tenth anniversary approached and I made plans to celebrate with my family, I couldn't help but wonder if it was time to have some cake. After all, could there really be a better way to

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



# Clusters: A Secret War

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

The hullabaloo over the new Comprehensive Plan has quieted, to everyone's relief. Unsurprisingly, secret wars have started and battles will spring up as elements from the controversial Plan become encased in the concrete of a new Zoning Ordinance, a new or revised Land Subdivision and Development Or-

dinance, and perhaps changes to the Facilities Manual. (Few

citizens have ever heard of the last two documents, but they govern what your neighborhood - and even your house will look like.)

The war over clusters has started pitting volunteer conservationists against professional developers, each group trying to influence Supervisors and the idealistic County planning staff.

Cluster housing is not new. In the

AR-1 zoning district (essentially, western Loudoun north of Snickersville Turnpike) they have led to a *de facto* 5-acre density and the loss of 67 square miles of farmland in the past 15 years. Rural Policy Area of western Loudoun; Unless something is done, these losses base density would allow 1,150 houswill continue until nothing is left but es, but, with clusters, the density would

#### The Downside of Clusters

Despite regulations to the contrary. clusters usually look like generic subdivision streets with cookie-cutter houses. Zoning requires clusters to have smaller lots surrounded by large lots that can be used for the rural economy. That idea flopped. The overall open space requirement might be met, but that land is chopped into a handful of lots in the 15acre range, each under separate ownership and not truly useful for agricultural or even rural purposes.

Compared to the base zoning density **Combatants** of 20 acres per house, here are examples of the harm clusters can cause ...

Assume 23,000 acres, one-tenth of the

increase to 4,600. Those extra 3,450 houses would cost taxpavers \$138 million upfront in capital costs for schools and such, and also cost taxpayers about \$14 million in annual operating costs primarily for education - forever. And, that hypothetical is just for one-tenth of rural Loudoun! You, the taxpayer, get financially clobbered by clusters. Add the additional traffic and then check the condition of our roads. Heed your aes- Clusters that Suit Conservationists thetic instincts and see that clusters do not look remotely like rural Loudoun. Clusters also do not remotely provide affordable housing.

The Cluster War can be distilled into two competing visions. Developers want to build small subdivisions that look like miniature versions of eastern Loudoun. Conservationists would accept miniature versions of Waterford village. A compromise is possible if pursued prop-

The new Comp Plan frequently emphasizes clustering as the preferred land use pattern. Fighting this is tilting at windmills, so we must turn lemons into lemonade and ensure that the Zoning and other ordinances require clusters that can actually be assets.

The design goal should be to evoke a very small, traditional colonial village. There should be cross streets every 300

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »

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# The Potomac from the Virginia side

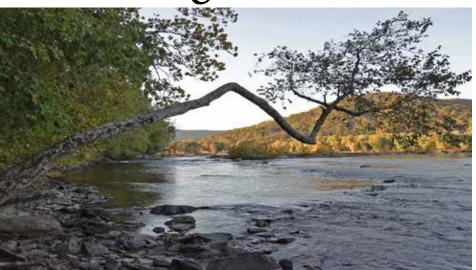
The Chesapeake Bay carries a load of "nutrients," waste, that compromise the

Virginia has recently decided to devote \$73 million to underwrite voluntary efforts by farmers and landowners to follow best management

practices (BMPs) to keep the water clear and the soil rich close

to home so that our streams emptying into the Potomac don't compromise the

This soil and water conservation pro-CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 >



# Buffington is dedicated, trustworthy and involved

I recently polled 20 people and asked them to give me three adjectives that described Tony Buffington, your current Blue Ridge Supervisor running

for reelection to the Board of Supervisors. The response includ-

ed a plethora of words, but the three that were repeated over and over again were "dedicated, trustworthy and involved". Additionally I heard, focused, hard-working, smart, determined, and grounded, intuitive, caring, respectful, gracious, down to earth, passionate, a District.

listener. Patriotic – a Marine. sounded like a political ad. I wanted you served his country as a Marine, is a Super-

to come to know the man that has worked tirelessly for you the last four years to fierce in his support of first responders. make the Blue Ridge District the best that it can be. From the Transition Policy Area to Western Loudoun, this is a very complicated and challenging district with very different needs depending on where you live. Protecting and preserving farmland has been a priority for Tony in Western Loudoun, whereas, safety and transportation improvements along the Route 50 Corridor, Braddock Road, Evergreen Mills Road among many others, continues on conscientious. He was described as a daily basis. Protecting open space is a priority of his for all of the Blue Ridge qualities that people associate Tony Buff-

Tony Buffington is a loving father who I didn't want to write a letter that is a dedicated public servant. He has

visor with the Capitol Police Force and is

In answer to my request for three adiectives that described Tony, one person said to me, "What is the word for someone who listens before he says anything?" If you've ever sat in a meeting with Supervisor Buffington, you know this to be

Other said things like thoughtful, kind, bright, sincere, brave and honest. This last word was mentioned over and over again. Honest. When you go to the polls in November, I ask you to consider these ington with, and I hope you will find him "deserving" of your vote.

Robin Bartok Purcellville

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# LaRock Represents Well

much, partly because of the controversy

we see in Washington, D.C. While there are going to be lots of of-

fices on your ballot this year, they will all be somewhat local offices. These candidates aren't professional politicians, they are your neighbors, members of the

I want to mention Dave LaRock, who is running for re-election to the House of Delegates. He and his family have lived in our area for over 30 years. If previous elections are any indication, in the

negativity makes me wonder sometimes why good people even offer to serve.

Dave has represented us for about 6 Virginians. years. In that time, he has been doing a great job. One example, when the Purcellville DMV shut down their office it was a major inconvenience. At the reopening, the DMV Commissioner said Dave "...bothered the devil out of me..." until the office was re-opened.

Some elected officials seem to just want to show up to cut ribbons, but Dave has worked hard for people who are experiencing tough times. He has passed weeks ahead you'll see attacks against numerous bills to address the opioid

Some of us don't follow politics all that to our community is outstanding. This abled children and their parents, and led Farm Bureau Federation. efforts to reinstate drivers' licenses for hundreds of thousands of low income community, attending lots of Eagle

sure our roads and schools are funded, and that those funds are not wast- of us – Transportation and Broadband. ed. Dave led the fight against Democrat Dave and his wife, Joanne, and kids are Governors McAuliffe and Northam's ef- out knocking on your door with his forts to raise tolls and send our money volunteers because they are part of our ported the 5 percent pay increase for our it. hard-working teachers.

As our Delegate, Dave has stood with keep him! farmers for agriculture and protecting our rural areas from developers, leading

him even though his record of service epidemic, fought for foster children, dis- to a recent endorsement by the Virginia

I've seen Dave out-and-about in our Scout ceremonies, parades, community Dave has also worked hard to make events, and holding Town Hall meetings on some issues that matter to all to transit projects in Arlington. He sup-

He's doing a great job, and we need to

Lydia Clark Purcellville

# Send Higgins to Richmond

All of Loudoun's farm based businesses - wineries, breweries, bed and breakfasts, farm stands, pick your own and equestrian operations, contribute to a unique and wonderful oasis located in fast-paced North-

ern Virginia. Western Loudoun is a place where you can still buy

locally grown produce, pick blueberries and strawberries, go for a trail ride, cut your own holiday tree, enjoy award-winning local wine and taste some of the best brewed craft beer in the nation.

There is no one that has worked harder to grow and protect Western Loudoun than Supervisor Geary Higgins. I have had the pleasure of working with him since his election in 2012. I believe Supervisor Higgins has been agriculture's longest and strongest advocate elected to the Board of Supervisors. No issue has been too large or

too small for him to try to solve. He has been committed to a prosperous rural economy from the beginning. He stood alongside County staff and members of Loudoun's Rural Economic Development Council to investigate best practices in other regions to move Loudoun's agriculture based sector forward. Supervisor Higgins participated in developing the key principles to draft, support and implement Loudoun's Rural Economy Business Development Strategy.

He led critical ordinances changes through the legislative process for breweries, bed and breakfasts and other rural uses and has fought back against additional regulation on Loudoun's farm wineries. He is a strong advocate for conservation easements and the land use assessment program and worked to make sure Western Loudoun was protected in the recent Comprehensive Plan. Next year, Loudoun

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

# I support Ram for Blue Ridge School Board representative

With the retirement of Jill Turgeon this year, western Loudoun will elect a new member of the Loudoun County School Board on Nov. 5. Jill Turgeon and I sup-further building safety enhancements port Ram Venkatachalam.

Why is this race important to you? challenges, many related to our rural character, the growth

of our towns, and our desire to have as many educational choices as possible for charter schools and home schooling. We sure. need a board member who will continue board that is focused on teaching our children in a safe, nurturing and non-ideological environment – and respecting the

interests of parents and all taxpayers.

Once elected, Ram will immediately move to implement new safety measures to protect our children. That includes the and exterior cameras on school buses to catch drivers who speed through a Western Loudoun faces a lot of unique bus stop. It also means putting a School Resource Officer (SRO) – a fully trained Sheriff's Deputy – in every public school. Today, there are 59 elementary schools without this officer. Ram is the only Blue Ridge School Board Candidate advocatour children - including small schools, ing this common sense child safety mea-

Ram has called for compensating our Jill Turgeon's work. One who will lead a teachers more fairly, so we retain more of them. Ram's vision is for Loudoun County to be a magnet for the best teachers in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

# Walbridge can bring positive change

As a resident of the countryside surrounding Hillsboro, I was interested to read the article on the describes the issues so well which is weak, easily gotten new Comprehensive Plan. When we moved here in around zoning. One type of housing I would welcome is 2002 the Smart Growth Plan was a buying incentive affordable housing but that never happens either. for us but it was overturned on a technicality. We

have been disappointed over the years with plans that sound good but never stop development. This article

I have been following, meeting and listening to Tia

Walbridge who is running for Supervisor of the Blue Ridge District. I am impressed by her willingness to attend meetings, advocate for farmers and study policy. I just want results and I have concluded that Walbridge can help bring positive changes to the Board.

Let's really study the solutions to these rural issues and stop letting the developers have their way.

> Laura Berish Hillsboro



# Phyllis Randall To Keep **Loudoun Moving Forward**

SEPTEMBER 2019

for Loudoun County Chair, Phyllis Randall made some big promises. Now

Randall is running for re-election and before

vote this November, I decided to do some research to see if she kept those promises. I can now say with 100 percent certainty, Chair Phyllis Randall has earned not only well. Loudoun needs four more years of Randall's leadership.

Supervisors (BOS) in adequately funding

our schools. Today Loudoun has a higher Four years ago when she was running teacher starting salary than any other school system in Northern Virginia. Four years ago only 11 percent of eligible four years later, Chair students had access to Universal Full Day Kindergarten. Today,100 percent, every single kindergarten child has Universal deciding whether or not to give her my Full Day Kindergarten.

On Development: Chair Randall promised to protect Western Loudoun County. After four years the current BOS has not approved one new home my vote, but my enthusiastic support as in Western Loudoun County. She voted against the True North Data Center and the Lovettsville gas station. Further, she On Education: For the past four years made the critical motion to put protective Chair Randall has led the Board of language in the Comprehensive Plan as it

# Stand up for the future we want - vote for Sam

Dear Editor

and neighbor Sam Kroiz for Catoctin to their neighborhoods. These farms Supervisor. My young family and I provide so much of the richness of our moved in down the road from Sam's area, but unfortunately the owners are

place, George's Mill Farm, nine years ago

services.

I'm writing to endorse my friend farms that provide similar services not getting rich farming. While I often see Sam struggling with his own farm and we love it here. issues, he's always glad to be pioneering We've lived in and traveled to some a new direct-to-consumer, value-added wonderful places over the years, but farming model, and is more concerned none with the natural, historical, and for his fellow farmers who are dependent agricultural richness of home. Loudoun on commodity beef and crop prices, is a special place, and George's Mill Farm and are often farming at a loss. In the is a big part of what makes our corner nine years I've lived in rural Loudoun, of it particularly special. In addition to I've seen many farming operations go their excellent goat cheese and other out of business and their fields filled farm products, Sam's farm provides baby with houses. It's sad to watch happen, goats to visit every spring, fields and but totally understandable; how long forests teeming with wildlife, community can you operate a business at a loss? barn dances, and many other invaluable How long can the remaining farmers CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 ×







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## Ask Dr. Mike —

By Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D.

off our last child (our son) at college. great about that now, I'm confident you Initially, I shed a few tears but was more will over time. Please know that the focused on my happiness for him. Well, Empty Nest Syndrome isn't a clinical fast forward two weeks, and I'm miser- diagnosis, but it's real. And the grief able. Sad, anxious, empty, and even an- and associated feelings you're expegry at times. I'm also feeling very guilty riencing in response to your last child about being a working mom, and now leaving the home is completely normal. regret that I didn't spend more time At the end of the day, loss is loss, so with all of our children when they were whether we're talking about an actual



him and just want to be vour pain.

left alone. Our oldest child (son) lives and works on the West Coast and we see him infrequently, and our middle child (daughter) is a sophomore in college and is also away at school already. Feeling very alone and at a loss for what to do to feel good again.

Help! – Unhappy in Loudoun

#### Dear Unhappy in Loudoun,

First of all, congratulations! Our main job as parents is to raise our children to be healthy, happy and ready for life. It

seems you've successfully launched My husband and I recently dropped three children, and while you don't feel growing up. My husband death or a significant event where ackeeps telling me that cepting change is difficult, you're going I'm a "great mom" but I to grieve, and there's no getting around don't want to hear it, and it. As the old saying goes, "Time heals I'm even fighting about all wounds," and in the meantime, here the smallest things with are a few tips to consider to help ease

- Stay connected to your children. Technology is a beautiful thing for your moment, so call, text and email them often (without going overboard) to increase communication and to maintain a connection.
- Talk openly about your feelings with your family and friends since repressing them will likely only lead to feeling worse. If your grief becomes too much for you

to manage, I recommend seeking the help of a psychologist with experience and training in grief therapy.

- Throw yourself into yourself. Without your children at home as your primary focus, you now have plenty of time to give to yourself. Is there a hobby, project or activity you'd like to take on? Do vou want to exercise more and/or lose weight? Begin to think about what you want to do for you, and
- Throw yourself into your marriage. While you may not be feeling close with your husband right now because of what you're going through, this is a great time to rekindle and/or redefine your marriage. You have plenty of time now to improve the quality of time spent to together with your husband, so start thinking about what you want that to look like.
- Get involved in your community. Coaching a sport or tutoring or volunteering (with or without your husband) in other ways could provide you with a renewed

sense of purpose and joy.

• Visit your children. Perhaps you could plan a trip out West to visit your oldest son in the near future. In addition to seeing him and to have a nice time together, maybe you and your husband could take vacation time for yourselves as a couple before or after you spend time with your son. And while vour other two children are in college, that doesn't mean you can't visit them too, even if it's for a shorter visit.

Time, alongside the above mentioned tips, should help your empty nest feel a little more comfortable to dwell in; and remember, our children always need us regardless of their ages, so focus on the good and enjoy watching them fly.

Lastly, I would like to share with you a very moving excerpt from Judith Viorst's book, Necessary Losses that is timely for your moment:

When we think of loss we think of the loss, through death, of people we love. But loss is a far more encompassing theme in our life. For we lose not only through death, but also by leaving and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 »





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# Congresswoman Wexton tours area farms

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) visited six agritourism businesses in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties in late August. She also announced the launch of her Congressional

and communities.

GOVERNMENT Agritourism Caucus, which will support the agritourism industry and highlight its importance to local economies

The Congresswoman's visit included tours of Georges Mill Farm in Lovettsville, Barnhouse Brewery in Leesburg, Roots 657 Cafe in Leesburg,

Willowcroft Farm Vineyards in Leesburg, Cox Farms in Centreville, and Quattro Goombas Winery and Craft Brewery in Aldie.

Pictured here is the beginning of her tour at Georges Mill Farm with Sam and Molly Kroiz. Her hour-long tour included the process of making cheese, including tastings. She also heard of the challenges of keeping rural farm land in Loudoun County. Wexton met the farm's goat family – all 56 of them. Upon her departure, she was invited to Georges Mill Farm's monthly barn dances.





Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton and Sam Kroiz

Left: Georges Mill Farm

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# (C) Ŏ L CO



# Historic, three-story home in Leesburg

Spacious, professionally designed, totally remodeled

BY ANDREA GAINES

The 4,000 square-foot home at 221 and lovely cabinetry... and a quartz North King Street in Leesburg is the perfect combination of historic charm, modern upgrades, and location.

REAL ESTATE

professional remod-1912 wonderful.

"brick beauty" back to life.

For starters, it has a brand new roof and a completely waterproofed base-

But, the real allure of the place is its modern livability, wide-open spaces, and attention to detail, the kind of features that make in-town-living in Leesburg so rewarding ... so easy ... so unique.

Each of the five bedrooms has its own bath, with a versatile floor plan that lets you customize the space to fit your needs. Imagine what you could do with these kinds of options – for family gath-

heart of the main floor. This includes top Recreation Center.

of the line appliances and finishes, waterfall island, with a traditional countertop that extends down the sides – beauty and functionality all It took a year of in one. Sleek and modern in bold colors of bright white and the pereling to bring this fect blue/green grey, the kitchen is a chef and family's dream.

There is an attic, a first-floor laundry, a mudroom, a studio, a solarium, and all of the things that tell you that the original builder and the more recent remodeler understood how to combine functionality and beauty - complimenting all with crown moldings, recessed lighting, skylights, wood floors, central AC, and fireplaces. A large front porch provides

another great place to get away, to entertain, or to watch life in town saunter on by. The home sits back erings, entertaining, or when you need from the road to give you the privacy to get away without leaving the house ... you want, with all of the convenience The home features what can only be you desire. It is just steps from Histordescribed as an amazing kitchen – the ic Downtown Leesburg and the Ida Lee





And, ves, this remodeled to perfection home has a detached garage, providing in-town living and parking, with total transportation convenience.

Come see me, says this wonderful





221 North King Street, Leesbur MLS#: VALO100023 Year Built: 1912 Beds/Baths: 5 bedrooms, each with its own bath Total Acreage: Just over three-guarters of an acre List Price: \$1.495.000 Agent: Linda Culbert, Associate Broker, Long &

Email: LindaCulbert@LongandFoster.com Website: www.lindaculbert.com Phone: (703) 431-1724

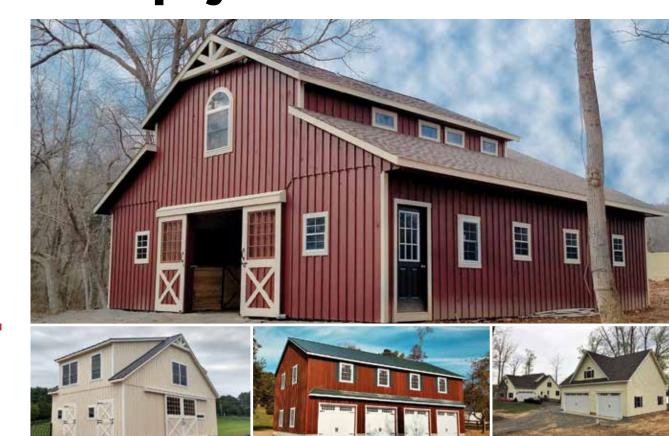
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"Hearth & Home"



# Teach your children well

Catoctin School of Music, Leesburg

Red Gate Farm, Bluemont

#### Music as a crafter of beautiful minds

The Catoctin School of Music refers to itself as "one of the best kept musical secrets in Leesburg." All small businesses would like

back that up.

to see themselves this way, but CSM has the outlook, imagination, and reputation to

CSM offers instruction is a wide variety of popular instruments - percussion, piano, strings, and woodwinds. And, they also offer programs in more unusual instruments, including Suzuki

That instrument – and its teaching philosophy – was made famous by Japanese violinist Shinichi Suzuki who said: "Our purpose does not lie in a movement to create professional musicians, but to create persons of a beautiful mind."

That's a pretty wonderful idea, and it says a lot about what the Catoctin School of Music brings to the table. According to the folks at CSM,

music helps youth – and everyone – and physically. It changes the brain's structure, and has positive outcomes on long term memory, and auditory and tactile reaction times. It also increases "robustly builds" language skills.

executive function, and increases atop their backs. reading skills – great assets for both adults and children.

happiness, [and] relieve depression, educational opportunities available to grief and stress, and profoundly change youth in Loudoun County. Get a kid on how a student sees their world and their a horse – say experienced equestrians, place in it," say the folks at CSM.

We're on board!

located at 25 East First Street, SE, Suite become one with the animal, to talk to 1, in Leesburg. 571 306-0880, www.The it, to care for it, and get it to do what the CatoctinSchoolofMusic.com.

Equine as teacher, horseback rider as

Drive down any rural or otherwise cognitively, spiritually, emotionally, road in Loudoun County and what will

> Quite a few cows, of course, and maybe a donkey, or llama, or two.

But, vou'll also so see horses – gazing the "integration" of inputs from various at you from inside a barn stall, galloping senses, enhances working memory, and alongside your vehicle as your 'round a fence line, or, basically, ignoring you ... Music study also strengthens overall totally engrossed with the rider sitting

That latter image – horse and human as one beautifully paired unit - is "Music has the power to bring joy [and] one of the most profoundly unique psychologists, medical professionals, and others - and something magical The Catoctin School of Music is happens, as that child learns how to child wants it to do.

Red Gate Farm in Bluemont has distilled that unique learning CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

BY ANDREA GAINES the Sears Catalog - the original shop-

from-home retail experience. And, long before Amazon started selling tinyhouse kits, Sears was **REAL ESTATE** selling high-quality,

full-size homes that arrived in boxes, with all the parts included, ready for assembly.

The home at 36717 Jeb Stuart Road in Purcellville is a perfectly maintained treasure from that time, with a fantastic and spacious post-and-beam addition.

This is a place built for comfort, utility, countryside. family, and the Loudoun County all-American lifestyle

one is for sale today in the wonderful for an additional bath. village of Philomont.

Originally available for purchase in the 1920s, this sturdy and attractive bungalow, called the Somers model, was expanded and improved over the last century and is now a roomy fourbedroom home on nearly three acres.

Recent updates to the home include fully remodeled baths, a newly-finished are three stone fireplaces, one of which is gas, and a wood stove.

The owners also added a kitchenette to hot tub with decking? Come see it! what can serve as a rental apartment or in-law suite, dressed everything up with new paint and lighting, and refinished the gorgeous wood floors ... throughout.

There are four bedrooms – three on the main level and one up top. There are also three full baths – one up top and two on the main level. The exquisite master suite on the upper level includes a stone fireplace, a heated floor in the master

bath, and a private deck to enjoy morning Long before Amazon.com, there was coffee with a view of the gardens below.

> The house itself has two parts, cleverly connected so they can be used as separate living quarters for two families, or kept open for easy movement between the Sears portion and the open and airy post-and-beam addition.

> The main level boasts soaring ceilings, built-in bookcases, beautiful stonework, massive beams, and welcoming fireplaces. Doorways open onto three sides of the home, with scenic views of the property and surrounding

The finished lower level provides even more space for entertaining and relaxing Our area is dotted with only a few of near the wood stove, and includes plenty these very well-made homes, and this of storage - plus roughed-in plumbing

The property's nearly three acres has a pretty barn which houses an office, two horse stalls, and a greenhouse.

The detached four-car garage and equipment shed provide even more storage space. The idyllic scene is completed by extensive landscape and hardscape, two fenced paddocks, a fenced vegetable garden, chicken coop, basement, and recessed lighting. There grape arbor, stone wall, and mature trees.

Did we mention the wonderful metal roof, broad front and rear porches, and

Address: 36717 Jeb Stuart Road, Purcellville Year Built: 1925 Beds/Baths: 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths Total Acreage: 2.99 List Price: \$839,000 Agent: Kimberly Hurst, Middleburg Real Email: Kim@MiddleburgRealEstate.com Kim@AtokaProperties.com Facebook.com/KimHurstYourCountryl Phone: (703) 932-9651

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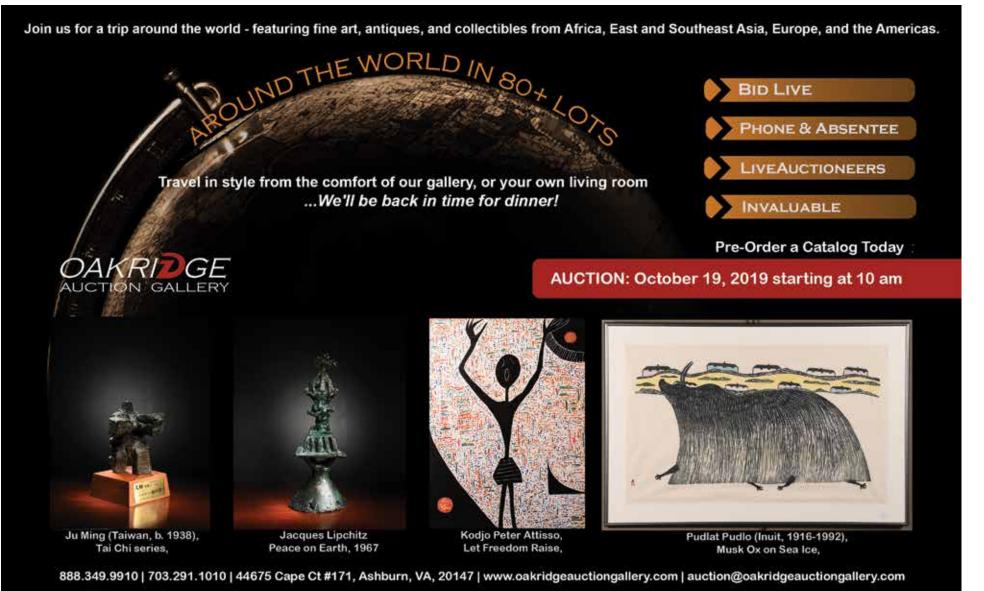




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# Barry Dufek promoted to Lieutenant

On August 29, he received the promotion to the rank of Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Dufek joined the Purcellville Police Department in August 2016, however, he began his law enforcement career in 2000 with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office where he first served as a dispatcher the Emergency Communications Center.

He then applied to become a sworn member of the force. While a member addresses community issues. of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Dufek served as a patrol with his wife and two children. A public deputy, a motor deputy, and within ceremony will be held at a future date.

A competitive process for the rank the Community Policing Unit. Upon of lieutenant was held by the Police his promotion to sergeant he served as Department and the Human Resources the supervisor overseeing recruitment Division. Officer Barry Dufek completed and hiring. In addition to these duties, the process with Dufek continues to serve as a vehicle **GOVERNMENT** a rating of highly and motorcycle lead training instructor

at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy's training track.

Dufek will serve as the Operations Commander and have direct oversight of patrol operations for the Department. In addition, he will continue managing projects he was assigned prior to his assignment over operations.

Since joining the Department Dufek has proven himself to be a team player, deputy and began his career as a and most importantly one who quickly

Dufek lives in the Town of Purcellville



# **Loudoun Seeks Members for** New Human Services Strategic Plan Advisory Committee

Loudoun County is accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on the newly created Loudoun

County Human Ser-**GOVERNMENT** vices Strategic Plan Advisory Committee.

The committee will implement the strategies outlined in the Human Services Strategic Plan, which aims to meet the county's human service needs such as affordable health care, child care and housing.

Applications are being accepted through Sept. 30, from individuals representing four specific areas:

- Faith-based organizations;
- Funders or grant makers who provide financial support to human services programs;
- Individuals or families who have received human services from Loudoun County government; and
- Underrepresented populations in Loudoun County, such as (but

not necessarily limited to) youth, transition-aged youth, older adults, people with disabilities, low-income persons or families, foreignborn persons or families, and/or representing cultural diversity.

"We're seeking community volunteers to serve on this committee as we work together to address these critical areas of need for Loudoun County," said Assistant County Administrator Valmarie Turner.

Representative committee members, who will be chosen by the County Administrator, will serve two-year terms, with a limit of three terms. The committee will meet at least six times per year for two hours per meeting; meetings are expected to begin in October 2019.

Individuals should prepare a resume and a short statement regarding their interest in serving on the committee. Individuals who do not have a resume may submit a letter of interest. To apply, and to learn more about the plan, visit loudoun.gov/HumanServicesPlan.



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SEPTEMBER 2019

# Surveys for Loudoun County Jury Service in the mail

Loudoun County Clerk of the Circuit jury duty in the following calendar year. candidates for 2020. While recipients of postage costs to return the questionnaire.

GOVERNMENT

mailboxes during the

several weeks.

Each September, the Clerk of the Circuit Court sends out jury questionnaires to

45,000 Loudoun County residents will next week, those citizens who are deemed for completing it, Clemens strongly qualified to serve as jurors are not subject encourages citizens to use the website questionnaires in their to serving jury duty until calendar year address provided in the questionnaire to 2020. "The jury questionnaire is essentially month of September. a survey that allows the Jury Office and Jury other way to complete the questionnaire The jury questionnaires will be mailed out Commissioners determine who is qualified is to simply complete the paper in several different phases over the next and eligible to serve jury duty next year," questionnaire received in the mail by said Clemens. "The jury questionnaire is hand and return it by first-class mail. not a summons for jury duty."

complete the questionnaire online. The

The online completion of the Clemens asks that citizens who receive questionnaire saves the jury office determine who is qualified for jury duty a jury questionnaire take the time to considerable time in processing the in Loudoun County. This process enables read and complete the questionnaire questionnaire responses. Using the the jury office to establish a qualified pool as this process helps the court and the website is faster than completing the the services offered by the Clerk of the of jurors who may be summonsed to serve clerk establish a qualified pool of juror paperwork by hand and it saves the citizen Circuit Court visit loudoun.gov/cle.

Court Gary M. Clemens announced that While the questionnaire process begins the jury questionnaire have two options. The website provided is secure and safe to use. The link to the online questionnaire will be available on the Loudoun County website by Sept. 4.

> "The timely participation of those who receive the questionnaires is beneficial to the efficiency of the qualification process and it helps the court system provide the constitutional guarantee of a jury trial to criminal and civil litigants," stated Clemens.

More information about jury duty and the juror questionnaires may be found at loudoun.gov/jury. To find out more about

# Loudoun County Library eliminates overdue fines for all customers

has become the third public library More than 125 public libraries in system in Virginia to eliminate fines for overdue materials.

charged a 10-cent per day, per item fee for overdue materials, they are still responsible

**GOVERNMENT** for replacement

costs for lost cards. items. Books and other library materials are considered lost once they are 21 days past due. Borrowers will not be able to check out additional materials until they pay the lostitem fees or return the items.

The policy change is the result of a June decision by the Loudoun few tweaks to LCPL's borrowing and makes people remember how County Public Library Board of rules designed to increase the Trustees, and it's one that places number of books on the shelves LCPL among a growing list of puband to get items to customers

Loudoun County Public Library lic library systems to go fine free. faster: the U.S. and Canada have eliminated overdue fines, according to While customers will no longer be the Urban Libraries Council.

> Research from other libraries shows that overdue fines discourage or prevent customers from signing up for or using library

"The library's resources have the power to change lives, and we want them to be available to everyone in the community," said Chang Liu, Director of Loudoun County Public Library.

- DVDs now check out for one
- All items will be renewed automatically up to three times as long as other customers haven't placed holds on them.
- Customers can check out as many as 50 items at one

"We are looking forward to welcoming back people to the library who haven't visited for a while," added Liu. "I really hope With the policy change come a this re-engages our community much the library has to offer."

> For complete information, visit library.loudoun.gov/NoMoreFines.

# Town of Leesburg to observe 18th Anniversary of 9/11

In commemoration of the tragic events and the lives lost throughout the United States on September 11, 2001, the Leesburg Town Council will hold a brief remembrance ceremony at the Town's Freedom Memorial, located at Freedom Park (off Tolbert Lane at Evergreen Mill Road) on Wednesday, Sept. 11, beginning at 8:40 a.m.

Anyone wishing to attend the ceremony is encouraged to arrive early. The park will remain open to the public until 9 p.m. for those wishing to visit the memorial on their own.

The Town of Leesburg encourages residents to observe the designated "National Day of Service and Remembrance" by volunteering, donating time or goods, or simply offering a helping hand during this day of commemoration. The "Serve America Act" was signed into law by President Obama on April 21, 2009. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), a supporter of the legislation, said, "September 11 should not only be a day of mourning. It should be a day to think about our neighbors, our community, and our country."

For more information about the ceremony, contact the Town of Leesburg's Park and Recreation Department at 703 777-1368 or visit www.idalee.org.

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# Here's what you need to know

Registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 15, as Monday, Oct. 14 is a holiday. Register in-person by 5 p.m., online by 11:59 p.m. and by mail – postmark.

Absentee deadlines GOVERNMENT - by mail, online, fax

or mail - application must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday,

Oct. 29. All marked ballots must be returned no later than 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5, to be counted. In-person – Saturday, Nov. 2, at 5 p.m.

#### In-person absentee voting

Office of Elections, located at 750 Miller Drive, SE, Suite C, Leesburg, VA 20175

starts on Friday, Sept. 20, during regular business hours – Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Office will be open on Saturday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8:30 a.m. until

Extended evening hours – Monday, Oct. P. Flannery II, George Melik-Agamirian, 28 through Friday, Nov. 1 – open 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m.

#### Satellite locations:

Cascades Senior Center and Dulles Multipurpose Center, Saturdays, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. – Weekdays, Oct. 28 through Friday, Nov. 1 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.

# List of Board of Supervisors Candidates per

Algonkian District: Juli E. Briskman (D), Suzanne M. Volpe (R)

Ashburn District: D.M. "Mick" Staton Jr. (R), Michael R. "Mike" Turner (D) Blue Ridge District: Tony R. Buffington, Ir. (R), Tia L. Walbridge (D) Broad Run District: James G. "Jim" Bonfils (R), Sylvia Russell Glass (D)

Catoctin District: J. Forest Hayes (D), Caleb A. Kershner (R), Sam R. Kroiz (I) Chair: Robert J. Ohneiser (I), Phyllis J. Randall (D), John C.L. Whitbeck, Jr. (R) **Dulles District:** Matthew F. Letourneau (R), Sree R. Nagireddi (D)

Leesburg District: Kristen C. Umstattd

Sterling District: W. Damien P. Katsirubas (I), Koran T. Saines (D.) Commissioner of the Revenue: Sri S. Amudhanar (D), Robert S. "Bob" Wertz Ir.

Commonwealth's Attorney: Buta Biberaj (D), M. Nicole Wittmann (R) Sheriff: Michael L. "Mike" Chapman (R), Justin P. Hannah (D)

Treasurer: Kannan Srinivasan (D), H Roger Zurn, Jr. (R)

#### **School Board:**

Algonkian District: Atoosa R. Reaser (D), Melanie F. Turner (non-partisan) Ashburn District: Eric D. Hornberger (non-partisan), Harris Mahedavi (D) Blue Ridge District: Ian J. Serotkin (D), Ram Venkatachalam (R)

**Broad Run District:** Andrew T. Hoyler (non-partisan), Leslee M. King (non-par-

**Catoctin District:** Jenna M. Alexander (I). John P. Beatty (I), Zerell S. Johnson-Welch (D) **Dulles District:** Jeff E. Morse (I) Leesburg District: Beth R. Barts (D), Joe J

Newcomer (I)

Sterling District: Mike J. Neely (non-partisan), Brenda L. Sheridan (D)

At-Large: Denise R. Corbo (I), Kenya A. Savage (I), Julia L. "Julie" Sisson (R). Soil and Water District Director: John Marina R. Schumacher, Jasvinder "Jimmy" Singh, Michelle C. Thomas, James K. Wylie.

#### **House of Delegates:**

10th, Wendy W. Gooditis (D), J. Randall "Randy" Minchew

**32nd,** David A. Reid (D)

33rd, Dave A. LaRock (R), Mavis B. Tain-

34th, Kathleen J. Murphy (D), Gary G. Pan

**67th,** Kerrie K. Delaney (D); **86th**, Ibraheem S. Samirah (D) 87th, William M. "Bill" Drennan, Ir. (R). Suhas Subramanya (D).

13th, Geary M. Higgins (R), John J. Bell (D) 27th, Ronald J. Ross, III (D), Jill H. Vogel

**31st**, Barbara A. Favola (D) **33rd**, Jennifer B. Boysko (D), Suzanne D.

#### Referendums

#### **School Projects:**

Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$93,940,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct, and equip Middle School Classroom Additions; the costs to design, construct, and equip MS-14 Dulles North Middle School; and the costs of other public school facilities as requested by the Loudoun County School Board?

### **Public Safety Projects:**

two Back-to-School Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$22,870,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct, and equip a Fire and Rescue Recruit Training to school. Facility; the costs to design, construct,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 »

and equip Leesburg South Fire Station

Renovations; and the costs of other public

# Water system improvements kick off Hillsboro's Rethink9 project

SEPTEMBER 2019

Via a spirited announcement sent out to all within earshot, the Town of Hillsboro is celebrating the launch of its much-anticipated Safe Drinking Water project, one element of the larger Re-Think9 project. "It has been decades in

the coming," said the announcement, "But today we can now see

dirt moving and the solution to Hillsboro's safe drinking water issues coming

In recent weeks, Hillsboro began Lane, at the Town's current waterworks, ruptive it would be to residents, busiand at the site of the locale's new water

As noted by Town officials, temporary one-lane road closures along Rt. 9 and nearby roads started in late August. Other closures will take place in the coming weeks, as the drinking water project moves forward.

The water system project is one of several planned infrastructure improvements in Hillsboro's overarching ReThink9 infrastructure project. Re-Think9 is intended to benefit businesses and residents alike by addressing the Town's traffic-calming, pedestrian safety, and infrastructure needs. It is expected to relieve the congestion caused by the more than 17,000 daily vehicle trips through Hillsboro, all while preserving the Town's historical nature.

With regard to the larger road and infrastructure project, earlier this summer, the Town rejected bids, citing higher than anticipated cost. This was largely driven by the plan's restrictions on work to maintain traffic flow. Further analysis of the bids and interviews with bidders revealed the maintenance of the traffic plan approved by VDOT would have pushed completion of the work to 31-36

Hillsboro residents, commuters, and other affected/interested Loudoun County residents and businesses are invited to sign up for ReThink9 updates at https://rethink9.com/.

months, and seriously impacted work quality. Under the original plan, the expectation was for a 24-month duration. In response, Mayor Roger Vance sent everyone back to the drawing board on the traffic maintenance plan.

Hillsboro's leadership notes that the "clearing and grubbing" along Spring longer the project takes, the more disnesses, and those using the road.

Alternate lane closures on Rt. 9 may seem like a good idea - easier on commuters, some say. But that also has the potential to send the costs and the timeline for the work through the roof - driving users of the road crazy at the same time.

According to Vance, alternate plans project reducing construction duration to 11 months with a Rt. 9 closure – combined with a clear, concise, predictable, and well-managed alternate route plan. A good partnership with VDOT will be essential. To get to that 11-month sweet spot,

Vance and Vice Mayor Amy Marasco are preparing an Invitation for Bids to "allow for maximum flexibility for the contractor to get the job done as fast as possible." Both want contractors to think outside the box with respect to when key parts of the work will be completed, what alternative routes might be designated at any one time, and how the contractor's resources and exper-

While the Town prepares to review a new set of more streamlined construction proposals, it has set up what

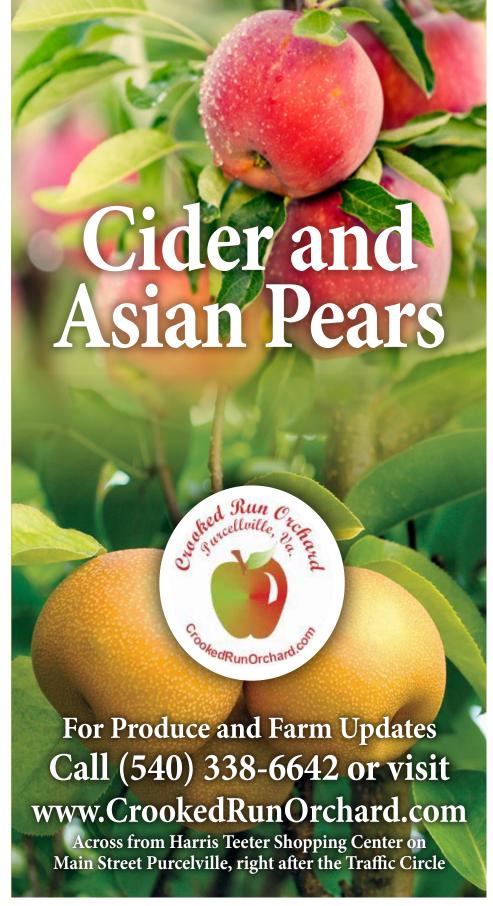
it calls a "Rethink9 Dispatch" system to provide Town residents, commuters and visitors with ongoing electronic updates on the progress of the project, complete with photographs of the specific work sites.

For people "driving through," the in-Aug. 20, 2019 there would be "limited rary water tanks and other large materials up to the Town's water works facility along Spring Lane." At the same time, those in Hillsboro

flagging" on the road "to bring tempo-

"sight seeing" were reassured that the many vineyards, wineries, breweries, farms, farm markets, B&Bs, and restaurants in "The Gap" were open for business with no disruption. Easy electronic links to those businesses were provided.

And, for those "living here" throughout the transition, the website details novative dispatch system noted that on the project's advantages, ultimate benefits, and timetable.



# "A Company Built on Love, Spans Generations..."

# You're invited to a fall harvest celebration



# Thursday, September 26th 10 am-2 pm

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## Tree of Life Hosts Back-to-School Giveaways Tree of Life hosted

Giveaways in Leesburg and Purcellville over the past two Saturdays. Many came to receive free clothes, free backpacks and haircuts to get ready to go back



vounger will need to remain

in the snack area of the pool

deck. No food will be al-

The fee is \$5.00 per dog. Registration

WebTrac or by visiting the front desk at







# \*TRANSIT FOR A YEAR! \*

Pledge to try transit during Try Transit Week and you will be entered into a drawing to win the grand prize or a prize from your local transit provider.

## **Grand Prize**

One year of free transit service from a local participating transit operator and a pair of round trip tickets for Amtrak's Northeast Regional train.



# **Loudoun County Regional Prizes**

• \$100 SmarTrip card		. 1 WINNER

- \$20 SmarTrip card ...... 10 WINNERS



TAKE THE PLEDGE



# **Meet Bob**

Bob sleeps, reads or just relaxes as he rides in comfort on a Loudoun **County Transit bus.** 



# **Remembering Aerts** "Buddy" Colby

away Monday August 12th unexpect- Safety Commendation in 2013.

School in 1973. He immediately began his employment with VEPCo, (Dominion Energy), as a ground man and advanced to the level of Operations Supervisor. He was slated for retirement in December.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Colby married Janet Anderson in Leesburg on Nov. 25, 1978 and had three children, Kim, Kelly, and Trevor.

He began his time in the volunteer fire service in 1972 by joining the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Co. and transferred to the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Co. in 1974. He worked in every operational office over the years. the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Company. Colby's son, Trevor, continued the tradition by beginning his fire service nephews. career with Purcellville and is now a firefighter with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue. He was greatly respected in 2019. He also received the Virginia TheColbyFamilyFund.

Aerts "Buddy" Colby, 64, passed Sons of the American Revolution Fire

His was a charter member of the Colby was born August 25, 1954 in Red Knights, Virginia Chapter 12, Mo-Leesburg, to Aerts and Anne Colby. torcycle Club in 2008. A lifelong mo-He graduated Loudoun Valley High torcycle enthusiast, Colby was a loyal

and dedicated member of the club and was serving as Ride Captain at the time of his passing. He enjoyed the fellowship of riding with the group, and also cherished every opportunity to ride with his wife Janet and son Trevor.

Colby was preceded in death by his grandfather, Aerts"Pops" S. Colby, his father Aerts H. Colby, his

mother Anne C. Colby and his daughter Kelly L. Stanfield.

He is survived by his wife Janet Colby, his daughter Kimberly (Gary) Easton and three grandchildren, his son Trevor Colby, son in law Beau Stanfield and four grandchildren, his Colby was Assistent Chief at the time brother Allen (Cindy) Colby and chilof his passing. Along with his broth- dren, his brother David (Diane) Colby ers Allen and David, he was drawn to and children, step brothers and sisters this career by the service of his father Mike Kelley, Patti Spencer, Terry Case, who served as Volunteer Fire Chief of Linda Kelley and a large extended family of brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great nieces and

The Colby Family would appreciate any financial donations; due to the sudden loss of their daughter Kelly 5 for his technical knowledge of equipmonths ago, Buddy and Janet assumed ment maintenance/operation and guardianship of their granddaughter, apparatus specification. He served as and now Janet and the family have to both a leader and a mentor to genera- deal with the loss of Buddy. Donations tions of firefighters. Colby was induct- can be mailed to: The Colby Family ed into the Loudoun County Fire & Fund, c/o Michael O'Brien, P.O. Box Rescue Hall of Fame, and had received 2636, Purcellville, Virginia 20134 or the The John C. Carr Memorial Award The Colby Family Fund, paypal.me/



Ida Lee Park to hold 11th

Ida Lee Recreation Center. Walk-up registration on the day of the event is welis currently available online through come as well. For more information, go to www.idalee.org or call 703 777-1368.



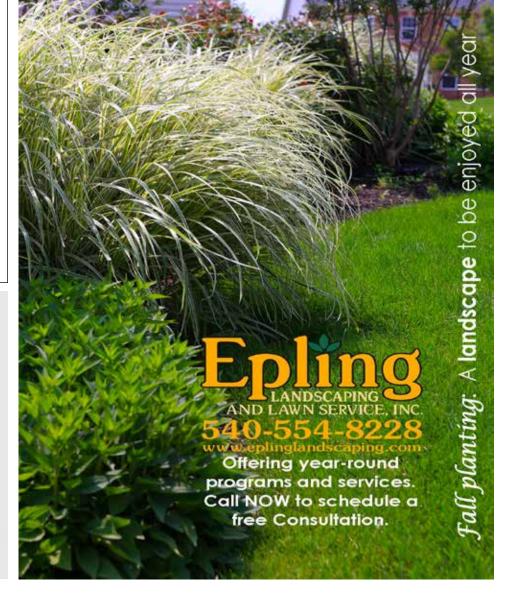
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# Short-term rental space, B&B business, Airbnb room, boutique hotel – what are they, and how should they be taxed?

look at how it regulates and taxes what are known as Short-Term Residential Rentals (STRR), including the increas- applies to overnight stays at hotels, ies a 7 percent tax on hotels and B&B example, is trying to earn a little extra ingly popular "Airb-

GOVERNMENT

In 2017, the Vir-

ginia General Assembly added a new section to the Virginia Code authorizing localities to take steps to register STRRs. Loudoun County followed that state action by adopting a Short-Term Residential Rentals Work Plan, in October of that year. This included possibilities for a registry of STRRs as well as a "STRR Regulation Ordinance and companion Codified Ordinances amendment for taxation, if applica-

County regulations state that a Short-Term Rental is "The provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping, or lodging purposes, for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy."

a regulatory structure known as the nesses in the category. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which visits to establishments in the Bed & establishments that can accommodate income through Airbnb. Such income Breakfast category, conference center four or more people. sites, and the like.

Some incorporated towns and some home owners' associations have separate rules and regulations with respect 25 people, a move that would lift that to STRRs. Zoning permits and other constraints may also apply.

Loudoun County recently worked through a lengthy process to create a registry of people renting out space in their homes through newer services such as Airbnb. The purpose of the registry is to explore the prospect of collecting tourism taxes from individuals working through Airbnb and others. State law allows localities to charge a fee for such registries. In Loudoun County, registration is free, but failure to register is not, carrying a \$500 fine.

Some County Supervisors have conneed to pay the tax. sidered exempting all of these STRRs and all B&Bs from the tax, while Visit

In this category, where occupan- Loudoun, the County's tourism agency At Large) have pointed out that TOT is Loudoun County is taking a close cy taxes apply, they are paid through wants the tax to apply to more busi-

Supervisor Ron A. Meyer Jr. (R-Broad federal and state income taxes. Run) wants the County to exempt estax burden from the owners of most short-term residential rental properties and most B&Bs.

In terms of lost revenue, the implications of that kind of tax exemption to Airbnb locale, and, what if they wantthe County are relatively small – under ed it catered? Fine for a homeowner \$240,000, not including the B&B cat- to use their property to stage an event B&Bs are included.

Beth Erickson takes a black and white er's approach to the issue. If you are renting out space on your property or in business? an established business for profit, you

sors Chairwoman Phyllis J. Randall (D- issue this month.

intended to pull in taxes from people operating a traditional pay-to-stay Currently for example, the TOT lev- business vs. the homeowner who, for is, of course, already subject to routine

While the simple renting out of a tablishments with room for fewer than bedroom to a couple wanting to explore Loudoun County's vineyards might seem like a simple one, even the Airbnb example has its drawbacks, and questions. What if the couple wanted to host a small dinner party at an egory, and just over \$400,000, if the for their own family. But, how might neighbors feel if the catering truck Visit Loudoun President and CEO outside was part of the property own-

AirBnb income-generating Airbnb

County BOS discussions on the issue continue, and the Loudoun County Others, including Board of Supervi- Planning Commission will take up the

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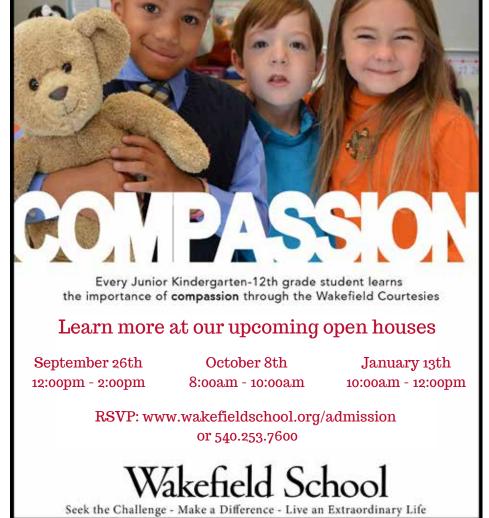






BEST OF

LOUDOUN



#### **AMBASSADOR**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 2019

projected to be among the world's largest per capita oil producers by 2025, according to NASDAO.

The country is also described as "a rainforest paradise," recently named the #1 "Best of Ecotourism" destinations in the world at the Sustainable Top 100 Destination Awards. Rainforest covers 77 percent of the country, and the current leadership is determined to balance preservation of that natural resource with the oil revenue potential that lies beneath the surface.

Purcellville, too, is fast growing, and also determined to balance demands for growth with sustainability. The governments of both places are committed to developing their economies with three key goals in mind: preserve your essential social, cultural, economic and community resources while you grow, approach everything in a fiscally responsible way, and, most importantly take your lead from the citizens you are here

#### Where is Guyana?

Guyana is one of the northernmost countries in South America, bordering Venezuela to the east, and Suriname and French Guiana to the west. All three of those countries, along with Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruquay border Brazil



L to R: Ambassador Dr. Riyad Insanally, CCH, Designing Flowers' Shelly Mcdaniel. State Senator Dick Black and Mayor Kwasi Fraser.

The Ambassador and his colleagues made stops at several quintessential Purcellville and Loudoun Counbusinesses and organizations. These included:

• Designing Flowers, whose owner, Shelly Mcdaniel was born in Guyana.



The group at Catoctin Creek Distillery with



Visit to Dragon Hops with owner Marilla Corvel (third from left)

- Dragon Hops Brewery, which relies on the local agricultural economy for its success.
- Catoctin Distillery, which represents one of the newer industries in western Loudoun

Purcellville's wastewater treatment plant, a state-of-the-art facility which represents water conservation and public utility management at its best.

The Makersmiths "Makerspace," a town property now generating income for Purcellville while providing a place where citizens and businesses can promote innovation and entrepreneurial education.

The Academies of Loudoun, a STEM magnet program for Loudoun County high school students.

## **About Ambassador Insanally**

Insanally has served as his country's Ambassador to the United States since 2016. He has a deep background in the foreign service, and multiple degrees from Cambridge and Harvard Universities.

He has served as political advisor to two Secretaries General of the Association of Caribbean States, and as a senior trade adviser in Guyana's High Commission. He came to Washington, D.C. in 2006 as an adviser to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States

He is currently the Permanent Representative to the OAS, and Guyana's Ambassador to the United

John Chester-Inniss, First Secretary of the Embassy of Guyana traveled with the Ambassador to Purcellville, and made the following comment:

"Following his visit to the Town of Purcellville, Ambassador Insanally noted that it was a 'rewarding experience' and that he was impressed with the level of business development and the quality of craft businesses there, given the relatively small size of Purcellville.

"He was also particularly impressed by the Basham Simms Water Treatment Plant. The Ambassador was, moreover, proud to know that Mr. Kwasi Fraser, Mayor of Purcellville and Mrs. Shelly Mcdaniel, owner of Designing Flowers, were both CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 x

"The key to Successful Aging is to pay as

little attention to it as possible."

Judith Regan





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# Marshall Center to dedicate flagpole Sept. 14

The George C. Marshall Marshall House, 312 International Center will dedicate a East Market Street, and flagpole on the grounds of Marshall's the Loudoun County former home at Dodona Manor Government Garage

COMMUNITY 14, at 9:30 a.m.

"There was no American flag at Dodona Manor," said Thomas a 1901 graduate of VMI Greenspon, president of GCMIC, and rose to become Army "and we saw this as a meaningful enhancement to commemorate the War II, special envoy to significance of this historic site." Fifty-five of Greenspon's classmates president of the American from the Virginia Military Institute Red Cross, and Secretary at Lexington contributed money for of Defense during the this project, including landscaping Korean War. His efforts and tree removal necessary due to on behalf of the European ash bore disease.

Lighting was installed to allow 1948, better known as for the display of the American flag the Marshall Plan, earned day and night. A flagpole will also him the 1953 Nobel Peace fly a five-star flag in recognition of Prize Marshall's five-star rank at the end George and Katherine Marshall of World War II

McConnell (Ret.) will deliver the there until his death in 1959. In will give the invocation. Parking items in the house were owned and George CMarshall.org. is available at The Shops at the used by the Marshalls.

in Leesburg on at 1 Harrison Street. For Saturday, Sept. questions call 703 777-1301.

> George Marshall was chief of staff during World China, Secretary of State, Recovery Program of

purchased the 4-acre property for Navy Vice Admiral Mike \$16,000 in 1941, and they lived



Dodona Manor is open for private events in the house and gardens by reservation and open to the public for tours on Saturday and Sunday or by appointment during dedication address, and Army 2005, it opened as a house museum the week. Details about the house Chaplain (Colonel) Pete Sniffin of the 1950s, and 90 percent of the and tours are available at www.

# Fields of Flowers Hosts **Pottery Show**

Fields of Flowers, a pick-your-own flower farm in western Loudoun County, is

hosting a pottery show and sale on Saturday, Sept. 14 and Sunday, Sept. 15, from

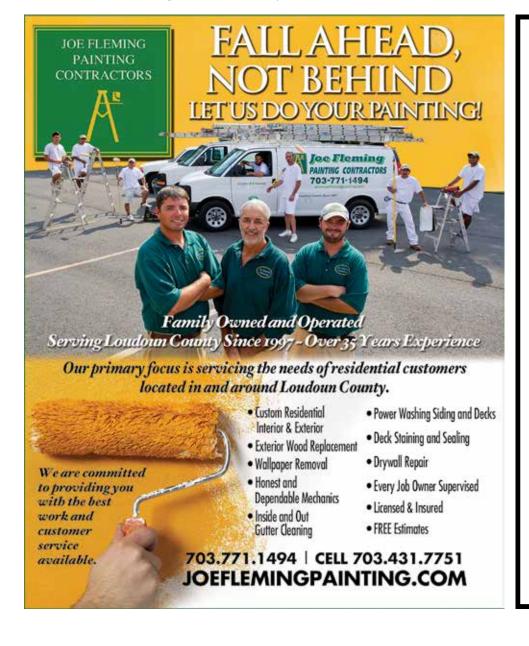
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The pottery represented are works of local potters known collectively as

LoCo Potters' works are primarily functional pieces: mugs, bowls, pitch-

ers, casseroles, vases, bird feeders, plates, and platters, as well as some art works. All are hand-thrown, glazed, and decorated, and each piece is a one-ofa-kind creation suitable for everyday use or as a gift.

Fields of Flowers is located at 37879 Allder School Road, at the

corner of Berlin Pike, in Purcellville. Clients can also select from the following pick-your-own flower choices: dahlias, zinnias, hydrangeas, snapdragons, lavender, veronica, ageratum, celosia, asters, coneflowers, and much more. For more information: email info@ loudounfieldsofflowers.com, or go to www.loudounfieldsofflowers.com.



## LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS

For Seniors with Physical Limitations or Memory Loss



#### Our licensed adult day centers provide:

- A safe, social environment with therapeutic activities
- Respite for caregivers needing support & free time
- Reasonable sliding scale fees

Offering engaging activities, individualized personal care, nutritious lunch and snacks, exercise, medication administration, health monitoring and limited transportation. Open weekdays from 7:30AM to 5:30PM.

Purcellville co-located w/ Carver Cente 200 Willie Palmer Way 571-258-3402

Ashburn off Loudoun County Pkwy 45140 Bles Park Drive 571-258-3232

Leesburg near Leesburg Airport 16501 Meadowview Ct. 703-771-5334

Video online at: www.loudoun.gov/adultday

#### RILLEMONT FAIR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 2019

delightful rendering is reminiscent of the groovy 1970 aesthetic ... with a crescent man-in-the-moon overlooking the old Bluemont Schoolhouse ... Even the balloon lettering of the design reminds us of that long-ago time."

Artist Clyde Beck and village resident Evelyn Johnson founded the Bluemont Citizens Association and started the annual fair in the late 1960s.

That carefree time – and feeling seemed to motivate both the artists submitting logo ideas and the group of village folks charged with selecting the winner.

Fort Valley, Virginia.

According to fair organizers, "Jody's design [and] delightful rendering is reminiscent of the groovy 1970 aesthetic ... Anniversary offerings are. with a crescent man-in-the-moon overlooking the old Bluemont Schoolhouse ... Sale in what is called, simply, "The Old



Quality crafts, delicious food, and great entertainment, the hallmarks of the Bluemont Fair.

## A taste of Bluemont's past

This history of this sweet little piece of western Loudoun heaven is as lovely as the nearly unchanged view looking down its main street towards the quaint farms that still surround it.

The village was originally called Snickers Gap, and then, Snickersville. Maybe not so romantic, given how idyllic the place is. So, the name was changed to Bluemont to try to attract the Washingtonians who, at the time, could take the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad out to the area for a little weekend visit.

The train stopped coming here in about 1930. But, the village itself never changed how it

The Bluemont Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Even the balloon lettering of the design the afternoon away. reminds us of that long-ago time."

to be absolutely thrilled, humbled – even the fascinating items found in the region set free – to be a part of the Bluemont Fair – including bones, weapons, and tools pose of the fair was to pay for street lights, at its 50-year mark.

for 29 years," Snyder said, modestly. "But, tween the parking lot and the Community I still consider myself a newcomer to the Center. village. I've only lived here for 36 years!"

really grown," said Snyder, "And, with our This year that person was Jody West of 50th Anniversary before us, we have more is here to attract the interest of the more nual Bluemont Fair. activities planned than ever before."

Snyder knows exactly how much work goes into the fair, and how wonderful the

There will be a Juried Crafts Show and Stone Church." The Bluemont Community Center will be the site of an Art Show and Sale. And, creativity will be found in every nook and cranny – with "artists throwing

pottery, turning wood, making paper, weaving baskets, carving knitting utensils, and crocheting." The Bluemont United Methodist Church will be the site of a display of a beautiful collection of quilts - made by the members of the Waterford Ouilt Guild. The fair will feature the very best of the arts and crafts community.

Fairs are all about food, and drink; and

There will be a wine and beer garden, treating adult fair-goers to all manner of libations from Loudoun's ever more pro-

The E.E. Lake Store will be in its full glory ... with a delicious (and huge) bake sale. And, don't miss the pie contest. And, the pickle contest.

ductive vinevard and brewery businesses.

There will be an extensive Farmers' Market, and a fun Gardeners' Shed, and the historic Bluemont Store will be open, too.

Children will delight in the Children's Fair area and the Indian Village wigwam. Blow bubbles, get a henna tattoo, have your face painted, climb on hay bales, watch traditional Indian dances, and learn about the area's earliest human settlers.

Kids will be welcome to stop by the Children's Poetry Contest tent, to try their hand at a Scavenger Hunt, meet some animals at the Petting Zoo, or take a pony ride.

An Antiques & Flea Market will more than satisfy anyone who likes to search out country buried treasure or just browse

Archaeologist David Clark will be at the Everyone associated with the fair seems fair, talking about and displaying some of unearthed right here in Loudoun County. "I've been the publicity chair for the fair Look for him in the Montessori Field be-projects, historic preservation, and "food

All are welcome to tour any one of the While the fair has evolved, and gotten historic spots in the village, including the bigger over the years, the essence of it has circa 1825 Snickersville Academy log cabaged like a fine wine – growing to be more in, and the old train station. There will also "The fiber arts aspects of the fair has Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness."

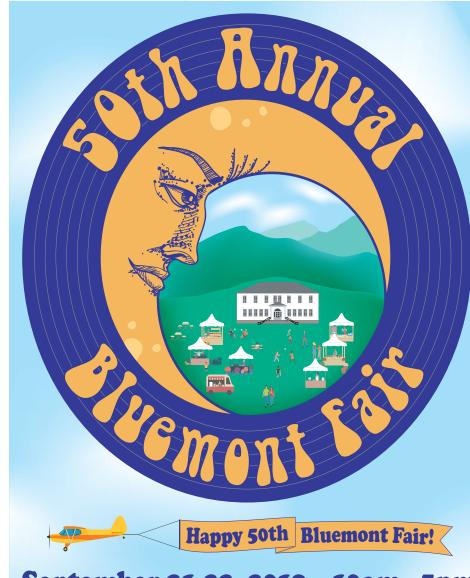
athletic – and adventurous – fair goers.

There is something ... for everyone. Even a local authors area.

According to Snyder, the original purscholarships, community beautification baskets for neighbors in need."

The Bluemont Fair, at the half-century mark, is doing all that, and more, succeeding in preserving a way of life in western Loudoun in the same groovy way it began.

Admission is \$7 per person, with chilflavorful and satisfying as the years go by. be Wagon Rides through the Boulder Crest dren 9 and under admitted for free. No pets are allowed, so leave your furry A rock climbing wall and ropes course friends at home. See you at the 50th An-



# September 21-22, 2019 10am - 5pm

**Artisan Crafters at Work** 

Join us at 2pm Saturday to celebrate the 50th Fair, followed by the Beatles tribute band and The Apple Core!

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Camp Flintlock Activities Colonial Dress-Up,
Fife & Drum, Block Printing, Colonial Games, and Quill & Ink Drawing **Old-Fashioned Games at Snick** 

> **Explore the Town & Railroad** Plaster Museum of Bluemont's Heritage Train Station Exhibit • Historic Caboose

Pottery Throwing • Basket Weaving Spinning & Weaving • Wood Turning Wood Carving • Drawing & Painting

**Browse & Shop** Juried Crafts • Art Show & Sale Antiques & Flea Market • Farm Marke Gardener's Shed • Fiber Arts Field epers with Hive & Honey

**Fun Activities** Children's Fair • Rock Climbing Wall \$ Scavenger Hunt • Pony Rides \$ Children's Poetry Contest NEW! FREE Petting Zoo

> And of Course... Local & Traditional Fair Food 2 Stages of Live Music Local Authors • Quilt Display ine Tasting & Beer Garden \$

Admission: \$7 · Children 9 and Under: FREE · No Pets Allowed

www.BluemontFair.org • 540-554-2367

CHAPMAN BROTHERS. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Old Dominion Valley is located along Skyline Drive just south of a large stream corridor that runs approximately parallel to Hirst Road and Rt. 7 to the north. The neighborhood includes wetlands, forest and stream, and has enjoyed a tranquil walking path that runs past each home's back fence and alongside the natural corridor that includes parts of the South Fork of Catoctin Creek.

In late July, select property owners in Dominion Valley



received letters from the engineering, planning, and land survey firm of Zicht & Associates, PLC.

Zicht represents developer John Chapman in connection with a project on the opposite side of the stream cor-

Large scale grading, infill, and other activities on the Chapman property – activities going on for a number of known as a FIRM, or Flood Insurance Rate Map. The years, on and off – have had the effect of pushing what is designated as floodplain towards, and in some cases, over the property lines of Dominion Valley residents.

As stated in the firm's July letter, Chapman Brothers, LLC – via Zicht – is informing these homeowners that in connection with its ongoing earth moving and infill activities, it is "applying for a Letter of Map Revi-

#### **Chapman Brothers property matter, continued-Related Purcellville Comp Plan discussions**

At the July 25 Purcellville Planning Commission meeting, commissioners discussed zoning designations for the Hirst East portion of land addressed by the draft Comprehensive Plan.

The property that Chapman Brothers, LLC is proposing to undergo floodplain revisions is within this area, and currently designated as Local Service Industrial, C1.

New proposals for the land would designate it as Commercial Neighborhood Scale to include retail, office, services, lodging, and restaurants. This designation further delineates that "lots are larger than surrounding residential lots, deep and wide to accommodate groups of smaller buildings or medium to large format buildings with sufficient surface parking." Buildings in this area can be "typically one to two-stories." Parking areas are typically located to the side or rear of each building.

Zoning designations that bring with them large amounts of paved areas shed rainwater and send it towards the nearest drainage opportunity, including, in the case of the Chapman Brothers' property, the Old Dominion neighborhood and the very area under floodplain hazard discussion

The majority of commissioners spoke at length about how they did not want the East Hirst section of the road to be the same as West Hirst – which is also Local Service Industrial, and already built out.

sion (LOMR) from the Federal Emergency Management

Key to the impact of such a map revision is something FIRM for a community, as the letter sent on behalf of Chapman Brothers details, "depicts the floodplain, the area that has been determined to be subject to a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year." Floodplain maps, of course, affect a homeowner's insurance rates and property values.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 »

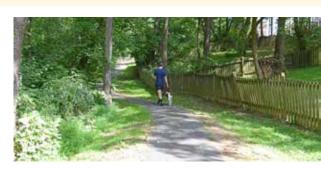
Planning Commissioner Boo Bennett pointed out that the west side of Hirst Road has less traffic than what would occur if East Hirst Road was made Commercial Neighborhood Scale. "If you have commercial, you will have traffic all day long," she said.

Approximately four residents from the Old Dominion Valley neighborhood sent emails requesting that the designation on the Chapman Brothers property remain the same – Local Service

One resident in an email wrote, "Citizens have voiced their opposition to high density time and time again. Please respect the opinions of your taxpayers and residents in your town." Another resident said the increased use would add to increased traffic.

Planning Commissioner Theresa Stein has pushed back against citizen complaints, "If we chase every displeased person, we are going to end up with a document that is disjointed and is trying to make everybody happy, and it will not."

Town Council Member and Chair of the Planning Commission, Tip Stinnette agreed with Stein, "I am just trying to level set you on what is. I am perfectly happy with us sticking to our guns on the way we've got this. I think we've got it about right ... forget my discussion about industrial because we are past that.



Walkway and neighborhood on Skyline Drive that will be affected by the new floodplain area





# Nicholas Nappi obtains Eagle Badge



Purcellville Mayor Kwasi Fraser presented Nicholas Nappi with a plaque from the Town of Purcellville at his Eagle Scout ceremony in September at 8 Chains North

# Dragon Hops to add to their food menu

Dragon Hops Brewing located at 130 E Main Street in Purcellville will be adding onto their food menu weekly. Soon to be added – hamburgers, cheese burgers and bacon cheese burgers on brioche buns. You can add the tobacco onions as a side

SEPTEMBER 2019

or don't forget the COMMUNITY French fries or sweet potato fries.

Blackened Chicken sandwiches will be added, too and don't forget the chicken alfredo. Do you like grilled cheese sandwiches – there will be a choice of brie, gruyere, gouda, cheddar, and American cheeses on a variety of breads. Add avocado or fruit to the sandwich,

when in season, as well. Dessert - well craftsmen, face painting, glass blowers, how about brownies with ice cream. and more. Lunch and dinner will be Don't forget the kid's menu in the near available. Their phone number is 540 future. In a month a brunch omelet and 441-3660.



waffle station will be open.

Said owners Marilla Coryell and Ryan Wilton, "We are so excited to be finally adding freshly made tavern food to our menu. Our guests love our food."

Sept. 7 is Medieval Fair at Dragon Hops Brewing, from noon till dark and beyond. Local farm vegetables will be served, This will include heavy fighters, fencers.

# Sponsorships available for Purcellville Halloween Block Party – Sign Up Now

9th Annual Purcellville Halloween Block Party is set for Saturday, Oct. 26. Plan to attend Loudoun County's largest Halloween party dressed in your most creative costume. There will be over \$2,000 in cash and prizes awarded in six different costume contests. Purcellville Halloween Block Party is presented by Discover Purcellville. If your business would like to be a sponsor of the event, please contact Michael Oaks 540 383-0009. For more info visit our website www.PurcellvilleHalloween.com.



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ideas about cluster design. Some of them

economically benefit the homebuild-

er: Narrower roads and smaller cluster

lots, for example. Others don't cost any-

thing, such as adding more variation to

clustered houses. Some might cost the

homebuilder, such as cross streets. Over-

all, this panoply of ideas should please

conservationists. This suggests there's a

Every one of these items can be nego-

tiated and negotiation can be easy. Try

this, for example: Reduce the open space

requirement to 60 percent but keep all

the other points. Or reduce the overall

setback but require that more new trees

be planted, and so on. Negotiating be-

White papers, slideshows and large

groups will fail. The only necessary hand-

out is actual language proposed for the

new Zoning Ordinance. Let that be de-

bated by a small group until agreement is

reached. I recommend that there be two

members from firms that build clusters.

two representatives of the conservation

movement, two staffers from the Coun-

who is also an aide to a Supervisor... thus,

If agreement is reached, then huz-

zahs for each of these folks. If not, then

each side should present the Board of

Supervisors its vision of the fairest set

It could be peaceable, and wouldn't

presenting its own fixed wish list.

Charles Houston developed office

buildings in Atlanta, and has lived in

a small workable group of seven.

way to compromise.

and is not some black art.

**Reaching the Compromise** 

being left, by changing and letting go and moving on. And our losses include not only our separations and departures from those we love, but our conscious and unconscious losses of romantic dreams, impossible expectations, illusions of freedom and power, illusions of safely – and the loss of our own younger self, the self that thought it would always be unwrinkled, invulnerable and immortal.

Somewhat wrinkled, highly vulnerable and non-negotiably mortal, I have been examining these losses. These lifelong losses. These necessary losses. These losses we confront when we are confronted by the inescapable fact ...

That our mother is going to leave us, and we will leave her;

That our mother's love can never be ours alone:

That what hurts us cannot always be kissed and made better;

That we are essentially out here on our own;

That we will have to accept-in other people and ourselves, the mingling of love with hate, of the good with the had:

That our options are constricted by anatomy and guilt;

That there are flaws in every hu-

man connection;

That our status on this planet is implacably impermanent;

And that we are utterly powerless to offer ourselves or those we love protection – protection from danger and pain, from the inroads of time, from coming of age, from coming of death;

Protection from our necessary

These are a part of life-universal, unavailable, inexorable. And these losses are necessary because we grow by losing and leaving and letting go.

For the road to human development is paved with renunciation. Throughout our life we grow by giving up. We give up some of our deepest attachmen ts to others. We give up certain cherished parts of ourselves. We must conform, in the dreams we dream, as well as in our intimate relationships, all that we never will have and never will be. Passionate investment leaves us vulnerable to loss. And sometimes, no matter how clever we are, we must lose.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. "Dr. Mike" 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.

100 feet long and can be cul-de-sacs. A cluster should have a main road that looks like a village lane, not a subdivision boulevard, enhanced by these small side roads that make clear it's something

There should be a deeper setback from the main access road, perhaps 400 feet. Cluster lots can be as small as a half-acre and no larger than perhaps an acre and a half. This would be fine – just look at the villages of Waterford or Lincoln.

The 70 percent open space required by zoning should be under single ownership. This should entice the developer to sell it to someone who hopefully will farm it, keep horses, grow grapes or just comes a series of back-and forth trades maintain open space. That increases the chance of that open space having good soils, of maintaining its original rural slopes and topography, and of preserving it for a true agricultural use.

While roads must be paved, let them be

There should be sidewalks and a small lawn. Front vard setbacks can vary from a minimum of 30 feet to a maximum of, say, 80 feet. This pulls houses "into" the village and increases a sense of neighbor- ty's Planning Department and a chairman liness. The facades of houses must not form an unbroken visual line. Mandate that there must be a multitude of colors for painted siding and that if brick is used, the variation in design can come from differing shutters and doors and such. The primary building material of the front of cluster specifications and the Board shall also be on all sides. Design elements simply chooses one or the other. This is (porch railings, mailboxes, light fixtures, an arbitration technique that compels all etc.) shall be freely chosen by residents parties to try to be equitable rather than and not be some developer-specified item to which every house must conform. Architecture needs to be traditional and that be nice? porches should be encouraged.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Leesburg: rocky outcrops, the familiar bubbling of the similarly-named Sycolin Creek, and enough dense woods to lend an overall sense of hush, and space, road. Perhaps this wild mile or two will at Leesburg and other 21st Century eye on it for me.

Not that I plan on going anywhere

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CLUSTERS. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

feet of roadway. These should be, say, more than a strip of sprawl.

"village green" with benches, trees and

#### Compromise if Necessary

Look back at these fifteen or so detailed Paeonian Springs for 20 years.

projects; this Southwestern end of Cochran Mill Road may always be a primitive, little, dirt road surrounded by trees, and running water, and other natural features: who knows?

and a temporary isolation from what's soon, but I sure hope it hangs around to come, in just a few turns up the long after I've headed for the Aether. I'd like to be able to check in on that remain for years – even generations to bubbling Creek, and those deep woods, come – while much of Greater Loudoun and the more permanent geology, every converts into more and more Villages now and again; maybe you can keep an

#### PHYLLIS RANDALL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

SEPTEMBER 2019

pertains to Western Loudoun County.

Educators and First Responders: Chair Randall led the effort to raise the pay Court). for our teachers, firefighters, and police officers. She also improved retirement benefits for First Responders and restored all the benefits that had been stripped away from them by prior Boards of Supervisors. Furthermore, Chair Randall fought to add 82 additional full time Rural West.

I grew up in Arlington, so I've seen the

Northern Virginia region, and Loudoun

grow and change through the years. It's

no mystery the way things are headed

- more growth. It's also no mystery

why traffic keeps getting worse, county

and school budgets keep going up, and

taxes stay so high while services decline.

Houses cost more in services than they

pay in taxes, and with our extreme rate of

It is a critical time for Loudoun. The

cards are stacked against sustainable

growth and keeping rural Loudoun rural.

But if we all stand up for the future we

want, we can win, and Sam Kroiz is the

perfect person to lead our efforts. Please

Katie Hackett

Lou Cironi

Lovettsville

join me and vote for Sam on Nov. 5.

I SUPPORT RAM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Ram also believes that LCPS, spe-

cifically its administration, led by

Superintendent Williams, operates

defensively and inefficiently. They

don't communicate well with par-

ents, they withhold information

about problems in schools, and they

spend too much money on overhead.

Ram will insist on change and ac-

Ram is endorsed by Sheriff Mike

Chapman, Treasurer Roger Zurn, and

Middleburg Mayor Bridge Littleton.

I'm proud to support Ram to be our

Support Our Local Businesses

See pages 18-19

next Blue Ridge School Board repre-

the metropolitan region.

countability.

sentative

growth, we can't keep up.

**VOTE FOR SAM**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

continue?

#### **GENERAL ELECTION**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

employees to Loudoun's Behavioral

Health Services Departments (Mental

Comprehensive Plan: Four years ago

she promised, after 19 years to re-write

the Countywide Comprehensive Plan.

Four years later we have a new plan with

language that she proposed, and that

passed unanimously to protect Loudoun's

safety facilities approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

#### **Parks and Recreation Projects:**

Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$41,795,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design, construct, and equip Fields Farm Park; the costs to design, construct, and equip Lovettsville District Park Phase II; the costs to design, construct, and equip Philip A. Bolen Park Phase II; the costs to design, construct, and equip Scott Jenkins Park Phase III; and the costs of other public park, recreational and community center facilities projects approved in the County's Capital

Health, Social Services and a new Drug keeping the promises she made on the 2015 campaign trail. I don't give away my vote, a person has to earn it, and she has done that by a mile. On Nov. 5, I'm voting to re-elect Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall; I strongly urge you to do so as

When doing research I realized there

are many other examples of Chair Randall

## Improvement Program? **Transportation Projects:**

Shall the County of Loudoun, Virginia contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$56,885,000 to finance, in whole or in part, the costs to design and construct an interchange at Route 7 and Hillsboro Road; the costs to design and construct a roundabout at Route 50 and Trailhead Boulevard: the costs to design and construct improvements to Westwind Drive; the costs to design and construct a Sterling Boulevard and W&OD Overpass; the costs to design and construct Route 7 Pedestrian Crossings; and the costs of other public road and transportation projects approved in the County's Capital Improvement Program?

# HIGGINS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

will be home to a State Park because of Supervisor Higgins' determination. Beyond all of that, what most people don't know is how much Geary worked behind the scenes to advocate for farmers and other small rural businesses. He has had countless meetings to help business owners navigate the planning and zoning process and where problems have occurred, he has worked to resolve disputes between neighbors.

Now Loudoun needs him in Richmond fighting to overcome the challenges that farmers and other small businesses face on a daily basis. I can think of no one better to advocate for farmers and rural issues than Geary Higgins. He has an unbelievable record of working through these issues for Loudoun farmers at the local government level and I know he will bring the same level of determination and passion to the General Assembly. I hope you will join me in supporting Geary Higgins for the 13th Senate Dis-

> Kellie S. Hinkle Principal, LoudRock Development Corporation, LLC

#### **GRAPEVINE**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

opportunity into a series of programs called Time To Ride®, which introduces children and families to horses and horseback riding.

According to Red Gate owner Christine Vitkus, horseback riding and horse care teaches important life lessons, including responsibility, the value of companionship, mind/ body awareness, confidence, and selfcontrol.

Vitkus has been focused on the young rider's development for a long time. "Each horse has its own personality," she said. "Children learn, develop, and mature by interacting with their fellow humans, and the same thing happens with their equine relationships."

As she further explained, Red Gate has done quite a bit of work with the Girl Scouts. "Young women and girls get a lot out of their relationship with a horse," she said, including "Learning to lead and ask for what they need – a powerful lesson that can be applied in many situations throughout life."

Red Gate Farm is located at 19255 Foggy Bottom Road in Bluemont. To learn more contact the farm at 703 585-7586 or visit www.RedGateFarmVA. com. To learn more about Time To Ride, visit TimeToRide.org.

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back-to-back no-hitters in the LLWS. And,

As the team began their World Series

battle, a post on the team's website said the

following, "Our Little League team, managed

by Alan Bowden, has been in Williamsport,

PA, for over a week and won their first game

3-0 over the New England region. It was a

combined no-hitter by Justin Lee, Liam

Loudoun South then beat out the New

After a loss to a team from Wailuku,

Hawaii, they played a Louisiana team in a

semi-final matchup on Aug. 23. The "mercy

rule" - which calls for the game to be

concluded if the winning team is ahead by

15 runs after three innings or 10 runs after

four innings - ended that game and sent

England Region Champion Barrington Little

Thyen, and Chase Obstgarten."

League, from Rhode Island.

gov: web: www.fairhousing.vipnet.org.

LITTLE LEAGUE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

again, history was made.

#### THE POTOMAC. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

in Loudoun County. There are similar programs across Virginia, in Maryland, and in every state across the nation.

Loudoun County has been assigned \$1 Million to do what it can to make a difference; this is a serious effort; last year the allotment for Loudoun County was about half that amount. So this is a great opportunity for property owners to make a real difference for the better in Loudoun as the waters here flow into the Potomac and then into the Chesapeake Bay.

We should be aware that, along the way, as the Potomac travels east, it is the water supply for Loudoun and neighboring Counties; there are dust for hundreds of miles. Livestock if you have any questions, you may "straws" in the Potomac drawing these and crops failed. Farmers and families visit LSWCD.org or call Loudoun's Soil waters for the general public.

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts including our own review applications share the cost of implementing best practices to preserve and protect the soil and water. The array of districts review and dedicate the funds for worthy applications.

The most popular aspect of the several programs is called the "cost share program."

In some cases, because of changing rules this year, the Districts may be cost depending mostly on the size of buffers if a larger buffer makes sense for the applicant's property under consideration.

The program objective is straightforward. How it's implemented can be more complex because of logistics stock to water troughs in the fields and topography and what works for the landowner

There are experts who work at this in the various districts to assure the effec-

season, and especially towards the

end, to keep the team's iconic yellow

T-shirts in stock. Other area sponsors

and business supporters hosted

"watch" parties. And, buses packed

with Loudoun South fans even made

the long trek to Williamsport to

The Loudoun South little leaguers

gram is for farmers and landowners not only has a diverse staff of experts drink, to swim or boat, and will safely in this science of agriculture but who preserve and protect our water indushave the experience of visiting and tries, the fisheries, and will eliminate studying properties all over the Coundead zones that can compromise or

> These Soil and Water Conservation creatures. Districts were formed across the nation after the human and agricultural disaster that we know as "the Dust Bowl."

Plains grasslands had been deeply plowed and planted to wheat without regard for the danger of low soil moisture and drought.

High winds and choking dust swept across America from Texas to Nebras- an application for funding for your ka. Tons of topsoil were blown off barren fields. Storm clouds carried the died. It almost destroyed the nation's and Water Conservation District at 571 bread basket.

Many know this from John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath, the John P. Flannery is the Director and story of the Joads, escaping from Treasurer of the Loudoun County Soil Oklahoma, trapped in the Dust Bowl, headed out to California. Others have no doubt watched the award winning documentary by Ken Burns on the Dust Bowl - www.pbs.org/kenburns/ dustbowl/

The fatal error was that no effort was made to understand how to apply dry able to underwrite 100 percent of the land farming, resulting in the severe winds that carried the soil away as dust.

> The most obvious practices in this region, where we are today, are to limit nutrients (waste) in the waters, and to exclude livestock from the streams with fencing and to re-direct the livewhere they graze.

> Cover crops and other practices discourage and contain erosion as well. Assuring clean water warranties that

alongside the team throughout the were honored for their season accomplishments by the Washington Nationals baseball team on Aug. 31 at Nationals Park.

Even in the presence of that enthusiastic crowd, it is hard to overestimate the enormity of spirit that came with Loudoun South's most recent season.

#### THE POTOMAC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

cheer their team on.

Guyanese-born and were contributing to the economic development of

"One of the highlights of the visit was the tour of the campus of the Academies of Loudoun, in nearby Leesburg, an innovative, state of the art high school, focused on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curricu- say in Guyana, we'll be back."

lum, which, according to Ambassador Insanally, 'could serve as a model for helping to meet Guyana's technical and vocational education needs.' "

Chester-Inniss also said the Ambassador was "grateful for the opportunity to visit Purcellville, and there is more to see. This last visit has impressed us immensely. As we

tiveness of the program and Loudoun our creeks, rivers and bay are fit to kill the Bay shellfish, oysters and water

> Landowners and farmers should consider whether they are suitable candidates for these cost share programs. It's good for your property and terrific for the Bay. If you want more information, think you may have a situation that could benefit from BMPs, think about submitting property to the Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District, and,

and Water Conservation District.

#### CHAPMAN. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

As the Chapman property is worked in preparation for development and/or potential resale, Zicht "is proposing to revise the FIRM to reflect the as-built conditions for the approved fill [on Chapman's land] placed in the designated floodplain ... "

Parts of the natural areas and walking path within the Old Dominion neighborhood have already experienced increased water incursion.

As Chapman Brothers raised the level of their property along Hirst Road, the floodplain realities on the ground began to change for select Old Dominion properties. Each letter tells the different homeowners exactly how their situation has changed. For example, zero square feet of your property was in floodplain before, but now you have 200 square feet in flood plain – that kind of thing.

Letters to individual homeowners also notify each that a detailed analysis of this "flood hazard revision" can be found at Purcellville's Department of Planning and Zoning, telling them to contact Patrick Sullivan, Town of Purcellville Director of Community Development, or Zicht with questions.

Sullivan sent an email to concerned property owners noting that the Chapman Brothers' representative is available to address any concerns they might have. He also suggested that a community meeting might be held to address the issue.

#### **KETOCTIN DAR.** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

SEPTEMBER 2019

Regent, and since then there have been 35 women serving as Ketoctin Regents. The original 1950 meeting was recorded for posterity with a photograph of the group which launched the Ketoctin DAR. And, at this year's tea the tradition was repeated, as a group photo of the Ketoctin DAR's current members was again taken for posterity.

All members of the DAR are true missionaries for the organization, stressing that the focus is always on the value the DAR brings to history, patriotism, and education – not the individual members themselves.

Said one member, "I'm the first person in my family to belong to the DAR ... We're all about God, home, and country. We're a service organization, honoring those who formed our nation. It is with great pride

that we do the work that we do." In the case of the Ketoctin DAR, that

tireless work is evident is small, and large, and dramatic, and subtle ways throughout Loudoun County This includes the organization's role in

the naturalization ceremonies that welcome people to the United States once they have gone through the official citizenship process. Ketoctin was also instrumental in the restoration of the County "Rough Minute Book 1780-1782," which documents

Loudoun's connection to the Revolutionary War history of that time. The dynamic, hardworking Ketoctin DAR continues to work on and make accessible to the public other historic records of the era.

A beautiful plaque at the Ketoctin Baptist Church - made responsible by the Ketoctin DAR – bears the names of Revo-

lutionary War soldiers John Chew, James Copeland, Thomas Humphrey, Abel Marks, Isaiah Marks, and George Poulson, along with "Patriot" Rev. John Marks. The Ketoctin DAR is responsible for placing plaques, signage and markings at 10 Revolutionary War historic sites and the graves of 14 Revolutionary War heroes in the County. History is, not only not forgotten, but brought back to life through their efforts

The organization also plays a key role in youth education, scholarships, and recognizing young middle and high school students for their historical research projects. A \$10,000 DAR grant was used to restore

the floor in the original log cabin at Farmer's Delight Plantation, in Middleburg.

their families

Loudoun women interested in visiting or belonging to the Ketoctin Chapter may contact either First Vice Regent, Kecia Brown at keciabrown@me.com or Reg-On Veteran's Day 2015, the Spirit of istrar, Megann Eichner at meichdar@ya-Loudoun statute was unveiled at Courthoo.com. Website: www.Ketoctindar.org.

house Square in Leesburg. The Ketoctin

DAR was instrumental in the creation

of the statue, which pays tribute to the

Loudoun families who were part of Amer-

ica's fight for independence. The painful

but brave statue features a Loudoun farm-

er – arms around his wife and son – as he

Ketoctin DAR members are also in-

volved in National Wreaths Across Amer-

ica Day ceremonies at Arlington National

Cemetery, and welcoming home troops

making their way from the battlefield,

through the nation's airports, and back to

prepares to leave them to go off to war.

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