

SEPTEMBER 2025

GET OUT

Loudoun

Visit
LOUDOUN

Loudoun
Now

Visit
LOUDOUN

DC's Wine Country®

Fall into Loudoun: Harvest Fun Awaits!

Celebrate the season Loudoun style – wander sunflower & pumpkin fields, sip local wine, enjoy hayrides and relish farm-fresh fare.



Scan to explore Loudoun's top fall experiences and events

#DCsWineCountry | #LoveLoudoun | #LoCoAleTrail

21



Norman K. Styer/Loudoun Now

Loudoun Now

Get up close with planes and pilots during the Leesburg Airshow on Saturday, Sept. 27.

GET OUT LOUDOUN

Get Out Loudoun is distributed monthly to entertainment, tourism, & hospitality venues throughout Loudoun County. For the latest news on the music & arts scene and other community events, go to getoutloudoun.com.

CONTRIBUTORS

Douglas Rogers

Norman K. Styer

William Timme

TO ADVERTISE

Susan Styer at 703-770-9723 or sales@loudounnow.com

getoutloudoun.com

Inside:

6

ART SCENE

Loudoun painter Kurt Nguyen is celebrating the first exhibit of his work in downtown Leesburg.

8

HISTORY

A walk around Lovettsville can offer a history lesson after the installation of three new Civil War Trails markers.

10

PAGES

A call from Oprah Winfrey helped put the latest novel by Harry Holsinger in the national bestsellers list.

14

TASTE

Long a popular meeting place in the local dining scene, the Leesburg Public House is transitioning to new ownership.

16

TUNES

Live music will fill Leesburg's historic district Sept. 19-20 as the Crossroads Music Festival returns.



Contributed

Benita Strini aboard Dasset Evermore navigates the cross-country course during the 2023 Fall Horse Trials at Morven Park.

TUMBLE INTO FALL

BY DOUGLAS ROGERS

Visit Loudoun

One October evening 12 years ago, a few weeks after my wife and I moved with our two small kids from New York City to Waterford, VA, (population 280), a dozen armed soldiers marched past our front door. They were all on horseback except for one man, trudging in heavy boots, banging a drum. What made their presence haunting was that it was fall and the village was shrouded in a ghostly evening mist. My wife and I raised a glass of red wine from our front porch as they paraded by. "You don't get this in Brooklyn," I beamed.

The soldiers were of course Revolutionary

War reenactors, and the parade was part of the Waterford Fair, an extraordinary festival of colonial-era arts, craft, music and historic home tours that takes place the first weekend of October. This year (October 3-5) will be the 81st Fair and on top of the house tours, music, local wine, beer and art, visitors get to see live craft exhibits from weavers, gunsmiths, bladesmiths, farriers and carpenters. There is a magician performing at the mill, too.

As a Waterford resident, the Fair is the highlight of my fall, but it has stiff competition.

On Sept. 27-28, Old Farm Winery at Hartland will host the third LoCo Wine Fest: some 14 Loudoun wineries serving tastings

FALL CONTINUED ON 5

in a refurbished timber barn on the grounds while live bands play on the porch of historic Longfield Manor. On top of the wine tastings, Honor Brewing and Lost Rhino will serve for beer fans.

Calling all horse fans: Oct. 9-12 Morven Park hosts the most prestigious event on the Loudoun equestrian calendar: the 2025 Morven Park International & Fall Horse Trials and the US Equestrian Open Eventing Final. Televised on ESPN3, the US Equestrian Open Eventing Final will feature athletes from across the world vying for \$200,000 in Olympic-level competition. Witness riders tackle the "equestrian triathlon" of dressage, cross-country, and showjumping up close. Admission is free but get a Saturday tailgate and/or 4-day VIP pass for prime viewing.

The following weekend (October 18-19) Loudoun celebrates its rich agricultural heritage with the annual Loudoun Fall Farm Tour: more than 30 participating farms showcasing what it means to be Loudoun made, Loudoun grown. On top of encounters with cows, pigs, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, donkeys and horses, visitors can meet farming families and buy incredible produce from cheeses, meats and vegetables to fruit, honey and ice cream. Make sure to stock up on local foods and gifts for the holidays.

Oh, and remember to feast your eyes on the Loudoun fall leaves. ●

Visit
LOUDOUN
www.visitloudoun.org



**Stop
ON BY**
for an
APPLE PIE!

**SO GOOD with
Elegant, Chilled wines or
ice cold craft beer!**
ALL AT MOM'S!!

momsapplepieco.com

**Mom's
APPLE PIE** *hill high*
MomsApplePieCo.com

MOM'S APPLE PIE HILL HIGH
35246 Leesburg Pike~Suite 120
Round Hill, VA 20141
540.338.1800

MOM'S APPLE PIE BAKERY
220 Loudoun St. SE
Leesburg, VA 20175
703.771.8590



ART SCENE

Kurt Nguyen, right and Dr. Cary Birkitt pose in front of Nguyen's paintings.

Leesburg Painter Showcases Art for the First Time

BY WILLIAM TIMME
GetOutLoudoun.com

Leesburg artist Kurt Nguyen is showing off his paintings publicly for the first time at Dr. Cary Birkitt's Family Gallery in Leesburg.

The exhibit showcases five paintings: "Sub-urba," "Libson," "Rue Chardin," "Lagoon," and "Race Standards." Nguyen said his influences on the pieces ranged from the abstract Willem de Kooning to the impressionist Claude Monet.

The right side of the gallery features pieces that Nguyen said are more recognizable, while the left side veers into the abstract. One of the first paintings seen on the left side of the gallery, "Rue Chardin," depicts a place in Paris that Nguyen visited a few years ago.

"When you first come in, it's the most obvious, probably the most recognizable piece and also the most colorful," Nguyen said.

He noted that while many paintings of the Eiffel Tower exist, with Rue Chardin, Nguyen

ART SCENE CONTINUED ON **7**



I WANTED TO CELEBRATE THE VIBRANCY THAT THE GROWTH IS BRINGING IN,
THE DIVERSITY, EVERYTHING THAT'S BRINGING IN LOUDOUN COUNTY."

tried to capture a different feeling.

"This is capturing the rain," he said, pointing to the painting. "As you can see, the texture that's bringing out here in these colors kind of gives you the vibrancy and the color of Paris that people come to expect," Nguyen said, pointing to the various distinct colors used to capture the raindrops in the painting's foreground.

Nguyen, a longtime resident of Loudoun County, depicted the growth and transformation of the county in his William De Kooning inspired "Suburba."

"When I moved here in about 2000, Loudoun County was just starting to grow, and now it's become much more vibrant," Nguyen said. "I wanted to celebrate the vibrancy that the growth is bringing in, the diversity, everything that's bringing in Loudoun County."

Nguyen grew up in Orange County in Southern California – an upbringing reflected in his love of depicting ocean scenes.

Nguyen painted his first complete piece in 2014 as a present for his wife on their 50th anniversary. A colorful recreation of a black and white photo he took of his wife and daughter, the piece marked Nguyen's shift towards a more vibrant palette.

Years of studying art in his free time, without formal training, preceded that first painting.

"I wanted to understand the artists," Nguyen

said. "I did everything I could to research.

Trying to understand their psyche, how they grew up, where they grew up, what inspired them, their life."

For years, Nguyen was one of Birkitt's patients and the two bonded over their love of music and art. The now painter DJ'd in high school and Birkitt is a part of the Lost Locals band, which plays in downtown Leesburg on occasion.

"There's a musical quality to the composition and the almost lyrical choices in the colors and your subjects," Birkitt said of Nguyen's paintings.

The two started talking more regularly because of a barbecue rub Nguyen was selling online. Years later, Birkitt opened the gallery in the hallway next to his dentist office and Nguyen asked what the qualifications were to exhibit. Birkitt said "good pieces," according to Nguyen.

"His background is similar to mine in the sense that, you know, we have day jobs and do different things, but we also have another side of us that was more creative," Nguyen said. "There's just a kindred spirit between us in terms of just music and creativity."

Cary Birkitt's Family Gallery is located at 18 Loudoun St. SE in Leesburg.

Nguyen's exhibit will remain open in the gallery until Sept. 27. His Instagram @kvnartstyle and website, kvnartstyle.portfoliobox.net, both showcase his paintings. ●

Lovettsville Civil War Trails Circuit Walk Introduced



Contributed

Chris Brown, executive director of Civil War Trails, helps install one of three new signs in Lovettsville.

You may have noticed something new about downtown Lovettsville since early July beyond road work and re-routing detours. On July 7, a project long in the works by the Lovettsville Historical Society working with the Town of Lovettsville, was completed, resulting in the installation of three new Civil War Trails signs within the town limits.

Together, the signs create a three-stop walking tour of Lovettsville's National Register Historic District through the lens of the Civil War.

A new sign on the Squirkle highlights the town's conditions in 1861-62. The German Settlement leaned Unionist, and in a Confeder-

ate state, this was certainly problematic for the residents. The sign is located near the town's Veterans' Memorial.

A second newly written and designed sign covers 1862-63 when the enormous Union Army of the Potomac marched through town several times. This sign sits at the town's original main intersection at East Broad Way and Loudoun Street.

A third sign sits in the northeast corner of the Town Office parking lot and provides a glimpse of the winter of 1865 when Lovettsville was occupied by a brigade of Union cavalry for two months. Just behind the Town Office is a remnant of the old Presbyterian Church—its graveyard—and that church was turned into an army hospital during the occupation.

The chronological walk between the signs is just over a half-mile long, strolling passed the historic buildings of Lovettsville—and venues offering a variety of temptations to stop for coffee, a drink, ice cream, or a meal.

Civil War Trails is a network of over 1,500 marked sites in seven states that highlights lesser-known but locally significant aspect of America's greatest conflict.

The Lovettsville Historical Society will be introducing the new trail and its stories at its September Second Sunday lecture on Sept. 14 starting at 2 p.m. at St. James Church, 10 East Broad Way. A dedication ceremony will follow.

As part of this program, Rich Gillespie, chief writer of the sign texts, created a walking tour brochure that can be downloaded from the Lovettsville Historical Society website: lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org. ●



Tickets Available at:
WWW.TALLYHOTHEATER.COM

19 W Market St, Leesburg, VA
(703) 777-1665

Coming to Town in SEPTEMBER '25



Crossroads Music Festival

FRI/SAT. 8/19-20 - DOORS: 7PM



MICHAEL SCHENKER
"MY YEARS WITH UFO"

SUN. 9/21 - DOORS: 7PM



FLOCK OF SEAGULLS

WED. 9/24 - DOORS: 7PM



LILY ROSE
W/SCOTT TEASLEY

FRI. 9/26 - DOORS: 7PM

**HOLSINGERS'
INCREDIBLE SUMMER**

Loudoun Author
Lands National
Bestseller with
'Culpability'

BY NORMAN K. STYER
GetOutLoudoun.com

Sometimes a phone call from an unrecognized number can be life-changing—especially if Oprah Winfrey is the one reaching out.

That's been the experience of author Bruce Holsinger this year after his latest novel, "Culpability," was selected as a top summer read for Oprah's Book Club.

The book was released July 8. Holsinger was at the world headquarters of Starbucks to film the announcement with Winfrey. Then it was off to New York for film a segment for CBS Mornings. A few weeks ago, People magazine included "Culpability" in a feature pairing books with songs from the Taylor Swift's upcoming album, linking Holsinger's work with "Wi\$h Li\$t."

"The book came out, and the announcements were made, and everything in my life just exploded. It's really been an incredible summer," Holsinger said.

"Culpability" is the fifth novel by the University of Virginia English professor who grew up in Loudoun County. After two works of historical fiction, Holsinger's three latest books delve deeply into the challenges of modern life—pa-



Courtesy of Leah Fallon/Birch Tree Bookstore
Author Bruce Holsinger talks with Jabeen Akhtar during a March 13 appearance at Black Hoof Brewery in Leesburg—just months before Oprah Winfrey would make his latest novel a top summer read.

rental obsessions with their children's performance in "The Gifted School," climate change and disaster planning in "The Displacements," and the rapidly expanding use of artificial intelligence in his latest work.

The novels not only create worlds with compelling, well-developed characters, but also provide readers with cutting-edge information in the topic areas.

"My last three novels, and then the one I'm working on now, they're tackling contemporary issues, but mostly they're trying to tell a good story," he said. "I'm a big believer that research is part of the creative act. I don't just read a whole bunch of books on subjects and then start writing. I really do the research I need to do while I'm writing, while I'm telling the story."

For "Culpability," in which a family deals with the aftermath of a fatal crash while riding in a self-driving car, the research involved interviews with people in the AI world—those on the front lines of tech development—along with sources in the legal field.

PAGES CONTINUED ON 18



CROSSROADS

— MUSIC FESTIVAL —

DOWNTOWN LEESBURG, VA

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2025



FRIDAY 9/19

Sister Hazel

SATURDAY 9/20

Songs and Stories from the
Crossroads with legend

ANDY SUMMERS

FROM **THE POLICE**

with

Over 30 showcase performances
from emerging artists

Proceeds benefit charities serving children in Loudoun County

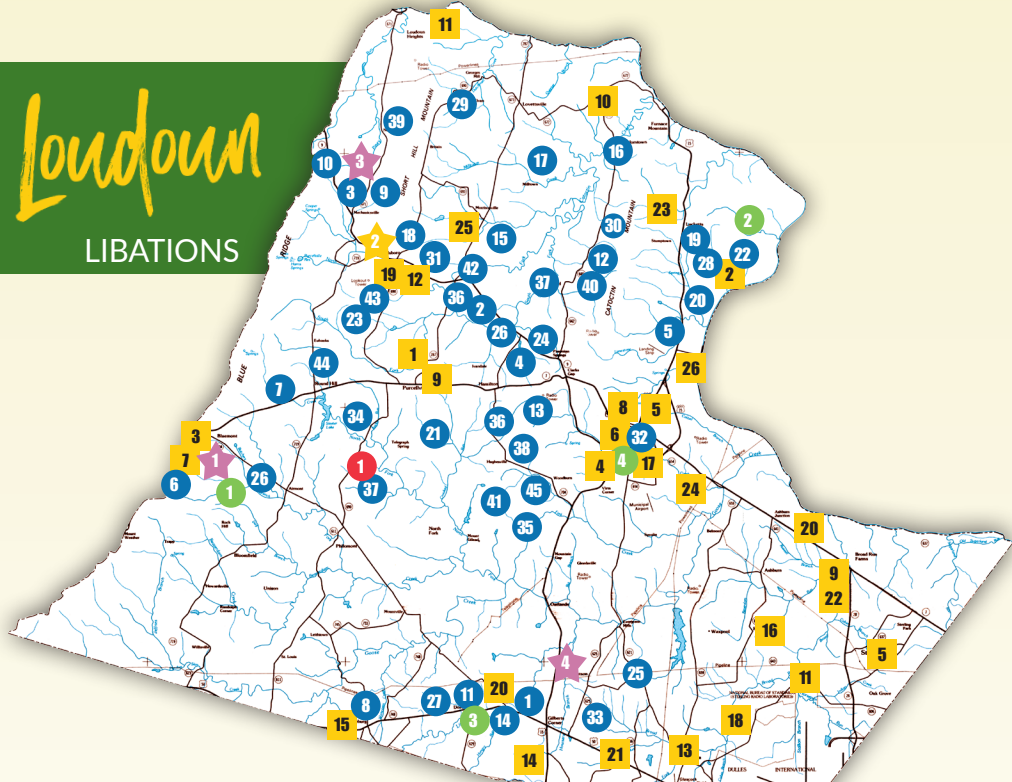
Media Partners

LoudounNow



Loudoun

LIBATIONS



WINERIES

- 1 50 West Vineyards**
39060 Little River Turnpike, Middleburg
50westvineyards.com
- 2 8 Chains North Winery**
38593 Daymont Ln., Waterford, VA
8chainsnorth.com
- 3 868 Estate Vineyards**
14001 Harpers Ferry Rd., Purcellville
868estatevineyards.com
- 4 The Barns at Hamilton Station**
16804 Hamilton Station Rd., Hamilton
thebarnsathamiltonstation.com
- 5 Bleu Frog Vineyards**
16413 James Monroe Hwy, Leesburg
bleufrogvineyards.com
- 6 Bluemont Vineyard**
18755 Foggy Bottom Rd., Bluemont
bluemontvineyard.com
- 7 Bogati Winery**
35246 Harry Byrd Hwy., Round Hill
bogatiwinery.com
- 8 Boxwood Estate Winery**
2042 Burrland Rd., Middleburg
boxwoodwinery.com
- 9 Breaux Vineyards**
36888 Breaux Vineyards Ln., Hillsboro
breauxvineyards.com
- 10 Bozzo Family Vineyards**
35226 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro
bozwines.com
- 11 Cana Vineyards of Middleburg**
38600 Little River Turnpike, Middleburg
canavineyards.com
- 12 Carriage House Wineworks**
40817 Brown Lane, Waterford
chwinery.com
- 13 Casanel Vineyards**
17952 Canby Rd., Leesburg
casanelvineyards.com
- 14 Chrysalis Vineyards**
39025 Little River Turnpike, Aldie
chrysaliswine.com
- 15 Corcoran Vineyards & Cider**
14635 Corkys Farm Ln., Waterford
corcoranvineyards.com
- 16 Creek's Edge Winery**
41255 Annas Ln., Lovettsville
creekseidgewinery.com
- 17 Domaine Portier Vineyards**
13235 Miltown Road
domainefortier.com
- 18 Doukenie Winery**
14727 Mountain Rd., Hillsboro
doukeniewinery.com
- 19 Droumavalla Farm Winery**
14980 Limestone School Rd., Luckettes
droumavalla.com
- 20 Eagletree Farm & Vineyards**
15100 Harrison Hill Lane, Leesburg
eagletreevineyards.com
- 21 Endhardt Vineyards**
19600 Lincoln Road, Purcellville
endhardtvineyards.com
- 22 Fabbiosi Cellars**
15669 Limestone School Rd., Leesburg
fabbiosiwinery.com
- 23 Farm de Vine**
15960 Short Hill Road, Hillsboro
farmdevine.com
- 24 Firefly Cellars**
40325 Charles Town Pike, Hamilton
fireflycellars.com
- 25 Fleetwood Farm Winery**
23075 Evergreen Mills Rd., Leesburg
fleetwoodfarmwinery.com
- 26 Good Spirit Farm Winery**
35113 Snickersville Turnpike, Round Hill
goodspiritfarmva.com
- 27 Greenhill Winery & Vineyards**
23595 Winery Ln., Middleburg
greenhillvineyards.com
- 28 Hidden Brook Winery**
43301 Spinks Ferry Rd., Leesburg
hiddenbrookwinery.com
- 29 Hiddencroft Vineyards**
12202 Axline Rd., Lovettsville
hiddencroftvineyards.com
- 30 Hope Flower Farm & Winery**
40905 Stumptown Road, Waterford
hopeflowerfarm.com

- 31 Kalero Vineyard**
36140 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro
kalerovineyard.com
- 32 October One Vineyard**
7 Loudoun St., SW, Leesburg
octoberonevineyard.com
- 33 Old Farm Winery**
23583 Fleetwood Road, Aldie
oldfarmwineryhartland.com
- 34 Otium Cellars**
18050 Tranquility Rd., Purcellville
otiumcellars.com
- 35 Stone Tower Winery**
19925 Hogback Mountain Rd., Leesburg
stonetowerwinery.com

- 36 Sunset Hills Vineyard**
38295 Fremont Overlook Ln, Purcellville
sunsethillsvineyard.com
- 37 Terra Nebulo**
39892 Old Wheatland Rd., Waterford
terranebulo.com
- 38 Three Creeks Winery**
18548 Harmony Church Road, Hamilton
3creekswinery.com
- 39 Two Twisted Posts Winery**
12944 Harpers Ferry Rd., Hillsboro
twotwistedposts.com
- 40 Village Winery**
40405 Browns Lane, Waterford
villagewineryandvineyards.com

- 41 Willowcroft Farm Vineyards**
38906 Mount Gilead Rd., Leesburg
willowcroftwine.com
- 42 The Wine Reserve at Waterford**
38516 Charles Town Pike, Waterford
waterfordwinereserve.com
- 43 Walsh Family Wine**
16031 Hillsboro Rd., Purcellville
northgatevineyard.com
- 44 Williams Gap Vineyards**
35785 Sexton Farm Lane, Round Hill
williamsgapvineyard.com
- 45 Zephaniah Farm Vineyard**
19381 Dunlop Mill Rd., Leesburg
zephwine.com

BREWERIES

- 1 Adroit Theory Brewing**
404 Browning Ct., Purcellville
adroit-theory.com
- 2 Barnhouse Brewery**
43271 Spinks Ferry Rd., Leesburg
barnhousebrewery.com
- 3 Bear Chase Brewing**
33665 Bear Chase Ln., Bluemont
bearchasebrew.com
- 4 Black Hoof Brewing Company**
11 South King St., Leesburg
blackhoofbrewing.com
- 5 Crooked Run Fermentations Central**
22455 Davis Dr., Sterling
crookedrunbrewing.com
- 6 Crooked Run Fermentations**
Market Station, Leesburg
crookedrunbrewing.com
- 7 Dirt Farm Brewing**
18701 Foggy Bottom Rd., Bluemont
dirtfarmbrewing.com
- 8 Dynasty Brewing Company**
101 Loudoun St, SE, Leesburg
dynastybrewing.com
- 9 Eleven Eleven Brewing Company**
725 E. Main St., Purcellville
bellylovebrewing.com

- 10 Flying Ace Farm**
40950 Flying Ace Ln, Lovettsville
flyingacefarm.com
- 11 Harper's Ferry Brewing**
37412 Adventure Ctr. Lane, Hillsboro
harpersferrybrewing.com
- 12 Harvest Gap Brewing**
15485 Purcellville Road, Hillsboro
facebook.com/HarvestGap
- 13 Honor Brewing Company**
42604 Trade West Dr., Sterling
honorbrewing.com
- 14 Lark Brewing Co.**
24205 James Monroe Hwy., Aldie
larkbrewingco.com
- 15 Lost Barrel Brewing**
36138 Little River Turnpike, Middleburg
lostbarrel.com
- 16 Lost Rhino Brewing Company**
21730 Red Rum Rd. #142, Ashburn
lostrhino.com
- 17 Loudoun Brewing Company**
310 E. Market St., Leesburg
loudounbrewing.com
- 18 Ocelot Brewing Company**
23600 Overland Dr., #180, Dulles
ocelotbrewing.com

- 19 Old 690 Brewing Company**
15670 Ashbury Church Rd., Hillsboro
old690.com
- 20 Route 7 Brewing**
20051 Riverside Commons PL, Ashburn
route7brewing
- 21 Solace Brewing Company**
42615 Trade West Dr., Sterling
solacebrewing.com
- 22 Sweetwater Tavern**
45980 Waterview Plaza, Sterling
greatamericanrestaurants.com
- 23 Vanish Farmwolds Brewery**
42245 Black Hops Ln., Lucketts
vanishbeer.com
- 24 Water's End Brewing**
1602 Village Market Blvd SE #120, Leesburg
watersendbrewery.com
- 25 Wheatland Spring Farm + Brewery**
38506 John Wolford Rd., Waterford
wheatlandspring.com
- 26 Whites Ferry Brewery**
42484 Whites Ferry Rd. Leesburg, Va.
whitesferrymanor.com

BREWERIES & WINERIES

- 1 Bluemont Station Brewery and Winery**
18301 Whitehall Estate Lane, Bluemont
bluemontstation.com
- 2 Hillsborough Brewery & Vineyards**
36716 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro
hillsboroughwine.com
- 3 Notaviva Brewery and Winery**
13274 Sagle Rd., Hillsboro
notavivavineyards.com
- 4 Quattro Goomba's Brewery & Winery**
22860 James Monroe Hwy., Aldie
goombawine.com

CIDERIES

- 1 Henway Hard Cider Company**
18780 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont
henwayhardcider.com
- 2 Loudoun Cider House**
43376 Spinks Ferry Rd., Leesburg
loudounciderhouse.com
- 3 Mt. Defiance Cider Barn**
495 E. Washington St., Middleburg
mtdefiance.com
- 4 Wild Hare Hard Cider Cabin**
106 South St., Leesburg
wildharecider.com

MEADERIES

- 1 Stonehouse Meadery**
36580 Shoemaker School Rd., Purcellville
stonehousemeadery.com



TASTES

Under New Ownership, LEESBURG PUBLIC HOUSE Retains Old Soul with New Menu

BY WILLIAM TIMME

GetOutLoudoun.com

The Leesburg Public House's previous owners, Kim Ross and Mark Marrocco, did the unthinkable 10 years ago when they celebrated the restaurant's one-year anniversary in a building that saw so many others fail.

Stepping into that 11-year legacy, the new owner, John Cosgrove, said he plans to keep the soul of the Public House alive as it enters a new chapter with a new seasonal menu in the works.

He said the restaurant should serve as an institution for the town.

"The name Leesburg Public House makes me think that this place has to have great value for everyone, like a solution to issues folks have," Cosgrove said. "It doesn't need to be the way I want to do it; it needs to be a way that everybody needs."

To maintain the soul of the Public House, Cosgrove is incorporating feedback from regulars into the business model and new menu. If sales

are down on a menu item that's a favorite of loyal regulars, the Public House will find a way to make it, he said.

Working with Executive Chef Aldrin Asencio, Cosgrove weighs the customer feedback heavily when deciding on seasonal menus, a practice that aligns with Asencio's personal philosophy on cooking.

"It's about that, isn't it? Seeing the faces when they're eating and they get like a, that smile is like 'yeah that's what I wanted,'" Aldrin said. "I don't want to be famous, I don't want to be a star. I want you smiling. That is more than a payment."

Aldrin and Cosgrove met working at Harry's Taproom in Arlington in 2005. At that time, Aldrin was a line-cook and Cosgrove a server, but the two earned promotions after moving to a new Harry's taproom in Pentagon City.

Since then, Asencio's career has been marked by work with prolific industry figures, including a five-year stint with Roberto Donna, who "Esquire" named chef of the year in 2012.

TASTES CONTINUED ON **15**

▼ TASTES FROM PAGE 14

"I was a guy in the grill, that's it," Asencio said. "And that was a really good school for me. I learned working in the tough way with tough people. ... I learned what you do and what you don't do. One of the things you don't do is make unhappy your employees, your group, your team."

Later, Asencio moved to Massachusetts, where he worked for larger companies, acting in project-manager type-roles for existing restaurants. Asencio returned to the DMV, working with Cosgrove in an open-fire catering business—one of his favorite ways to cook.

"We cook with fire. We love fire. We love the grill. That's what we do," Asencio said of his home country of Uruguay. "It's all about that process, cook and sit all together and enjoy. It's community."

On top of the catering business, Cosgrove selected Asencio as the executive chef for the Public House, a merging of the pair's service-driven mindsets.

Prior to opening the public house, Cosgrove founded Eco Caters DC. From 2012 to 2022, he led the 100% organic catering business for a decade while also running a catering business for professional athletes.

Cosgrove said he's worked to keep things the same at the restaurant as much as possible while still putting on events and specials. That includes burger of the week specials and pints and popcorn night, where both the "famous bacon popcorn" and the generally pricier craft beers go for \$5.

Cosgrove said about 50% of the beer selection comes from local breweries, and much of the food ingredients are locally sourced, as well.

"I like you could call it like an elevated comfort food, locally sourced stuff," he said. ●

The Leesburg Public House is located at 962 Edwards Ferry Road NE in Leesburg. Learn more at the-lph.com.



The new method of urban and event transportation has come to Historic Downtown Leesburg.
2019 Leesburg New Business Award Winner

**Shopping • Dining
Bar Crawls • Downtown Events
First Fridays & More**

To request pickup download our App - IOS & Android

cartwheelsva

Call 571-233-7438 for hours of operation

**See Them Live In Loudoun.
Hear Them Globally.**



Music Planet Radio

WEB • APP • AMAZON ALEXA

Todd Wright • Jon Carroll
Mary Ann Redmond • Tommy Gann
Cal Everett • Mike Meadows
Taylor Carson • Teddy Chipouras
Michael Sheppard • Gary Smallwood
Juliana MacDowell • Don Chapman
Calista Garcia • Kim Pittinger
Mark Williams • Patrick Thornton
Prescott Engle • Emma Rowley
Luke Brindley • Ryan Wright

World Class Rock - 24/7

Andy Summers, Sister Hazel to Headline Crossroads Music Festival

NORMAN K. STYER

nstyer@loudounnow.org

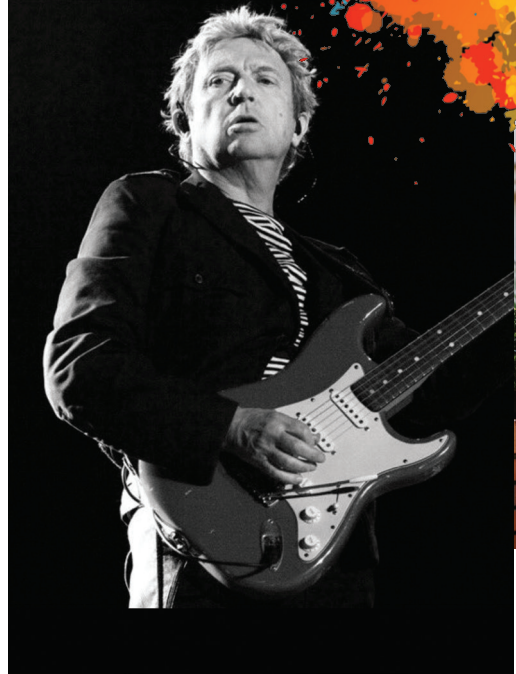
Downtown Leesburg will be filled with live music Sept. 19-20 as the Crossroads Music Festival returns, headlined by an intimate performance by The Police guitarist Andy Summers.

The festival is organized by BENEFIT, a non-profit led by a coalition of musicians and community leaders that raises money and awareness for charities supporting children in Loudoun.

This year's festival kicks off Friday, Sept. 19 with a ticketed show at the Tally Ho Theater featuring Sister Hazel.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, stages throughout the downtown historic district will showcase more than 30 local performers with music ranging from rock to Americana to jazz starting at 3 p.m. No tickets are required for the showcase performances.

The festival closes Saturday night with a ticketed show at the Tally Ho Theater featuring The Police guitarist Andy Summers. The event will include an intimate interview-style performance with Summers sharing insights on his musical journey, the raise of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band, and his celebrated photography.



Contributed

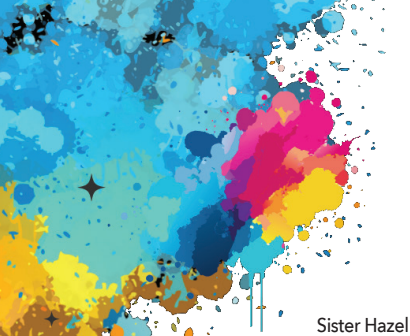
Andy Summers

Event proceeds will support nine non-profits that provide services to children in Loudoun County: A Place to Be; The Arc of Loudoun; Dulles South Food Pantry; Dulles South Soup Kitchen; Food for Neighbors; A Hand Up - NOVA, Inc., which operates the Northern Virginia Diaper Bank; Loudoun Youth, Inc.; Ryan Bartel Foundation; and Salvation Army of Loudoun.

BENEFIT founders Ara Bagdasarian and Amy Bobchek say the festival serves the dual purpose of highlighting the talent in the local music scene and increasing local charitable giving.

"Crossroads Music Festival was born out of this idea that we could increase the level of philanthropy in Loudoun County through the

TUNES CONTINUED ON **17**



Sister Hazel



Photo by Paul Privette

Last month, the band hosted its annual Hazel-nut Hang event, a beach gathering of more than 1,000 fans. They also played their second show on the storied Red Rocks concert stage, opening for country music superstar Dustin Lynch nearly three decades after opening for the Allman Brothers there.

Leesburg has been a welcoming location for the band, which has written songs with Loudoun's Todd Wright.

"Todd is amazing. He's one of my favorite writers that I've ever written with. He's so good at bringing stuff out of you that you didn't even know was in there," Newell said.

And for Newell, it is a return home.

"This is my hometown. I grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, so I have a lot of old friends and family come out, and my kids. And it's a big hometown show for me," he said.

For the show, fans can expect to hear new music as well as the band's hits.

"We put out a record late last year, so we've been playing a handful of new songs off of that," he said. "And, of course, we play the classics that people like, and we've been experimenting a lot with some new things in our sets. We always try to keep it different. We don't play the same set night to night. We make it up as we go along. And Leesburg, since it's my hometown, is going to be my set, so I promise to make it fun."

During Summers' Saturday night show at the Tally Ho fans will learn more about the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member who helped bring New Wave to America as a member of The Police. The fully seated show will feature

power of live music. And it's a simple idea—the idea that live music creates this environment of joy that makes people feel happy, and if we could connect that to awareness about needs in this community, we could kind of organically get people to donate more to the charities that mean the most to them," Bobchek said.

Bagdasarian said the event is designed to have a film festival vibe.

"You go from location to location and hear different genres of music. Each artist during Saturday does a one-hour showcase set. So it's really getting a taste of an artist's music. And then we have a headliner on Friday and Saturday nights," he said.

Friday night's show at the Tally Ho will feature the return of Sister Hazel, the Florida-based rock band that scored a 1997 hit with "All for You."

Guitarist Ryan Newell said the band performs 80 shows a year touring around the country.

TUNES CONTINUED ON **23**

"I listened to an enormous amount of podcasts about chatbots and so on. I read a lot of research on the ethics of artificial intelligence and ethical philosophy in general. That's not my field," he said. "There's a number of elements in the book where I'm kind of mimicking the voice of a philosopher and I think mimicry is one of the things that gets stronger the more research you do. You write in different voices that you derive from materials that you research in. My research is always very eclectic."

For "The Gifted School," Holsinger spent time in the lab with a pediatric neurologist and her postdocs and grad students to understand that field of science well enough to make an authentic presentation.

After his deep-dive research into the fast-changing world of artificial intelligence, he is both curious and concerned about the industry.

"I'm scared about what it's doing to our students—to reading and writing," he said. "I'm very worried about the environmental aspects of it. I feel like it's just contributing to this wholesale destruction of the climate and enormous amounts of water usage. So that's one of the things I worry about. I also worry greatly about disinformation, deep fakes, all that kind of thing."

Other aspects are intriguing, including advances in medical imaging and diagnostics, climate change scanning, and the technology at the center of his book, automated driving.

"Self-driving or autonomous-driven cars, that's an area where the arguments for safety are actually fairly accurate despite the lawsuits going on about the occasional fatality in these kinds of vehicles. It's going to be very interesting to see what happens there," Holsinger said. "But like everybody, I'm very wary of AI and what it's doing to us and the ways that it's taking autonomy away and this kind of surveillance state that it makes possible. I'm not quite as alarmist as some people I read, but I'm pretty worried."

The journey to national acclaim began in Loudoun where he was raised as the son of a

Fairfax County high school principal father and a Montessori school instructor mother.

"They were really, really influential on my own development as a teacher, probably also as a writer. My mom was a writer. She wrote a nonfiction children's book and was dedicated to that throughout her life," he said.

Holsinger might have been slotted among the nerdy kids during his student experience that culminated with graduation from Loudoun County High School in 1985.

"I was definitely not the coolest kid in school. My hair was out to here. I had these big glasses, and I was a clarinet player, and I was just a smart ass," he said. "I was never an athlete at all. My sons are both athletes and it really got them through school. In a lot of ways, it was good for them, but for me, it was music and drama and Boy Scouts that got me through."

Asked about advice for other would-be authors, Holsinger suggests putting down their devices.

"I think young writers need to be pulling out their notebooks—or their parchments—and trying to de-digitize a bit," he said. "I worry about the loss of the process of putting sentences together, or even reading sentences together. I think AI is as much a threat to reading as it is to writing."

While a convenient tool, he is concerned about the impact the trend of having an AI chatbot quickly summarize an article or a book will have.

"I worry about the processes of reading and writing, those long, detailed processes that create not just critical thought, but just the experience of the word. We've been doing that for 1,000 years, and now I do feel like this is a new kind of threat to that."

While back in Charlottesville for fall classes, Holsinger continues to balance a national book tour schedule that includes The Virginia Festival of the Book in Alexandria on Sept. 27 and perhaps a visit back to Loudoun for an event with the library system next spring. ●

Learn more about Holsinger and his works at bruceholsinger.com.

Check out
Loudoun's Attractions



CATTY CORNER CAFE

A place where cat lovers can come together, spend time in our cozy lounge, drink coffee, and get the chance to meet our amazing rescue cats. With the option of even being able to adopt and give them their forever home.

CATS - COFFEE - COOKIES
116 E. Market Street, Leesburg
VA 703-944-4158
cattycornercafe.com



DOUBLE X ARCHERY

Northern Virginia's Premiere Archery Pro Shop and Indoor Range
ARCHERY SERVICES - LESSONS - RENTALS

500 E. Market Street, Leesburg, VA
540-206-0041
doublexarchery.com



LOUDOUN HERITAGE FARM MUSEUM

Travel through time to meet the 10 generations of Loudoun County residents who built this county and left their mark on the land. Exhibits include a schoolhouse, general store, Native American artifact display and the American Workhorse Museum Collection.

21668 Heritage Farm Lane, Sterling, VA 20164
(571) 258-3800 · heritagefarmmuseum.org



MORVEN PARK

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre historic estate on the edge of Leesburg that was home to Virginia governor and agricultural pioneer Westmoreland Davis. Tours of the Greek Revival mansion include 16th century Belgian tapestries, Spanish cassones, hundreds of silver pieces, Hudson River Valley paintings, and Asian treasures. The estate also features the Winmill Carriage Museum, the Museum of Hounds and Hunting of North America, formal boxwood gardens, miles of hiking and riding trails, and athletic fields.

17195 Southern Planter Lane Leesburg, VA 20176
703-777-2414 · morvenpark.org



WATERFORD FAIR CELEBRATES AMERICA'S ROOTS

Since 1943, the Waterford Foundation has welcomed visitors to the National Historic Landmark village to experience one of the country's most storied fall crafts and arts fairs and tour historic homes.

This year, the Waterford Fair takes place on Oct. 3-5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with early bird tickets available for entry at 9 a.m. on Friday, before the crowds arrive.

The weekend features over 200 vendors including more than 50 demonstrating artisans, who will share how their crafts are made. In addition, there will be performances of traditional music and dance, historical interpreters and Virginia-specific talks.

A total of 14 homes and historic buildings will be open for tours on a rotating basis over the three days. Included this year are Hillside, a Bond Street home built in 1765 and known for its tiered gardens; the 1918 William Russell House, built on land where the Civil War Battle of Waterford occurred; and the 1819 Samuel Hough House, one of the most elegantly embellished houses in the village.

A tour of the village will offer guests a look into restored historic homes and gardens and will

include a walkthrough of Civil War and Quaker cemeteries. On Friday, a special reenactment of a day in an 1880's classroom will take place in Waterford's one-room schoolhouse.

The fair's entertainment lineup includes the Old Dominion Chorus, Kate MacLeod and Paul Hammerton, George Jackson and Brad Kolodner, the Down Valley Ramblers, the Furnace Mountain Trio, the Chatham Rabbits Duo, and more.

There are plenty of children's activities, including a chance to earn a Waterford Explorers badge upon completion of a village scavenger hunt. Children can learn how to carve decoys, play in a jug band, learn how honey is made, and tour the historic one-room schoolhouse.

Other features of the fair include three floors of juried handcrafts and home baked goods for sale in the restored brick mill; vintage barns full of fine art and dried flower arrangements and wreaths for sale, traditional music and dance, and historical interpreters.

The village was founded in 1733 by Amos Janney, a Quaker from Bucks County, PA. Today, it is one of only three villages in the U.S. designated a National Historic Landmark District. Many of the village homes and structures, and the surrounding farmland have been preserved thanks to the residents, friends of Waterford, and annual proceeds from the fair.

Tickets are on sale at waterfordfairva.org or by calling 540-882-3018. Tickets at the gate are \$25 per adult per day, \$20 for seniors, military, and students per day, and free for Waterford Foundation members and children 12 and under. Early Bird tickets, three-day passes, and group rates are also available. All musical performances are included in the ticket price.

See the full schedule at waterfordfair.org.

Out Loudoun

BLUEMONT FAIR SET FOR SEPT. 20-21

The 55th annual Bluemont Fair will be held on Sept. 20-21, attracting thousands of visitors to the Blue Ridge Mountain village for a community festival that includes crafts, music and food.

The fair features traditional crafts, local art and authors, craft and farming demonstrations, live music, a children's fair, blacksmithing and wood turning demonstrations, homemade food, antiques and more.

The fair is sponsored by the Bluemont Citizens Association and proceeds go toward paying for the village's street lights, providing student scholarships for local students, making improvements to the village's historic buildings, supporting community beautification, and aiding neighbors in need.

The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 and Sunday, Sept. 21, rain or shine. Admission is \$10 for adults with visitors age nine and under are free.

Learn more at bluemontfair.org.

TOWNS PLAN OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS

Loudoun's towns are planning Oktoberfest celebrations.

Middleburg's fifth annual Oktoberfest will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 20.

Happening on South Madison and Federal streets, the festival will feature two biergartens, traditional German food, live music, and festival games. Beer, wine and cider will be available for purchase from local vendors.

There will be an Artist's Alley, coordinated by the Middleburg Arts Council, exhibiting art, pottery, jewelry, wearable art and more for sale from local and regional artists.

Learn more at middleburgvaoktoberfest.com.

Lovettsville's Oktoberfest is returning after being canceled last year and will include three days of festivities beginning Sept. 26.

The entire town is transformed throughout the weekend with contests such as the stein hoisting and stein hauling, live music, ceremonial keg tapping, Germain entertainment, a long list of vendors and the much looked-forward-to wiener dog races. Multi-year champion Huck Houtz is expected to return to defend his title in the Alpine division.

A 5K race will be held Sept. 27 with the opening set for 7:30 a.m. and the race beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Learn more at lovettsvilleoktoberfest.com.

LEESBURG AIRSHOW RETURNS SEPT. 27

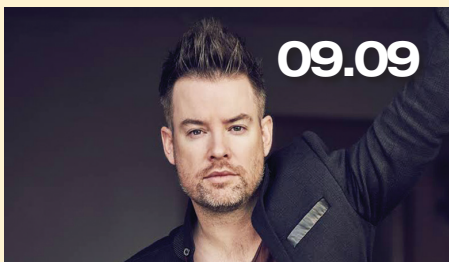
Leesburg Executive Airport will host its annual Airshow on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beginning at 1 p.m., aerobatic performers will take to the skies. The event will feature the Scott Francis, the Flying Circus, RJ Gritter, Chef Pitts, Mark Meredith, Bob "Rooster" Schmidle, and Warbird Thunder Airshows.

Throughout the day on the tarmac, visitors will get a chance to see a variety of modern and antique aircraft up close. Attendees will also enjoy aviation-related displays, educational activities and exhibits, inflatable slides for the kids, and a variety of food and beverage vendors. Craft beer will be available for purchase.

Admission is free. Gates open at 11 a.m. Event parking will be at Heritage High School, at 520 Evergreen Mills Road; and Segra Field, at 42095 Loudoun United Drive. Complimentary shuttles will run continuously from 10:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

For more information, go to leesburgairshow.com.



DAVID COOK

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. (doors)

Tally Ho Theater

tallyhotheater.com

The winner of American Idol's seven season, singer/songwriter David Cook returns to the Leesburg stage. \$25.



SZYMON ALEKSANDER TRIO

Sunday, Sept. 21, 3 p.m.

Franklin Park Arts Center

franklinparkartscenter.org

The center's Gold Star season opens with a traditional piano trio featuring Szymon Czerniak, Jacob Pembelton and PhoTeng playing music from the jazz canon inspired by Southern and East Coast roots. \$25.

FLOCK OF SEAGULLS

09.24

Wednesday, Sept 24,
7 p.m. (doors)

Flock of Seagulls

Tally Ho Theater

tallyhotheater.com

New Wave hitmakers, under the leadership of founding member Mike Score, bring their Lost 80s Live! retro tour to Leesburg. \$50.



DAVE CHAPPELL BAND

Friday, Sept. 26, 6 p.m.

The Barns at Hamilton Station

thebarnsathamiltonstaton.com

Renowned DC area blues guitarist Dave Chappell performs a ticketed show at the Hamilton-area winery. \$25.

SUPER TRANS AM

09.27

Tarara Vineyards

tararaconcerts.com

The Tarara Concert Series wraps up its 2025 season with a performance of your favorite 1970s rock classics. \$20.



▼ TUNES FROM PAGE 17

a conversational interview format that also will showcase Summers' photography.

"We came together in the middle of the raging punk scene in London," Summers said. "It was sort of like a religion. Everything had to be pure punk to succeed. It was ridiculous—you know, hair, clothes, not being able to play really, so on, so forth. And that clearly wasn't us."

While the trio, with Sting and Stewart Copeland, was shut out of the punk scene, Summers said they worked harder and rehearsed more than other bands.

"We were locked in a little room and just practicing for days on end, and The Police style came about," he said.

The band's break came with the opportunity to perform at CBGB in New York City.

"We were absolutely ecstatic when we did our first two sets starting at midnight. When we arrived in the U.S. and went straight to New

York, we were off and running. That was the that was the change," Summers said.

Bagdasarian, a guitar player, said the impact of Summers' music continues today.

"He's a hero of mine—a major influence. What most people don't realize how much of the guitar sounds that came from the '80s and into modern, new alternative music came from Andy Summers guitar sound," he said. "His style is just absolutely incredible."

The Police dissolved in the mid-1980s and last reunited for a world tour in 2008.

"I'm very proud of what we did in The Police, because no one sounded like that. And we made all that on our own. It was our own physicality, our own chemistry that made that," Summers said.

For more details, including how to purchase tickets and to see the full schedule of showcase performances, go to crossroadsmusicfest.org. ●

FEEL THE THRILL OF LIVE PERFORMANCE AT
STAGECOACH THEATRE
DON'T MISS OUT!

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE
AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS, WINERIES, & BREWERIES

A VINTAGE TO DIE FOR
SEPTEMBER 27 - NOVEMBER 15

IN THE THEATER IN ASHBURN

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE
SEPTEMBER 6 - 21

DRACULA
OCTOBER 4 - 31

RATED S SKETCH COMEDY - SEPTEMBER 26 & 27
MAGIC AND MISCHIEF - OCTOBER 10



Registration is open for
Fall Classes & Camps
for ages 5 - 19



20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 and 120
Ashburn, VA 20147
571-477-9444
www.StageCoachTC.com

VIRGINIA IS FOR THEATRE LOVERS

81st Waterford Fair

A CELEBRATION OF AMERICANA MUSIC

OCT 3 - 5, 2025

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM DAILY

MAIN STAGE

Purchase tickets
online or at the gate

Friday

- 11am Old Dominion Chorus
- 12:30pm Kate MacLeod & Paul Hammerton
- 1:30pm George Jackson & Brad Kolodner
- 2:30pm Kate MacLeod & Paul Hammerton
- 3:30pm George Jackson & Brad Kolodner

Saturday

- 11am Celtic Rhythm School of Dance Demo
- 12:45pm Down Valley Ramblers Trio
- 1:30pm Furnace Mountain Trio
- 2:30pm Down Valley Ramblers Trio
- 3:15pm Furnace Mountain Band

Sunday

- 11am Dance Academy of Loudoun Demo
- 12:30pm Kate MacLeod & Paul Hammerton
- 1:30pm Chatham Rabbits Duo
- 2:30pm Kate MacLeod & Paul Hammerton
- 3:30pm Chatham Rabbits Duo



FREE Tickets
Members & Kids (12U)

WATERFORDFAIRVA.ORG



George Jackson &
Brad Kolodner



Furnace Mountain Trio



Chatham Rabbit Duo

Unbeatable Value!
Your ticket includes all
shows and entertainment
for the day of purchase.