



**CALENDAR**

**5 DECEMBER**

Waterford Fair Volunteer thank you party. 6-8 p.m., Old Mill.

**6-7 DECEMBER**

Christmas at the Mill. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**7 DECEMBER**

Christmas Concert and Singalong. 3-4 p.m., John Wesley Community Church, Waterford. Music by Madeline MacNeil.

**18 DECEMBER**

Planning Commission Public Hearing on Special Exception for Old School. 6 p.m., Board of Supervisors meeting room, County Government Center, Leesburg.

**12 JANUARY**

Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on Special Exception for Old School. 6:30 p.m., Board of Supervisors meeting room, County Government Center, Leesburg.

**The Old Mill gets dressed up for Christmas**

The windows at the Waterford Foundation office give a tantalizing preview of the variety of beautiful handmade gifts that will be on display for sale at the Old Mill in Waterford on the first weekend in December.

Peggy Bednarik and Mary Kenesson are making a winter wonderland in the beautiful old building just for Christmas at the Mill. They and their committee of volunteers will greet shoppers from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on December 6 and 7. Parking is just across the street in the Bond Street Barn Meadow.

In addition to three floors of traditional crafts, jewelry, and original Christmas

**Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

Dear Friends of Waterford,

On behalf of the Waterford Foundation, Happy Thanksgiving you and your family! This year we have much to be grateful for . . .

â The Mill will be decked with holly and awaiting jolly holiday shoppers the weekend of December 6-7. Come find affordable but distinctive handcrafted gifts by local weavers, woodworkers, potters and other artisans featured at the Waterford Fair.

â The Old School classroom building is just about ready to open its doors. Stay tuned for an invitation in January to see inside.

â The Planning Commission will consider the Old School auditorium plans at a public hearing on December 18, moving us one step closer to obtaining all the permits needed to break ground for the new Old School auditorium next spring.

So enjoy the holiday spirit, and thank you for your support on December 18. Please see the article below about this meeting. We welcome your help and suggestions. Please forward this newsletter to friends you think would be interested in Waterford Foundation activities. We want to spread the word about the good things going on in the Waterford National Historic Landmark.

President

Old School permits process advances

decorations, there will be a bake sale of Christmas cookies and edible gifts, as well as hot chocolate and cider to warm hands and spirits.

Proceeds benefit the work of the Waterford Foundation.

Dress warmly and come early.  
--Fran Holmbraker

## Gardeners, Scouts make use of Mill

The Old Mill's charm continues to attract groups for club and community events.

In mid-October the Leesburg Garden Club rented the building for its annual silent auction, proceeds of which fund a scholarship and other club programs.

"The Mill looked fantastic for the auction," reported Club organizer Rosalie Leigh. "We had a truly great turnout ... the venue I think had a lot to do with it."

And a week later, Boy Scouts from Troop 969 and Pack 969 were led into a Mill swirling with fog, and decorated with spider webs and sinister décor for Halloween. They listened to a story about a haunted mill, plus some real Waterford Mill history. Afterwards the Scouts drank hot chocolate and cider on the stone patio behind the mill.

"I think we entertained close to 40 Scouts, their parents and curious neighbors," said Bill Morris, who coordinated the event. "We even had a couple from Nashville, Tennessee, stop in and ask to see the Mill."



Halloween spiders suddenly infested the Old Mill.

## Final concert draws enthusiastic crowd

The St. Petersburg Quartet played to a full house at the Lucketts Community Center November 23. Adding to the mood was a loss of power on stage, and camping lanterns were produced to illuminate the music for the players.

With approval last month from the Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee (HDRC) for the design of the new Old School auditorium (an important milestone in the lengthy approval process), the Waterford Foundation now moves to the next step--to get permission for the traditional uses of the building and property.

To continue to use the Old School in the same manner as we have used it for more than 40 years, the Waterford Foundation must seek a Special Exception from the county government.

The Foundation purchased the Old School in 1966 at auction after the present Waterford Elementary School was built. The subsequent transition from actual school use to community use occurred in the 1960s, and Loudoun County provided no special approval at that time. With numerous revisions to the County's Zoning Ordinance since then, however, new requirements now apply.

Soon you will see posted on the Old School property the yellow official notices of the upcoming public hearing on the application for the Special Exception. The evening of December 18 (6 p.m.) is the time and date the Loudoun County Planning Commission has set for that hearing; it will take place at the County Government Center in the Board of Supervisors meeting room.

We encourage you to attend and to provide comment on the value of the Waterford Old School and the Special Exception hearing the important role that it has played over time. Even if you do not want to speak, attendance is important to show the Planning Commission that the community supports the Old School.

The signs will remain until the second public hearing, before the Board of Supervisors (BOS), at 6:30 p.m. January 12 (more on that meeting later), and will be removed shortly thereafter.

The Planning Commission typically holds a working meeting one week prior to its public hearing, to receive a briefing from County staff on all items on its public hearing agenda. This briefing, open to the public but with no comment accepted, will be at 6 p.m. December 11 in the Purcellville Room at the County Government Center.

If you have any questions about this application, please do not hesitate to call Annie Goode at 703.729.8536. In addition to serving as the





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*Executive Director*

Foundation's part-time manager of development programs, Annie is a neighbor and a land planner at ReedSmith, the law firm that is representing us on a pro bono basis during consideration of our application. She would be happy to explain how this perplexing review process works.

Phillips  
Farm  
replanting  
effort  
draws  
many  
helping hands



On the right-hand bank, volunteers work on plantings and invasive species removal, dwarfed by the height of the eroded bank in a curve of Catoctin Creek. [photos by Nicole Hamilton, courtesy Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy]

On November 15 seventy-five volunteers converged on the historic Phillips Farm in Waterford on a mild but blustery and wet Saturday. They planted 300 trees and shrubs on a portion of the 144-acre property, to help stabilize eroding stream banks and filter sediment and contaminants from runoff in the environmentally fragile Catoctin watershed.

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Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC), in partnership with the Foundation, headed up the project. Cub and Boy Scouts, environmental students, high school Key Club members, and other volunteers from LWC, the Foundation, the village, and the wider community devoted the morning to getting the plants in the ground along the South Fork of Catocin Creek. They also removed invasive plants from other areas of the property and monitored water quality in the creek.

Hand in hand with the goal of establishing a riparian buffer along the creek were choices of siting and species that will preserve the pastoral views from the village. Removal of invasive plants will return the farm to a more historic appearance and improve its suitability for sustainable agriculture. Both efforts will enhance wildlife habitat.

As all this was going on, participants learned about the goals of the project and the farm's history through the educational efforts of LWC President Joe Coleman, Meg Findley, consulting ecologist Jeff Wolinski, and the Foundation's John Souders. After a job well done, the group enjoyed lunch while discussing the project and future efforts.

The Waterford Foundation extends thanks to the many volunteers who joined us to help maintain the ecological health of the property and preserve its prominent place in the heritage of the national historic landmark. And a special thank you to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the underwriters of the project: Dulles Greenway's Annual Drive for Charity and Kimley-Horn Associates.



**Meg Findley (center) describes to volunteers the goals and process of monitoring the health of a stream. Below, young monitors gather organisms collected from the creek.**

**At bottom, an ice cube tray provides just the right venue for study of the catch.**



**Waterford**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

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