

Purcellville Celebrates Expanded Hospice Services

By Margaret Morton

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The former Grubb's furniture store on West Main Street in Purcellville was full of good cheer this morning as a crowd of Blue Ridge Hospice representatives and supporters celebrated the expansion of the Hospice thrift store space and announcement of new services to the area.

Brightly colored balloons hung from the ceiling and there was a festive atmosphere as advisory committee members joined BRH CEO Ernest Carnevale, Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro, Vice Mayor C.J. Walker and Loudoun Chamber of Commerce President Tony Howard in cutting a red ribbon formally signifying the new venture.

Carnevale said the Winchester-based Blue Ridge Hospice was expanding its services to the western Loudoun area, noting the enlarged book nook, a new community resources area and Wi-Fi site, with offices above for the BRH nursing team. Across the street, the Center for Hope will provide counseling services for all ages, specifically related to grief and loss issues.

Mingling with visitors, Kathy Blucher, Director of Volunteer Services, said she hoped to welcome even more volunteers to the organization. She said she particularly hoped residents would make use of the new community resources area, which could provide useful information to those "not quite ready to come into hospice," but who wanted to know more about the organization and how it worked.

Carnevale said the organization was fortunate in having been "embraced by a group of women," who formed the Loudoun-Clarke Blue Ridge Hospice Advisory Committee-many of whom were in attendance this morning.

Lazaro welcomed the expanded services in town, which he said would meet a definite need for both Purcellville and western Loudoun residents.

During the open house, residents were busily snapping up bargains as they browsed the racks of clothes, furniture, copious supply of books in the very user-friendly looking book nook, that looked like one's home library, as well as art and other items-all very reasonably priced.

One woman was heard to say "now I know where to take my things to," while another Purcellville resident said she was thrilled she had such a good variety available close at hand.

If today's open house is anything to go by, the thrift store will not lack for customers-or suppliers.

