

Town Manager's Open Door Policy

Meet Mike Casey
Middleburg's Town
Administrator

By Lisa Leonard
Staff Writer

FINALLY A PERFECT SPRING DAY, daffodils line the Town Office sidewalk and Mike Casey, Middleburg's new town administrator, has agreed to an interview. Betty Wolford, the town treasurer, offers coffee and a seat in Mike's office. It is neat, orderly, and dust free. Family photos show a big family. These folks look relaxed, and seem to be beaming with joy.

Mike talks first about his background and career path before he came to Middleburg. His background is in city and town management where, for 25 years he worked across the country from North Carolina to California including, Oregon, Colorado, and Iowa, as city manager, county manager, and as an assistant manager.

He has a Masters in Public Administration and a Certificate from Harvard's program for "Senior Executives in State & Local Government." Mike was elected to the Board of Directors as Vice President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), headquartered in Washington, DC. During the last eight years he has consulted in the private sector as a headhunter for cities, counties, and nonprofits. He helped Charlottesville, Virginia recruit their Police Chief and one of their county managers and recruited an information services executive for Rockville, Maryland.

Mike why did you select Middleburg as the place to live and work?

My wife, Carol, and I had been looking at property in this area, from here to maybe Leesburg. We talked about how it would be fun to go back and manage again. This would be the smallest community where we had ever lived and worked, most of the places I worked were populations of 100,000 or greater, Des Moines Iowa at a quarter million people was the largest.

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Off To the Spring Races



Clearing brush fence in the Alfred M. Hunt Steeplechase at the spring races

Courtesy of Middleburg Spring Races ~ R. Utz

**The Spring Races are here, a review of their
past present and future: Page 31**



Brendan Cox, Chef, Market Salamander • By Jay Hubbard

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Birdhouse Auction Raises \$15,000 Nest Egg



A true community
effort for Middleburg
Community Center
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Gloria Armfield or Ruth Ripley 540-687-6395
Carole Miller 703-705-9110



SOTHEBY'S WORLDWIDE OFFERING

Old Denton, Middleburg, VA

This historic estate, circa 1860, is situated among century old trees (Mosby escaped in one of them), rolling fields and stone walls in the Orange County Hunt on 58 acres. The brick residence has five bedrooms, four and a half baths, seven fireplaces and 12-foot ceilings. It features a brick guest house, circa 1830, a duplex tenant house and a 14-stall stable. The location affords endless miles to ride out and is surrounded by large estates. First time offering since 1936. \$3,500,000.

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SOTHEBY'S WORLDWIDE OFFERING

Lower Rockland, Near Leesburg, VA

Lower Rockland, on 48 acres, is sited on a knoll overlooking the Potomac River with frontage of over a quarter of a mile on the river itself. The elegant four bedroom house has been completely remodeled with new systems throughout. The master bedroom suite with bath is on the first floor. The grounds have been restored to a park-like setting with extensive new plantings. There are exciting river views from most of the rooms in the house. Separate garage and tenant house. \$3,400,000.

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SOTHEBY'S WORLDWIDE OFFERING

Whispering Winds, Middleburg, VA

Whispering Winds is an impressive, brick Georgian residence on 53+ acres, just south of Middleburg, in prime Orange County Hunt territory. There are views of the Blue Ridge and surrounding countryside from the side terrace, porch and pool. The five bedroom house has a large living room, library and dining room off of the spacious center hall and an efficiency apartment. Additional improvements include a pool, pool house, and a shed. The land is open and rolling. \$2,495,000.

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SOTHEBY'S WORLDWIDE OFFERING

Laurelwood, Upperville, VA

Very special, very spacious, very private brick manor house between Upperville and Paris, VA. Fabulous views, 5 bedrooms (master BR on first floor), gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 53 acres, lovely pond, stable, fenced paddocks, beautiful gardens. Wonderful location in the Piedmont Hunt. \$2,550,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-6395
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SOTHEBY'S WORLDWIDE OFFERING

Bad Bull Farm, Leesburg, VA

Spectacular mountain views and sunsets compliment this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home constructed of 200 year old materials. The property boasts beautiful handmade chestnut cabinetry, antique heart pine floors, 4 fireplaces and is equipped with all the conveniences of today's lifestyle. It is situated on 47+ acres. Privacy is protected by a half mile of frontage on the North Fork branch of Goose Creek. Outbuildings include a 4 car garage, workshop and storage building. All just 20 minutes from the Greenway. A very special offering. \$1,550,000.

Gloria Armfield 540-687-6395
Jim Thompson 540-687-3216



High Clover, Rectortown, VA

A sophisticated country house sited high on 61 acres with unbelievable views of its 10 acre pond, a glistening creek and ranges of mountains extending to the sunset. Gardens and massive hardwoods complement the 3 bedroom house. A large screened porch next to the cathedral ceilinged dining room also looks over the huge pond below. There is a 2 bedroom tenant house, a storage shed and a gardener's shed. Orange County Hunt. \$1,725,000.

Ruth Ripley or Gloria Armfield 540-687-6395
Carole Miller 703-705-9110



SOTHEBY'S WORLDWIDE OFFERING

Fox Meadow Farm, Middleburg, VA

Fox Meadow, a custom built Georgian brick manor house, is situated on 61+/- pastoral acres in Virginia's Hunt Country. The stately, 7500+/- square foot residence showcases the finest craftsmanship. Elegant millwork and four fireplaces are featured. Six bedrooms, five full baths and two half baths complete the residence. There is a three bay garage with an apartment, a heated pool, a gazebo and a pool house and a three-level barn with a workshop. \$2,799,999.

Gloria Armfield or Ruth Ripley 540-687-6395
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The Glebe, The Plains, VA

Cheerful, sunny house, 4 bedroom, large sunroom, panoramic views, 48 acres, fenced for horses. 3 stall barn. Awesome chicken house. Orange County Hunt. \$1,570,000.

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Unknowns and Honor

By Daniel S. Morrow

SOUTH AND WEST OF THE NEW World War Two Memorial on the national mall in Washington, beyond the brooding Lincoln, and across the Potomac, lie the low green hills of Virginia and Arlington National Cemetery.

Honored there are tens of thousands of sons and daughters, Presidents and Privates, soldiers and civilians, who have dedicated their lives and, all too often, sacrificed them, in service to the United States.

The most touching and honored of all the me-

morials at Arlington; however, is dedicated to the nameless: to unknown soldiers from the First and Second World Wars, Korea and Viet Nam.

They are never alone. World leaders travel from afar to lay wreaths to honor them. Tens of thousands of their fellow citizens visit their graves each year. The Old Guard stands watch over them, around the

clock, and to walk post there, at midnight in the worst of weathers is considered not only a duty, but an honor.

Another such monument to unknown soldiers, less known, indeed, almost forgotten, stands an hour's drive away, in Sharon Cemetery, in Middleburg.

There, a simple obelisk honors unknown dead, north and south, from the American Civil War.

The Middleburg monument is guarded only by the dead -- by a circle of modest tombstones marking the graves of long-forgotten boys who fought and died while serving in the Confederate Army.

Nick Roach is there. He'd ridden the trains and marched north all the way from Louisiana. His stone

stands post alongside those of Eliza Linville and his fellow tarheel, Guilford Taylor of the 5th North Carolina Cavalry. John Tiffany, Lieutenant, 27th Virginia, is with them, his grave marked "Stonewall Brigade," lest someone forget. Chris McDonough of Mosby's Command is there too, along with one of the Whitfield boys, killed while serving with the 9th Virginia. Their stones, and seventy-five others encircle the obelisk, inscribed simply: "To the Unknown Dead."

At the other, northern, end of Jay



By Jay Hubbard - Middleburg Eccentric

Street, where it dead-ends, stands an equally silent memorial, Asbury Church, now with its windows boarded and warnings posted lest the unwary should enter.

Built in 1829, it is Middleburg's oldest church. Like most churches in the war-torn areas of Virginia, it served many purposes during its lifetime, not the least of which was as a hospital for many, if not all those buried just to the south.

In 1864 it was given to a black congregation

of the AME church, as penance, or reparation, or both, its congregants only recently declared free. They too remain for the most part nameless, and their brothers and sisters, if remembered at all, known only by names that were not really their own.

In a novel published well before September 11, in which an

airplane is flown full of fuel into the dome of the Capitol Building, Tom Clancy defined honor. He described it as a debt; as behavior one owes to those who expect it and to those whose esteem one holds dear.

In this time of uncertainty, strife and terror, when people with special insights into the mind of God contend with deadly effect, with equally determined and morally certain opponents, on a global scale, it is well to visit these memorials to the unknown dead, both honored and long forgotten, and there to contemplate both debts owed and debts paid.



By Jay Hubbard - Middleburg Eccentric



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Town Manager's Open Door Policy

Continued from Page 1

I called the Mayor of Middleburg, to ask him if they would consider someone who had as many years on him as I did, and he said yes. I was one of four – five people they talked with and I was offered the position, I'm glad to be here. It is fun to be back in this business. I really enjoy helping communities work and think about what they want to be as they grow up.

How different is working in Middleburg?

In terms of things like budget or even problems there is not that much of a difference. The budgets have more zeros after them in bigger cities; it's simply a matter of scale. I think managers in these organizations do it because they want to make a difference, obviously in the smaller communities, you see that happen more quickly. I think I can bring value to this community.

Is residing in Middleburg a big change from your last residence?

Our last residence was in the North Shore communities in Chicago. We lived in the North Shore, a small community of 12,000 people, but a very high profile and very active community. Frankly in terms of things like wealth and issues it was a lot like Middleburg.

What does your job entail?

We have a council manager form of government, It is most analogous to a private corporation. We have a board of directors, and we hire an operating officer or a president. There are over 5,000 council manager governments in the nation. It is considered to be the most professional local form of government.

Basically, I hire most of the employees, in some instances the officers of the organization, and the council hires, or confirms my appointments. I am responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of the organization, what police officers, street and water employees do.

I am responsible for preparing a budget recommendation for Middleburg; the council actually adopts the budget. I am responsible for managing the budget, and looking at issues down stream that could impact what the community might be facing in the near future. Then, performing an analysis or getting an expert opinion so I can make recommendations to the council on such matters. The council is the policy group. They hire someone like me to manage things on a daily basis.

What are the most challenging aspects of your position?

Understanding where the community is, where the citizens on the street are in terms of the issues around growth management, and the services we provide.

Middleburg has a real challenge in its water and sewage system. It's a very old system and

we have some real problems with the infrastructure. We are beginning to make some progress; we have plans, and a capital program to do that.

Clearly the Salamander Inn has raised issues about the hard edges of the community in open space and traffic. But there are other things too, there is the Huntersville Hamlet development, and there are other proposals for development on the

edge of town. To what extent shall we support these, or try to keep them from happening.

Also factored in is the health of the business district, and the character of the business district, in terms of whether it is going to be simply antique shops, or is it a broader cross-section, and what's Middleburg's role in the region now?

Mike you say the water and sewage was new in 1891, that does not sound very old, how often do cities have to deal with this major issue?

It doesn't sound long, but every 20-to-25 years it is an issue. When I got to Grants Pass they were doubling the capacity of the wastewater plant, and they were having contractor problems, much like the contractor problems we were having with Well Number 4 before I got here, Well Number 4 will double water capacity and should be online the first of August. The problem is that the build-



By Lisa Leonard

ings don't last, and the technology changes. In fact, as we look at renovating or replacing the current plant we have to look five-to-seven years forward to see what DEQ and others may require to protect the Chesapeake. They raise these standards all the time.

Water and waste facilities must be big budget ticket items, what is Middleburg facing in cost?

They are expensive. From a water standpoint,

Well Number 4 will cost over two million dollars by the time we are finished. Also, we actually have three choices on how to handle the replacement of the wastewater plant. The first one is to rebuild around it, and build a piece of a parallel system; the second option is to rebuild the building, and actually replace it with current technology; and a third choice is to rebuild, but to put into place a newer technology that is just coming into use called Membrane technology which is going to be the technology of choice for the next ten years or more.

Do you have a large network of city managers to tap into to discuss solutions to problems like these?

Yes, I knew Bob Noe beforehand, and, in fact Mike Amyx, the executive director of the Virginia Municipal League, and I worked together in Des Moines, Iowa. Mike has been here about 20 years. He manages the cities and towns legislative program that's working. I know many managers and also know technical experts. The Public Works Director in Charlottesville was president of the American Publics Works Association about five years ago, I helped her recruit one of her division manages, so I can call and talk to her about these issues too.

What do you like most about what you do?

I most enjoy having an opportunity to make a difference. I also enjoy working with staff and seeing people grow and develop.

What do you intend to change or improve to better serve the citizens of Middleburg?

I have to go back to the utility issues; we have to get a grip on that. I think we as an organization can do more than we are doing now, in fact I know we can, any organization can do 10-20% better if they just apply themselves. We have good folks, but if we stop and think about some of the things we do, we can get more out of what we have here.

Is there anything you would like to say to the people of Middleburg?

We are extremely excited to be in this community and have been warmly welcomed. I'm glad I made this decision, and have been asked by some of my colleagues if we moved to Middleburg to retire. Absolutely not. There is a lot to do here, and I'm looking forward to helping get it done.

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A Sunday Horse: Inside the Grand Show Jumping Circuit

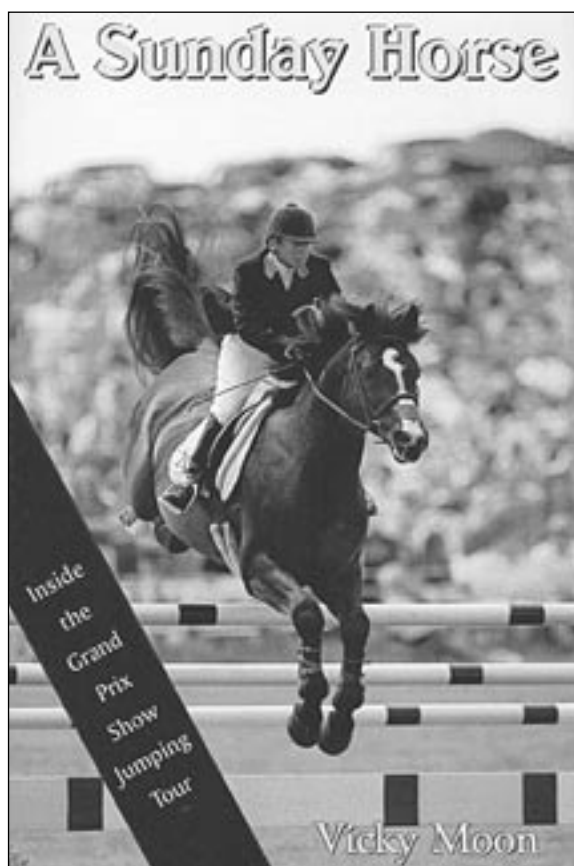
A book by Author, Vicky Moon

EVERYONE IS LOOKING for that somewhat elusive special mount that will bring them fame and fortune in the Grand Prix ring - a horse for Sunday afternoon - a horse that can be found at the bargain rate of \$1500 or more than \$1 million.

Following the US national horse show and Grand Prix jumping circuit, Vicky Moon starts in Palm Beach with the Wellington Winter Equestrian Festival, to America's oldest show in Upperville, Virginia, to the Indio Circuit in California, to Long Island for the Hampton Classic, all over the U.S.

Just like "Best in Show," you'll meet the riders, trainers, owners, judges, and the personalities such as "The Carrot Man," "The Masseuse," "The Equine Dentist," and the other fascinating characters who follow the horse show circuit. Big names and big money, are all part of the intriguing world.

Vicky Moon has chronicled the lives of the rich, the not-so-rich, the famous, and the not-so-famous for more than twenty years. She has covered her hometown of Middleburg, Virginia's local murders and prominent lives for *People Magazine* and the *Washington Post*. She has also written about Middleburg's hunt balls, steeplechase races and parties for *Town and Country*, *Millionaire* and *Southern Accents* magazines and has served as a contributing editor for *House and Garden*. Ms. Moon is the author of *The Official Middleburg Life Cookbook*, *The Middleburg Mystique: A Peek Inside the Gates of Middleburg, Virginia* (Capital, 2001); and *Best-dressed Southern Salads* (Capital, 2002). Vicky lives in Middleburg, Virginia, with her husband, sportswriter Leonard Shapiro, and her son. Find out more about Vicky at www.vickymoon.com.



New Winery Pops its Cork



THE BOXWOOD WINERY
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA
TO BE COMPLETED SPRING 2005

JOHN KENT COOKE, a former owner and president of the NFL Washington Redskins, has announced the construction of his Boxwood Winery in Middleburg, Virginia.

"It is always exciting to form a successful organization," said John Kent Cooke. "Our winery is designed by Hugh Newell Jacobsen, and award-winning architect from Washington, DC whose work I have long admired, and incorporates the knowledge and expertise of Dr. Richard Vine, Head of the Oenology Department at Purdue University. A winning combination."

The winery is a complex of four buildings: a reception building for wine tasting; a fermentation chai with twelve stainless steel tanks ranging from 500 to 2,000 gallon capacity; a bottling building with storage up to 10,000 cases, and a circular underground cave housing French oak barrels. Mr. Jacobsen's design is modern, but he has chosen materials characteristic of the 18th Century rural area of Middleburg - field stone from the historic Boxwood Farm and standing seam metal roofs. The winery is being built by Peterson and Collins of Washington, DC.

The project began over 18 months ago and when finished in 2005 will represent one of the finest facilities on the east coast. Dr. Richard Vine

has advised Hugh Jacobsen on the layout of the winery and has carefully selected state-of-the-art equipment from France, Italy, and the United States.

An 18-acre vineyard is contiguous to the winery. It is designed by Ms. Lucie Morton, a viticulturist with international credentials, who has chosen multiple clones of eight varieties of grapes, certified by the French Government: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Tannat, Petit Verdot, Syrah, Malbec and Carmenere. The grafted vines are being propagated for Boxwood in California for delivery in 2004 and 2005.

Boxwood will produce red wine only and blended in the French Bordeaux tradition. Production will be limited to 5,000 cases each year and the first vintage will be available in 2007.

Boxwood Winery LLC will be managed by John Kent Cooke's daughter, Rachel Martin, who has been working with the winery and vineyard consultants since conception. Ms. Martin is currently continuing her studies of the wine industry at Napa Valley College in California and will attend the University of Bordeaux in France in 2004.

Piedmont Community Foundation Names Executive Director

JUDI CAMPBELL, a former executive with Xerox, IBM and Cornell University has been named the first Executive Director of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF). Campbell has a clear understanding of her mission as she steps into the leadership role for the Foundation.

"My primary goal as Executive Director is to build public awareness about the Piedmont Community Foundation so that PCF will be the organization donors, recipients and volunteers think of when they want to make a difference in Loudoun County and the surround-

ing community."

The Foundation, a Loudoun County based nonprofit public entity, is dedicated to building a permanent reservoir of charitable funds to support the preservation and enhancement of the community. PCF will maximize the beneficial impact of each gift and thus enable each donor, regardless of means, to be an effective supporter of charitable causes.

PCF administers a variety of funds to support community causes in Loudoun County and the surrounding Piedmont Region. Among those causes are the Fresh/Air/Full Care

Fund, Very Special Arts of Loudoun County, the Middleburg Community Center and the Ashburn Library.

Fresh air/Full Care (FAFC) seeks donations to help children from low-income working families to attend registered childcare and summer camp programs in partnership with the Loudoun County Department of Social Services (DSS). Fresh Air/Full Care has made it possible for seventy-eight children to benefit from the 2003 summer camp program and, because of program support, approximately twenty additional families have been able to send their children to registered childcare so far this year.

Judi Campbell says, "Momentum is growing as the region's neighborhood communities see the need to

take action to improve and maintain the quality of life that originally attracted them to Loudoun County. Creating a safe environment for children, helping to integrate the county's diverse communities, providing opportunities for the less fortunate among us, preserving our environment and communities are some of the causes that we all care about. Piedmont Community Foundation brings the strength of an established community foundation to enable contributors to support the causes they care about without having to create a structure to make it happen.

For more information contact the Piedmont Community Foundation at jcamp@piedmontcf.org or visit www.piedmontcf.org.

Five Vie for Three Seats

By Dee Dee Hubbard

MIDDLEBURG RESIDENTS will have some choices to make May 4, as 5 candidates vie for three open seats on the Town Council. Incumbents Helen Hyre and Eura Lewis are seeking re-election for another four-year term, and they will be up against Trowbridge Littleton, Bundles Murdock and Lisa Patterson. Current Mayor, Tim Dimos is running un-opposed.

The candidate turnout for this year's election can be attributed to the rise in interest in the water, sewer and growth issues that the town is dealing with.

Along with the incumbents, Helen Hyre and Eura Lewis, Trowbridge Littleton has previous town council experience, Bundles Murdock sits on the current Planning Commission and Lisa Patterson is a newcomer to town politics.

The Middleburg Eccentric would like to introduce all the candidates to you and remind the voters to make a difference by voting for your choice on May 4th.

Helen Hyre,
Re-election to Town Council

Why are you the best candidate?

I am a native of Middleburg and I would like to help preserve this historical town. I have previous experience on the town council.

What are the most pressing issues facing Middleburg?

The water and sewage project. It would mean a lot to me to see this project completed.

Tell us about yourself, background, interests, etc.

I was born and raised in Middleburg. Served on the town council for 8 years, planning commission for two years and the Board of Zoning Appeal for two years. I am a certified medical assistant and work on private cases.

Eura H. Lewis,
Re-election to Town Council



Why are you the best candidate?

I stand out among other candidates because I have eight years of experience serving Middleburg as an elected official. Throughout this time, I have exhibited dedication to my role on the Town Council and to its citizen by staying abreast on issues that affect them.

What are the most pressing issues facing Middleburg?

Recently, Middleburg has been receiving more and more attention from commercial businesses. One of the more important issues that need to be addressed is finding a way to manage growth and to keep our small town's unique character. Our water system must be upgraded so that Middleburg can be a town that continues to have sufficient drinking water.

Tell us about yourself, background, interests, etc.

I am a retired teacher, married to the late Trustee Carl Lewis. I have two daughters, a son-in-law and three grandchildren. I graduated from St. Paul's College. I continue my education by taking courses at George Mason University, University of Virginia, James Madison University, Virginia State University and the University of Shenandoah. My current appointments include, Chair of Public Safety Committee, Historic District Review Committee, Pink Box Docent, the Founder of the Windy Hill Family Development and Tutoring Program. I continue to serve the community in numerous capacities such as a member of the Tourism Committee, the Middleburg Community Center Board Executive Board of Directors, the Middleburg Garden Tour, Middleburg Beautification and Preservation Committee, Keep Loudoun Beautiful, Middleburg Library Advisory Board, Bluemont Concert, Christmas in Middleburg and the Windy Hill Advisory Board. I am also a member of the Fauquier County Retired Teacher's Association.

Awards include: Teacher of the Year, Fauquier County Public Schools, and Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Middleburg Community Center.

I am also a member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Rectortown, Virginia, Baptist General State Convention of Virginia, and the Former President of the Division of Women AREA D. Lastly, some of my inter-

ests include traveling and reading.

Serving the community in various areas has helped me gather a better understanding of the Middleburg Community at large and it reaffirms my commitment to "Making a Difference in the Town" of Middleburg.

Trowbridge Littleton,
Election to Town Council



Why are you the best candidate?

1. 20 years on council!
2. Assisted in completing water/sewer projects on time and under budget!
3. Innovative ideas with traditional values!
4. Life time resident with knowledge of history and traditions!
5. Ability to understand the ramifications and frustrations of council's thoughts and decisions!

What are the most pressing issues facing Middleburg?

Middleburg is facing major infrastructure and growth decisions which will have an effect on the town for years to come. The new town council must take into consideration the effects these decisions will make on the tax rates, water and sewer rates and the overall growth of our town. Without proper financial and construction management the residents and the commercial districts could have to pay taxes and fees which could be devastating to their survival. We are facing growth issues which need an extreme amount of cooperation and patience so it will be a positive to all. The Middleburg Town Council needs to be more innovative to solve these problems, while keeping its historical heritage we all love.

Tell us about yourself, background, interests, etc.

1. Maintaining Middleburg's wonderful character
2. Life long area resident
3. 20 years on Middleburg Town Council
4. Served on community boards, (church, school, social clubs)
5. Sports: fishing, golf
6. Commercial helicopter and fix

wing pilot

7. Local builder for 30 years
8. Enjoy giving older buildings new life while maintaining their historical character.

Bundles Murdock,
Election to Town Council



Why are you the best candidate?

Experience. I am currently serving on the town's Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission. I am the 4th generation of my family to live in the town.

What are the most pressing issues facing Middleburg?

Commercial Development. Middleburg must not become a "nice place to visit but I wouldn't want to live there". I will fight for the residents of the town in the face of mounting development pressure.

Tell us about yourself, background, interests, etc.

I have been involved in community service all my life. After years working and traveling the world for the U.S. Department of State, I recognize our little town as a treasure and a special place to live. I want to keep it that way.

Lisa Patterson,
Election to Town Council



Why are you the best candidate?

Middleburg needs new water infrastructure, and, as a Civil Engineer with a Masters of Science in Water Resources Engineering and Management, I am uniquely qualified to represent our village as we analyze our problems and plan our solutions.

We all want this unique Village to continue to be a beautiful, secure and successful community. Because

Continued Page 8

Elderly Housing Needs in Loudoun and Fauquier

By: Phoebe Cummings

Graduate Student, Yale University and
Summer Intern, The Windy Hill Foundation

Recent analysis of the 2000 Census, sponsored by the Windy Hill Foundation, finds that about 250 senior households in Middleburg, or within 10 miles of Town, spend more than 35% of their yearly income on housing. Nearly 90 of those households live below the poverty line (\$8,350 per year for a single person, \$11,250 for a couple), and an additional 80 of these households live on less than \$20,000 per year. According to the Census, 20 of these households lack indoor plumbing.

"Two Social Security checks total about \$13,000 a year," points out Foundation Executive Director Kim Hart. "If 50% of that must get spent on housing, that leaves only \$550 for utilities, food, clothing, insurance, and prescription medication," says Hart. "We know of one elderly person whose drug bill alone is \$400 per month."

These findings are supported by estimates from the local Seven

Loaves Food Bank. "Approximately 75 senior households are registered with the bank," says volunteer George Lengauer. "And about 50 of those households count on the food bank every month." While utilization of the Food Bank is not a direct sign of housing distress, it is indicative of the overwhelming financial hardships faced by many of the area's elderly residents.

According to the Census,

20 of these households

lack indoor plumbing.

One reason housing costs so much is that local median incomes, among the highest in the country, bid up both rents and home purchase prices. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reports a median household income of \$84,800 for the entire Washington area, but Loudoun County is even

higher at \$91,500. The fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the County is now \$1,154 a month. The average housing price in Loudoun was \$378,929 as of October, 2003, according to Loudoun County Financial Services.

Federal Housing programs, once a source of support for elderly housing, have been doing little to help recently. In the last five years, in spite of a growing annual need for affordable housing in the county, HUD has allocated only one Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher to Loudoun County. That's right, excluding 60 vouchers exclusively for the disabled, the total allocation of rental assistance vouchers for the past five years has been one.

What can be done?

For those seniors with limited incomes who are lucky enough to live in homes that are paid for, the best thing that can be done is to be sure that they are aware of and have signed up for current tax abatement

programs. A brochure on this is available at the Middleburg Town office.

For those seniors who must rent, including those displaced from farm-based tenant housing, there simply isn't enough housing to go around. The Windy Hill Foundation currently serves a handful of senior tenants but most Foundation units have stairs. So, the Foundation has begun planning and fund raising for a 20-unit affordable housing project for seniors to be built next to the Middleburg firehouse. "It's a great project and it has to be done," says Foundation President, Tommy Dodson. "But if you do the numbers, we're just scratching the surface compared to the need—right here

Election

Continued from Page 7

my personal history is so closely tied to Middleburg, and because I derived so much value from the wonderful years I spent growing up here, I want to return the investment that was made in me by serving on the Town Council.

If you give me your confidence and your vote, I will work hard and responsively to represent you well.

What are the most pressing issues facing Middleburg?

We must solve our water and sewage problems in a carefully staged and sensible way. My engineering background in water resources management uniquely qualifies me to help address these concerns. I will work to keep taxes and water and sewer charges low as we improve these critical systems.

We need to create an environment that supports our local businesses. The commercial district provides approximately 65% of the town's taxes and this tax base is critical to the viability of the town. By ensuring the success of our local business sector, we will ensure the health and well being of the entire community.

We are all worried about growth, traffic, and education. If you let me represent you in these Town Council discussions, I shall listen carefully to your ideas and concerns before I support any conclusion.

Tell us about yourself, background, interests, etc.

Twenty-two years ago when my family moved to Middleburg, I was only ten years old. Growing up here provided me with a wonderful education, a respect for history and tradition and a clear sense of one's responsibility to give back to the community. I attended Hill School, Foxcroft School, and Bucknell University. After my marriage in the summer of 2000, I moved to southwest Germany for two years where I earned my Masters Degree from Stuttgart University. My husband, Tom, and I returned home last year from Germany and have purchased a house in Middleburg. We are expecting our first child in September. We feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to raise our child in the same wonderful community where I was raised, and I want to do my part to make certain we perpetuate the traditions we enjoy here.

My commitment to the future of the Village is unparalleled. You may count on me to listen carefully to

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your hopes, fears, frustrations and ideas, and to make certain your position is heard as we decide how to shape Middleburg's future. Please email me with your concerns and ideas at skyp8nter@aol.com. I look forward to your suggestions.

Tim Dimos,
Mayorial Office

Why are you the best candidate?

Well, as far as I know, I am the only candidate.

What are the most pressing issues facing Middleburg?

We are looking at Five to Six Million Dollars in required water and waste water capital improvements in the next five years to serve our 425 existing customers and the new growth anticipated by our 2000 Comprehensive Plan. Because that planned growth is modest (approximately 6 new residential customers each year - and virtually no new business customers) the cost burden of the capital improvements necessarily falls almost exclusively on the existing customer base. That in turn means increases of 50% or more in a rate schedule that is already one of the highest in the state. The good news is that the development of Sal-

amander Inn at our doorstep presents a unique opportunity to defray those costs over a wider base and thereby lessen the burden to existing customers. It is an opportunity that demands our attention.

Tell us about yourself, background, interests, etc.

I grew up in Middleburg, attended Hill School, then Deerfield Academy and University of Virginia (BA 1966; LLB 1969). Page and I moved back to town in 1980. I am a lawyer and, since 1993, have been practicing from my office in town.

Main Street Loudoun Plans Cleaning for Downtowns

MAIN STREET LOUDOUN communities will work together on a Spring spruce up of Loudoun's Main Streets called "Main Street Loudoun is Blooming", to be scheduled Friday and Saturday, April 16 & 17, 2004. A variety of activities are planned to improve the attractiveness of our downtowns after the long winter

months and to give community volunteers and businesses a chance to demonstrate their community pride. By working together we will enhance everyone's enjoyment of our unique and historic Loudoun towns and villages.

Middleburg businesses are actively joining this effort in full force, just in time for the Middleburg Spring Races, and all the fun events that surround spring time in our historic town. Middleburg Southern States has offered a 20% discount in support of our local businesses for all flower and plant displays. Businesses, community groups and residents who wish to participate should contact Main Street Loudoun Coordinator Martha Mason Semmes at info@mainstreetloudoun.org or 703-737-8386.

A sampling of the activities planned for the two-day event include the placing flower pots and washing windows in Purcellville commercial areas and at the Purcellville Train Station; flower planting in Lovettsville at the Community Center, the Welcome to Lovettsville sign and in downtown barrels; clean-up and landscaping at Middleburg Elementary School and downtown; and a Round Hill downtown park clean-up and planting.

All Loudoun towns and several villages are expected to participate on one or both days of the event.

Community Main Street committees are spearheading this effort with coordination and assistance from the Main Street Loudoun Promotions & Education Committees. Businesses are encouraged to join this effort by planning their own Spring spruce-up activities for this weekend. Suggestions for business participation include planting flowers, washing storefront windows, picking up litter, sweeping the sidewalk, and painting storefronts. Some communities are offering assistance in the way of flower discounts from local nurseries and the provision of cleaning supplies.

The "Main Street Loudoun" (MSL) program is modeled after the Main Street program developed in 1980 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The comprehensive 4-Point Approach utilized by MSL has rekindled entrepreneurship, downtown cooperation and civic concern in over 1650 communities (including 65 communities in Virginia) by focusing on preservation of a town's existing assets and efforts to maintain a community's sense of place.

Identity Found

You Can Have Your Very Own Middleburg License Plate!
By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THE SEARCH IS OVER! Middleburg will now have its own license plate and it is a beautiful one at that. Whether you drive a Bentley, SUV, or the farm's pickup, they can now all be Middleburg vehicles.



The Middleburg Business & Professional Association, and the Town

of Middleburg has begun the presale of Middleburg license plates with delivery scheduled for mid 2005. Middleburg's accomplished photographer Janet Hitchen kindly donated the use of her lovely photo of the mare and its' foal on the plates which cost \$35 a set. You can reserve yours now by mailing your registration form and check, made out to the Town of Middleburg, to Middleburg License Plates, P.O. Box 1384, Middleburg, VA 20118. The forms may be obtained at the Town Office, or for your convenience downloaded off the website www.MiddleburgEccentric.com. Reserve early, a minimum of 300 plates must be sold to guarantee that the state will issue the plates.



Photo courtesy of éclat électrique, USA.

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From the Editor's Desk

To Our Readers

FOR MANY YEARS we have believed that Middleburg and the surrounding communities deserved a newspaper with a balanced and moderate voice. Although we did not imagine then that we would partner to provide this service, it is with tremendous pleasure and excitement that we announce the establishment of the Middleburg Eccentric, an independent journal of news and opinion.

We intend to create a fair and balanced dialogue between all parties in this beautiful part of the world, in the hope that if we understand each other better, we'll do a better job of ensuring a successful future for our corner of the world.

In the beginning, the Eccentric shall be a monthly publication. If our initiative is welcomed, we will endeavor to publish as often as is deemed valuable.

Please help us by contributing your ideas, your frustrations, your instincts and your experience. Do not hesitate to contribute your criticism, both positive and negative.

We will only serve you well if we respond honorably to the voices of our audience.

Our respect for the citizens and business community of this historic and beautiful region is boundless. Our commitment is to help ensure that the future of this region remains one of glorious agricultural and equestrian purity while integrating intelligent, sensitive and refined plans for the kind of expansion that will protect the integrity we need.

With our best regards, and every hope that you will help us make a significant contribution to our community.

Healthcare for Loudoun

ON MARCH 31, 2004, Loudoun Healthcare filed an amendment to Loudoun County's Comprehensive Plan to create a countywide healthcare system development plan that includes three hospitals and five health care centers. Loudoun County should adopt a formal healthcare facilities planning strategy as part of its overall Comprehensive Plan to ensure equal access to health care for its citizens,

while ensuring strategic distribution of health care services to encourage sophisticated acute and tertiary service development.

There are five compelling reasons for this amendment:

1. Without formal planning guidance, healthcare facilities will develop in an ad hoc manner without adequately serving citizens in the south, west and northwestern portions of the County.

2. Inadequate healthcare facilities planning at the local level prevents growth of essential and sophisticated treatment services within the County by artificially escalating costs for citizens, and retarding growth at existing healthcare facilities.

3. Comprehensive Planning guidance adopted by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (Section 15.1-2232 of the Code of Virginia, 1950) advises that local governments should include hospitals in local Comprehensive Plans.

4. The Virginia General Assembly in 2004 passed a law stating that state health care planners should give more weight to local governments in determination of development of healthcare facilities in their areas.

5. Loudoun County has the skills, talents, resources and abilities to make its own healthcare facilities decisions without directives from Richmond planners, who focus on larger regional needs often to the detriment of Loudoun County and local citizens.

What a countywide healthcare system development plan can address, prevent, and accomplish:

- A Comprehensive Plan amendment addresses proper land use, future locations, and timing of construction to ensure adequate health care access for all Loudoun County citizens.

- Hospital facilities placed in the wrong location today without proper planning will block the potential for other facilities to develop in under-served County locations for many years to come.

- In addition to existing healthcare facilities, this amendment proposes location identification for three hospitals in, Leesburg, Lansdowne, and in the County's South Dulles District. Five new Community Health Care Centers, which are community based outpatient healthcare facilities

in Lovettsville, Purcellville/Round Hill, Middleburg and Sterling; and, a Special Medical Facility at Washington Dulles International Airport.

There are three primary goals of this proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment:

1. Create a continuum of quality and compassionate health care for all citizens of Loudoun County.

2. Geographically distribute inpatient and outpatient services.

3. Strategic placement of hospitals to encourage distinct, sophisticated acute and tertiary services.

"The Virginia General Assembly cites a need for counties to include hospitals in their Comprehensive Plans," Rod Huebbers, President and CEO of Loudoun Healthcare, said. "In effect, this proposal puts control of placement of health care services under control of County Supervisors instead of leaving it to Richmond. Fire, rescue and the County's Human Resource department all have well defined planning – why shouldn't health care? We have always said we need more health care services. We believe our County planners and Supervisors know best how to ensure that those services best meet the needs of our growing community."

Letters

Editor,

THIS RANT IS A RAVE and is being addressed to the audience and readership of the new Middleburg Eccentric. Be prepared to be challenged, inspired and motivated by the 'old fashioned' brand of journalism you will find in

the pages of this new venture.

The Eccentric has the potential to be regarded critically for an unbridled and rabid pursuit of truth and the presentation of unbiased informed material, not directed at imposing a predetermined response to the news but to provide readers with facts enabling you to make thoughtful and unbiased decisions about what you see in print.

As the paper unfolds, its readers and the greater world of journalism and media will enjoy the benefits of its managements' experience, which brings to its pages generations of historical perspective in this industry, acknowledging the evolution of news and information presentation from the late 1960's to the present.

My personal experience, from the Journalism School at the University of Michigan to a career in marketing at the Chicago Tribune, followed by additional career changes and choices have led me to living and working in a very comparable community to Middleburg-New York City's historically sought after second home community in Litchfield County of Washington, CT.

The similarities between these towns go much beyond the fact that 10 letters make up their name. In the future issues of The Eccentric, I hope to contribute to Rants & Raves and know that your are all about to be richly rewarded with the experience that awaits you.

Seymour Surnow

Director Sotheby's International Realty

editor's note: In future issues look for Mr. Surnow's column "The Geezer Report".

Why is it so big... and green?



By Jay Hubbard - Middleburg Eccentric

Rants & Raves

Salamander Inn and Spa

IN THE SUMMER of 2003, the luxury Salamander Inn and Spa came to light with much fanfare at a ceremonial ground breaking on the 349 acre property just north of Middleburg, along the narrow, scenic Foxcroft Road. The 58 room, two restaurant resort hotel, which as proposed will include a 350-person special event pavilion and 33,000 square foot spa, was hailed by celebrities, local politicians, and the media as an enormous new asset for western Loudoun. Salamander Inn and Spa is the latest endeavor of Dr. Sheila Johnson, billionaire, entrepreneur, co-founder of the successful Black Entertainment Television. Dr. Johnson also opened Market Salamander, a specialty foods store located on Washington Street in Middleburg earlier this spring. The ground breaking for the larger Salamander project was symbolic, and at the time of writing a site plan has not been approved by Loudoun County, and details of the complex's sewer and water system remain to be designed or approved. But a grading permit application has been submitted and the very real possibility exists that the red clay under this historic property adjoining the town will soon be turned in earnest.

Dr. Johnson purchased the property in 2002 for \$7 million and was hailed for her conservation spirit. Controversy soon emerged, and continues over the size of the proposed facility. While many laud the project's merits, others have remained deeply concerned over the impacts a development of this scale will have on what remains the most pristine quarter of rural Loudoun. An ad hoc group of Middleburg area residents formed Future of Middleburg to raise awareness about potential negative impacts; the group now numbers over 750 supporters from in and around the town of roughly 650 residents. Six additional area groups also oppose the size of the project: The Goose Creek Association, the Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Route 50 Corridor Coalition, The Snickersville Turnpike Association, The Atoka Preservation Society, and the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC).

Although their areas of particular concern vary from increased traffic, depletion of available water, environmental impacts, loss of natural and open space, to the degradation of the area's Civil War battlefields and other historic resources, all share the common notion that a scaled-down facility would have far less impact on the surrounding area and town of 640 acres. These groups are also concerned that development of the in-town portion of the property has not yet been set out, and consequently, the impact of the entire site's development cannot be properly assessed.

Because Salamander's proposed sewer and water usage is considerable (the site plan specifies 54,000 gallons/day, roughly half of Middleburg's current usage), the development team may need a special use exception from the state of Virginia. To avoid this and to save money, it is expected that the developers will ask the Town of Middleburg for public sewer and water connections. PEC is concerned that this will allow the developers to build an even larger complex on the site (the facility is planned to expand to 120 rooms) and put the Town of Middleburg in the costly position of having to defend itself legally from other developers who could sue the town to provide the same services to other large tracts of land ringing the town.

As residential subdivision and cell tower applications proliferate in the Middleburg area of the nation's second fastest growing county, the future of the region as a premier tourist destination is coming increasingly into question. Without careful planning, the area's rural and historic charm may soon give way to a host of new development projects. PEC believes all parties should work together to protect this remarkable, unique and imperiled resource for the benefit of all. Without a shared vision for protecting these assets, the very attributes that make Middleburg such a desirable destination may vanish for all time.

**Mike DeHart
The Piedmont
Environmental
Council**

"Don't Bunch Up" Homeland Security, Survival and You

ON A CHILLY APRIL morning in the Missouri Ozarks an Army drill sergeant barked at a huddle of raw Army recruits. "Don't bunch up," he told us, "one grenade could get you all." The sergeant understood an important general principle that we did not. Indeed, the very first principle of security and survivability is rooted in the distribution of "value." And first value of all values is the physical security of your people.

Given the importance of human life it is particularly distressing that the experience of September 11th has taught us so little about the fragility of our current work model, based upon commuters swarming to large common urban workplaces and reversing this migration in the evening.

In spite of the current evacuation planning (see: "Head for the Hills? It Won't Be Easy" Wash Post, March 16, 2003) we are not encouraged that either people or critical government functions can survive or insure continuity of operations in case of terrorist attack, protesting tobacco farmers or natural calamities.

President Bush, in his support for the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, has focused upon the need for assuring the protection of those critical infrastructures and assets of public health and safety, governance, economic and national security.

Even assuming that people can safely be evacuated from urban centers in the aftermath of a terrorist attack, we must deal with the issue of continuity of operations of our key government agencies and other critical entities, such as public health. To accomplish this second goal, we must provide these geographically dispersed collections of people, who form these key government agencies, the ability to communicate in a secure, robust manner. The lesson of Sept. 11 was that the phone system and even Internet information access was overwhelmed by people striving to understand the unfolding calamity and to communicate with friends and family.

So how shall we proceed? A key element in the solution is support of Telework initiatives for government and other critical workers. The

current arguments for employing Telework are compelling: improved employee quality of life, reducing environmental pollution and dependence upon fossil fuels, savings in the cost of infrastructure or reducing the daily commuter traffic congestion. Physical security of our workforce and continuity of operations in our government makes even a stronger case.

Insuring the continuity of operations for key government and public health agencies requires the daily work of key agencies to be done in a geographically dispersed manner. Fundamental to this task is a robust, broadband communications service between every home, business and government facility. The required communications backbone currently exists in the networks put in place through the huge investments by the public into the telecommunications industry in the last decade. What remains is the extension of the broadband to the "last mile" into the home and office. These currently involve complex regulatory, market and investment issues. Whether through a public/private partnership, as currently being pursued in Utah in the broadband UTOPIA project, or by using some other investment model, we must move ahead from our current market stagnation.

President Eisenhower, in 1955, announced the "National Defense Highway System" initiative to build a superhighway network of over 41,000 miles of roads to enhance our National security through the ability to move military equipment and personnel more efficiently. Independent of the military use, the economic benefit of building this national road system has been a 30-fold increase in our GNP.

The rationale for building a "National Defense Communications Network" is no less important to our personal security and survivability than Eisenhower's national roads system was in 1955.

William Mularie, PhD

William Mularie, PhD, served as the Director of the Information Systems Office of the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) from 1998 to 2001 and is currently the CEO of the Telework Consortium, a non-profit corporation located in Herndon, VA.

Things to Do

OATLANDS PLANTATION SALUTES FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP

OATLANDS ANNOUNCED TODAY the return of one of the property's most popular events—the Oatlands Fine American Craft Fair on April 24 and 25 from 10 am to 5 pm each day. Admission to the show is \$10 and includes admission to the Oatlands mansion and gardens.

The event will present the work of more than 100 of America's finest artists and artisans from 20 states under tents in room settings. "This show, now entering its second year, is quickly developing a reputation as one of the finest outdoor craft shows in the Washington, DC region," states David Boyce, executive director of Oatlands. "This event showcases some of the finest American craftsmanship in the country," Boyce adds. The organizer of the show, Marilyn Gould of MCG Antiques Promotions also produces shows in Wilton, CT; Hancock, MA; and Winterthur, DE and brings her reputation for producing stellar shows. Proceeds from the



show benefit Oatlands. Exhibitors represent a wide variety of crafts including willow furniture, painted furniture, quilts, jewelry, sculpture, lamps, tinware, botanical drawings, folk art, floorcloths, milk painted furniture, hand-woven textiles, holiday decorations, bird carvings, silhouettes, teddy bears and dolls, hooked and woven rugs, tramp art, Nantucket baskets, Shaker furnishings, birdhouses, felted and linen garments, dried florals and herbs, pottery, chalkware, watercolors, bridal boxes and more.

Located six miles south of Leesburg, Oatlands is a 330-acre property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It features a Greek revival mansion (circa 1804), terraced 4-1/2 acre garden, numerous ante-bellum brick dependencies including a rare and unique greenhouse (circa 1810), Carriage House and more. For additional information on Oatlands, visit www.oatlands.org or call 703-777-3174.

RELAX AND UNWIND THIS SPRING AT THE 14TH ANNUAL LEESBURG FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL SET FOR APRIL 17th & 18th, 2004

SPRINGTIME IN LEESBURG brings gentle breezes, trees bursting with life, the fragrance of flowers in bloom, and the popular Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival! Now in its 14th year, the annual festival satisfies both the avid and beginner gardener's appetite with offerings of award winning landscape displays with designers on hand, fresh cut flowers, trees and shrubs, garden sculptures and furniture, arts and crafts, fountain and pond displays, and much more. Take all of this in at your own pace, while strolling Leesburg's historic downtown with its old fashioned charm. Visit the locally owned shops, which occupy some of the 18th century town's most historic buildings, and

admire the elegant homes, and architecture of Loudoun County's historic courthouse.

The annual Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival is a much anticipated weekend long event that reaches out to folks of all ages - including Loudoun's little ones! The Leesburg Parks and Recreation Department team, knowing that families are an important part of what shapes this fine community, take great pride in planning interesting, creative and educational activities for the kids in an area completely dedicated to them and located in front of Leesburg's Town Hall. Throughout the weekend children of all ages will be entertained while enjoying puppet shows, animal demonstrations, a unicyclist,

story telling and lots of other activities which include making a wind sock, wearing an oversized smock to paint large wooden flowers and animals, creating their own flower pot, and other unique crafts and fun! New this year is the 'Rainbow Garden,' a children's garden created by the Loudoun County Master Gardener Volunteers. Here, children can explore a garden path lined with rainbow colored containers, filled with flowers and plants of corresponding colors, plus fanciful garden art.

Little "green thumbs" develop at an early age, and in this special garden, children can learn that gardens and nature are magical and will be delighted with sensory experiences for their eyes, noses and fingers!

Downtown Leesburg will be blocked off to traffic Friday evening, then transformed into a botanical paradise with more than 120 ven-

dors plus a variety of food and entertainment. The event will be held rain or shine on Saturday, April 17th from 10AM to 6PM and Sunday,

April 18th from 10AM to 5PM. Admission is \$3 per person, with ages 6 and under free. Free parking is available in the historic district off Loudoun Street. In addition, a free shuttle will run back and forth from the festival parking area located at Ida Lee Park on Route 15 just north of the downtown dis-



trict, to the Festival site, all weekend long. There are no pets allowed at the Festival.

Historic Leesburg, Virginia, founded in 1758, is located at the intersection of Routes 7 and 15, 35 miles northwest of Washington, DC at the west end of the Dulles Greenway Toll Road.

OATLANDS OPENS FOR THE 2004 SEASON CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

OATLANDS EXECUTIVE Director David Boyce announced today that Oatlands has officially opened for the 2004 season this week. "We're so excited to celebrate our 200th anniversary," said Boyce. "All of our events will be part of this monumental celebration."

Special exhibits commemorating the anniversary will be set up in the Oatlands 1804 mansion and will be on display throughout the year. Oatlands will officially celebrate its 200th anniversary at a gala on April 24. "Preserving the Past... Embracing the Future" will serve as a fundraiser for Oatlands and is expecting to repeat last year's sellout.

This spring, Oatlands will hold the Oatlands Fine American Craft Fair on April 24 & 25. This event will showcase the finest in American craftsmanship. The Antiques

Fair will return on May 1 & 2 with more than 100 antique dealers and the same quality of Oatlands past shows. In celebration of the 200th anniversary, the Bicentennial Birthday Bash will be held on July 10. The Four Seasons of Oatlands Art Show & Sale kicks off July 11 and will run through August 22.

Hours for 2004 are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$10 adults, \$9 seniors(60+)/students(6-16), free for children under 5 (except during selected special events). House tours are conducted on the hour.

Oatlands, a 330-acre co-stewardship property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is located six miles south of Leesburg on US Route 15. Call 703-777-3174 for additional information or visit the web at www.oatlands.org.

LEAPIN' FROGS AND JUMPING HORSES VIRGINIA GOLD CUP TO HOST UNITED STATES NAVY PARACHUTE TEAM

THE VIRGINIA GOLD CUP Association announced today that the United States Navy Parachute Team, the "Leap Frogs" will demonstrate their spectacular jumping formations at the upcoming Virginia Gold Cup.

The Leap Frogs are a 15 man team comprised entirely of U.S. Navy Sea Air Land (SEAL) division and Special Warfare Combat-craft Crewman (SWCC) commandos. Each member comes to the team for a three-year tour from one of the two Naval Special Warfare Groups located on the east and west coasts. On completion of the tour, members return to operational units.

A typical Leap Frogs performance consists of fourteen jumpers leaping out of an aircraft at an altitude of 12,500 feet. During free fall, jumpers reach speeds of 120 mph and can accelerate up to 180 mph by pulling their arms to their sides and straightening their legs into what is called a "track". The jumpers typically open their parachutes around 5,000 feet by releasing a smaller pilot chute which deploys their main blue and gold canopy. After deploying their chutes, the Leap Frogs fly their canopies together to build dramatic canopy-relative work formations. The Leap Frogs are renowned for exciting and complex formations.

After the Gold Cup performance,

the Leap Frogs will be available to answer questions about the Navy and Naval Special forces and to sign autographs.

With all of the horses on site, there has been a question as to whether the Leap Frogs will conflict with the horses. Special care has been taken to have the Leap Frogs jump well in advance of the horses getting anywhere near the field.

The Leap Frogs are sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Chamber joins other Virginia Gold Cup sponsors including Mercedes-Benz; Jos. A. Bank; Tiffany & Co.; Cooley Godward LLP; Intellidyne LLC; Brown-Forman and Charles Schwab. Tickets are available online at www.vagoldcup.com or by phone, 540-347-2612.

The 79th Annual Running of the Virginia Gold Cup will take place on Saturday, May 1 at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia. Gates open at 10 am for pre-race entertainment including the Washington Redskins Marching Band. The Leap Frogs will jump at 11:45 a.m. and the first race gets underway at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$75 per car in advance, \$85 per car on the week of the race (allows entry of car and 6 occupants). Call 540-347-2612 for additional information or visit the web site at www.vagoldcup.com

OATLANDS SPRING ANTIQUES FAIR RETURNS SPRING SHOW BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

OATLANDS PLANTATION announced today that, due to popular demand, it will hold its spring antiques fair this year on May 1 and 2. The show, long recognized for quality as well as quantity, has developed a huge following over the many years it was held at this historic property. Oatlands held a fall antiques show this past year that was also a huge success. In 2004, Oatlands will hold a spring and fall antiques fair. The fall event is scheduled for October 16 & 17.

"The show is not only

unique because of the high quality of the dealers but also because of the magnificent setting," states Arthur Farbenbloom of Pappabello Shows, Inc., the management firm that oversees Oatlands' antiques shows. Oatlands, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has 330 magnificent acres which include an 1804 mansion, exquisite 4-1/2 acre garden, the oldest restored greenhouse in the nation and a variety of other historic buildings.

More than 100 exhibitors from fifteen states are expected to participate in

the Oatlands Antiques Fair. Items for sale will include 18th to 20th century formal, country, American and Continental furniture; paintings & prints, folk art, porcelains & pottery; vintage linen & clothing; antique & vintage jewelry; sterling; carpets & rugs; textiles & quilts; architectural; antiquarian books and ephemera. Hours are 10 to 5 on Saturday and 11 to 5 on Sunday.

Oatlands is located six miles south of Leesburg on Route 15. For further information, contact Oatlands at 703-777-3174.

FRIENDS OF BLUEMONT ART SHOW MAY 7TH - 9TH

The Friends of Bluemont is hosting its First Annual Art Show, May 7- 9, 2004. Daily hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A public reception kicks off the show Friday, May 7, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and features live music and refreshments.

Regional artists will display their talents in a variety of mediums including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and pottery. The Art Show and public reception will be held in at Nielson's Bluemont Village Center, formerly Cochran's Millworks, 33735 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont, Virginia in the center of the historic village.

The Friends of Bluemont is a non-profit organization that was formed in

2002 to preserve and protect the cultural and historical heritage of the village of Bluemont. The Art Show is a community-based project operated and supported by volunteers. Proceeds from this show will be used for village conservation. All entries in the show are available for purchase.

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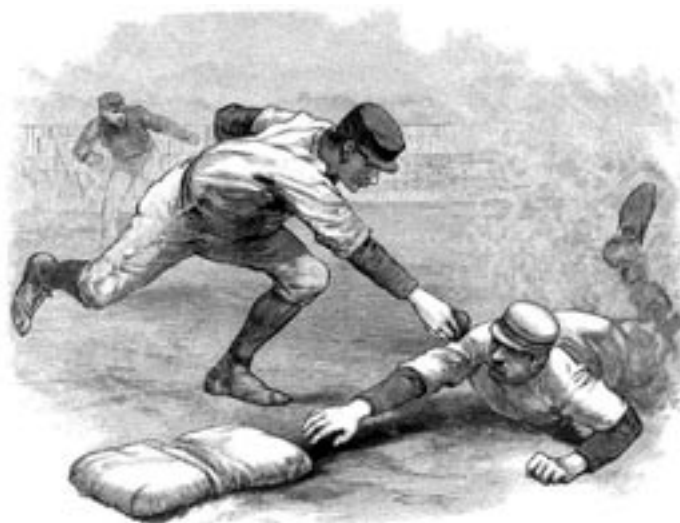
Big Baseball Summer Fun

The Loudoun Rangers need you!

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THE LOUDOUN RANGERS have arrived and it is baseball at its best folks! They are your baseball team, Loudoun County. The Rangers are a new expansion team from the Valley Baseball League, which is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), endorsed by Major League Baseball. They are the newest club in the 10-team wooden-bat league, the way they play ball in the Majors. In fact, at Ranger's Games, you'll be watching some of the nation's best collegiate athletes many of which will soon be drafted into the Pro's. These young stars still play for the love of the game, giving it their all on the field, making for some of the finest ball games you'll see this summer. The home of the Loudoun Rangers is conveniently located for county residents at Mickie Gordon Memorial Park in Middleburg, VA (directions below). The first game ever in the club's history is a home game,

Friday June 4th at 7:30pm vs. the Front Royal Cardinals. Be there, it will be an inexpensive family outing; adults \$5, children 6-12 \$2, and the younger ones attend for free.



There are many ways the community can become actively involved. Bob Dobkowski, General Manager of the Loudoun Rangers said, "Our strongest need is for Host Families. Our collegiate athletes need families to stay with beginning June for approximately 2 months. Each of these young gentlemen is an ambas-

sador for their respective Universities, and each love to play professional baseball. We hope that the families in Loudoun County will embrace this opportunity and support the players and the team as volunteer Host Families." The families' support does not require meals or transportation for their guest player, and hosts receive season passes for the entire family.

If you are interested in being a Loudoun Ranger Host Family contact Bob Dobkowski, General Manager by email at: rangersloudoun@aol.com, or call 1-888-845-0341.

The Loudoun Rangers need other types of volunteers as well. For detailed information visit them on the web at: <http://www.loudounrangers.com/volunteer.htm>.

Directions - Mickie Gordon Memorial Park

Located one mile east of Middleburg off Rt. 50. From the west, after passing through down-

town Middleburg, turn left on RT. 627/Carters Farm Lane (brown sign indicating Mickie Gordon Park) and follow gravel road for about 1/4 mile to park entrance on left.

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Morven
Fauquier County, Virginia

Morven is a stunning renovation. Original portions are from 1826 and 1845. 14' ceilings and original pine floors through parts of this stucco over stone home. The modern addition includes a large kitchen with open family room and fireplace for today's living. Situated on 85 acres of open pasture and paddocks in 4 parcels. Improvements include a stone guest house built in 1819 and a 4-stall King Construction center aisle stable. \$3,500,000.



Waiver House
Middleburg, Virginia

Tidewater colonial with wood siding and cedar shake roof. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, combination kitchen/family room, den, sunroom, exercise area and year-round spa on deck. 3-car garage includes a second floor office with fireplace. Fabulous barbecue and pool area. Located on 5.8 acres on scenic Snickersville Turnpike. \$895,000.



Windcrest Lane
Middleburg, Virginia

Log, stone, and frame house circa 1790 enlarged and updated in excellent condition. Exposed log and stone inside and out, 4+bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, lovely floors. The home is surrounded by mature landscaping and affords mountain views and privacy. Improvements include screened porch and rear flagstone terrace overlooking 4 acre pond with white sand beach, 2-stall barn with tack room and loft, 2 run in sheds, log cabin with stone fireplace and smoke house. 46.61 rolling acres, with new fencing. \$2,375,000.

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April 17 - Middleburg Spring Race Meet

Glenwood Park 1:30 pm
For information 540-687-6545
www.middleburgspringraces.com

April 17 & 18 - 14th Annual Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival

Downtown Leesburg
For information 703-777-1368

April 18 & 19 - Historic Garden Week Tour

Rectortown Area
For information 540-687-8888
www.vagardenweek.org

April 24 & 25 - Oatlands Fine American Craft Fair

Oatlands Plantation
For information 703-777-3174

April 25 - Middleburg Hunt Point to Point

Glenwood Park 1:30 pm
For information 540-338-5231

For more information on Events, Shopping and Dining
The Pink Box visitor Center 540-687-8888
Loudoun Convention & Visitor Association 800-752-6188

www.middleburgonline.com

~MAY~

May 1 - 79th Virginia Gold Cup Race Meet

Great Meadow, The Plains
For information 540-347-2612
www.vagoldcup.com

May 1 & 2 - Antiques at Oatlands

Oatlands Plantation
For information 703-777-3174
www.oatlands.org

May 2 - Foxcroft Annual Charity Horse Show

Foxcroft School, Middleburg
For information 540-687-5555

May 8 - Dog Day in May

All for Fun Dog Show
Middleburg Community Center
For information 540-687-5375

May 15 & 16 Spring Farms Tour

Western Loudoun Country
For information 800-752-6115

May 29 & 30 Delaplane Strawberry Festival

Sky Meadow State Park, Paris
For information 540-592-3556
www.delaplanestrawberryfestival.com

May 29 & 30 - 45th Annual Hunt Country Stable Tour

Upperville Area
for information 540-592-3711

www.middleburgonline.com/stabletour

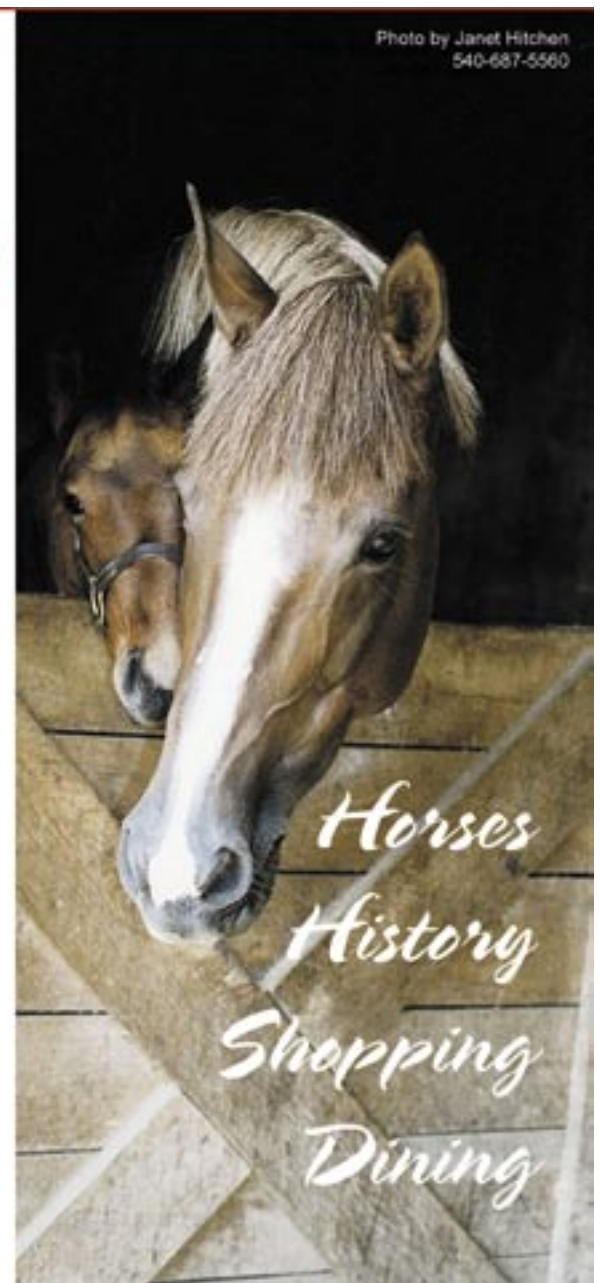
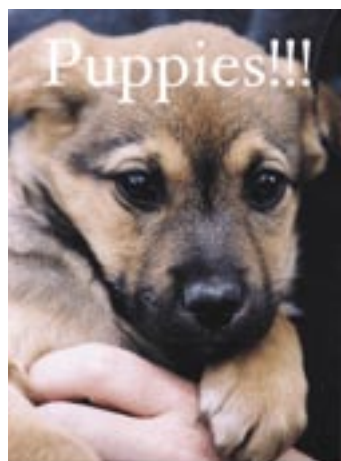


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Mastermind Arrives at Market Salamander

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

GREAT CHEFS ARE fascinating because they are complex and multi-talented by nature. This is easy to understand when you realize that serious success in the profession demands knowledge of and appreciation for art, science, history, food and spirits.

Brendon Cox, the Chef-in-Residence at Middleburg's new Market Salamander, epitomizes these critical characteristics and brings to the table one more: a brilliant sense of command and control which would be the envy of a Norman Schwarzkopf.

His skills and talents are truly diverse. In addition to cooking, are diverse, he is accomplished at business, management, public relations, marketing, purchasing, strategic planning, interior design, media relations, staff development, artistic design, architecture, math, chemistry, botany, and physics.

After a conversation with Brendon, it's clear that he is delighted to bring his talents to Middleburg.

Your focus in college was history and philosophy. How have your studies of history and philosophy contributed to your career path?

Everything in cooking is history, everything. Technique, style, ingredients, the way flavors work, everything has historical grounding. It doesn't mean you can't improve, change, modify, or update things.

We are not running around in ruffled shirts and horse drawn carriages these days, but a lot of the same flavor ideas that were codified mostly by the French masters, Escoffier in general (Auguste Escoffier), his flavors and flavor profiles, his ideas and techniques continue to work to this day. Food is science in a lot of ways, add this many egg yolks and you going to get this result

if you add too many you'll get a mess on your hands. Things like that gives one historical grounding in what food is about.

It is really rare to find someone doing something new.

People who try to do something new for the sake of something new, create food that, for me, just does not resonate that well, it doesn't have a real soul string, again grounding, as it were. Your cutting edge chefs in America, France, Italy, anywhere in the world, all have their grounding in classical technique and learning what's indigenous to a region.

Learning what grows in a region and cooking in that region is something you look at with an historical eye. For instance in the region of Emilia-Romagna, in



the province of Parma they make Prosciutto di Parma which is a cured ham. Also, they make the cheese Parmigiano-Reggiano (the king of all foods that comes from that region), as the whey separates out from that milk, they take that whey and skim it, then feed it to the hogs.

These hogs become the ham known as Prosciutto di Parma, and that's why Prosciutto di Parma, and Parmigiano-Reggiano are such a great flavor combination. They come from the same origin... the same milk. One becomes cheese, one becomes ham, and together they make a delicious combination

If you understand this philosophically, why things work together, it is a great help as we strive to understand and appreciate the traditions of the Piedmont.

Nietzsche would have appreciated your answer,

but I can't imagine him enjoying good food.

He hated everything! If you want great food philosophers you should read Brillat-Savarin of France, he wrote the physiology of taste (*La Physiologie du Goût*), there is a delicious French cheese named for him that we carry in the market.

Brillat-Savarin was one of the first 'thinkers' who tried to codify taste. He wanted to understand taste, how things work together to create a taste. He was the first, not necessarily the best... there have been many writers since, but chefs owe him a lot. Once again, it is the importance of having a historical perspective.

Brillat-Savarin enjoyed the good life; there is no doubt about it.

Most university history students would have been studying Napoleon.

Well I didn't read Brillat-Savarin until I became a chef.

lat-Savarin until I became a chef.

Did your education lay the foundation your career?

Oh yes. Many people join this industry as second career. Accountants, who have heads for numbers, but did not want to be accountants,

If you understand this philosophically, why things work together, it is a great help as we strive to understand and appreciate the traditions of the Piedmont.

study cooking. When they do ratios, write recipes, watch the bottom line; you can be confident they are much more successful in these areas than most chefs.

They may not, however,

have the sense of color and design that a chef enjoys who was a theater or art major. This is the chef who has the advantage in design and presentation.

When did you discover your passion for cooking?

I always enjoyed cooking. I did not grow up in a house where you had a grandmother cooking at the stove everyday as is the romantic French countryside notion.

My Mom and Dad are good cooks and we always had a good meal on the table.

Actually, I was the pickiest eater you ever met until I was about 17. It's a shame because I missed enjoying a lot of good food, so I'm trying to make up for it now. I eat lots of wacky stuff. The only thing I don't like is eggs, something happened there, my parents used to feed me scrambled eggs everyday, and one day, when I was about four, I just

didn't want them anymore. I haven't eaten them since.

I was a vegetarian for a long time, about five years, so I had to learn to cook for myself. This preference led me to a health food coop at my college where I became a cook. With this responsibility came the necessity that I had to learn to cook.

Everyone in the kitchen was my age. They already knew what they were doing, not as professionals, obviously, but we were pretty diverse. We learned to make Indian curries and Thai food. We did a lot of that type of cooking.

At that time I didn't take cooking that seriously, I was easily distracted with sports and playing music, generally having a good time. It was a way to make some extra money. It wasn't until I graduated that I found myself doing things like watching the Food Channel more, little stuff like that. Then a

Continued Page 19



Places to Go

Room with a View with a Vineyard

By Tom Patterson

TO FIND A ROOM WITH a view one need not go all the way to Florence, but to Antinori's Tignanello vineyard, which is half way between Florence and Siena in Northern Italy.

In September, we drove up to the just completed reception building for Fonte dè Medici that overlooked the clear, pale blue swimming pool and spectacular vineyard. Inside we met Roberto, and his dog, Parma. If you remember, the Our Gang dog, Pete, who had a circle painted around his right eye, Parma was his spitting image.

While Roberto checked us in the dog laid under the counter gnawing a rubber chicken.

After saying we should follow him in his car to the Podere Tignanello he asked, "You have a rental car?" When I replied, "No, its mine," he immediately said, "Oh, that's too bad."

We soon discovered why. The

mile drive from the reception to Podere Tignanello was along their historic chalk road. Maintenance, which is limited to grading twice a year, was to be completed after the grape harvest, about three weeks after our stay.

Needless to say we shall certainly hire a car on our next visit.



By Tom Patterson



By Tom Patterson

Three of us shared a spacious 110 square foot, two-bedroom, apartment named Sangiovese, one of seven apartments, in the restored 15th century hamlet.

At our request, each day Roberto recommended a nearby restaurant.

The first evening we drove almost 10 miles of chalk road, and found, at the end, the rustic La Cantinetta di Rignana. The tagliatella pesto was hands down the best we have ever enjoyed. Half-

way through the pasta course, we were more than satisfied. Our waiter was not happy when we said we couldn't try one of his scrumptious desserts. He did, however, share his favorite flavored grappa with us. We so enjoyed La Cantinetta di Rignana, we came back again for our last dinner in Italy.

Fonte dè Medici, about halfway between Florence and Siena, puts you close to the great sights, sounds, and tastes of Siena, San Gimignano, Florence, Pisa, Lucca, and dozens of lesser known, but unique, old towns.



By Tom Patterson

has a population less than 10,000 and still has 14 of its original 72 towers. If you can't get to San Gimignano, rent the movie Tea with Mussolini.

In Pisa, the Italians have done an incredible job of straightening the Leaning Tower. It still leans, but not

as much as it did and it no longer is in danger of falling over. The tower recently reopened for tours.

Florence is the home of art, sculptors,

and motor scooters. There are more Vespas than people!

The ancient city of Volterra, a bit out of the way, is in the center of the "culture triangle" Pisa-Florence-Siena. Situated on a high hill, you will enter the old town through one of the rustic old city gates in the well-preserved city wall. The inner city is a recognizable medieval center with many interesting sights: museums, a cathedral, the Pinakothek, the Roman Amphitheatre, and palazzi from the Renaissance. The city offers a far-reaching view of the beautiful Tuscan landscapes.

The walled city of Lucca has a rich history. In fact, there are three circles of protective walls that were built throughout the ages. The first quadrangular-shaped wall dates back to the 3rd or 2nd century BC. Its outer wall was planted with hundreds of trees in the 19th Century. While usually not near the top of the average tourist sight list, it is well worth the visit. For us, Lucca was the most inviting of all the towns we visited.

As we departed Fonte dè Medici for the last time, Roberto's dog, Parma, sadly woofed goodbye with his tortured rubber chicken hanging from his mouth.

If you stop in one of Antinori's wine shops, bring us back a bottle of Novizio extra virgin olive oil.

Many of the towns hold weekly or bi-weekly markets that afford a marvelous opportunity to purchase fresh food or handcrafted items.

During our stay we visited beautiful hill towns.

Siena, built on three hills, maintains a marvelous medieval atmosphere. Every August, it's 16th century pageant climaxes with horse races around its amazing sloping, round market place.

San Gimignano



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Market Mastermind

Continued From Page 17

buddy of mine got me a job as a dishwasher and a prep cook, I was 21, and it sort of went on from there.

A good chef, John Spinichia took me under his wing, in his very good restaurant. John paid close attention to what was good and what was not good seasonally. This was on the Chesapeake Bay so his restaurant had real regional cooking. I progressed quickly in his kitchen and he kept giving me more and more responsibility on until I was basically a sous chef, it was a really good relationship, and I owe a lot to John.

Is there one thing that you love to do more than any other?

I like to braise, I like to braise meat, I love to do sauces too, but it's braising meat, I love more than anything else. I love to eat it, to cook it, I love everything about it. It is a process that most people won't take the time to do.

Braising is real peasant, country cooking. It's great; it is elevating, to take a pork shoulder, braise it, treat the meat with respect, and bring out the flavors. When we do pork barbeque we braise off for 13-14 hours with a stout beer with our seasoning, and it comes out tender, creamy, and moist with the fat going into it, braising is very primal.

Every new opportunity comes with new challenges. What are your challenges at Market Salamander?

Not being a restaurant has challenges. Packaging the food may be the biggest challenge so far. When you are in a fine restaurant your

art is to compose the dish, sauce the plate, serve the customer, everybody's happy, and they eat it right there.

Here you don't really do much presentation and you have to make sure whatever someone buys to take home from a take-away restaurant gets home nicely, and they can reheat it.

It is hard to give up control, we've done as much as we can and at that point all we can do is give them some directions, put in the oven at 350 degrees for six-o-eight minutes for rare and hope it works out.

We recently changed from round containers to rectangular, I liked the round because I could relate to them as plates, but rounds don't fit in shopping bags as well. Also they were not as efficient use of space for storage. We are very tight for space so rectangular containers make much more sense. It's all about fulfillment.



By Jay Hubbard - Middleburg Eccentric

How are the retail goods selected for the market? Do they relate to the food you offer?

We have a diverse group of people who select and stock the products. A staff member finds something, we get together to talk about

it and, if it is a food product, obviously a chef will be involved to determine the quality of the taste.

We like to combine things. I do not just want to sell a hunk of cheese. We want to offer the full expanse of products that complement the cheese: the right chutney, or the right honey that goes with it, along with the correct bread. We have to know what's complementary, or I would not fulfill my promise to the customer.

Middleburg has not had a chef who is available to help develop menus and give advice about preparing a special dinner. How have people responded to this new service?

Every one of my chefs are available to do this for our customers. They are all intelligent, motivated, and talented. Their ability to take people through the process has been very well received by the community. Certain customers come in and want something fantastic prepared fresh to take home, others want to buy the seafood, and then want to know what they should do with it, and what they should serve with it. This is where we can be really helpful.

We ask them how they want to cook the fish? If they intend to grill, we cut the right thickness for them, take them through the process, making sure their grill is clean, seasoning it correctly. If they want something like a barbeque oil, perhaps an olive oil that has

been spiced for things coming off the grill, we have it here. If that's what they want we find it for them.

They may want a cold fennel salad with it; we have it here for them. The other thing we began recently is recipe suggestions. We have

a superb salmon recipe we offer for pan seared salmon with Pinot Noir glazed shallots, and a mustard tarragon cream sauce. A really simple recipe that is straightforward with great flavors. So our customer buys the tarragon mustard, the Pinot Noir, and the salmon here to take it home.

I'm confident our customers will take full advantage of the services we offer. We're simply providing services that have been available historically in Europe and, in some areas in America. You go to your butcher to get a piece of



By Jay Hubbard - Middleburg Eccentric

meat and he tells you how to cook it; then you would go down the street to your fish monger, then the vegetable grocer, and the process repeats itself. That's how you got your information about cooking foods, no one person back in those days knew how to do everything.

What international cuisines do you favor? Do you draw upon them to inspire new recipes?

We have a heavy Italian influence but we are not limited by it. Much of my

training has been in Italian kitchens. Modern American cooking is grounded in French technique and we will serve many regional American dishes, especially Southern recipes because it makes sense to use what we have available to us throughout the year in this region.

So French and Italian cooking are a focus. We won't offer Chinese, Japanese, Australian or Moroccan.

As the Market develops, what are your plans for the front of the shop?

We are going to take the retail products from the back of the market and place them in the front of the shop, then we'll build refrigerated cases in the Chef's area to provide us with more space for a larger variety

of 'grab and go' things like all of our sauces, dressings, different mayonnaises and prepared vegetables.

We will expand the cheese case.

Our customers will be able to come in to purchase a great lunch or everything they need to make a wonderful dinner. That's where we are headed.

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Pastimes



ARIES
(Mar. 21- April 20)
You can pick up wonderful buys if you really look hard this month. Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. Sign up for tours or courses that will enlighten you. Large organizations may try to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.



TAURUS
(Apr. 21- may 21)
Self-improvement could bring amazing results. You could find yourself having problems with coworkers and employers. Talk to an older, established individual about your present situation. Try not to be overbearing where family is concerned. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.



GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)
Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Inharmonious situations at home may be extremely upsetting for you this month. Outings with relatives or good friends will provide you with stimulating conversation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.



CANCER
(June 22-July 22)
Take the initiative and go after your goals. You can expect opposition at work. Don't let your competition be privy to information that could be in criminating. Get out and get active. Secret affairs could cause upset. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.



LEO
(July 23-Aug 22)
Your need to use emotional blackmail will only cause more conflict. Older relatives may make unreasonable demands. Try to address the real issues in order to turn things around. Involvement in groups will be favorable and lead to valuable information. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.



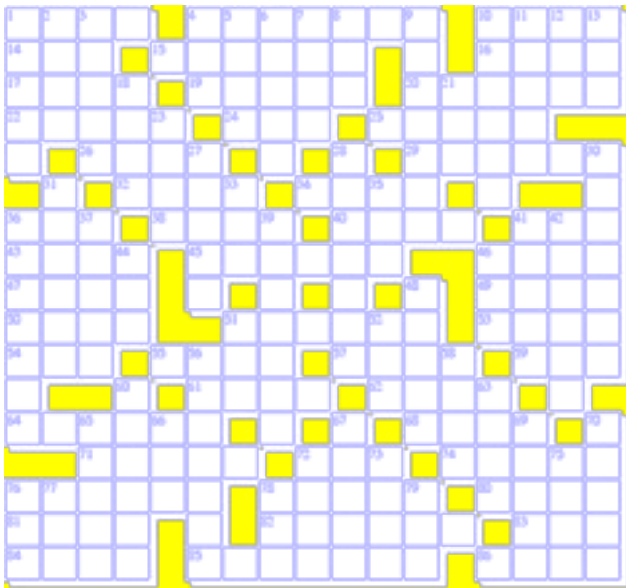
VIRGO
(Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)
You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this month. Your emotions have been pulled out of shape and you need to do a little backtracking. Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. You can utilize your versa tile mind and dazzle others with your speed and accuracy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.



LIBRA
(Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)
Opportunities for advancement at work are apparent. Don't be shy to promote your own interests. One-sided relationships are likely. Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.



SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Don't let those close to you get under your skin. Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Refrain from using the highway as a racetrack. Put your energy into moneymaking ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.



- ACROSS**

 - 1 Too
 - 4 Yield
 - 10 Requirement
 - 14 Open mesh fabric
 - 15 Full of pores
 - 16 Monetary unit of Peru
 - 17 Tarpaulin
 - 19 Seaport in the Crimea
 - 20 Group of seven
 - 22 Laminated rock
 - 24 Falsehood
 - 25 Soft, crinkled fabric
 - 26 Toil
 - 29 Parka
 - 32 Undulating
 - 34 Positions
 - 36 Wily
 - 38 Stated
 - 40 Sea eagle
 - 41 Month
 - 43 Prepare for publication
 - 45 Dashing
 - 46 Stink
 - 47 Woody plant
 - 49 Scent
 - 50 Slant
 - 51 British island
 - 53 Cab
- DOWN**

 - 1 Restless
 - 2 Wife of Jacob
 - 3 Dry stalks
 - 4 Asian condiment
 - 5 Mountain range
 - 6 Paroxysmal pain
 - 7 Pleasingly pretty
 - 8 North American nation
 - 9 Sheikdom in the Persian Gulf
 - 10 Japan
 - 11 Go into
 - 12 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 13 Part of verb to do
 - 18 Agricultural implement
 - 21 Even (poet.)
 - 23 Periods of history
 - 27 Russian drink
 - 28 Woman who writes poetry
 - 30 Chief stagehand
 - 31 Second man on the moon
 - 33 Bark sharply
 - 35 Weep
 - 36 Lounges
 - 37 Give up
 - 39 Mournful
 - 41 Pertaining to mode
 - 42 Lack of oxygen
 - 44 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 46 Container used for cooking
 - 48 Type of packsack
 - 51 Slow run
 - 52 Female sheep
 - 56 Pivot for an oar
 - 58 Soft cheese
 - 60 Plan
 - 63 State in the W United States
 - 65 Lifeless
 - 66 Consume
 - 67 Growl angrily
 - 69 Musical study piece
 - 70 Bay
 - 72 Having wings
 - 73 Plunge head-first
 - 75 Ireland
 - 76 Monetary unit of Burma
 - 77 Hurried
 - 78 Influenza
 - 79 Chield



SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)
You can make money through your creative efforts. You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. You may find your mate somewhat perturbed. Let go of the past in order to progress. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.



CAPRICORN
(Dec 22.- Jan. 20)
You may have difficulties while traveling or problems dealing with close friends or relatives. Involve yourself in group endeavors. You should put a little extra effort in at work. You may have a problem at work with a female coworker. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.



AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)
It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share. Limitations at work might set you back. Children may be less than honest with you. Do not reveal personal information to those you feel may be untrustworthy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.



PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
Use discrimination and play hard to get. You will meet potential new mates through business. Be careful to avoid wrong doings. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

The Topic of Cancer

By Glenda Cudaback

MOST MORNINGS I'm out of bed, downstairs and making tea before I remember that I'm not supposed to be alive. For months, all thoughts were calibrated against my conviction that time was not on my side. My oncologist, Dr. Elizabeth Simms, was the first to say "three to six months." That was in early February of 2002, shortly after I had taken a bad fall, required a CAT scan and had my worst fears of four years confirmed: There was something more than "just getting older" wrong.

Ovarian cancer, my first kind of cancer, is a killer. Read any book, visit any website. It is usually found at stage four, which is almost always too late to stop it. Very little is known about how to deal with it. Few clinical trials are underway. My treatment was immediate surgery and chemotherapy. The surgery was the bad part.

Charlotte, one of our cats, and I were watering the Christmas tree about 5 a.m. between Christmas and New Year of 2002, when she got tangled up in my nightgown, and I felt myself falling toward the tree with a large, full pitcher of water in my hands. I corrected the fall to go backwards, away from the tree, confident that an armchair was just behind me.

We move the furniture around when it's time for the Christmas tree to come in. The arm chair wasn't there. I landed, awkwardly, on my back, full force on a terracotta crouching lion that is about four feet in length. It was a sudden and severe hurt, and I was immediately drenched as the pitcher crashed on the tile floor.

After about two minutes, I was able to get up....Charlotte unable to run and ask for help. I was painfully stiff, but seemed unbroken.

Four days later, my torso was completely distended and tight. I called my doctor.

During the examination, she assured me that I was "fine:" probably a small hernia that would be an "easy fix. Let's just have a CAT scan to be sure, she said."

I first made the appointment with the surgeon to correct the hernia, and, later that day, made a CAT scan appointment. The hernia was "minor" and would be very easy to fix. In and out the same day, nothing to worry about.

The CAT scan was more foreboding. I arrived, met the two charming technicians and positioned

myself for the procedure while we chatted about fashion and the frustrations of medical technology. But within 60 seconds of beginning to send scanned images to the read-out room, silence had fallen. When the scans were completed, both young women rushed to each side of the scan platform to help me up. A shift of some proportions had taken place in how they viewed me. They knew I was ill, and it showed.

"Call your doctor right away. Try to see her today. Shall I walk you back to reception? Is anyone with you?"

"All right," I answered. "Does it absolutely have to be today? I think I can make it, I made it here. No, I'm alone."

"You must see your doctor today. We'll fax the information over right away."

Gloom descended.

I am a healthy, energetic, independent individual with a high tolerance for pain.

Childbirth and one fibroid surgery fifteen years ago in Boston were essentially my medical record. Never smoked. Had been through menopause, or was at least on the down side of it.

During the four years previous to my cancer discovery I had felt lethargic....my waist was disappearing, no matter what I did, and I really needed a nap in the late afternoons. All these indicators are also in the ovarian cancer books and websites...but I was assured repeatedly by my doctor that I was fine, if a little long in the tooth.

It is now two years, four surgeries and six months of chemotherapy later and I'm still here to write about it. Many who know me well have insisted that I get down on paper what happened to me, and what I thought about it to ensure that other healthy, energetic, independent individuals who think something might be wrong are encouraged to believe they're right.

This column will chronicle my experience with cancer, and will, I hope draw on the experiences of others who are willing to share their stories with us. My email is gcudaback@yahoo.com. Talk away to me and I will do my best to get the word out.

Living with cancer simply means we share many fears, frustrations, goals and ideas. We know great doctors, and we know medical professionals who should be drummed out of the corps. We are stronger in

some ways than we every thought we'd be, and in others, we are so delicate that we are very bad company at times.

Our sense of time is somewhat distorted, and our planning capability is considerably shortened. But

we know a lot about how we've changed, and we should share those insights. We should also make certain that people who've helped are recognized, and people who need help are better informed.



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Art as Real Estate

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THE BIRDHOUSE AUCTION began as the brainchild of Tutti Perricone's out-of-the box vision to help the center. As a past Board member she knew about the 31 birdhouses left over from a previous fundraiser several years ago. After a considerable

amount of dusting, this launched the Birdhouse Auction and Cocktail Party Committee. They, in turn enlisted the support of 30 local artists, the Hill school, their faculty and staff, who volunteered to work behind the scenes, along with all the Middleburg businesses that displayed the birdhouses in their shop windows. A true community effort!

The artists who donated their time and talent have diverse backgrounds, beginners, professionals, art students, art teachers, fine art-

ists, and commercial artists, even a theatrical production designer.

All of the bidders were most generous in their support of the community center and a little birdie told us the largest bid was \$2,200, a wonderful donation.

If you missed the

Birdhouse Auction on April 2, you missed a great event, and the opportunity to meet some very interesting artists. The contributing artists included. *Patricia Callahan*, a well-known sign painter and resident of Middleburg since 1979; *Joan Gardiner* is an accomplished ceramist and tile designer making tiles for private and public installations

since 1982. You can see her work in the New Ashburn Library; *Jane Gaston* has a broad range of artistic works, murals to dinnerware, jewelry design, is also known for her wildlife posters designed for the National Zoo in Washington, DC, and Zoo Atlanta; *Aeron Mack Hynes*, founder of the Middleburg Art League, works in wa-

tercolor and oils depicting lovely landscapes of our Virginia countryside; *Anne Lackman*, a graduate of Pratt Institute of Art, N.Y.C and former Mayor of Middleburg; *Charlie Matheson*, an architect and landscape painter who works in both watercolor and oils; *Tom Neil*, a painter and photographer recently featured in Home &

Design and Elan magazines; *Lilla Ohlstrom*, a sculptor who has a clay studio in The Plains where she also teaches children the art of sculpture, pottery, and drawing; *Tully Rector*, who learned to paint before he learned to read, with a brief interruption as a film director for 36 years, he's back at his first love, painting.; *Emily Sharp*, creator of Middleburg's wonderful Christmas decorations and retired art teacher from The Hill School, who never retired fortunately from her art!; *Dana Volkert*, a painter, who loves to paint close-ups of flowers, bugs, reptiles, and underwater organisms, see her collection at her studio; and *Catherine Stettinius Zimmerman* who is largely known for her watercolors, studied at the Corcoran School of Art, and has sold her paintings throughout the East coast.



Joan Gardiner, Artist By Teresa Thomas



Lang & Judy Washburn By Teresa Thomas



Dana Volkert, Artist & Lisa White By Teresa Thomas

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Country Way Blooms in Middleburg

By Steven Schwartz



By Steven Schwartz

Deborah and Amy know the Middleburg area well from living here for many years. "We both enjoy the country life and have selected our products for others who feel the same way," Amy explains, "Middleburg is such a gorgeous place to live and work."

Deborah agrees, "We both feel really lucky to be doing what we love and working in this wonderful community."

Country Way, 110 West Washington Street Middleburg, Virginia, 540-687-3583

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 to 5; Sundays 12-5; Mondays by appointment.

PERFECTLY TIMED with the first blossoms of spring, Country Way opened its doors on March 20th. Owners Amy Sullivan and Deborah Graham have filled their new store's cheerful spaces with room settings that showcase their floral designs and gifts for the country home.

"We've created a store that's like a home, where people can come in and feel comfortable, whether they're shopping for a wrapped bouquet or planning a formal event," says Amy. "We hope the store will spark ideas, plus we have a library of design books and magazines to help take the guesswork out of planning an event."

"Because people need to trust their floral designer, we take the time to get to know our customers, and to discover what will really express their personalities" Deborah added.

Directly across Washington Street from the Middleburg Post Office, on the

ground floor of a bright yellow house, Country Way is filled with color and aromas. The store offers gifts for all occasions, silk and dried flowers, potted plants, unusual orchids, topiaries, table linens, and a line of wedding albums and bridal presents. In a back room, fresh cut flowers fill a cooler next to a long antique wooden counter. A very friendly Corgi lounges on the floor. "That's Earl the shop dog," laughs Amy, "He loves a belly rub."



By Steven Schwartz



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The Magic Wardrobe

By Steven Schwartz



Photo by Steven Schwartz

AFTER TWO YEARS away from Middleburg, longtime customers are pleased to see the return of a store that has dressed Middleburg children for 15 years. The Magic Wardrobe's new owners and close friends, Sharman Dudley and Bridget Wilson, have re-opened a lovely, airy, totally renovated space at 108 W. Washington Street.

The Magic Wardrobe's new owners value the expert guidance of Patty Warrender, the store's original founder, who says, "I'm thrilled to help Bridget and Sharman carry on the tradition of The Magic Wardrobe for another generation of children."

Sharman says, "Bridget and I are here in the store every day, to cultivate relationships with our customers and respond to all their requests. And, if we don't have exactly what they're looking for, are dedicated to help find a solution for them."

The shop is bright and open, and of course children are welcome - there's plenty of room for strollers to navigate. "We have something for everyone, from affordable pajamas to exclusive formal outfits for special

occasions like weddings and first communions." Bridget continues, "Many of our clothes are European and exclusive and can't be found anywhere else." Sharman pipes in, "We carry white gloves!"

The store's "One Stop Shopping" includes shoes, clothing from birth to size 18, hair accessories, outer wear, everything for outfitting the nursery, blankets, swimwear and stuffed animals.

Thrilled to be "living their dream" and working together, the two women are mothers of young children and married to men who grew up in Middleburg. "Our husbands are good friends with each other and have been incredibly supportive. They pitched in as the four of us worked around the clock to meet the store's opening deadline."

"We're having a ball, and are always laughing," says Bridget. "We're a great team, we don't know why it works; it just does."

The Magic Wardrobe, 108 W. Washington Street, Middleburg, Va 20117 540-687-3363

Open Monday - Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-5, Sundays By Appointment



Photo by Steven Schwartz

SHEILA JOHNSON'S, NEWLY OPEN, SALAMANDER TOUCH, offers fine 298-thread count linens that are personally designed by Mrs. Johnson and manufactured in Italy. The shop also features Mistral, exquisitely scented creations inspired by "Le Mistral", legendary wind of Provence, and WMF gourmet table, bar and kitchenware from Germany. 200 West Washington Street, Middleburg, Va



Photo by Jay Hubbard

MOMS Club Chapter Starts in Middleburg

MOTHERS WHO CHOOSE to stay at home to raise their children still work a full-time job. In fact, at-home mothers are on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many are experts at multi-tasking - supervising children, handling finances, cooking meals, cleaning house, and volunteering or otherwise involving themselves in the community. Add to this the fact that many at-home mothers run home-based businesses or work part-time, and it is easy to see how they can become overwhelmed. A support network of other mothers who understand the challenges is crucial, but all too often, difficult to find.

Not so for mothers in the Middleburg area! A local chapter of the International MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) has been started. The purpose of MOMS Club is to provide that necessary support for at-home mothers. MOMS Club provides many activities for the children, such as play dates and park days, field trips, and holiday events but is primarily concerned with offering opportunities for the mothers. The club will sponsor speakers on topics of relevance to women. Mothers will be able to find other women who want to discuss books, crafts, gardening, etc. and there will be Mom's Night Out for that well-deserved break. Also, MOMS Club is dedicated to making our community a better place. MOMS Club will be actively involved with service projects that help needy children.

Membership in the MOMS Club of Middleburg is open to all full-time or part-time stay at home mothers in Middleburg and the surrounding areas (including Aldie, Upperville, Delaplane, The Plains and Marshall). The MOMS Club of Middleburg meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00-11:00 am at the Middleburg Community Center and, of course, children are welcomed at all events. For more information on this wonderful opportunity for mothers, please contact Leslie Cox at lesliejlong@hotmail.com.

FOX CROFT

S C H O O L

Foxcroft Riders Win TSEL Championship



Foxcroft 398 - Madeira 378

FOXCROFT EMERGED AS Champion of this season's Tri-State Equitation League at the final meet April 4, 2004 held at Madeira. Hawthorne Hart (Waterford, VA) was High Point Overall Rider and Claire Mancini was Reserve High Point. Foxcroft horse Carousel was selected as School Horse of the Year. Carousel was Reserve HOTY in 2003 and has represented the school in the hunter, jumper, and equitation rings and has competed in the Whippers In course.

Steel Magnolias

APRIL 22-23, 2004, Foxhound Auditorium, 7:30pm Directed by Robyn Yovanovich



Set in the small town of Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana, six completely different yet nonetheless loyal friends meet weekly at Truvy's Beauty Salon to discuss world events along with the daily grind of raising a family and local politics. This play, written by Robert Harling, and later developed into a movie, depicts joy, sorrow and a bit of comedy all within the confines of Truvy's Beauty Salon, a made-over carport.

Spring Events on Campus

Walk for a Smile

The Junior Class at Foxcroft School will hold its annual Walk-athon on Saturday, May 1, 2004. This year, the proceeds will benefit Operation Smile, which provides dental services for children. To sponsor a walker, call 540.687.555 and leave a message for the Junior Class Advisor.

Don't Miss Annual Foxcroft Horse Show

The annual Foxcroft Horse Show on Sunday, May 2, will benefit Riding for the Handicapped, Loudoun Hospital Center, and the Middleburg Rescue Squad. For more information or to sponsor an event, contact Nelly Sheehan, Director of Riding, at 540.687.4582.

Donate Blood

Foxcroft School Day Students, as their special community service project, are sponsoring the next Blood Drive on Monday, April 26, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in FoxHound Auditorium. Almost everyone knows someone who has needed blood at some time. according to the American Red Cross Blood Services, "every seven seconds, someone in our region receives blood. Approximately 95% of the population will need blood during their lifetime, but less than 5% of the population donates." Representatives from the American Red Cross will be in Fox-Hound Au-

ditorium on the Foxcroft campus, 4 miles outside of Middleburg on Foxcroft Road. New regulations require donors to present a photo ID. To avoid waiting, call 540.687.4322 to schedule a time for your donation. Help our day students meet their goals!

Local Foxcroft Student Wins First Place in Congressional Art Show



Congratulations to Emily Bartlett who was awarded first place in the drawing category at the 10th District of Virginia 2004 Congressional Art Show: competition held April 3, 2004 at Heritage High School in Loudoun County. She was second overall only to the "best of show." This annual nationwide competition for high school students "encourages and recognizes the rich artistic talents of young Americans."

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VOTE
Patterson
Middleburg Town Council
May 4th

Authorized and Paid for by Lisa Patterson

John Deere is On The Verge of Clean and Quiet Farming

By: William H. Funk

Staff Writer for TheRadioVerge.com

WITH THE spring planting season now upon us farmers throughout the commonwealth are cranking up their tractors and heading out to the fallow fields, there to inaugurate an ancient ritual that in today's machine-driven world is harshly redolent of diesel fuel, choking exhaust and the constant clangor of mechanization.

"Like our grandfathers, we will once more be able to enjoy birdsong while tending our fields"

But if Bruce Wood of John Deere & Company has his way, springtime in the country could one day be lot less pollutive and noisy.

Wood is director of John Deere & Company's ePower Division, among the

leaders in alternative fuels research. These new technologies include fuel cell-powered vehicles, which use hydrogen to create electricity, and gasoline/electric battery hybrids, which alternatively use an efficient internal combustion engine and electricity stored during normal engine operation. Traditional battery-powered electric vehicles are only capable of storing electricity generated from exterior sources; fuel cells actually generate power themselves, making their operation self-sufficient and far more dependable. To say nothing of cleaner: the only emissions of fuel cell operation are water and heat. And as a means of weaning us off of fossil fuels, fuel cells represent the best hope for national energy independence.

While fuel cells have now been successfully developed and are currently being tested for vehicle use they are not yet widely available.

Because they have evolved from existing technology, the gas/electric hybrids will be more immediately accessible and affordable, and Deere has already produced a hybrid farm utility vehicle, called the Gator, in both gas hybrid and fuel cell prototypes.

What's the advantage of alternative energy for the average farmer or lawn owner? Hybrid vehicles are less expensive to operate than vehicles with purely internal combustion engines, as they use less fossil fuel (fuel cell vehicles use none at all), and they will offer more features such as ease of operation, increased

productivity and advanced precision farming capabilities. Tax benefits may pertain, as well, as current buyers of the Toyota Prius can take advantage of a \$2,000 tax cut for contributing to cleaner air, and similar inducements may soon lure farmers looking to cut overhead. The new technologies

are clearly a huge leap forward in bettering air quality, and the electric engines are markedly quieter than those powered by diesel or gasoline—in fact they're practically noiseless.

How does a company known for its tractors and mowers assume to take the lead in developing non-fossil fuel vehicles for mass consumption? The first prototype fuel cell vehicle was actually a particularly

advantages over the automakers include better long-term customer economics, off-road fleet based opportunities and more ready customer acceptance.

Deere & Company's stated corporate policy is "to conduct its business throughout the world in a manner that protects and sustains the environment," including making "environmental considerations a priority in all business planning and decision-making." By moving forward to harness the limitless power of clean fuels like hydrogen, Deere is making farm and lawn vehicles active players in the global fight to reduce greenhouse gases and our dangerous dependence on fossil fuels. "Over the

next decade," says Deere's Bruce Wood, who has been interested in environmental issues since college, "we'll see commercial versions of hybrid and fuel cell vehicles become widely available." And then, like our grandfathers, we will once more be able to enjoy birdsong while tending our fields.



Courtesy of John Deere

ungainly-looking tractor developed by Allis Chalmers back in 1958, and Wood claims that Deere can advance the introduction of substantial numbers of fuel-celled vehicles by five or more years before fuel-celled automobiles will be a significant aspect of the American road. Deere's

Trilliums Tra La

By Lisa Patterson

THE TRILLIUM FOUND at Thompson WMA is Trillium grandiflorum, commonly known as large-flowered trillium, wakerobin or snow trillium, blooms from late April until mid-May. The blooms start snow white and turn pink to dark pink as they age. The plants are 6 to 20 inches tall with petals, sepals and leaves in three.

The trilliums are not the only wildflowers to be seen, even though they alone are worth the trip. If you walk the fire trail for less than a mile you will be rewarded with sightings of bloodroot, wild geranium, rue anemone, and my favorite the yellow lady's slipper

to name a few.

If you are a birder there are plenty of birds to see and here. I recommend going



By Lisa Hubbard

during the week or arriving early for the best birding.

Hiking boots aren't necessary, but sturdy shoes are recommended. If you aren't much of a walker, the trilliums can be seen without having to walk more than 200 feet from the parking

area. Bring your binoculars, camera, insect repellent, water, snacks, and enjoy your day!

Directions: Take I-66 west to Exit 18 for Markham. Turn left off exit ramp to Route 55. Turn right on Route 55 and travel several miles to Linden. Turn right onto Route 638 (Freezeland Road) right after the country store. After a mile the road splits. Go right on Freezeland Road and continue another 4 miles to Parking area #6 on the right (just beyond a large fenced tower installation). The start of the fire road is just beyond the vehicle chain barrier.

Look for:

Jack-in-the-pulpit
False Solomon's seal
Large-flowered trillium
Nodding trillium
Perfoliate bellwort
Yellow ladyslipper
Showy orchis
Sweet Cicely/Aniseroot
Wild ginger
Daisy fleabane
Golden Ragwort
Common dandelion
Mayapple
Garlic mustard
Wintercress
Slender toothwort
Giant chickweed
Wild geranium
Virginia waterleaf
Ground ivy
Purple dead-nettle

Spring beauty

Rue Anemone
Columbine
Small-flowered crowfoot
Early meadowrue
Tall meadowrue
Swamp buttercup
Bulbous buttercup
Wild strawberry
Wood betony
Common blue violet
Downy yellow violet
Pale/Cream violet
Early violet
White campion
Wild Pink
Squawroot
One-flowered cancerroot
Yellow pimpernel
Caraway
Early saxifrage
Swamp Saxifrage

The Gardeners Handicap

By Karen "The Plant Lady" Rexrode



APOLOGIES SEEM to be a gardeners lot in life. We perceive a vision for our terrestrial spaces and then spend much of our time doubting our direction. Questions flow in a steady mental stream, are things planted to close? is it random enough? is there enough chartreuse? The visual familiarity of our space leaves us seeing what others don't, and we fret over these details. They are the only things we see. So when a visitor arrives and comments on our wonderful accomplishments, we spend much of the conversation apologizing. Often in an imploring tone, we explain our directives, "Oh... wait till the hydrangea blooms next month" or "When the clematis covers the rose...", etc. After all, our minds are thinking in the future, how else would one ever become a gardener? So we plan and scheme, all of this to build our perfect garden, which of course will never be perfect. Secretly some of us are really seeking that reassurance, a visitor might help us determine whether our direction is right, a stroke for our sensitive ego and we will continue with "Our Vision". Yes, gardeners can be an odd bunch.

So, after spending a life time of gardening, I'm trying to break myself of this pitiful little handicap, this snivelly, whimpering doubt. I recently read of two extraordinary gardeners that allow themselves one day of walking through their (very large) garden and only making positive comments. It's a Sabbath day, not a work day and attention must be paid to the good things in the garden. Now I know

that the stream of mental notes of things to do probably continues, but on that day they see only the things of beauty. This would be a great exercise for all of us.

On a more personal note I have also noticed that with age comes sappiness. I have found that I now admire flowers from above, and then be-

low, and finally from behind. Newly emerging plants have become quite delightful, more so it seems. I imagine that the touchy, feely thing I do with plants annoys some people. Now this emotional maturity can be a handicap as well because it does two things, it doesn't help you plan a garden very well, at least not a personal one (because you like everything). It also makes you want



more gardens, one over there for tropicals, one over here for orange and blue and of course a water garden with a fountain. So the gardener gets all scatterbrained and can't take

care of it all, sound familiar? A few of us are saved by space limitations. Who would have thought that cramped quarters

could be a good thing? Then I suppose everything might be perfect, frustratingly perfect! But I did spend sometime today trying out my new response for visitors. It goes like this "Yes, the daffodils are perfect today". Hah! Now it must be said with a clear, authoritative voice, no clenched teeth. The tongue between the teeth, "the daffodils are perfect today". You can conjure up your

own response, but by all means, feel free to borrow mine.

Our spring catalogs are ready and our theme this year is plant partnerships. It's a great resource and another one that is worth keeping for seasonal plant pairings. They are \$3.00 when picked up at the nursery, \$4.00 when mailed to you directly. A much condensed version is accessible on this website as a pdf file. We are open from 9 to 6, seven days a week, feel free to give us a call with plant inquiries or spring questions (703) 327-4211.



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Friends for Life

SO...YOU'RE MOVING, having a baby, getting divorced, buying a new home, redecorating... The Middleburg Humane Foundation, along with other shelters, receive numerous calls from owners looking to give up their animals. They have every excuse imaginable! When you adopt an animal it should be considered a member of the family with a lifelong commitment to that animal. Animals give you undying love and devotion. They ask very little, yet give so much. Shouldn't you return that love? Be a responsible pet owner – make a lifelong commitment or don't do it at all.

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1 yr. old Pit Bull/Lab mix. Best buddies with all dogs & likes children too. Very willing to please & good natured. Completed training program & very well mannered on leash.

NIKKO

2-3 yr. old Cattle Dog mix (? Nellie's father). A very special boy who loves to learn new things! Smart, gentle loyal & has beautiful tiger striped markings. Best in a home that has a fenced yard & no kitties.

NELLIE

Very cute small 11 mo old Cattle Dog mix. One of 29 dogs rescued from Warren County. Has come a long way from being shy & untrusting & is now a sweet outgoing & gentle little girl. Loves belly rubs!!

OLIVER

12 week old Lab mix puppy rescued from a horrible owner who cut

his nose off. Oliver is very smart & very cute—he will grow to be a medium sized dog.

PATRICK

6 mo. old happy go lucky, super cute yellow Lab/RT mix. Would make a great Frisbee dog—party boy.

PUPPIES & KITTENS

Spring has sprung so puppies & kittens galore! Call for details.

SYLVIA

8 week old purebred Rottweiler puppy—gorgeous little girl, black & tan with docked tail.

MELVIN

5 mo. old yellow Pit Bull mix puppy who has grown up with us. Very well socialized, beautifully behaved. A once in a life time love of your life type!

DIVA

7 mo. old spayed female muted calico DMH. A gorgeous girl with a big personality and a lot of spunk.

PHILLIP & WILLIAM

Two adorable cats rescued from neglect. Both are extremely special – love to snuggle. Phillip is deaf – indoor only home. Please adopt both so that they may have a gentle retirement together.

BUSTER

6 – 8 yr. old tiger & white DSH. A large cat with lots of love.

TOMMY

8 mo. old red tiger & white DSH. Very affectionate & full of personality!

CAPTAIN

CRUNCH

1 yr. old seal point DSH. He was hit by a car, found lying by the side of the road with head trauma and an injured leg. He lost his hind leg but has completely recovered and is a very sweet love muffin!

CECIL

2 1/2 yr. old Birman cat. Friendly and loving—the perfect lap cat.

HOOTIE

4 yr. old purebred Persian cal. Gorgeous, affectionate,

solid black, neutered with big orange eyes.

THE NUGLETS 2 POT BEL-LIED SISTER PIGS

2 years old, friendly & lots of fun.

WILLY

5 yr. old. 15H TB gelding. Willy has a lovely temperament—very quiet & kind. Currently in a 30 day training program under saddle—has a big future ahead!

JAKE

8 yr. old, 15H, Bay TB cross. A nice companion only horse for a field friend. An easy keeper.

JULIE

1 1/2 yr. old chestnut, medium pony filly. Completed 30 day training program, now has excellent ground manners. Very attractive.

BABE

9 yr. old medium pony mare. Wonderful ground manners with kids, green under saddle at walk/trot. Safe for children. Has foundered so needs restricted diet &

also has uveitis.

BUNNIES

We recently rescued 5 very sick baby bunnies from a store in Leesburg—all males (will be neutered) doing great now. 4 lops & 1 Dutch. Super friendly & cute.

IN 2003

MHF found homes for 92 dogs, 132 cats, 5 horses, 4 goats and 4 donkeys. 236 animals were rehabilitated and placed into new homes! 365 animals were provided with medical assistance and 32 equines were under MHF care.

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Albert's Corner

A monthly column for people who share
their homes with four-legged friends.

IN THE FUTURE, I'm going to write about many fun topics. But this is my first column, and a dog's got to make his mark – no pun intended. This time, I'm writing about a serious issue – making sure children know how to interact with dogs.

Lots of dogs have great manners around little people, fully understanding how to cope with sudden movement and loud noises. Many dogs, however, don't know much about those things at all. In fact, there are 4.7 million dog bites in this country every year. Of those, 800,000 are serious enough to require medical attention – and the majority of those bites are to children.

Holy Scooby Snacks, Batman! What's going on?

I suspect dogs are so universally loved that it's easy to forget that canine instincts can be unpredictable. While a human might be doing something playful, a dog might perceive that behavior as a threat. Until a child knows a dog very well, it's best to exercise caution. If I could talk, this is what I would say to all children, as well as what I would encourage parents to teach them:

Always ask the owner's permission before petting a dog.

Never approach an unfamiliar dog.

Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.

Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.

Never tease a dog.

Never put your face close to a dog.

Always approach dogs slowly and carefully.

Never run from a dog and scream.

Remain calm when approached by an unfamiliar dog.

If you're attacked, cover your head and neck, and protect your face.

Do not disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.

Never reach through a fence to pet a dog.

Never try to help a hurt dog; get an adult to help.

Remember that not every dog who wags its tail is friendly.

Enter a yard with a dog only when the owner is with you.

Practicing safety around dogs is just as serious as not getting in a car with a stranger. The last thing I want is for children to be afraid of us – but I do want them to respect us too. Then we can all focus on the fun stuff. Anyone for a game of fetch?



Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a dog and cat shop in Middleburg.

Look us over. Fall in love. Take us home.



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Historic Spring Races at Glenwood Park

By Holly Beth Hatcher

EVEN IF HORSES AREN'T YOUR bag, you don't want to pass up a day at the Spring Races. Especially at Glenwood Park, a beautiful course with a storied past where you may enjoy many annual events with the satisfaction of knowing that the proceeds will support local fire stations, churches, Loudoun Healthcare and many valuable community organizations.

Pitting your horse against your neighbors' for speed and stamina has been a happy pastime for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. The first record of what we consider steeplechasing is in County Cork, Ireland in 1752. O'Callaghan and Blake raced over 4 1/2 miles from Buttevant Church to St. Mary's Church in Doneraile.

Steeplechases were the tallest, most prominent landmarks to use as race guides. Cross country match races quickly spread to England and onto established race courses. Americans began Steeplechasing around the end of the nineteenth century, and the National Steeplechase Association's original charter is dated February 15, 1895.

It is the oldest race day in Virginia.

The Middleburg Spring Races is an elegant, old-fashioned race meeting which takes place on one of the finest courses in America. It is the oldest race day in Virginia.

Daniel Cox, "Mr. Middleburg," Sands organized the first race in 1911 and was sanctioned the following year by the National Steeplechasing and Hunt Association.

In her book, *Hunt Country of America*, Kitty Slater quotes Mr. Sands as he described the race, "It was planned primarily for the entertainment of the farmers, over whose land we hunted, and who some-

times were not easy to pacify when galloping hooves crushed crops in the ground or when foxes raided their chicken houses. Whole families came from miles around - on horseback, in buckboards, spring wagons and buggies, and some drove tandems. Everybody brought picnic baskets, and you never saw so much fried chicken in your life."

The race has run continuously except for a hiatus during World War I. Racing resumed in 1921 with the first Middleburg Hunt Cup and the Farmers' Race. In 1932 a 112 acre farm was bought to be the permanent home for the races. Timber, brush, hurdle and flat racing facilities were laid out along with a paddock under the oak trees and saddling stalls. Tiers of boxes and a grandstand were built so that the whole course could be seen with the Blue Ridge Mountains as the stunning background. The Fauquier Democrat wrote, "The thousands of race goers coming to Middleburg April 16 (1932) for the 12th running of the Middleburg Hunt race meet will find a racing plant declared by horsemen who have viewed it to be the most elaborate and unique of its kind in America."

When Mr. Sands passed away in 1963 he left Glenwood Park in trust to Loudoun Healthcare with James B. Skinner and S. H. Rogers Fred as trustees. Mr. Fred, whose Sunny Bank Farm was adjacent to the park, cared for Glenwood as though it were his own, running cattle on the course and clearing them out only a week before each race meet. The live-

stock kept the turf free of holes and with a good base.

For the maintenance of fences, local volunteers raised money under Fred's guidance and replaced the old sunken timber fences with new, stiff panels at just under four feet. Because Glenwood Park's facility is of such a high standard, the prestigious Temple Gwathmey graded stakes race run over hurdles moved to the Middleburg Spring Races for the first time in 1990 with a \$50,000 purse.

Not a group to rest on its laurels, Glenwood Park established the \$20,000 Alfred Hunt Steeplechase which was inspired by New Zealand steeplechase courses. The Alfred Hunt course consists of large coops backed with brush, ditches in front of yew hedges and a water jump on a course similar to a figure eight.

"the most elaborate and unique of its kind in America."

Paul Fout, well-known local horseman, designed the course with help from local architect Tommy Beach. Some of the inspiration came from the French countryside around Po, where, Fout relates, "There is every type of fence: ditches, banks, brush, timber - all sorts." The race, run in memory of Alfred Hunt, past Master of the Rolling Rock Hunt in Ligonier, PA, was the brainchild of Hunt's brother, Tod, whose family supports the annual purse.

Glenwood Park is also host to another steeplechase meet, four point-to-points, preliminary and intermediate horse trials, schooling, Connemara shows and other events. "We're trying to have more activities," said Fout, general manager of the

Middleburg Spring Race Association. "We've drained the wet spots, created two new ponds and established an irrigation system."

"We've donated almost \$100,000 to community organizations over the last five years," Fout said.



Courtesy of Middleburg Spring Races



Courtesy of Middleburg Spring Races - R.Utz

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CEDAR HILL



French country-inspired stone & stucco home on 133 open & wooded acres in The Plains • Fabulous kitchen • Custom caninetry • 2 story mahogany library • Music room • Media room • Carved limestone fireplaces • Coffered 13-ft ceilings • Antique Beech floors • Italian sconces • 26 phone lines • Reclaimed beams • Courtyard • Three 2-stall barns • 3 paddocks **\$5,600,000**

HEATHFIELD



French country manor house • 41 Private acres • Recently renovated • C. 1872 • 6 Fireplaces • Beamed ceilings • Terraced lawns • Pool • Pool House • Tennis court • 12 stall barn with 2 BR apartment, paneled tack room, wash room & loft • Carriage barn • Artist studio with office space • Pond • Stream • Stone walls & 3-board fencing • Run-in shed **\$3,950,000**

WOODLEY FARM



Stately elegance and pastoral views • 383 rolling acres, with streams and woods NW of Middleburg • Circa 1835 • pink Flemish bond brickwork • 6 BR, 5 BA • Airy, light-filled rooms • Original details • Extraordinary woodwork • 2 BR apartment • Tenant house with 2 BR, 1BA • 8-stall barn • One of the largest bank barns in Clarke Co. • Blue Ridge Hunt **\$3,900,000**

ROCK HEDGE



Gently rolling 184 acre farm with views of the Blue Ridge Mtns • Circa 1810 field-stone house • 5 BR, 3.5 BA • Charming details consistent with those of era; old pine floors, fireplaces • Mature plantings • Stonewall enclosed gardens • Guest house • Tenant house • Garage with apartment • Bank Barn • Pasture with meandering stream • Piedmont Hunt Territory **\$3,500,000**

BUCK MOUNTAIN



Old Dominion Hunt Territory • 4 BR, 4.5 BA spectacular custom built stucco home on 431 acres with unbelievable views • Covered porches • Dark room • Hardwood floors • Flagstone terrace • Pool • Attached greenhouse • Wine cellar • 2 Car Garage w/apartment above • Separate equipment garage • Extensive landscaping • Generator • Conv to I-66 **\$3,500,000**

STONE MEADOW



Beautiful rolling 88 acres with Beaver Dam Creek • Views of the Blue Ridge • Charming field-stone house Circa 1860 • 4 BR, 3.5 BA • 3 Fireplaces • Stone terraces • Swimming pool • Wonderful horse facilities with new 8 stall barn • 7 Paddocks • 4 fields • 3 Board fencing • 9 run-in sheds • Riding Ring • 2 BR Tenant house • Piedmont Hunt Territory **\$2,950,000**

WINDANCE



Stunning stone residence • Approximately 10,000 square feet of spectacular living space • High ceilings • Sun-filled rooms • Spectacular views • 6 Fireplaces • 5 BR, 6.5 BA • Separate guest apartment • 67 +/- private acres • Gorgeous pool • 6 stall stone and cedar barn with large apartment • Riding ring • Board fenced paddocks **\$2,750,000**

For further information regarding the properties above or for any of your property requirements please contact any of our qualified agents. All inquiries shall be held in the strictest of confidence.

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