

Town Council Passes Resolutions Pro and Con

By Dee Dee Hubbard, Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURG'S TOWN COUNCIL unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Western Transportation Corridor concept in general and specifically registered firm opposition to adoption of the proposal to restore the Corridor concept to Loudoun County's comprehensive countywide transportation plan which was drafted in 2001.

Five reasons were cited for the Town Council's opposition:

-The Western Transportation Corridor, particularly with a river crossing in the vicinity of Route 15, will encourage additional suburban or urban style development jeopardizing the County's efforts to retain agricultural and open space uses in Western Loudoun County and in transition areas.

-No viable option has been presented that includes a river crossing east of Route 15 and there seems to be no support for a river crossing anywhere in Maryland. To receive endorsement, the plan must include a viable and acceptable river crossing.

-Numerous difficulties with the proposed Western Transportation Corridor alignment include significant citizen opposition from residents who would be most affected by construction of the Western Transportation Corridor.

-No alignment recommendation to date has met with the Council's approval and the members oppose any plan that recommends alternative alignment on or west of Route 15.

-Town Council members agreed that further study of the WTC will divert funding from other vital transportation projects throughout the Commonwealth and in Loudoun County.

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Leaping Frogs and Jumping Horses



Leap Frogs signing an admirer's cast at Great Meadow

éclat éclectique ~ Middleburg Eccentric

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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. \$3,250,000.

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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

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

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 or Jim Thompson 540-687-6395



Forget Me Not Farm, Upperville, VA

17 rolling acres. Lovely country house with one section built of a reconstructed log house. Antique pine and cherry floors, old pine cabinets, fireplaces, four bedrooms, three baths, country kitchen. Large brick terrace looking out to pool. Four-stall stable, pastures fenced for horses, run in shed, stately hardwoods, gardens, gardener's shed. VIEWS. This property has everything. \$1,100,000.

Ruth Ripley or Gloria Armfield 540-687-6395
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Atoka Chase, Near Middleburg, VA

Sleek and bright new country contemporary in sought after area. Lots of glass, lots of views, awesome kitchen, separate apartment, master suite on first floor. \$1,400,000.

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Stonehurst, The Plains, VA

Built in 1840 this is a rare gem. Immaculate stone and wood house nestled at the base of Bull Run Mountain, very private on almost 17 acres in highly protected area. Two stone patios with wisteria covered arbor, stone springhouse, stone smokehouse, large stucco garage that could easily be converted to a barn for horse lovers. Lovely sweeping lawns, big pond, extensive landscaping, pastoral views. Pristine condition. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Minutes from Rt. 66. \$1,275,000.

Vanessa Lindgren 540-592-3784
Jim Thompson 540-687-3216

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News of Note

Middleburg Loves Trees

Arbor Day Celebration 2004



Jay Hubbard ~ Middleburg Eccentric

MIDDLEBURG HAS BEEN designated for the third time as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to its community forest. Carol Evans, Virginia Department of Forestry, made the presentation of the award as part of Middleburg's 2004 Arbor Day Celebration, on Saturday, May 8th at Middleburg Elementary School.

This year's celebration included the dedication of the 2004 Middleburg Arbor Day Tree, a 10 to 15 year old 30 foot tall, 8" caliper Pin Oak, donated and planted by the Davey Tree Company on the Middleburg Elementary School grounds. Mayor Dimos, Middleburg Elementary Principal Gary Wilkers and students all participated.

White Oak and Dogwood Tree Seedlings were distributed in memory of Nancy Stettinius, long time Middleburg resident and tree farm-



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children in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade participated.

The poster contest winners are as follows:

- Middleburg Elementary School**
Henry Feil
Mary Elaine Boland
Sam Coolidge
Katarina Bradford
Alexius Simms
Jose Ibarra Mendoza
Nathan Longerbeam
Delia Condon
Sophia Rutti
Caroline Quanbeck
Acey Hotchkiss
Ivonne Gasca
Anna Smallwood
Sarah Gilmore
The Hill School
Cayla Schnebele
Chloe Donnelly
Sarah Weinstein-Bacal
Matt MacMahon
Sarah Dornin
Margaret Lee
Grace Murphy

The Arbor Day Celebration is a community effort enjoying the support of Middleburg Beautification and Preservation, Inc., Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, Middleburg Elementary School, The Davey Tree Expert Company, The Hill School, The Care of Trees, The Pruning School, area merchants and town residents.



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er. Mrs. Stitinius's daughters Daphne Dunning and Cathy Zimmerman attended.

Mayor Tim Dimos and Smokey Bear presented awards to this year's Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners. The theme for the contest was "As Trees Grow, Weather Goes" and

Hunt Country Stable Tour

Holly Beth Hatcher, Staff Writer

The weekend before Memorial Day means many things to different people. For some it signi-



fies the beginning of the summer calendar, a weekend of family gatherings and barbecues or a good time to go somewhere and have fun.

Here in Hunt Country, the Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend is time for the Stable Tour.

The first Hunt Country Farm and Estate Tour was actually in the fall, November 7, 1959. The idea was to fund the Outreach services of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville. Since it is the sole source of funds, they keep operational costs down as much as possible by running the whole tour with 160 volunteers. This year, depending on the weather, there will be between 1,500 and 3,000 people roaming the Upperville countryside.

A new feature of the tour is a Country Fair with 15 or so local vendors. This year's tour includes two farms that were on the original tour, Lazy Lane Farm and Heronwood.

Lazy Lane Farm consists of the majority of the former Brookmeade Farm. Daughter and heir of Dodge Automobile Company's co-founder, Isabel Dodge Sloane bought Brookmeade in 1929. She became the first lady in America to have the most wins as an owner.

That same year she had won the Kentucky Derby and four other stake races with Calvalcade, who was dubbed "The Wonder Horse of 1934". He won every race he ran except the Preakness, when his stablemate, High Quest beat him by a nose. His impressive career was made even more so by the fact

that Mrs. Sloane purchased him as a yearling for only \$1,200. Calvalcade's gravesite is on the property.

She was again named Owner of the Year in 1950.

The end of that decade had great glory for Brookmeade when it's home bred, Sword Dancer, was named Horse of the Year. Her trainer

was Preston Burch.

Mr. Burch was an important figure in racing as an owner and breeder. He is an inductee of the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga

Springs, New York. After a heart attack he went to Blue Ridge Stud (also on the tour) and was assisted there by William Ballenger, who had also been at Brookmeade.

After Mrs. Sloan's death in 1962, the farm was sold to William Crossman and then in 1981 to Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Allbritton. Mr. Allbritton's primary residence is in Houston where he began his career as a banker. His business enterprises moved into real estate and media, entering the Washington DC market in the '70's.

Allbritton Communications Co. owns several television stations including channel 7, WJLA (Joe Lewis Allbritton). His family is also the largest shareholder of Riggs Bank.

Lazy Lane Farm has recently produced the leading, all-time money winning, Virginia-bred, Seeking the Pearl, Grade 1 winner and former Virginia leading sire Secret Hello,

and the Champion 3 year old of 1991 Preakness and Belmont winner Hansel. Hansel's jockey for these wins was Jerry Bailey, who also rode Sea Hero for Rokeby (also on the tour) in his Kentucky Derby win.

Heronwood has gone through many name changes and owners. Before World War I, Henry T. Oxnard, from California, changed the name from Sel-don Seen to Edgewood and started a

high class Thoroughbred breeding operation. He died soon afterward.

Admiral Grayson bought it and continued the breeding. He sold it and bought a neighboring farm called Blue Ridge. Admiral Phillips bought the farm from Admiral Grayson and renamed it Heronwood. He then sold it to Jack Kent Cooke, owner of the Redskins, who renamed it Fall-ingbrook.

In 1983, Mr. Cooke bought another farm around the corner and sold this farm to the son of Crystal City creator Charles Smith. Robert Smith renamed it Heronwood and flies

out in his helicopter for weekends.

The farm encompasses nearly one square mile of pristine rolling countryside. It is still home to thoroughbreds, beef and long horn cattle.

In March of 2000 a new chapter of the farm's history began with the start of its Alpaca Division. The idea of raising Alpacas was spawned by Mr. Smith's desire to diversify his livestock holdings to include an animal that would be profitable and fun for all family members to raise regardless of their

expertise in animal care.

Heronwood is now home to a col-

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Mobile Health Unit

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Volunteers

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www.loudounhealthcare.org



News of Note

Hunt Country Stable Tour

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orful herd of Huacaya Alpacas originating from Bolivia, Chile and Peru. The farm specializes in show quality animals concentrating on superb conformation and fleece. Heronwood is also home to the country's oldest horse show, The Upperville Colt and Horse Show.

In 1927, when Admiral Grayson sold what is now known as Heronwood he bought one of the oldest Thoroughbred horse farms in the country. Admiral Cary T. Grayson, served as physician to Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson, and later was named President of the American Red Cross by President Roosevelt. Blue Ridge has been home to sires like Rock Sand, the tenth English Triple Crown winner. Today, Blue Ridge Farm is owned by Grayson's seven grandchildren.



Several other notable properties on the tour this year:

Windsor Farm is a 180 acre equestrian breeding and sales facility owned by Margaret and Francis O'Neill and their daughter Alexa Low, a successful amateur rider.

Irish Hobby Farm is owned by driving enthusiast Wendy Ying and showcases

Irish Draught horses and carriages. Newstead Farm is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bertram R. Firestone. The Firestones are leading breeders of champion Thoroughbreds in America and Europe. Their daughter Alison has competed on the US Equestrian Team for Stadium Jumping and is aiming for the Olympic Selection Trials now.

Rokeby's Broodmare Barn is one of the finest examples of excellence in stable design and maintenance in the

world. It has been home to Quadrangle, winner of the Belmont, Wood Memorial and Travers Stakes in 1964; to Sea Hero, winner of the 1993 Kentucky Derby; and to Horses of the Year Fort Marcy and Mill Reef. It is owned by Mrs. Paul Mellon.

Fox View Farm, which was originally part of Windsor Farm, is now 30 acres. The nine horses at Fox View have dual roles, they spend fall and winter as foxhunters and spring through summer as side saddle show horses. Riding side saddle is a passion of owner Laura Cramer, often riding aside in the hunt field as well as the show ring.

The Trinity Episcopal Church is a famous Upperville landmark. It is the third building on the site, the first having been built in 1842, the second in 1895. The new buildings were begun

in 1951, and the first services in the new church were held on September 28, 1960.

The church, parish house and rectory are the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon to Meade Parish.

Cross and Son of New York City was the architect. His design is a free adaptation of the style of certain French country churches of the twelfth and



thirteenth centuries. Each of the native sandstones was cut by hand, and a local blacksmith forged the special chisels with which the masons chipped away the hard rock.

W. J. Hanback, master builder of Warrenton carried out the architectural plans. World-famous artisans and artists were brought in for the interior stone and wood carvings, the wrought-iron, and the stained-glass windows.

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News of Note

Leapin' Frogs and Jumping Horses

Virginia Gold Cup

VIRGINIA GOLD CUP celebrates a great day of Steeplechase Racing!

Steeplechase racing enthusiasts came in record crowds to the beautiful Great Meadow race course in The Plains for the 79th Running of the Virginia Gold Cup Races. Eight races were run under sunny skies

with almost ideal racing conditions.

The main event, The Virginia Gold Cup, a 4 mile race over timber, with a purse of \$50,000 was won for the first time in history by a female jockey, Michele Hunter on her own horse, Joe at Six. They train with Louis Neilson III.

The United States Navy Parachute Team, the "Leap Frogs" demonstrated their spectacular jumping formations well in advance of the horses getting anywhere near the field.

With all of the horses on site, there was real concern that the Leap Frogs could frighten the horses.

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 with one

of the two Naval Special Warfare Groups located on the east and west coasts. On completion of the tour, members return to their operational units.

The Leap Frogs performance consisted of fourteen jumpers leaping from 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." 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 formations. The Leap Frogs are renowned for exciting and complex formations.

After their jump, the Leap Frogs were available to answer questions about the Navy and Naval Special forces and to sign autographs.

The Leap Frogs are sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

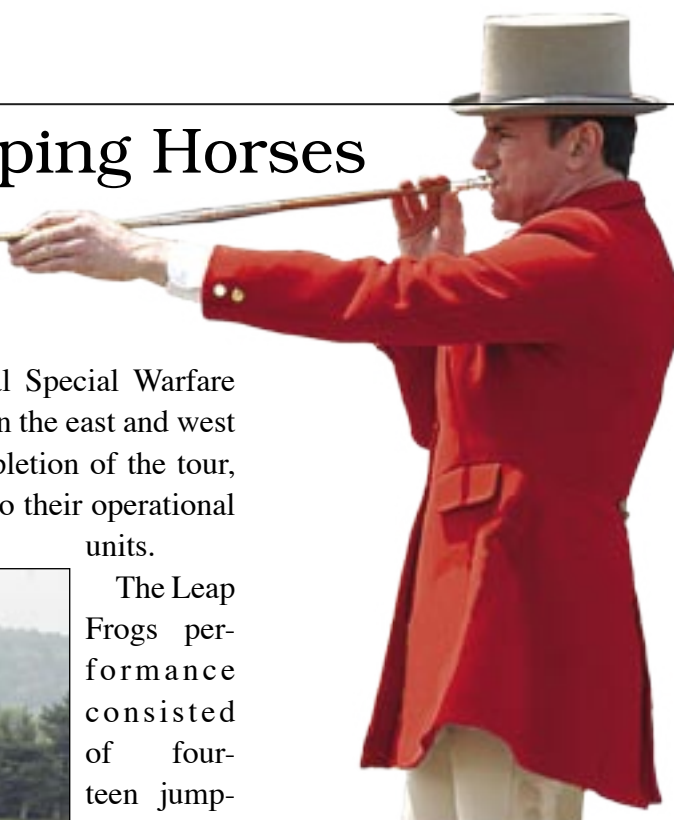
Pre-race entertainment included the Washington Redskins Marching Band.



Jay Hubbard ~ Middleburg Eccentric



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Town Council

Continued From Page 5

The Council also passed a resolution supporting an amendment to the Loudoun County Revised General Plan to address Healthcare Facilities provided that the amendment incorporates the following or similar locational criteria for healthcare facilities and the plan amendment must support the Healthcare Facilities Plan Amendment to the Loudoun County RGP.

The Middleburg Town Council confirmed its support for all efforts to improve the accessibility of healthcare services to citizens of the Town of Middleburg and public and private efforts to bring hospital services, diagnostic services, out-patient facilities and urgent care facilities to appropriate locations that best serve, Western Loudoun County.

The Council underscored their appreciation for the efforts of Loudoun Healthcare Incorporated, Inc. to provide non-profit healthcare facilities to the citizens of Middleburg and Western Loudoun County.

Middleburg Town Council does not endorse any specific healthcare provider, nor does it support any specific hospital location without complete evaluation of proposals which express sensitivity to local concern, respect for municipal planning policies and zoning regulations.

The Council does recommend the inclusion of local criteria in the County's Comprehensive Plan to better evaluate the appropriateness of potential healthcare facilities and proposed hospital sites.

Council members suggest that such criteria address the following:

- Projected service needs for underserved and targeted populations, with the primary focus being Loudoun residents;

- The adequacy of the local and regional transportation networks to provide safe, quick and easy access to medical facilities and to minimize traffic conflicts that may be generated by emergency service vehicles;

- The availability of public utilities such as central sewer and water to the site;

- Compatibility with adjacent land uses;

- The relationship of proposed facilities to approved and existing hospital sites and facilities, including facilities approved by the State Health Commission;

Estates of Middleburg

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From the Editor's Desk

My Mothers Voice

A Visitor Hospitality Manual for Businesses and Residents

Make your guests feel "special." That's what my mother always said. Make them feel welcome.

Be warm. Be friendly. SMILE and say hello.

Throw in a little conversation when the time is right. Be as considerate and scintillating as possible.

Make them comfortable, make them feel at home and be considerate of their needs.

Offer them a little refreshment.

Make sure THEY get the most comfy chair in the house.

And, for goodness sakes, make sure they know where they can freshen up.

Mom's simple rules for taking care of guests at home should also apply to guests in our town, first of all because it's the right thing to do.

And if that's not reason enough, remember that our visitors help local businesses generate close to 65% of our town tax revenues. It's SMART to be nice.

Some of mom's rules are, of course, easy to apply to guests of the town. Others are more difficult.

Take parking, for example. Perhaps those of us who park our cars all day should park them a little further away. Save the more "comfy" spaces for our visitors.

A place to freshen up is a little more challenging, and a visitor's only hope is a friendly business owner or if the time is right the "Pink Box" Visitor Center on N. Madison Street

Indeed, there is only one public restroom in downtown Middleburg and it is only open between 11 am and 3 pm.

Perhaps we should make parking and that other "P" word priorities.

Letters

I want to thank the citizens of the Town of Middleburg for allowing me the opportunity to serve them. It has truly been a great honor to serve on the Middleburg Town council for the last twelve years.

I was elected 12 years ago as a young business person promising lower taxes, less government, affordable housing. And most importantly managed growth to preserve the quality of life that makes the county and Middleburg unique. I was pleased with the trust the Middleburg citizens place in me as one of their representatives. And I am more pleased to have delivered on these promises.

The voter in Middleburg almost always chooses a council with these goals: controlled growth, historic preservation, and less financial burden on Middleburg families.

As a result the town's citizens get smaller government, lower taxes and a more efficiently run town because the town fathers and citizens work together to control the rate of residential growth. When you control the rate of residential growth the other results always follow.

The town has also consistently acted to preserve its historic downtown. As a result the town has maintain a robust tourist based local economy providing the tax revenue to help provide exceptional services to the townspeople at a very low tax rate. In addition we get to live in a quaint historic village just miles from the capital of the most powerful nation in the world. And a small quaint village in the fastest growing county in the nation.

The Town has impressively reached out to the private sector in successful partnerships to better our community. The town has worked in partnership with the business community to maintain a robust business district. Working to blend a tourist destination with town stores to serve the residents of the town. An increasingly hard job in the world of Wal-Mart's and Home Depots. And the town has worked to help the Windy Hill Foundation provide a model of Affordable housing for the citizens of the greater Middleburg Area.

It is amazing to think that in Middleburg Virginia there is more affordable housing per capita than any other community around. It is a testament to the closeness of our town.

While I am proud to have been a small part of any successes in the Town as a member of the Town Council, it is important to recognize all the wonderful things that happen in Middleburg happen because the people who live here really love the Town and will always fight to keep it how it is. It is a privilege to be a part of a community like Middleburg. Thank you for the privilege of serving.

Mark Tate

Editor,

Congratulations on your launch issue!! It is good to see a balanced, informative publication dedicated to the Middleburg market. May you prosper as a community owned business.

Brett Phillips
CEO, Amendment 1, Inc.
1 East Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

Editor,

Your new publication arrived at our home. It has many good qualities and the first issue contained some interesting articles.

However, I was struck, unfavorably, by the numerous errors in both spelling and grammar. I could not tell, at first, whether these came from the authors or from intermediaries. But, since two items, a letter from Bill Mularie and a short article on housing for the elderly by Phoebe Cummings, were free of egregious errors, I have to conclude that most came from the authors.

Do not rely solely on Spell-Check. It will not distinguish among homophones [such as two, to, too and tous] nor find errors such as your are, using one for he, and using between for among. Also, it often won't tell you if a word requires capitalization [North and South as entities in the Civil War] nor remind you when you need a hyphen or a comma nor tell you when you've chosen the wrong word.

So, if you expect people to pay money for the Middleburg Eccentric or to buy ads in it, clean it up!

Beth Oscanyan
Curmudgeon in Philomont

Editor,

Thanks. Congratulations again on the paper its great - so great how you picked out all the things people are talking about - my husband and I were just saying "What is up with that Loudoun sign!" last night on our way back from Hunters Head.

Nicole Ayers

Editor,

Nice first issue. Middleburg can sure use an other paper.

Crowell Hadden

Editor,

Returning to Middleburg last week end for the races we saw your April 15th issue. What was particularly interesting was the article on the immensely successful bird house sale. It illustrated Tutti's imagination and the Center's commitment to working for the community. I would hope one small detail on the bird houses could be publicized. All the bird houses were originally funded through the generosity of Roland Thompson, and the Middleburg Millwork did a wonderful job in constructing them for us.

Best regards.
Donald Musch

Rants & Raves

sorry for being late, here is #2.

Deadlines have always eluded me but as my dotage approaches, I seem to have more respect for them. As a young man starting out in business after college, the enthusiasm and ignorance of youth reigned supreme and because I was so capable as a salesperson, it never occurred to me that rules applied to me.

They in fact did and do. Rules apply to everyone and rules-written, unwritten or implied must be respected, if order is to be maintained. In particular, because my particular talent allowed me to make sales beyond the goals set by the company for me, I decided it didn't matter that I followed the required Monday thru Friday 9 to 5 business hours. I did my job and more in half the time and it never occurred to me that I shouldn't be able to sleep in, arrive and leave when it suited me and otherwise be my own boss.

Because I was so successful my reprimands were few but continued to come. This lack of respect for authority even extended to my driving leaving me disrespectful of the speeding laws and having been a serial offender for 13 years in Chicago, (never during this period driving without a summons at least). This same disrespect for rules, authority and order prevailed and the cost was financial, stressful, time consuming and finally educational.

Experience is an incredible teacher. Youth cannot be faulted for not knowing and experience is the ultimate professor. This writer recalls that all through the first 75 years of the past century apprenticing in every field is what was required to attain the knowledge that would develop a master craftsman

in any field be it a painter, attorney, plumber, electrician, and learning by shadowing a professional finally gave way to understanding and knowledge and a real respect of the craft by observation.

The highly advanced technological age we find ourselves in today is very confusing in that information is so accessible yet information alone does not include nuance and nuance is what makes a master.

How does this rant apply-I guess simply put-it is a plea for understanding and tolerance of youth and of acceptance of age and an honest apology for being late with my second submission to the Eccentric.

Seymour Surnow
Director Sotheby's
International Realty

Deja Vous

Middleburg Town Council Minutes quote from former Mayor Loyal McMillin (May 20, 1988) regarding the Harriman Tract (aka Salamander).

"One of the problems of staying in office too long is that you remember too much. The two previous owners of the same tract proffered a parking lot, place for a water tank, any number of things, and housing to be developed the way the town wanted; and in both instances they were driven out by our 'friendly' neighbors who objected to having anything done with the property. We couldn't exist without Middleburg residents who live within 10 miles of the Town, but the decision and the 'pain' of whatever we do comes out of the pockets of the 250 taxpayers within the town...."

Thoughts on Memorial Day

"As usual not much that I can write."

Daniel S. Morrow

MY FATHER WAS A WORLD WAR II veteran, one of the many thousands who did not live to see the dedication of the new memorial on the Mall in Washington.

Though he would never have taken seriously the notion of "The Greatest Generation" he was certainly a part of it: born the year the Great War ended, a child of the Great Depression, married just two months after Pearl Harbor.

Daniel Carter Morrow served in the United States Army for most of the war, from early August, 1942 until October, 1945.

His division, the 83rd Infantry, landed on Omaha Beach on June 21, 1944, and moved immediately to Carentan, to relieve the 101st Airborne. He served with the division from Normandy to the Elbe.

A man of his generation, he rarely spoke of the war, and when he did, he rarely spoke of its horrors, though his division suffered more than 15,000 casualties, including nearly 3,300 dead, in five major campaigns.

Most of his tales were of pranks and adventures: trading "liberated" wine for winter jackets; getting stuck in the middle of a pontoon bridge on a mad drive back from leave in Paris; Thanksgiving dinner in Luxembourg City, believing the war would be over by Christmas; drinking too much Scotch when he got the news of my birth; giving his rations to German children; teaching them to sing "Home on the Range."

He only spoke of atrocities once, during the Viet Nam war, when the massacre at My Lai was headline news. "After Malmedy," he said, hanging his head, "we didn't take very many prisoners. No one's very proud of it. You're angry. You're scared. It happens."

That was it. Not a word more, no matter how hard pressed. It was only after my mother died in 1998, that we found his letters, scores of them, written to her nearly every day he served.

His letters from Europe were, in part, much like his tales of war. "As usual not much that I can write" was his most-of-ten-used opening line, referring to military censorship which every now and then blacked out a sentence or two.

But now and then there were glimpses of the reality of war and the spirit of the men who fought it. Eventually, as the censors grew lax, he wrote of Santigny, the hedgerows and fearsome German artillery; of friends killed and wounded;

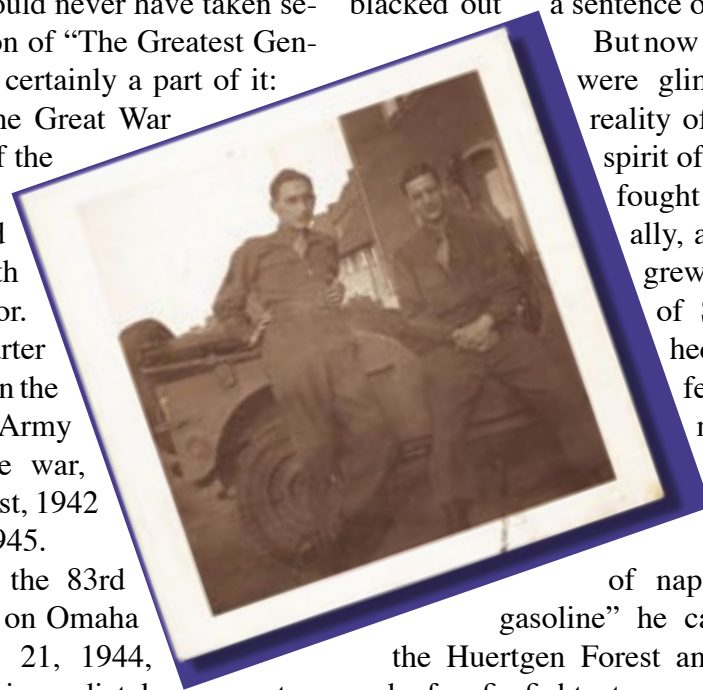
of napalm ("jellied gasoline" he called it); of the Huertgen Forest and the Bulge; and of a firefight at some meaningless crossroads in the last days of the war; of British prisoners captured at Dunkirk and killed the very day they were liberated, in an ambush set by boys and old men.

On April 11, 1945, the 83rd liberated Langenstein, a slave-labor subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp. The prisoners still alive were sick and starving. Most weighed little more than 80 pounds according to one report, and they continued to die of malnutrition and disease at the rate of 25 to 30 a day.

"As usual not much that I can write," my father wrote of it. "Have seen some sights that one has read about but couldn't believe until actually seen. Have seen the reactions of liberated people, the happiness and wonderment in their faces when they realized that they were free. To watch them and hear them talk makes a big lump come in your throat and just a bit proud to be even a small part of their liberation."

He kept his medals in the bottom of his sock drawer: bronze star; good conduct; carbine expert; M-1 marksman; Europe-Africa-Mediterranean campaign with five battle stars; victory.

The new memorial would have pleased him greatly, though he would never have admitted it.



News of Note

Ann Cronin
American Hero Remembered

A TRAGIC RIDING accident on May 7 of this year claimed the life of Elizabeth Ann Swift Cronin, diplomat, horsewoman, and American hero.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Cronin grew up in Georgetown and then attended the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1962.

Mrs. Cronin, then Elizabeth Ann Swift, joined the Department of State the next year and served in various posts here and abroad until 1979.

In that fateful year she was assigned to the American Embassy in Tehran, and was there when it was seized on November 4 by Iranian students and supporters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Fifty-two people were taken hostage that day: fifty men and two women. Elizabeth Ann Swift, the senior officer on duty in the Embassy that day, was one of them.

According to Associated Press, New York Times and Washington Post accounts

she managed to get a call through to the home of a senior State Department official in McLean Virginia, and stayed on the line with him, reporting events in progress for more than two hours before being forced to surrender.

She would spend 444 days in captivity, refusing to cooperate with her captors even though often under duress.

After her release in 1981, she returned to active service with the State Department, where she served with distinction for the next 14 years.

Three years ago she and her husband, Paul Cronin, moved to Rectortown from Sweet Briar, Virginia, where Mr. Cronin had served as Director of the Sweet Briar College riding program.

Mrs. Cronin, an avid rider, was a member of the Orange County Hunt. She served on the board of Madeira School and was active in the Goose Creek Environmental Organization. She attended Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville.

Middleburg gets the Vote Out

Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THREE OPEN TOWN COUNCIL seats brought 41% of Middleburg's voters, a larger turnout than for any other of the county's town elections.

It was a tight race with both incumbents, Helen A. Hyre and Eura H. Lewis winning new terms and newcomer, Bundles Murdock, securing the last open council seat.

Congratulations to all candidates for a race well run.

What is most notable about Middleburg's Election day was

the unity, cooperation, and respect that the four candidates showed one another as they stood outside the Town Office that day.

In fact all day, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., they stood together, making certain that, if one had to leave for a few moments, the other candidates handed out her pamphlets as well. With that level of integrity, it was a shame there had not been 4 council seats available!

The County Board of Elections Final Data.

MAY 4, 2004 TOWN ELECTION	MIDDLEBURG		
	PCT 1600	ABSENTEE VOTES	TOTALS
MAYOR			
C.L. "Tim" Dimos	143	1	144
Over Votes	0	0	0
Blank Votes	38	0	38
Write Ins	9	0	9
TOWN COUNCIL			
Helen Anderson Hyre	102	0	102
Eura H. Lewis	114	1	115
Trowbridge Littleton	69	1	70
C.C. "Bundles" Murdock	110	0	110
Lisa H. Patterson	84	1	85
Over Votes	0	0	0
Blank Votes	0	0	0
Under Votes	90	0	90
Write Ins	1	0	1
NUMBER VOTING	190	1	191
NUMBER REGISTERED	464		464
PERCENT VOTING	41%		41%

They Will Only Play in Middleburg and Upperville

Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THIS SEASON, The Middleburg Chamber Players will perform public and private concerts only in the Middleburg, and Upperville areas. Mr. George Etheridge, Artistic Director and Conductor for the chamber players, who is a Middleburg resident, wants to keep their wide range of intimate ensemble performances very local this year.

Their successful 2004 premiere performance took place in January in the Sheila Johnson Theatre at the Hill School, and they will perform there again October 10th for a Sunday afternoon concert that will span the Classics and the roots of Jazz.

Their next performance is mid-June, at a private estate in Upperville and is by invitation only. If you would like one of the few invitations still available, please contact Mr. Etheridge at (540) 687-6026. Selections from Mozart and Aaron Copland will be performed.

The Middleburg Chamber Players perform the finest chamber music repertoire. Metropolitan

Washington's most gifted musicians are featured players at each unique performance with the chamber group varying in size from 10 to 20 musicians. No two performances are ever repeated.

Currently, Mr. Etheridge is conductor of the Capital Wind Symphony, and a staff conductor for the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. He also serves as Director of Education for the orchestra and is the founding Director for S.C.O.R.E., the symphony's musical outreach program for area schools.

Mr. Glenn S. Quader, Associate Director/Conductor for The Middleburg Chamber Players is a member of the music faculty at UMBC in Baltimore, where he teaches conducting. He also is the Assistant Conductor for the Frederick and Columbia Orchestras, both located in Maryland.

If you would like to support the Middleburg Chamber Players, or would like to plan a private performance at your home or event, please contact (540) 687-6026 or email at mcinfo@glennquader.com. You may also visit their website at, <http://www.glennquader.com/mcp.html>.

When Motorcycles Fly

Holly Beth Hatcher, Staff Writer



HE CALLS IT FLITE BIKE and it is the world's first flying motorcycle. Al Bragg created quite a stir driving through Middleburg. What in the world was that contraption? It is an aircraft engine and propeller and a parachute that can lift the motorcycle off the ground so it can fly. Mr. Bragg was on his way to Aldie but stopped in Middleburg to spread the word. He has his patent and wants to manufacture the flying part that can be installed on a Honda Reflex, purchased separately from a dealer. Looking for an investment with soaring returns? Give him a call at 540-347-9115 or email skytrek@earthlink.net.

Other articles have appeared in the Fauquier paper (I couldn't find it on the internet) and http://www.roadabletimes.com/roadables-integ_flitebike.html and <http://www.ulfflyingmag.com/archives/flite.html>





James L. Wiley, Inc. Real Estate



Elegance best describes this home in the Orlean area of Northern Fauquier County. From the mature landscaping on 5.5 Acres with courtyard and pool to the exterior dentil work, and the interior woodwork. This home offers fabulous attention to detail. Living room and den both have fireplaces and built in bookcases. There are 3 bedrooms 3 full, and 2 half baths, with a large family room over the garage. Hardwood floors throughout. Covered terrace offers great opportunity for outdoor entertaining. Please call for an appointment. \$795,000.00

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Market Salamander Celebrates Grand Opening

Cooking demos, Olive Oil, Wine and Food Tasting are Main Course for the Day. Market Salamander, a working chef's market featuring take-away gourmet fare, formally celebrated its opening in grand style with a full day of events from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. May 15th at The Market on Washington Street.

Special events included cooking demonstrations by Executive Chef Todd Gray and Chef-in-Residence Brendan Cox. They were joined by the other Market Salamander chefs, a seasoned culinary team, to demonstrate pasta making, filleting fish, stuffing game birds, as well as sharing ten simple tips to prepare the perfect meal at home for friends and family.



Chef Todd Gray

Guests perused the extraordinary cheese selection, sampled artisan oils, vinegars, olives, spreads and spices, fine wines and gourmet take-out items.

Yves Tapiero, of Cordoba, Spain, uncorked the new olive oils produced exclusively for Market Salamander's



Yves Tapiero

Market products, tickets to Wolf Trap and more Redskins legends Charles Mann and Art Monk greeted visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., signing autographs and drawing a lucky winner for a Tailgate-to-Go.

Throughout the day guests were treated to savory offerings such as Virginia Tidewater jumbo lump crab cakes, slow cooked pork barbecue sandwiches, "New Bay" spice shrimp, buttermilk brined Blue Ridge chicken right off the rotisserie and sides featuring fresh local produce.

Market Salamander is the latest project of Sheila C. Johnson and her business, culinary and design team which include JM Zell Partners, Ltd., Todd Gray and Thomas Pheasant. The Market joins Salamander Touch which includes Johnson's linens and Mistral bath and body products. These companies are part of Salamander Middleburg, the lifestyle company Johnson is creating and will be joined with a variety of home furnishings and accessories that will be designed by Pheasant as well as a 58-room luxury inn and spa to be completed in spring 2006.



Chef Brendan Cox



Sheila Johnson

Middleburg Looks Good On You

Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer



EMAIL A PHOTO of your favorite vehicle to us and we'll print it in the next issue with the new Middleburg license plate prominently displayed. Then, when you register for your Middleburg plates on our website, the wait until January won't seem so long.!

Help promote this very special village by ordering a set for each of your vehicles.

Courtesy of the Middleburg Business & Professional Association, and the Town of Middleburg the presale begins now with delivery in

2005. Middleburg's own accomplished photographer Janet Hitchen is to be thanked for her photo of the lovely mare and its' foal.

These plates cost \$35 a set and can be reserved now by mailing your registration form and check, made out to the Town of Middleburg, to the M.B.P.A., P.O. box 1384, Middleburg, VA 20118. The forms may be obtained at the Town Office, or for your convenience downloaded off our website at: www.MiddleburgEccentric.com. Please reserve today; a minimum of 300 must be ordered to secure the plates.

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for the
June 17th

Issue of
**Middleburg
Eccentric**

Wednesday

June 9th

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News of Note

Assistant Town Administrator Wears Many Hats

By Fred Spencer

CLAUDIA DORNIN, Middleburg's new Town Clerk, arrives after a three-year stint providing career and leadership development at the Highlands Consulting Group in Vienna, Virginia. Well qualified for the job, she spent 15 years with Bell Atlantic in Human Resources, Planning and Development, Consumer Team strategy, Billing and Collection. Claudia met her husband, Bob Dornin, Jr. at VA Tech. She received her BS and MBA at the Pamplin College of Business. Bob, Claudia and their daughter, Sarah, moved to the Hill School campus in July, where Bob manages the landscape and Sarah attends 6th grade. Bob's father is well

remembered for his many years at Hill School and his mother, for her constant presence at the Middleburg Bank.

Claudia's job with the Town, involves working as an assistant to Mike Casey, Town Administrator. She is the recording secretary for town meetings as well as the town representative to the Tourism Action Team, Main Street Middleburg and the Streetscape Committee. Street care is one responsibility that is dear to her heart. She was Co-Owner, with her husband, of Brookwood Gardens, a landscape contracting company. According to Claudia..."street care is good here... we have very little litter and beautiful



landscape plantings mainly due to the efforts of Rico Grayson and Marvin Simms in the Maintenance Department and concerned citizen groups like Middleburg Beautification and Preservation."

"Our challenge includes how to grow while maintaining the character of a small town. We have 448 households. It is difficult to care for the infrastructure and insure that citizens get value for their tax dollars when you spread the cost of infrastructure maintenance over such a small citizen base. I hope we can maintain a positive and open dialog about growth and preserve the Town atmosphere for businesses, town citizens, peripheral landowners and visitors and yet be responsive to the times and future."

Claudia is excited about finishing work begun on the Pendleton Street Park and Trail Connector Project connecting the Town to the Hill School, and Wancopin walking trails. It was designed by Ben Hren in 1999 and has been approved and funded by the Town. It would allow for better circulation

along Federal Street and open access to the Hill School property, arboretum, orchard and theater.

"I grew up in a family of nine kids and learned that family relationships and history are important. It's the same in this Town. I'm optimistic about its future and look forward to working with all who are associated with the Town."

Extravaganza Continued From Page 26



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REALLY WORTH IN TODAY'S MARKET?**

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Price is but one factor in selling any property. Marketing is another. For the past thirty years, Frank Hardy, Inc. has used regional, national, and international marketing strategies to attract buyers *from all over the world*. Coupled with our recent survey of 8,750 residential and land-lot sales in the Northern Piedmont, we offer the prospective seller and buyer the tools to understand and take best advantage of the total marketplace.

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wsemple@farmandestate.com

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*based on information available from local multiple listing services, which is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.





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Things to Do

Upperville Colt & Horse Show

Welcome to the Upperville Colt & Horse Show...founded in 1853...this year celebrating its 151st anniversary

Upperville is the oldest horse show in the United States and will be held from June 7- 13, 2004.

Steeped in tradition, it extends a full seven days, and involves over two thousand horse and rider combinations from young children on ponies to leading Olympic and World Cup riders and horses. Held under The Oaks, in Upperville, Virginia, the showgrounds are located forty miles west of Washington, D.C. in the rolling hills of Virginia's scenic horse country. The magnificent and prestigious Grafton and Salem Farms encompass the show, nestled on both sides of Route 50 between the historically rich town of Middleburg and village of Upperville.

A longtime favorite of horse show competitors, Upperville features full divisions of entries from all corners of the United States and abroad. The show has been voted the Virginia Horse Shows Association "Horse Show of the Year" and is a designated World Championship Hunter Rider Show.

Upperville is a week-long AA

- Rated show with VHSA, MHSA, and USA Equestrian events in all Hunter Divisions and Sunday's highlight, the prestigious Budweiser Upperville Jumper Classic. A Pony Prix, with all competitors being children on ponies, precedes the main event in the Grand Prix ring, as does a country fair, including Jack Russell Terrier races over jumps. Also on the grounds one finds Sheep Dog demonstrations, pony rides, arts and craft exhibits, boutiques, children's games, and a wide variety of food offerings.

The show was started to improve the care and the quality of the draft horse. These classes were a major part of the horse show until the mid 1950's. As a commemoration to the past, we once again offer these classes on Jumper Classic Sunday, June 8.

Daily admission to the show is \$10.00 per person. Children under twelve years-of-age are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

Gates open at 8 AM daily.

For special arrangements, entertainment, reserved parking, and/or box seats, please call 540-253-5760 or 540-592-3858

45th Annual Hunt Country Stable Tour

The 45th Annual Hunt Country Stable Tour will take place on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30 from 10 am to 5 pm daily. Sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville, Virginia, this self-driven tour includes some of the most prestigious stables and equine facilities in the Middleburg and Upperville areas of Virginia.

The Upperville/Middleburg area is home to many of the country's premier Thoroughbred breeding farms, show hunter barns and country estates. On this remarkable weekend, owners welcome visitors and open the gates of their exquisite grounds, magnificent stables and extensive training facilities. The Tour also offers the opportunity to drive down historic, 250-year-old country lanes and view some of the areas' abundant wildlife.

From exquisite stables, carriage houses to training tracks and the Middleburg Swim Center (just for horses and dogs!) to the Civil War history of the cavalry, this tour offers something for everyone. Jumping exhibitions, and plenty of pastures and stables full of mares, foals and ponies will delight all.

Back this year for history buffs,

The Bridge Over Goose Creek will provide the location for Civil War historians and tactical demonstrations by Federal Infantry and Confederate Cavalry. Visitors will have a chance to learn more about the strategic Civil War battles which took place here during the prelude to the Gettysburg Campaign in 1863.

Admission is \$20/person in advance, \$25/person on the days of the tour. Children 12 and under are free. In addition, lunch will be available to purchase at Hunter's Head in Upperville. Admission for groups of 10 or more is \$18/person.

Proceeds from the Hunt Country Stable Tour support many area charities and non-profit programs. Tickets are available the days of the Tour at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville (about 45 minutes from Washington, DC.) To get there, take I-66 West to Route 50 West (Exit 57B) toward Winchester. Drive approximately 25 miles to Middleburg and continue on to Upperville. Trinity Episcopal Church will be on your right. For information, phone 540-592-3711, or visit the web site: www.middleburgonline.com/stable-tour.

Delaplane Strawberry Festival

Plans are underway to make the 2004 Delaplane Strawberry Festival the best ever! This festival is a great family event with plenty for young and old. The 2004 event will take place on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30 from 10 am to 5 pm daily. The festival is held at Sky Meadows State Park on Route 17 near Delaplane, Virginia.

The Delaplane Strawberry Festival is a family event with old fashioned children's games, a 4-H petting farm, hay rides, clowns and puppeteer. A crafts fair features some of the areas finest crafters and a wide variety of exceptional performers entertain all weekend.

Delicious food and beverages are available, along with the weekend specialty -- luscious strawberry sun-dae and pints of fresh strawberries, in ample supply.

Admission is \$15 per car. The festival is sponsored by Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Piedmont Parish with proceeds benefiting its outreach ministries.

Sky Meadows State Park is located just 60 miles west of Washington, DC. To get there, take I-66 West to Exit 23 (Delaplane/Paris) and Route 17. Follow on Route 17 to Sky Meadows State Park on your left. For additional information contact Sky Meadows State Park at 540-592-3556, or Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Piedmont Parish at 540-364-2772.



45th ANNUAL HUNT COUNTRY STABLE TOUR 2004



Saturday & Sunday, May 29 & 30, 2004

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NEW THIS YEAR! Country Fair - selling local agricultural and equine products

Proceeds benefit Trinity Episcopal Church's many Outreach Programs

Tickets: (540) 592-3711

www.middleburgonline.com/stabletour

Things to Do

MVFD Ladies Auxiliary Rummage Sale

Saturday June 5th from 9AM to 4 PM

The Middleburg Firehouse Rte. 50 West side of Middleburg. Loads of nice clothing, books, housewares and furniture. Benefits the MVFD Ladies Auxiliary.

For information or to make a donation call 540-687-6330.

Middleburg Humane Foundation 10th Annual Silent Auction & Dinner Dance

June 19th MHF will hold its 10th annual silent auction and dinner dance. If you would like to support the rescue and rehabilitation of many deserving animals, and have a wonderful evening with fellow animal lovers, please call for information on tickets and silent auction donations. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Contact us at:

(540) 364-3272

email:

mhfdtn@earthlink.net.

Middleburg Community Center Events & Activities May & June

Parents Time Out (Ages 3-6)

Tuesday, June 1 \$15/class 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Puppets – Let your child join us for lunch and learn about puppets through fun games, stories, and arts & crafts. Please pack a lunch. Kindergarteners may ride the bus from Middleburg Elementary. Pre-registration and payment required.

Hello Pony (Ages 2-6)

June 2, 4, 9, 11 or 14 \$25/class 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Stonelea farm will offer pony rides, pony grooming and a take home souvenir. An adult must accompany each child participating in this activity. Call 540-687-6375 for information and directions. Pre-registration and payment required.

Summer Camps

Registration has begun for the following summer camps:

Preschool Summer Time Fun Camp Ages 3-4 and 5-6 weekly from June 21-August 20

Beginner Swim camp Ages 6-9 from June 21-25

Art camp Ages 7-12 from June 21-25 and August 9-13

Dance/Cheer Camp Ages 6-12 from July 12-16

Gymnastics/Fitness Challenge Camp Ages 6-12 from July 9-23

Advanced Swim Camp Ages 9-12 from August 9-12

Call for information and registration 540-687-6375 or email mcc@loudoun.gov

Mom's Club-Middleburg Community Center

The International Mom's Club has a new Chapter serving the Middleburg area. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Middleburg Community Center from 10 AM-11:15 AM during the Mom & Me Open Gym. Children are welcome during meetings. If you are interested call Leslie Cox at 540-364-3379 for information.

If you have a talent to share and are interested in teaching a class at the Middleburg Community Center call 540-687-6375.



Woodtrail Rd-Elegant brick & stucco residence in a storybook setting on 48+ acres overlooking a beautiful pond with dock and island. Features 4 finished levels, 4 BR's, 5 full BA's, library, 5 fireplaces, au-pair suite, fabulous pool and swim spa, terraces for gracious entertaining. Gorgeous gardens throughout the secluded grounds. Includes (3) 10+ acre parcels. **\$2,600,000**



Montvallon-Exquisite country French manor on 25 secluded acres with breathtaking views. Approx 6,500 sq ft of elegant living space boasting beautifully appointed rooms, high ceilings, 18th century antique fixtures & extraordinary quality throughout. Beautiful gardens surround the pool & flagstone terraces. **\$2,395,000**



Delaplane-Stunning Colonial on 25 gorgeous acres. Beautifully renovated with impeccable taste and superior craftsmanship. High ceilings, gleaming wood floors, 4-5 BR's. Gourmet kitchen and breakfast room open to covered terrace. Formal living & dining rooms overlook magnificent perennial gardens. Library, study, private & picturesque setting. **\$1,525,000**



Stonewall Farm Lane-Gorgeous custom built stone and cedar colonial nestled in the trees on 20 private acres, minutes from Middleburg. Approx 7,000 finished sq ft on 4 levels. Gourmet kitchen opens to both sunroom and family room. Flagstone patio overlooks the pool and lush gardens. Wrap around porch, flagstone terraces, au-pair suite. **\$1,495,000**



Deer Pond Lane-Exquisite 12 room brick & stucco residence on 10 gorgeous acres just north of Middleburg and overlooking a lovely pond. Superbly built & beautifully decorated, features stunning family room with stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings & Palladian windows, luxurious master suite, tiled sun room with wet bar and fireplaced recreation room. **\$1,199,000**



Bluemont-Lovely brick rambler on a beautiful 3.5 acre parcel in secluded setting with gorgeous gardens and spectacular mountain views. Bright and open floor plan features patio doors to decks, master bedroom with whirlpool tub, fireplace in Great Room. Ideal weekend country home, peaceful and serene. **\$559,000**

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~MAY~

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Upperville Area
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May 29 & 30 - Delaplane Strawberry Festival
Sky Meadow State Park, Paris
For information 540-592-3556
www.delaplanestrawberryfestival.com

~JUNE~

Sunday Polo on the Grass
Every Sunday in June
Great Meadow
For information 540-253-5000

June 5th - MVFD Rummage Sale
Middleburg Firehouse
For information 540-687-6330

June 6th - Land Trust of Virginia
Annual Garden Party Fundraiser
Llangollen Farm, Upperville
For information 540-592-8302 or 540-592-8441

June 7 - 13 Upperville Colt & Horse Show
Upperville Show Grounds, Upperville
For information 540-592-5760
www.upperville.com

June 5-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27
Aldie Mill Art Show & Sale
Aldie Mill, Aldie
For information 703-327-9777
www.aldiemill.org

June 19th - 10th Annual
Middleburg Humane Foundation
Silent Auction & Dinner Dance
For information 540-364-3272
email mhfdth@earthlink.net

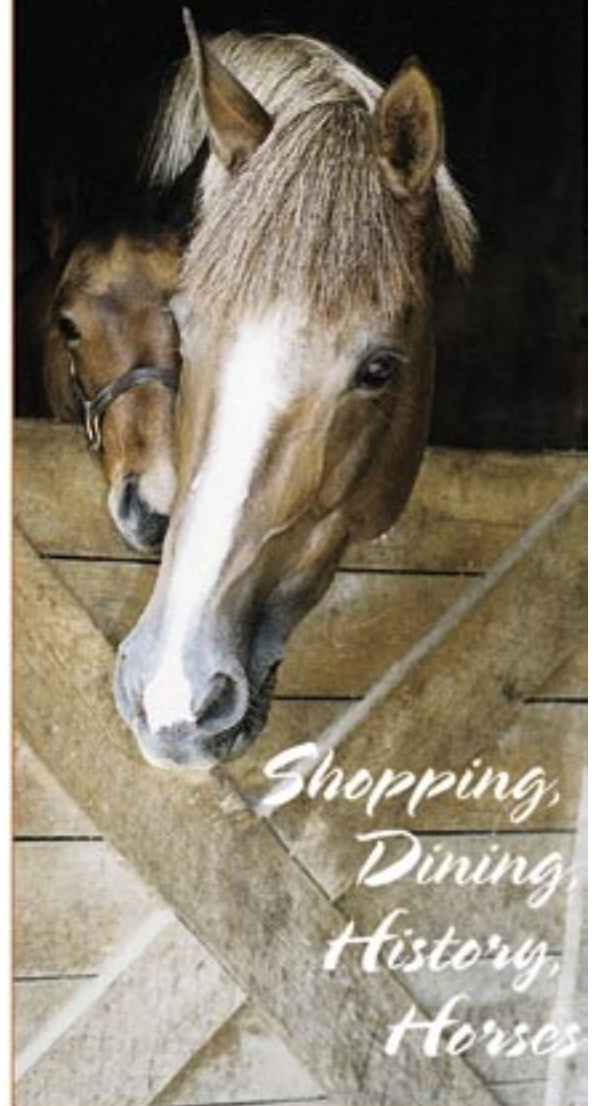
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and on the web @ www.middleburg.com

Photo by Janet Hitchen
540-687-5560



Annual Garden Party to Benefit Virginia's Land Heritage

The Land Trust of Virginia (LTV) will hold its annual Garden Party fundraiser on Sunday, June 6, 2004, from 4:30 pm-8:30 pm at Loudoun County's historic 1,100-acre Llangollen, which is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ash. Garden Party guests will enjoy Llangollen's untouched rural beauty of this lovely estate in Upperville, VA.

Music will be provided by the Hal Sigerton Jazz Quartet and will be catered by Celebrations.

Funds raised at the Garden Party will be used to ramp up efforts to protect Virginia's disappearing countryside. All over the state, skyrocketing land prices, population growth, and urban sprawl are pushing deeper into open, rural areas. "The need for action is greater now than ever," says LTV.

President Linda Porter, "With Loudoun County the

fastest growing county in the United States, we're all feeling a strong sense of urgency to protect the land that remains."

Concerned landowners turn to the Land Trust of Virginia for information and advice on protecting their land through a conservation easement, a legal tool that voluntarily limits development while keeping land open for forestry, farming, and recreation. To date, LTV has placed over 3,500 acres in conservation easements and is currently working to put hundreds more acres in easement in 2004.

For more information on attending the Land Trust of Virginia's Garden Party fundraiser at Llangollen on June 6, contact Edie Smart at 540-554-8302 or Naomi Nickerson at 540-687-8441.

The Land Trust of Virginia, a private nonprofit

501(c)3, works with members and volunteers, state agencies and other conservation organizations to preserve Virginia's open spaces - forever. LTV members and volunteers generously donate their time, expertise, and resources to preserving the history and beauty of Virginia's countryside. Our distinguished Board of Directors includes prominent Virginians who are widely known for their dedication to historical preservation and conservation. For more information about the Land Trust of

Virginia, visit www.landtrust-va.org.



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Life Through the Lens

Interview with Janet Hitchen

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

BEST KNOWN FOR HER dramatic coverage of equestrian events such as the Virginia Gold Cup, The Upperville Horse Show, and fox hunting, her best work is not as well known. Janet is a remarkable portrait and landscape photographer with her most accomplished pieces created in black and white.

Janet remodeled a section of her very lively barn to create her photography studio and offices so she can best serve her passions, photography and animal rescue. Five dogs, a cat, and an exceptional blond Belgian horse, retired, but still curious, greet visitors at the door.

Did the arts play a role when you were a child?

Art did not really have a big impact on me as a youth. My parents were both very intellectual people, and interested in the arts, they even sent me to the Corcoran (College of Art & Design) to learn

painting and drawing. I was always frustrated because I couldn't draw very well and there were all these kids that were much better at it than I was.

Photography began to appeal to me because I could be artistic but did not have to draw it myself. When it was revealed to me that I could take photographs well, it made me realize that I would

have loved to have been a really wonderful painter, and been able to draw, but I can't; however I can take good pictures.

Growing up, my focus was on the horse races not art. I never dreamed I would end up having a second career and that it was going to be as a photographer.

How did your romance with the camera begin?

When I first married, I was in the horse business big time, never home, always on the road doing festival and shows. I had

a lot of clients. My husband didn't want me to do that, he wanted me to be a housewife, and stay at home. We had a big barn, and I must have had close to 40 horses there. So I gave my show customers away to various different friends who were also in the business. We kept a few borders.

I decided a change was in order. I had always been curious about photography and while looking through a picture scrapbook I had taken of my trip to Europe during my junior year at college; I realized these photos



were really quite good. I probably used just a cheap camera, a Brownie most likely. Even when I look back on them now I can see that I was a natural at taking pictures.

A series of events took shape then. I had a spinster Aunt, who was almost 70, who lived in New York City, she had never married, but one day she struck

up a friendship, which led to a marriage with this man who lived in her building.

He turned out to be a cousin of Richard Avedon. Well most of the Avedon family is involved with photography, many of the Avedon cousins are photographers, of course not as famous as Richard Avedon, and some are even in the retail camera business.

My Aunt marries into this family, her husband is very wealthy, a self made multi-millionaire several times over. I was sort of a favorite niece, and they knew I was interested in photography. The next thing I know, this large box arrives and it has in it a big Nikon and about four lenses, a book, also lots of film! It had with it this note that read, "Just start shooting", and so I did.

That was really the beginning it. Then I wanted to know more about photography because I did not know what I was doing. I went back to the Corcoran where I had been originally so frustrated, and took many classes attending part time of course.

After completing my classes at the Corcoran I went to a place called Photo Works near Bethesda MD. There were a lot of really talented people hanging around there, and they were so amazed that I instantly had clients, because it is not that easy to make a living, of any kind, as a photographer. But it was so much easier for me to get started because all of the same people who's kids I had been teaching, taking to horse shows and foxhunt meets, all those people instantly became my clients. I feel blessed for that because I know how hard it is to make it as a professional photographer.

So that is how it began.

Up to that point my life was about horses and I would never had guessed that it would be any different. I

Continued Page 19



Health & Well Being

The Topic of Cancer

Listen Closely for An Accurate Diagnosis

By Glenda Cudaback

WHEN MY SON WAS BORN I worried constantly about his health. He was born in France, a long way from family, and all my fears about his not being normal at birth were immediately transferred to

his state of well being as a little guy. My constant companion in my worried state was Dr. Benjamin Spock. No matter what the imaginary trouble, I could always find the symptoms in the index of *Baby and Childcare*, and be relieved to learn that he'd be better in no time.

I felt better. He got better. Someone who knew all the answers had generously shared them with me.

Mothers today worry instinctively too, but their worries are so much more specific and scary than mine ever were. From hyperactivity to cancer, fears about one's children's health are now so specific and terrifying that only a visit to the doctor can address the concern.

If the first doctor is not confident about the diagnosis, that visit can become multiple encounters with medical experts leaving parents and patients confused and with so little confidence that the mere process of finding the problem is terribly painful.

A young mother I admire greatly has two charming sons. The first was normal at birth, but was quickly diagnosed with "failure to thrive." He just didn't grow and weighed slightly over thirteen pounds at one year of age.

He was tested for every possible disease, but it was only when he had been in a National Institutes of Health study on growth hormones for over three years that an offer to the children in the placebo group helped identify his health problem.

Three years of study had proven the efficacy of growth hormones to the NIH researchers' satisfaction, so they offered growth hormones to the placebo group children. She had been certain that her son was a member of the placebo group, and was delighted that he should have this opportunity.

His age was a problem. At thirteen, he should, already have been in puberty, but, because of interminable tests, she knew his "bone age," the measurement taken of unusually small children to learn if their growth has stopped. His 'bone age' was much younger than his actual years.

Shortly before he began growth hormones, more blood tests were required. The first results were not normal. The next results were normal.

The decision was made to begin growth hormones, and watch his blood counts very closely. At this point, she began to think back. She pulled all his records, from birth to the present.

Although they were normal at birth,

his white blood count descended regularly as he grew older.

"As soon as I charted these test results over time and showed it to his doctors, they made the diagnosis."

"We now know that he had Shwachman-Diamond disease all his life," she explained. "This potentially pre-cancerous condition is very rare, but he always had all the symptoms: pancreatic insufficiency, bone marrow failure and short stature."

"His pediatrician missed it and, although I was angry, I didn't switch doctors. As a nurse, I knew it was hard to catch."

Although she is a nurse, she believes her research about family health history, her intuition and her ability to chart his white blood counts to clearly illustrate the validity of her instincts contributed significantly to his diagnosis.

An accurate diagnosis is a critical component of treatment.

"We've always been very open with our sons about every step of this journey. We all know cancer could be on our horizon, and we know both boys have Shwachman-Diamond."

"Knowing what it is makes an enormous and positive difference. We're in touch with a few families whose children also have this rare disease. That helps. We still schedule more medical appointments into our weeks than most people will ever have to face, but with clarity of purpose."

"Doctors sometimes say our sons' conditions are just too complex for them....too much is going on to keep track so I help them organize their charts and design synopsis sheets for their files....making it easier for them to take good care of my boys, and, perhaps others."

It's easy to forget that doctors always thought of themselves as artists. The traditional art and practice of medicine left unending paperwork and research findings in the academic sector, not in the doctor's outer office.

Today, perhaps, that leaves a valuable role available for patients and their concerned families who now have amazing access to research, anecdotal experience and new findings. Analyzing this new knowledge might combine well with traditional worry to mitigate fear and create an unbeatable partnership between doctors, their patients, their families and their friends.

Doctors, of course, will have to learn to listen.



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Through the Lens

Continued From Page 17

never thought that my focus could be moved as much as it has been away from horses onto photography.

Instead of leaping out of bed in the morning to get on a horse to ride out into the twilight, I'm grabbing my camera and looking for some beautiful light to photograph a horse, or to photograph a child. I actually like photographing people as much as like to do animals, and I love photographing people with their animals. I love seeing that relationship, and showing that relationship.

When did you move to Middleburg and how did that effect your relatively new photography business?

We came to Loudoun County over 12 years ago. I knew the area well because of several reasons including the horse business. I would have to say that a big break for me locally was getting the opportunity to shoot many of the covers for "In & Around Horse Country", its' well-respected equestrian publication known nationally and internationally. I met Marion Maggiolo, its' publisher, in Warrenton shortly after moving here, I owe a great deal to her for that exposure and support.

How do you approach portrait photography?

I would want to be able to see something good, kind, and soft about that person, and I would also like to make them look in a way that was pleasing to them. Photographing children is a whole different thing from photographing adults. They are nowhere near as self-conscious and are much more spontaneous about things. We have a set up here with lights for studio work, but what I prefer is to take people out to the woods, I'd rather be in a natural setting with available light.

Do you always keep a camera ready with a B&W role on a shoot, or do you decide which cameras and film before hand?

I always have a camera loaded with B&W film, I have several cameras, but I usually keep my two Nikon F5's ready, one with color and the other with B&W. Although sometimes I will plan to do just B&W. I just have to have the B&W available, it is my true love and I think I see things more in B&W. I love that toning because it gives it that timeless look.

Have you experimented with digital cameras?

Yes, I have the Nikon D100 and I shoot a lot now in digital, but I still don't think it is quite



as good as film when it comes to making a final print. It does however have so many other advantages, for one thing the instant gratification of being able to come home and download to my computer.

Are weddings a big part of your business?

The biggest part of my income is from wedding photography. You can count on it, you're hired way ahead of time, and actually I like it, and I never thought I would. Crowell Hadden is my Associate, we have been doing weddings for 15 years, he shoots in color and I in B&W. I see myself as a photojournalist; in fact my background is in journalism. So I like capturing what's going on, and I don't want to create it. This point of view captures some of our best moments in weddings.

Just then one of Janet's 6 or 7 miniature ponies strolled into her office through the door connecting us to the barn, as if on cue! We now have a cat, 5 dogs and a pony in her small office, all apart of the interview. It is journalism on Noah's Ark, or as close to it as I'll ever get. Just delightful!

Oh dear we have a pony in the office! Let me just take a moment to lead her back out to her stall.

The animal rescue work I do now is very important

to me. As it is I have to turn down a lot of opportunities to travel and photography work in distant locations as well because of my commitment to the animals.



knows where, and suddenly I'll remember I hadn't hayed the horses yet, or hadn't brought them in. They are all on a regular feeding schedule, but you sort of get the feeling here that the work is never done. It would be nice sometime to just shut the door, go home, put my feet up, turn the TV on, or just go to bed, or what ever and not have a world of things to be done.

On the other hand I love my animals. My Mother was a real animal person. She created a Humane Society over in Montgomery County that did a lot of rescue work and I feel I'm sort of carrying her tradition on but I can't do it full-time. I help where I can, finding homes for dogs and farm animals...

Some of them stay, but you can't keep them all. Some of the ones I've got, like the little blind poodle over there, the Middleburg Humane for 2 or 3 years tried to find a home for her, and finally asked will you take her for a weekend! Well there you have it, she's home.

Janet Hitchen Photography
Middleburg, VA

www.janethitchenphotography.com



I feel that I'm lucky, I can have my studio/office here in the barn: I've got my horses, llamas, goats, got my dogs, and it works fairly well. It is exhausting at times.

I'll be out here late at night printing some stuff, or doing some job for a magazine that has to be emailed off to God's



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Our Earth

Farmers' Market Bounty in Middleburg

Local Growers Offer Delicious Fresh Produce, Cheese, Fruits & More

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THE RAT-RACE WEEK IS OVER, come Saturday morning you should do something relaxing and fun...take the scenic drive into Middleburg and begin your weekend at the Farmers' Market.

Every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, May through October the Middleburg Farmers' Market is open for business directly behind the Community Center. Ample parking is available and you will be delighted with the selection of quality items available.

You'll find excellent cheese makers, a French baker with wonderful fresh breads, perfectly ripe organically grown fruits and vegetables, fresh herbs, deserts and right out of the oven Mexican flans.



You may also add meats to your market basket including beef and ostrich, as well as farm fresh eggs. Don't forget fresh flowers cut that morning, and plants for your kitchen garden.

The fact is, fresh local food is far superior to food picked or prepared months ago in a far away place. You and your family should have the finest quality foods available from local growers. You and your family will be healthier, and you'll have the satisfaction of supporting your local community.

The Loudoun Valley Home Grown Market Association operates Middleburg's and many additional "producers only" weekly markets.

uct they wish to buy, and for retailers who need new sources for local products. The site is also designed to allow farmers to create web pages for their farms and products without experience as web designers, programmers, or marketing gurus.

Check out the site at, <http://www.freshnlocal.com>.

It takes less than a minute to register and login and there is no subscription charge. Users will learn about the farm, its' products, if they sell on location, which farmer's markets they attend and which retail stores offer their goods.

This online introductory service only scratches the surface of a more complex economic problem: how to create a more self-sustaining agricultural and supporting business community in Loudoun County.

Every year, \$500,000,000 is spent in Loudoun County on groceries and dining out. An additional \$300,000,000 is spent on recreation. Almost none of that money goes to our local farmers or our small businesses.

Tom Pfozter knows this can change and to make this possible, has established Fresh 'n Local's "Business-BUILDER Forum," a personally selected group of smart doers, and thinker's who work well together and share the vision of a

successful, self-sustaining local agriculture economy.

This brain trust includes farmers, bankers, retailers, vintners, food processors, lawyers and more. "We need to make the next step and translate this opportunity into reality," says Pfozter. "The main obstacle that separates our community from that \$800 million is we don't have a community-wide shared vision of how we're going to become the 'low cost marketer,' and provide more value to customers that anyone in the country."

Future articles on the development and progress the local agriculture brain trust will focus on their challenges and successes. If your background is in finance, capital formation, marketing, supply-chain management, or if you have entrepreneurial expertise, and you would like to join Fresh 'n Local's "Business-BUILDER Forum", contact Tom Pfozter at <http://www.freshnlocal.com>.



Fresh 'n Local Plows Brand New Ground

Customers, Retailers and Loudoun Producers Meet Online

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

FRESH 'N LOCAL PLOWS New Ground

Customers, Retailers and Loudoun Producers Meet Online

Lisa Leonard

What happens if you combine information technology, systems analysis, local agricultural, marketing, entrepreneurship, add one part water, then give it a stir? You get Fresh 'n Local, a new paradigm to benefit our local agricultural economy.

Fresh 'n Local, the brainchild of Tom Pfozter, helps farmers sell any product that is grown, raised, or produced locally. It ensures that producers receive the best prices for their better products, by creating new ways to connect local con-

sumers and retailers directly to Loudoun's farmers.

The first problem solving step Tom took to achieve this goal was to using the Internet as an information and communication tool to connect these three groups together in the most cost effective marketing method, a database driven website.

The site is simple to use for consumers who may quickly search for any prod-



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Middleburg Beautification Raises \$30,000

MIDDLEBURG Beautification and Preservation (MBP, Inc.) celebrated the Twelfth anniversary of the Middleburg Garden Tour at with a



Punkin Lee, Elaine Burden, Susan Howard

special tour of Stoneleigh Farm gardens. The traditional English gardens were designed by Donna Hackman and have appeared in many magazines, including the March-April 2003 issue of "Southern Accents." Proceeds from the event will be used to complete the Main Street area in front of the Safeway. These improvements will include trees, shrubs, benches and a wonderful iron fence to match the one in front

of the Methodist Church across the street. Middleburg Bank generously kicked off this fund raising project with a \$5,000 donation toward the \$20,000 goal. According to MBP, Inc. President Punkin Lee this very exciting community beautification effort surpassed that goal and went on to raise almost \$30,000.

MBP, Inc. is responsible for many beautification projects over



Tim Dimos, Middleburg Town Mayor

the past twelve years, including the flagstone flooring for the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Pavilion; the town tree nursery at the Hill School; town benches; the care of town trees; the revised Middleburg Walking Tour booklet and six garden areas including the maintenance of gardens at the historic Pink Box Visitors' Center.

In addition to the Safeway area,



Photos by Jay Hubbard ~ Middleburg Eccentric
current projects include a specimen tree list of the historic district, Landscaping for the Liberty Street parking area and a maintenance program for the town trees.



Phoenix Hill

Middleburg, Virginia

Lovely brick colonial with 5 spacious bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths. Located on 14 pristine acres bordering Goose Creek in Middleburg. Improvements include inground gunite pool, pond and two paddocks. Principals only. \$1,950,000.



8520 Maidstone Road

Rectortown, Virginia

100 year old stucco farm house 10 minutes from Middleburg. Very comfortable home with loads of charm. Metal roof, old floors, two fireplaces, beamed ceilings, 2 staircases, 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Great location, small stream, storage shed and fenced for dogs. \$549,000.



Aldie Dam

Aldie, Virginia

Views from every room of this immaculate, 4 bedroom home east of Middleburg. 28 acres mixed with open pasture and mature hardwoods. Gourmet kitchen opens to dining area and family room. Light maple floors and lots of windows bring the outdoors inside. Flagstone terraces wrap around heated gunite pool. Excellent commuter location. \$1,550,000.



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. \$2,060,000.

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Our Earth

Vineyard Nursery

Just Let Linda Do the Work

By Lisa Leonard, Staff Writer

THERE IS NOTHING TASTIER and more nutritious than fresh organically grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs, and what comes off the stem at the Vineyard Nursery is at the top of my shopping list.

The old vineyard was cleared in 2000 to create a landscape nursery and organic gardens, and what began as a small crop of spinach, green beans, and tomatoes has grown significantly in size and variety. A popular provider to local restaurants Vineyard Nursery also sells to the public at the Middleburg and Purcellville Farmer's markets.

Linda Hart, organic garden manager says "it all about the soil," and every year their soil gets richer with their composting program. Linda, who used to be a chef, thinks gardening is more fun and rewarding.

She has brought in many new vegetables and herbs during the two years she's worked at Vineyard Nursery. She now grows seven-to-eight types of potato; little Japanese turnips and eggplants; rainbow chard, the list goes on and on. If you see something new at their Farmer's Market stall don't be shy, Linda will be glad to share with you the best ways to prepare it and what it best accompanies.

The organic gardens now grow in three large hoop-style nurseries to jumpstart the spring and summer planting. They also serve as the indoor gardens to produce, on a much smaller scale, produce and herbs during the winter



months.

Last year an unusual killing frost in first week of October, froze many plants that were already six-to-seven inches tall. No matter how well prepared a grower is, Mother Nature is still in charge. But sometimes, said Linda, you get lucky like the spinach they covered to save from the frost survived beautifully and a hundred-foot row of

Linda Hart, organic garden manager says "it all about the soil," and every year their soil gets richer

thriving healthy spinach came up on its own this spring.

Linda has hope for this year's crop of tomatoes, last year with all the rain it was a poor year for everyone.

She fancies the Heirloom tomatoes the most, and once again it comes down to the soil and water.

Linda tries not to water but will use soaker hoses if needed, however it is better for the root stock to grow deep for the best tomatoes and too much watering keeps the root structure close to the top allowing the plants to tip over. Now you know what you did wrong last year. But, this year, just go to the Middleburg Farmers Market and let Linda do all the work.

Tree with Flair

By Bonnie Deahl, Certified Arborist
The Care of Trees

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, I was down in Virginia Beach to photograph some trees with my husband Peter. The trees were bald cypresses growing right in the water! If you have ever seen such trees, they have a beautiful flare at their base, making the tree look as if it were a volcano. What magnificent presence these trees have.

Did you know that all trees when planted at the correct depth develop a flare at their base? Trees growing in the forest or in a park are great places to see how trees show their flare at the base. As young trees begin to grow, they put out roots to support their growing weight. We know that trees send roots outward from the trunk rather than straight down as we once thought.

When trees are planted too deep, they will not develop a flare, and have a 'stovepipe' appearance at the base.

If not corrected early these trees will develop roots above the proper root depth and a flare will not develop. Such trees never grow well and slowly decline. It may take such trees up to 15 years or more to show signs of being planted too deep. Trees can also be over mulched. The same situation will develop and no flare will be present. Arborists have a tool called an air

spade that blows the soil away from the tree to expose this root flare, then mulch can be properly applied.

If you have planted a tree in the past few years that still has a stake attached to its trunk, remove the stake now. Trees need the normal activity of the wind to encourage them to develop strong root flares soon after transplanting. Some exceptions to this rule may apply to trees that are planted in very windy sites or very large trees. Arborists will usually recommend that you remove the stakes between 6 months to a year after being planted to allow them to develop a healthy trunk flare.

Take a walk along the many trails of your neighborhood or estate and notice the trees with a trunk flair. Or per-

haps you are lucky enough to have a majestic old oak or American elm in your community that has a flair of its own. Protect these trees wherever they



are growing. To replace them would never be in our lifetimes or during the lives of our children.

Can you imagine a world without trees? Neither can I...

Bonnie Deahl is a certified arborist and Loudoun representative for The Care of Trees in Dulles, VA.

www.thecareoftrees.com

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Tomato Primer

By Karen "The Plant Lady" Rexrode

A TRIP TO YOUR local nursery may find you overwhelmed and bewildered by the array of tomato plants offered for sale. If you're putting out your vegetable garden and have only a certain amount of room reserved for tomatoes, it's nice to know what to look for as you read various plant labels and review assorted descriptions. Our tomato listing numbered almost 50 this year, the minimum amount of varieties that I could offer after much research and having to make tough choices. Tomatoes are always popular but their popularity seems to have increased as more and more folks plan on growing and harvesting their own vegetables. Tomatoes will always earn prime real estate in the context of vegetable gardening. So what do all of these terms mean and how do I choose the right tomato plants for my garden? Let's look at what this tomato talk is all about.



later in the season. Indeterminate types are sometimes referred to as vining tomatoes. Their stalks will continue to expand and new flowers will become fruit from mid to late season.

Days to harvest

Tomatoes mature at various dates, anywhere from 52 days to 100 days. These days to harvest refer to days after the plants were set out. Many of the larger types, like Brandywine, mature much later than smaller fruiting types.

Heirloom

Without a doubt, this is the buzz word when it comes to selecting tomato plants. Interestingly enough there are many classes of heirlooms. Some have simply been saved by family members and passed down generation to generation. Others are commercial heirlooms, introduced by seed



companies, orphans or natural hybrids sometimes named by an individual and picked up by a seed company. Still others are commercial heirlooms, bred for the best traits using good parents. It is generally accepted that heirlooms should have been cultivated prior to 1940 as many seed companies were hybridizing freely after that year. Many contend that a created heirloom isn't a true heirloom. Arguments will continue

as we find so many heirlooms sold and often little information available as to their origins.

OTV

During the 1990's there was a newsletter published by Craig LeHoullier and Carolyn J. Male. This newsletter was titled "Off the Vine", shortened to OTV. A particular type of Brandywine tomato arose from some selective breeding of Yellow Brandywine and was eventually named OTV Brandywine after the newsletter. It has nothing to do with taste after picking or flavor with age, as some have suggested.

Disease resistance

The biggest problems for those of us gardening in zones 7 and 8 is the summer's heat. Fusarium wilt and Verticillium wilt are two common problems. Many heirlooms are not tolerant of wilt diseases but choosing medium sized fruiting varieties will help. Rotation of crops is also helpful as wilts can stay in the soil for up to 3 years. A thorough cleaning of vines and leaves will also help rid a garden of wilt diseases. Plants that suffer from this will suddenly wilt, having looked healthy up to that point. Sprays cannot prevent or cure these diseases, it is best to remove a wilted plant and rid the garden of ripening spores.

Determine first it's not a simple need for water. Rarely are disease resistance listed with heirlooms as tests have not been administered to determine their resistance. Some growers assist by keeping records in their field trials.

I encourage everyone to keep track of what varieties of tomatoes they plant year to year, especially noting those that do well, producing large yields of tasty fruit. It has always been said that it's better to err on the side of late planting than early planting. As the soil has warmed the later plantings catch up with earlier ones. One of the most popular heirloom tomatoes is Mortgage Lifter which comes with a wonderful history (as many heirlooms do). This particular variety was bred by M.C. Byles using German Johnson, Beefsteak, an Italian variety, and an English variety. He planted one in the middle and surrounded it with the others. The first year he hand pollinated each surrounding tomato to the one in the center. The next year, he planted the best seedling in the middle, surrounding it with 3 other seedlings. After selecting the best plants for 6 years, he had a stable variety. This then became Mortgage Lifter and was sold for \$1. in the 1940's. After 6 years he had sold enough young tomato plants to pay his mortgage of \$6,000.

And so today it fascinates me that even today, tomatoes sell for only \$1.50, some 60 years after Mr. Byles hybridized his famous tomato 'Mortgage Lifter'. What a bargain!

Pruning Shrubs

After the Flowers Fall

By Peter Deahl, The Pruning School

It's the first part of May, and that means it's almost time. Well, sort of. I mean for some but not for others. Totally confused? That's ok because when it comes to timing your shrub pruning, it can be awkward and hard to understand. The truth is you can prune shrubs, winter or summer no matter what the plant is as long as you are not concerned about flowers. However, if you are like most of us you planted that shrub or ornamental tree because of its flowers, and you do care if they are cut off during your pruning program. So, let's see if we can clear up some questions about timing.

Ornamental pruning comes in two basic classifications or seasons, dormant season, which falls between Christmas and the first of April, and late spring / early summer pruning which happens after that particular plant's flowers fade. I would complete

such pruning tasks within six weeks of flower drop. For instance, forsythia flowers early March, so I would get it pruned by the end of April or sooner. We prune shrubs in this fashion because they are a group of plants that produce their flower buds on old wood, or wood produced during last year's growing season. Another example; azaleas produce flower buds between May and July so we prune them during that time after flowers have fallen. If we were to prune them in the winter or dormant season we would remove flower buds at each pruning point. The key is knowing when your plants produce flower buds. It's that simple!

Another quick note. Shearing your shrubs makes life difficult for them. If you do shear try to open them at times to allow for some inner growth. Shrubs need to grow in an open form in order to produce as many leaves as possible.

Pruning your shrubs to help them look as natural as possible will achieve this goal. Proper plant placement according to environmental requirements and great pruning practices will help your plants be as much as they can be, and hopefully everything you want them to be!

By visiting The Pruning School's web site you can learn more about how these shrubs are pruned as well as when, but for now, here is a list of plants in our area that you should prune soon if not already. Let me know if you have any questions because talking about pruning is almost as fun as doing it. Happy Pruning!! Prunin' Pete. www.thepruningschool.com

ORNAMENTALS WOODY PLANTS PRUNED SOON AFTER FLOWER DROP.

Azaleas, Rhododendron, Mountain laurel, Quince, Some spirea, bridal

wreath, Thunbergii, Van Houttei, Some hydrangea, Some viburnum, oak-leaved, Calycanthus and sweet shrub.

Most ornamental trees can be pruned at this time, such as fringe tree, Daphne, Deutzia, Mock orange, Forsythia, Pieris, andromeda; Flowering almond, Weigela, Wisteria has one winter pruning and one summer prune, Lilac

If you are not sure and it is not an evergreen shrub like boxwood or holly, go ahead and prune it after it flowers. That will give it time to produce flower buds no matter what! Most of all make it fun! www.thepruningschool.com

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Art & Citizenship

Chefs Extravaganza raised \$58,000

for Notre Dame Academy

By Ed McGushin



IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE many professions as strenuous and stress-filled as that of a professional chef. While the rest of us are relaxing at night or playing on the weekend, the chef is laboring in the kitchen. The next time you dine out, take a peek in the restaurant's kitchen. You will probably find it smaller than you expected, warmer than you prefer, and noisier than you can stand. This is the chef's work place.

Only a fortunate few within the profession actually achieve superstar status...chefs such as Wolfgang Puck, Emeril Lagasse, Roberto Donna, Todd English, Thomas Keller, and a handful of others. They are respected by their peers, pursued by young chefs seeking mentoring, acclaimed by the industry media, and well-paid by diners for the experience of enjoy-

ing the fruits of their labor.

Superstar chefs drive nice cars (and motorcycles), travel first class, and are followed by adoring "groupies". They are the rock stars of the kitchen and much more than simply good cooks. Each is a highly successful and entrepreneurial businessman or woman blessed with an abundance of charm and personality. But climbing to that top rung of the culinary corporate ladder is not, as they say, a piece of cake.

Dining out is America's favorite hobby. Whether a five-star restaurant or the neighborhood bistro, if the food is worthy the tables are often filled.

You know if there is a star in the kitchen when the first morsel of food arrives at your table. If the presentation on your plate shouts, "EAT ME", and the opening bite bombards the senses with hidden delights, prepare to linger and enjoy the work of a culinary artist. This is the work of a real chef, striving to bring to the table the ultimate dining experience, course-after-course, day-after-day.

My wife Sandy and I recently had an opportunity to witness a side of the culinary profession that is seldom noted by those critics whose reviews sometimes make or break the careers of its practitioners. We were invited to help organize and host a charitable event to benefit a local private high school engaged in a capital improvement program to construct both a science and a fine arts laboratory. As consummate and life-long 'foodies', we happily accepted the challenge.

Our partner and the driving force in this endeavor was a close friend of more than

twenty years, Celeste Borel the co-proprietor with Chef Alain Borel of the acclaimed country inn and restaurant L'Auberge Provencale located in White Post, Virginia. Their son Christian, a senior at Notre Dame Academy (the beneficiary of the event) properly characterizes his mother's unbridled energy by referring to her as his 'pocket rocket'.

The chefs from L'Auberge Provencale were already committed to support the evening with Executive Chef Alain Borel, the talented young Chef de Cuisine Jeff Wood, a recent James Beard Society "Rising Star Chef" nominee, and Pastry Chef Rebecca Kinsella.

I called Todd Gray, Executive Chef and proprietor of the acclaimed Washington DC eatery Equinox. Chef Gray enthusiastically agreed to support the event and along with his wife Ellen participated in two planning meetings to help us organize the festivities. He committed two outstanding young members of his culinary team, Chefs Anthony Chittum and Heather Ackerman to represent Equinox in Leitrim's Kitchen.

Next, Sandy and I had lunch at one of our favorite area restaurants, Violino, located in Winchester Virginia. It is the domain of Executive Chef and proprietor Franco Stocco and his son, Sous Chef Riccardo Stocco. Franco's wife Marcella oversees

the dining room and their two year-old bilingual grandson Matteo occasionally visits, greeting the ladies with a jaunty "Ciao Bella!" Chef Stocco instantly agreed to participate in the event with all of Violino's resources.

Chef Bryan Kimmet owns Middleburg's Black Coffee Bistro, where he creates stylish renditions of classic bistro fare. We have known Bryan and his wife Annie since they first moved to Middleburg in 1998. Bryan immediately signed on for the event.

Finally, I called Jonathon Partin, Executive Chef at Sunnyside Farms in Washington Virginia. Sunnyside grows wonderful organic fruits and produce and also raises 'Virginia Kobe beef', an animal

that is part Wagyu, the source of Japan's famous kobe beef, and part angus. Jonathon's kitchen serves two Sunnyside retail outlets and also provides catering services. In addition, for more than three years Jonathon's wife Linda managed the pastry department at the Inn at Little Washington before her recent maternity leave. She was previously the pastry chef for Chef Michel Richard at Citronelle in Washington DC. Both Jonathon and Linda agreed to participate.

Celeste was also making fine progress on collecting collectibles for the silent wine auction. It would be anchored by a 1966 Mouton Rothschild and feature among several offerings a 1986 Chateau Margaux Premier Grand Cru. Roberto Donna, the renowned chef and proprietor of Gallileo restaurant in Washington DC would be in Italy on the evening of the dinner, but donated a gift certificate for dinner for two, which he would personally prepare to the specifications of the winning bidder. It was paired with a 2-liter bottle of fine champagne offering the promise of a truly festive evening on the town.

When guests were escorted to the tables to begin the main event, a delicious six course seated dinner featured the offerings of all of our talented chefs. Amanda Powell's light classical piano set the mood and at the conclusion, the chefs took to the stairwell for a well-deserved standing ovation from the departing guests. They donated talent, time, energy, all of the ingredients for an unforgettable meal, and a rare day off! The next time you enjoy a fine meal dining out, remember to thank the chef. Your acknowledgement is in many cases the chef's greatest reward.



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Where There's Smoke There's Fire and Rescue

Great Meadow

By Ed McGushin

Well before the gates opened hundreds of cars and buses filled the 2-mile stretch of road from I-66 to Great Meadow. They were bringing more than 50,000 spectators to see the 79th running of the Virginia Gold Cup.

It was to be a long day for all the Gold Cup riders and revelers, and an even longer day for the 52 volunteers from the Fauquier and Prince William County fire and rescue companies already well positioned on the grounds.

Responsibility for organizing and directing this critical emergency response team belonged to Chief Blakeney Gallagher of The Plains Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company 4, the chief of the Fauquier County fire and rescue unit nearest to Great Meadow. As "first due chief", Gallagher must ensure compliance with all State codes and County zoning regulations related to such events. The Virginia Gold Cup, however, is special, legally designated a "Class A" event because it draws a crowd of more than 25,000.

On April 1st, Chief Gallagher sent a memorandum to the chiefs of nine Fauquier County volunteer fire and rescue companies and to Chief Richard Bird of Prince William County Company 4 in Gainesville, requesting assistance and specifying the precise nature of support needed from each and every unit.

Each of the chiefs then solicited volunteers, both to meet the Great Meadow and to provide regular coverage in their home operational areas.

Gallagher's plan called for all the companies to arrive at Great Meadow by 8:00 a.m. and to be in position by 9:00, a full hour before the gates opened to the public. He deployed 4 ambulances around the racecourse whose primary duty was to respond to injured riders. Tommy Shamblin of The Plains VFC 4 took a position high in the Stewards' Stand, to dispatch those crews.

With Shamblin and his team covering the racecourse, Chief Gallagher would respond to incidents among the 50,000 spectators, dispatching teams from his position in the main command center.

ATV 'Gators' stood by to transport the ill or injured to the on-site medical support tent. There Dr. Nasser Abu Sitta, the Fauquier County Operational Medical Director, or Dr. Bill Barker, assistant director, could either treat and release patients, or send them to Fauquier Hospital.

The volunteers at Great Meadow were a microcosm of the Fauquier County volunteer fire and rescue community.

Many were smoke-in-their-blood veterans after decades of service. Chief Bird of the Gainesville DVFD is a 47-year veteran. C.Q. Ritchie spent 32 years at the

New Baltimore VFC, including service as its chief. He now rides with Company 4 in The Plains. Bill Grogan from Company 2 in Remington is a fully certified paramedic, one of only a handful of volunteers who have taken on the two full years of formal training to reach this level of qualification. Tom Marable has been a member of Mar-



shall Company 3 for ten years, but on Friday nights he still rides with the company where he first volunteered 22 years ago in Kensington, Maryland. Tom also serves as President of the Fauquier County Fire and Rescue Association.

Many young people from the companies' junior service programs also gave their time and talent on race day. Sylvia Payne was there. Still in her teens, she is a junior member of Warrenton Volunteer Rescue Company 6. Scott Jenkins, a student in the fire and rescue program offered in both Fauquier and Liberty High Schools worked at the command tent. A member of the FHS Green Team, Scott is a senior at Fauquier High School, bound for Longwood College in the fall to study forensic medicine.

While these young volunteers are not yet certified to participate in emergency response activities, they already perform important logistic and administrative chores. And, as all the veterans know, these young people are the future, the very core of the next generation of volunteer fire and rescue in Fauquier County.

As post time neared for the first race, the skies held a veil of clouds and a cool breeze gently ruffled the longer grass in the infield. It was a perfect day for

racing and tailgating, and even better for the emergency volunteers, for a hot sun and no breeze almost always mean more medical emergencies.

Chief Gallagher's plans were tested early. "Rider down!" sounded halfway through the Foxhunter Chase Championship, an amateur event preceding the first official race. A horse went down at a mid-course jump. Its rider lay motionless as Tommy Shamblin peered through his binoculars from the Stewards' Stand, radio in hand, poised to dispatch the nearest ambulance. After several seconds, which seemed much longer to those in the crowd, the rider slowly rose and began walking without assistance. No dispatch needed.

Post time for the Intelidyne Maiden Hurdle, the first official race, was 1:30. As the race started, the Warrenton Joint Communications Center radioed Chief Gallagher about a serious accident on Route 55 at Whiting Road in The Plains, just a few miles from Great Meadow.

Gallagher dispatched Assistant Chief

Tony Corbin in the Company 4 Chevy Suburban command buggy along with an Advanced Life Support crew he'd earlier assigned to cover off-grounds emergencies. They quickly joined other responders from Marshall Volunteer Fire Company 3 and Marshall Volunteer Rescue Company 9 at the accident scene, stabilizing a seriously injured motorcyclist and calling for helicopter medical evacuation. By 2:25 the deployed units were back in position at Great Meadow.

There, it was business as usual: slips and falls among the spectators, a turned ankle here, a few scratches and bruises there. Some required supervised rest and rehydration after a jup or so too many.

The big race of the day, however, the \$50,000 four-mile Virginia Gold Cup Timber Stakes, brought everyone to full attention.

As Joe at Six, the eventual winner chased Fast Steppin' Man toward the final jump on the back stretch the lead horse broke sharply to the right, failed to negotiate the jump, and took a serious fall.

Steppin Man's rider, Mark Griffith, lay motionless as medics from Cedar Run VFC 12, rushed to the scene. Erick Kling, a career staff member from The Plains VFC 4,

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Wakefield School

Many seniors at Wakefield School have made their final decision about which college they will attend this fall. The following list outlines the college plans of students from Middleburg and the surrounding area.

Pierre Dumont of Philomont will attend Mary Washington College. He is the son of Gerald and Mary Coale Dumont.

Cristina Ericksen of The Plains will attend Goucher College. She is the daughter of Jim and Rhonda Cheatham.

Wolf Hindrichs of Middleburg will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. He is the son of Werner and Rebecca Hindrichs.

Geneva Jann-Lewis of Middleburg will attend Emory College. She is the daughter of William Lewis and Victoria Jann-Lewis.

Alexander Krivicich of The Plains will attend Cornell University. He is the son of Francis Krivicich and Kathleen Higgins.



Notre Dame Academy



Two Sign to Play Basketball

Seniors Alan Metcalfe and Tanya Traeger have signed national letters of intent to play Division I basketball beginning next fall.

Alan Metcalfe, an all-state Honorable Mention for the Virginia Independent School League Division II and starting forward for the State Champion Dragons, will play at Vanderbilt University.

Tanya Traeger, senior captain of the Women's Varsity basketball team that won the Beltway League championship and was runner-up in the Virginia Independent School League Division I tournament, will attend and play at the College of Charleston.

Foxcroft School

Newest Cum Laude Members Announced

The Cum Laude Society is a high school scholastic honor society modeled on the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa. There are over 335 chapters nationally; the Foxcroft chapter was established in 1958. Students who evidence a genuine interest in the pursuit of knowledge by their superior academic record (as reflected by their GPA, course load, including AP and Honors classes, class standing, and SAT scores) are inducted during the graduation ceremony. The newest members of Foxcroft's Cum Laude Society are: Hannah Wood (Washington, DC), Kathryn Grant (Lovettsville, VA), Sherry Nelson (Poolesville, MD), Lauren Edgerton (Beverly Hills, CA), Eliza Williams (Middleburg, VA), Jessie Frank (Santa Barbara, CA), and Alden Denegre (Middleburg, VA).

William and Mary Leadership Award

Jessica Walker (Purcellville, VA) received the 2004 William and Mary Leadership Award, presented to the one student who best exemplifies the spirit of Foxcroft School, for inspirational leadership, outstanding scholarship, and unwavering loyalty to the high school and community. In addition to receiving a certificate and commendation, William and Mary will honor all award recipients, one from each Virginia high school, during a weekend event in Williamsburg in October. Weekend events will include a full range of leadership seminars and activities, a barbecue hosted by the College president, and an evening celebration at Busch Gardens.

April Crossword Solution

ALSO	SUCCOMB	NEED
NET	POROUS	A INTI
TARP	YALTA	HEPTAD
SHALE	LIE	CREPE
Y WORK	C P	ANORAK
A WAVY	LOCIN	E
SLY	SAID	ERNE MAY
EDET	SPOTTY	PONG
TRAE	S L E K	ODOR
TILT	JERSEY	TAXI
END	HOOF	SWAB LIP
E A	AGUE	ECRU A
STAGER	L S	KITE I
MEALS	AND	EATEN
PRONTO	FLAIL	HURL
YARD	C	LARVAE DIE
ANTA	KNURLED	RENT



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Pastimes

Local Writer Recognized

THE HUNT, A MURDER MYSTERY BY MIDDLEBURG author Jan Neuharth, has been named as one of three finalists in the 2004 Benjamin Franklin Awards competition in the Mystery/Suspense category. The Benjamin Franklin Awards, sponsored by the Publishers Marketing Association, recognize excellence in independent publishing. The Award winners will be announced at a ceremony on June 2, 2004, in Chicago, IL.

The Hunt has also been nominated for a Library of Virginia Literary Award in the fiction category. The 7th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration honors outstanding works by Virginia authors and will be held on October 16, 2004.

Set in the historic Virginia hunt country, The

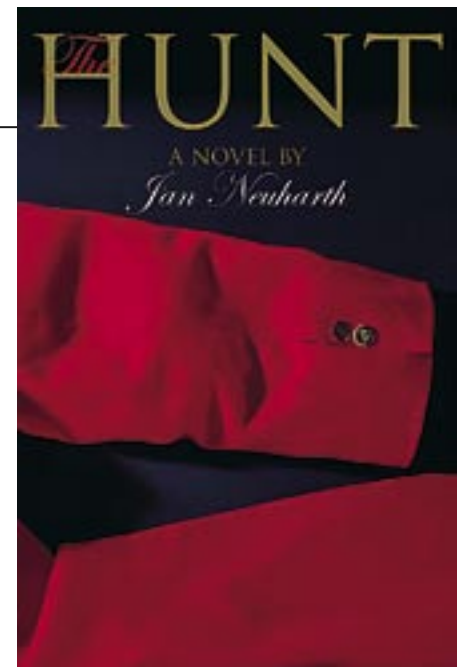
Hunt tells the story of Doug Cummings, an attractive, wealthy lawyer and horseman, who is the target of a twisted but clever scheme to frame him for murder. With the media breathing down his neck, targeting him as the prime suspect, Doug races to solve the mystery of who is after him before he is tried and convicted by the law or the court of public opinion.

Neuharth authentically depicts the scenic, small-town community of Middleburg, and the close-knit foxhunting crowd that lives here. As the plot twist and turns, it carries the reader into the mysterious, romanticized lifestyle of the old-money, tweedy, equestrian set.

The Hunt, published by Paper Chase Farms

Publishing Group of Middleburg, is available at many area bookstores, tack shops and gift shops and online at www.thehunt.us.

Neuharth resides in Middleburg with her husband Joseph Keusch, who is a Joint Master of the Fairfax Hunt, and their two children.



Saving the Land

By: Sandra Costin Atkins, CPA/PFS

THE NEWS IS OUT AGAIN — Loudoun County remains near the top of the list as one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. While this is good news for business owners and developers, it instills terror in a segment of our population who wish to save the rural nature of our community.

Landowners who wish to preserve their land and prevent development can utilize an open space easement. There are several local organizations who can hold the easement, which restricts the use of the property in perpetuity (i.e., forever). There are significant income tax advantages for placing this type of easement on the property, but make no mistake about the fact that you are giving up certain rights that permanently impact what you can do with the property in the future.

The Federal tax law allows a landowner to take a charitable deduction for the decrease in market value of the property once the easement restrictions are placed on it. Say, for example, that you own a tract of land that comprises several different parcels, each one of which could be further subdivided under the current zoning laws. If you combine all the parcels under one easement, which allows for no subdivisions, you have given up the right to sell the property for its "highest and best use" as smaller parcels. The charitable deduction is the difference between the value of the tract of land combined as one parcel, versus the

higher value of the separate smaller parcels that would have been available without the easement.

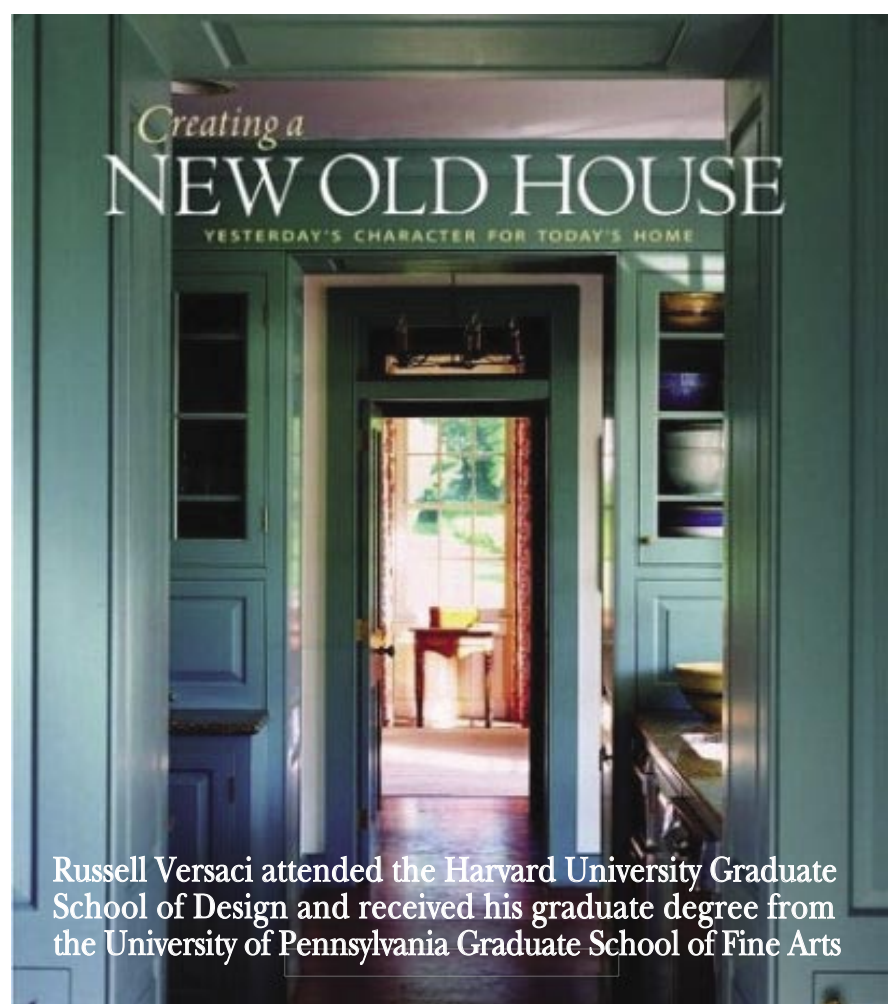
The tax savings from placing an open space easement on your property comes from a charitable deduction from your Federal and State income taxes, an income tax credit available from the State of Virginia for a portion of the deduction, as well as a Federal estate tax savings resulting from the reduced valuation of property in your estate. In addition, once the property is placed in easement, it qualifies for the reduced "land use" real estate tax rates.

The open space easement rules are complex and anyone who wishes to consider utilizing this type of an easement should seek professional help. However, for those who currently own rural real estate, or those who wish to acquire it, the potential tax savings from this type of transaction can provide an incentive to preserve the land for future generations.

Sandra Costin Atkins is President of Focus Financial Consultants, Ltd., in Middleburg, VA. The firm offers wealth management services, including comprehensive financial planning, fee-only investment management, and specialized divorce-related consulting. Ms. Atkins is a CPA with a specialty designation as a Personal Financial Specialist (PFS). She has been a member of the Middleburg business community for 28 years.

New Old House Presentation Featuring Russell Versaci

Russell Versaci has spent two decades designing traditional houses: country houses, cottages and farmhouses, as well as restorations and additions to period homes. The firm, Versaci Neumann & Partners, which he founded in 1985, has published *The Simple Farmhouse Portfolio of Plans for Classic American Farmhouses*, and Versaci has written a debut book *Creating A New Old House* published by Taunton Press (October 2003).



Russell Versaci attended the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and received his graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Fine Arts

Pastimes

Horoscope



March 21 - April 20

You could do extremely well in competitive sports events. Too many opportunities and too many changes going on. You should be trying to clear up legal contracts that have been pending. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.



Apr. 21- May 21

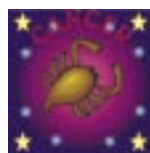
Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight. Your ability to deal with others will help you in getting the support you need. Do not expect others to do your work. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.



May 22-June 21

Difficulties with females you live with could cause emotional stress.

Don't be too quick to spend money. You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.



June 22-July 22

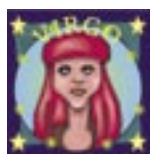
You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. You can't lose this month unless you get involved in gossip or overwork to the point of exhaustion. Take the time to do something nice for your friends and relatives. Discover opportunities based on the individuals you mingle with this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.



July 23-Aug 22

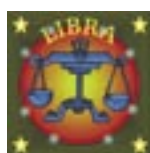
Changes will not be easy for the youngsters involved. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Situations you can't change should be forgotten for

the present. Don't try to twist things around so that they sound more enticing. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.



Aug. 23 -Sept. 23

You need to make changes that will raise your self esteem, such as a new hairstyle or a new image. Don't jump too quickly regarding an investment that appears to be good. Look before you leap. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.



Sept. 24 -Oct. 2

Take the time to close deals that have been up in the air. You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work. Try not to be too harsh with loved ones; there will always be two sides to an issue. You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.



Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't blow situations out of proportion. Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. New romantic partners may attend a function that puts you in the limelight. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.



Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You can meet new friends who will let you know just how valuable you are. Your persuasive nature will win the heart of someone you've had your eye on. Too much work and no play will not only result in fatigue and frustration but also loneliness, too. Seminars will provide you with knowledge and amusement. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.



Dec 22.- Jan. 20

Find a way to consolidate. Get involved in fitness programs that will bring you in contact with new

friends. You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Don't settle for less than the best. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.



Jan. 21 -Feb. 19

This may not be the time to lend or borrow. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. It may be a disappointing day emotionally. Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you get out and mingle. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.



Feb. 20-Mar. 20

Expect some flak. Focus on your own domestic problems. Do not let the reactions of others get you going. You may want to put your creative thinking cap on. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.



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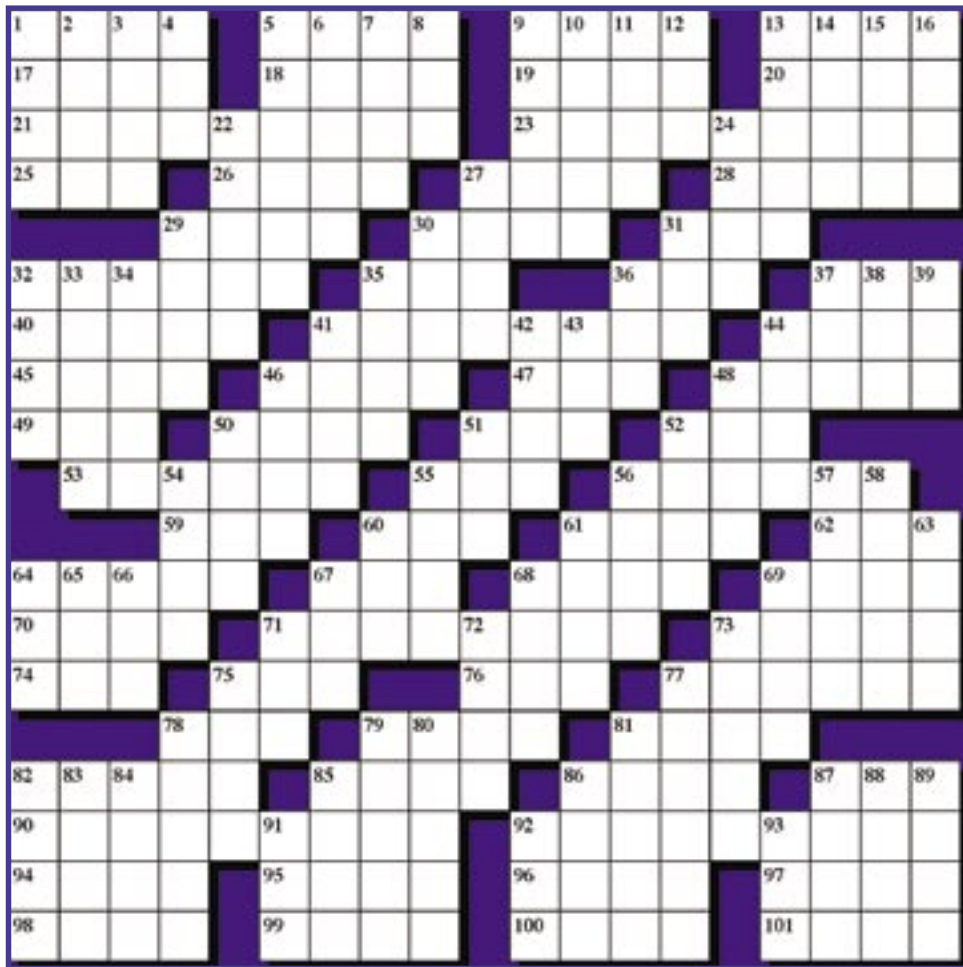
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Crossword for June



ACROSS

1 Bucket
5 Unspecified in number
9 Dull
13 Musical instrument
17 Otherwise
18 Having wings
19 Hick
20 Built-in platform bed
21 Connoisseur of wine
23 State of being obedient
25 Open mesh fabric
26 Wash
27 Cast aside
28 Taxes
29 River in central Switzerland
30 Silent
31 Exclamation of contempt
32 Gum yielding leguminous shrub
35 Finish first
36 Understanding
37 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
40 Series of metal rings
41 Science of winemaking
44 Chicken
45 Temperate
46 Gratis
47 An urban area
48 Agave fiber
49 Abstract being
50 Pier
51 Curve
52 Cardinal number
53 King of the Huns
55 Vessel built by Noah
56 Republic in central Africa
59 Inquire of
60 Contend
61 Prejudice
62 Soak
64 Caper
67 Direct
68 Lubricates
69 Jolts
70 Metal fastener
71 Probable
73 Secret organization
74 Mischievous child

75 Unwell

76 Bind
77 Water channel
78 Former coin of France
79 Clarified butter
81 Edible tuber
82 Concerning
85 Quantity of paper
86 Sodium carbonate
87 Veterinarian
90 Degrading
92 Having ganglia
94 Indigo
95 Drug-yielding plant
96 Exhort
97 Inhabitant of Denmark
98 Blackbird
99 Dash
100 Fog
101 Exclamation to express sorrow

DOWN

1 Unskilled laborer
2 On sheltered side
3 Is not
4 The Lion
5 Desert in N Africa
6 Evergreen tree
7 Boy or man
8 Before
9 Legal right
10 Monetary unit of the Soviet Union
11 Encourage in wrongdoing
12 Used for resting
13 Belief involving sorcery
14 Push with the horns
15 A single time
16 Supplements
22 Evident
24 Republic in SW Asia
27 Roman goddess
29 Sour
30 Pit
31 Turkish governor
32 Peak
33 Porcelain tableware
34 City in central Belgium
35 Seven days
36 Soviet secret police
37 Greek goddess of the

dawn

38 Two
39 Entirely
41 Killer whale
42 Wait in concealment
43 Mythical sea monster
44 Scandinavian
46 People in general
48 Oceans
50 Flat circular plate
51 Part of verb to be
52 It was
54 Hindmost part of an animal
55 Helps
56 Vex
57 Delineation
58 Lofty nest
60 By way of
61 Liquid secreted by the liver
63 Former Russian ruler
64 Black bird
65 Vietnam
66 Apex
67 Ten decibels
68 Off-Broadway theater award
69 Jet-assisted takeoff
71 Influenza
72 Separate article
73 Pertaining to a wall
75 Very small quantity
77 Ingenious article
78 Fishhook line
79 Large jib for yachts
80 City in W Germany
81 Forceps
82 First man
83 Hawaiian goose
84 Islamic chieftain
85 Small rivulet
86 Worn by women in India
87 South African river
88 Sicilian volcano
89 Golf mounds
91 Not
92 Resin
93 Highest mountain in Crete

April solution on page 28

Virginia State Chili Cook-off

From the Behind the Stove

By Brian Lichorowic

COOKS CAME FROM NEAR AND FAR to compete in the Chili Appreciation Society's International (CASI) Virginia Chili Cook off which took place at Veramar vineyards on May 2nd. The annual event determines the Virginia state champion. The top 2 winners qualify to compete in the Nationals that take place in Texas. Twenty-five competitors represented Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Jim Bogaty, owner of the Veramar Winery in Berryville, VA and host walked up and down the line of 25 tents with a bottle of his Red and White wine in each hand. Tasting was underway. He knew that people would need a sip or two to the "Heat Off".

Events like this have many micro-cultures and communities. New members are quickly embraced into the mix. Virginia has many of the oldest most popular events, From The Delaplane Strawberry Festival to the Annual Butterfly Count up at Skyline; the goal of each seems to be to have fun. If you happen to learn something or win for your talent or perseverance along the way all the better

Jim, Della and Justin Bogaty and the rest of their families go out of the their way to make these events memorable. A live band provides great music before, during and after the entire competition. The unique drink of the day, Wineritas, is a concoction that seems to always draw a line at the tasting tent. Hot dogs and soda are plentiful, and Veramar always has a great selection of cheese and munchies to go with a bottle of the "cult like" Chardonnay that seems to be winning more and more medals each year.

Veramar's idyllic location offers a pristine, unspoiled, calm setting which overlooks the foothills of the Blue Ridge.

Set up rivaled an army corps of engineers exercise and the precision with which cooks organized their kitchens was impressive. Chili veterans pitched their tents, spread their hot sauce and raised a red pepper windsock above the field of battle. Camping stoves scarred with bumper stickers were fired up and were marched regimentally by each tent.

Contestants take the event very seriously. Heading the 30-pages of rules are the following:

A. CHILI COOKED ON SITE - All chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off. All chili must be prepared in the open (no cooking in motorhomes, etc.).

1. CHILI COOKED FROM SCRATCH - "Scratch" is defined as starting with raw meat. No marinating is allowed. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes ("just add meat" mixes that contain premeasured spices) are NOT permitted.

2. NO FILLERS IN CHILI - Beans, macaroni, rice, hominy, or other similar ingredients are not permitted.

CASI is a serious civic organization. Most of the fees collected go to charities. The rules are strict and the event is structured.

Weather played a little havoc as southeastern breezes came in around noon. Really strong gusts tipped over one contestant's tent, along with a simmering pot of chili, which, amazingly, landed up right with the lid still on, and only minimum spillage.

The CASI official came around and placed 2 cups on each contestant's table, one is for the formal entry for the competition. The other is for a "People's Choice" award. Each visitor to the event gets a token and after tasting as entries as you like you leave you token in



your favorite's cup.

Dan's "Cowboy Chili" (ode to his football team more than the lifestyle) won first place and the right to represent Virginia on the fateful day in Texas.

There were 25 cooks. I saw them all tasting tent-to-tent down the line. I would think at about taste 13 or so their lips are tingling pretty well. I saw women fanning their mouths frantically and everyone was taking big gulps of water and/or wine to cool it off.

The competition chili entrants (the ones that are actually judged) are diverse. If you are a fan of even mildly spiced food you will appreciate the different recipes. Just don't ask for heat on or in the Chili. You'll get it in spades.

CASI's Virginia State Chili Cook-off championship was to be savored. The all-day event was a world-class chili cook-off, with a few bottles of nice wine and live music that included a female lead singer who performed a pretty decent Janis Joplin.

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Generation X Cicadas and your Pets

THE HSUS CAUTIONS PET OWNERS about potential digestion problems for pets who eat too many of the cicadas that will be infesting the atmosphere along the Eastern United States this spring and early summer.

The large-scale emergence of the Brood X cicadas is expected to start in early May and could last a month or more, according to reports from entomologists. Randall Lockwood, animal behaviorist and a vice president for The HSUS, says the large, slow moving cicadas are a tasty treat to dogs, cats and other predators. While the insects can provide protein, the exoskeletons of mature cicadas are indigestible. "Pets who gorge on cicadas may find themselves vomiting or constipated," Lockwood said.

However, the bugs are generally harmless to animals. They do not carry toxins, nor do they bite or sting. If a pet catches a few of these insects, it is usually not cause

for alarm. But an overindulgent pet who eats many cicadas and has more than one or two episodes of vomiting, or appears to be in pain, may need to see a veterinarian. The HSUS has the following tips for pet owners during cicada season:



*** Don't leave pets unsupervised outdoors.**

*** Since many cicadas will be clinging to window screens, be sure screens are secured or windows are closed to prevent pets from pushing out screens in pursuit of the creatures.**

*** When walking your dog, maintain a good grip on the leash and be prepared for sudden attempts to grab the flying bugs.**

*** Cats should always be kept indoors for their safety.**

*** Call your veterinarian should your pet exhibit signs of illness including multiple episodes of vomiting or constipation.**

These simple precautions can help animal lovers and their companions appreciate this amazing natural event that generally comes only once in the average dog or cat's lifetime.

The HSUS is the nation's largest animal protection organization with over eight million members and constituents. The HSUS is a mainstream voice for animals, with active programs in companion animals and equine protection, wildlife and habitat protection, animals in research and farm animals and sustainable agriculture. The HSUS protects all animals through legislation, litigation, investigation, education, advocacy and fieldwork. The non-profit organization, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2004, is based in Washington, DC and has 10 regional offices across the country. Visit us on the Web at www.hsus.org.

Middleburg Humane Foundation

Available for adoption

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.

Janie's Pups (photo)



These little kids are so cute! 11 week old Lab mix pups raised at our shelter with tons of TLC & socialization. Are you ready for the perfect family friend? They are waiting and ready for you! Their mom Janie is super special, a very elegant and gentle dog. Janie is also now available for adoption.

****We have had an absolutely phenomenal response from people receiving The Eccentric -- lots of calls, visits, and good adoptions! Thank you so much for the extra coverage you donated last month. If you have any extra space, any of the following guys and girls would love the exposure! Again, many many thanks!

Kittens



MHF has many wonderful healthy kittens and adult cats available for adoption! Each is spayed/neutered/vaccinated and dewormed prior to adoption.

Hubert

Hubert is a 2-3 yr. old lovely St. Bernard mix. He was one of several animals rescued from a farm in southern Fauquier County. Hubert is very sweet, gentle and kind. He loves to cuddle and is willing to please!



Nikko - Gorgeous affectionate brindle 2-3 yr. old Cattle Dog mix. Very sweet, kind, and good with other dogs. Nikko needs a home with fencing or a large farm environment.

Billy - Cute 2 yr. old Beagle mix. Very sweet and easy to leash walk. Great with all people and other dogs require a fenced yard due to the hound in him!

Teddy - 2 yr. old super special Chow mix. Currently in obedience classes. He is very affectionate and attentive. Teddy love children and enjoys playing ball!

Bonnie - 1-2 yr. old Lab mix. Currently in obedience class. Great with children and other dogs. Would do well on a large farm!

Clyde - 1-2 yr. old Lab mix. (Bonnie's brother) Very handsome and sweet. Would do well on a large farm!

Emmett - 10 mo. old Cattle Dog mix. Very friendly, great with children and cats but has strong herding instincts. Emmett is housebroken.

Patrick - 1 yr. old small yellow Lab mix, full of energy!. A true party boy! Loves to play ball and frisbee. Currently in obedience class.

Tabitha - 2 1/2 yr. old Retriever mix. She loves children, playing ball and going for car rides. Very loving and loyal. A good family friend.

Captain Crunch - A very special kitty who is a true survivor. He was hit by a car and lost a hind leg and vision in one eye. Has fully recovered, a lover boy!

Willow - Do you like BIG kitties? Willow is huge, medium hair indoor only, declawed spayed female- full of personality!

William & Phillip - 2 brother kitties. We call these two the snuggle brothers! They are extremely affectionate. Phillip is deaf so needs an indoor home only.

Jessica - an absolutely gorgeous medium hair solid white mom cat with 3 white babies and an orphan! She is a lovely young lady and the babies are unbelievably cute!

Willy - 5 year old Thoroughbred gelding. 15.1 H, just completed a 30 day training program under saddle. Very kind and calm, wonderful junior prospect horse!

Ashley - 5 year old gorgeous appaloosa mare. Is currently in a 30 day training program for ground manners only. Tons of potential, very flashy mare!

Sierra - 14 year old Chestnut Thoroughbred cross mare, 16H, was a quiet trail horse but has not been ridden since 2001.

Jake - 8 year old bay Thoroughbred gelding, companion only. Excellent ground manners, easy keeper.

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.

ALL MHF ANIMALS ARE SPAYED OR NEUTERED AND VACCINATED BEFORE ADOPTION.

Contributions to Middleburg Humane Foundation are tax-deductible.

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Albert's Corner

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



AS A CANINE AND A JOURNALIST, I have an extraordinary nose for valuable information. I'm happy to report that this month I'm offering a great way to save money and do some-

thing wonderful for the life of your pet. I hope you will join me in giving an enthusiastic four paws up for pet health insurance. I'll bet many people don't even know such insurance exists!

Medical care for pets requires a great deal of money. I constantly overhear customers in the shop mention the expense of going to the vet. I am most alarmed by the fact that some people are forced to forgo necessary tests and procedures because of the associated costs. And, although I cringe to think of it, some people have even had to put a beloved pet down or let an illness advance because the medical bill for healing was prohibitively expensive.

In Europe, insuring pets is commonplace. In the United States, however, people have been slow to adopt the practice. Frankly, I just cannot figure out why pet insurance is not as accepted as people insurance – but I'm pretty sure it's because of lack of awareness. The truth is that pet insurance is widely available, easy to obtain, and relatively inexpensive.

There are several kinds of pet insurance, so it pays to shop around. Some policies cover only accidents and illnesses, while others pay for a broad spectrum of care

including checkups and vaccinations. Premiums can be quite affordable, with some starting at about \$10 per month. It's even possible to set up automatic monthly payments so that you never have to worry about remembering to pay the insurance bill. With options abounding, there is simply no need to put your pet's health and your peace of mind on the line.

I cannot endorse any company, as I do not know what each person's experience with that company will be. I can, however, tell you that a quick online search will yield many companies offering pet insurance. The three that I am most aware of are:

Veterinary Pet Insurance, www.petinsurance.com

PetCare, www.petcareinsurance.com

Pet Assure, www.petassure.com

As with any insurance decision, you should carefully analyze the pros and cons of the plan, as well as read the fine print. You will need to look closely at pre-set limits and deductibles as they can vary from company to company. Most importantly, if you are at all sensitive to price when it comes to your pet's medical care, please take the steps to insure your pet soon. Accidents and illnesses happen, and it is certainly reassuring to know that money will never be an issue in determining your pet's quality or length of life.

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg.

Hunt Country Stable Tour

Continued From Page 7

The Stone Bridge over Goose Creek which is one of the last four-arch stone bridges in Virginia and was the scene of a cavalry and artillery duel on June 21, 1863, is a special feature on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 pm when the 4th Cavalry Regiment will perform. Along with private homes and area landmarks, the tour includes working properties.

The Middleburg Agricultural Research And Extension Center or M.A.R.E. Center is a 419 acre working farm. Mr. Mellon wanted to hunt with the Orange County hunt. Their bylaws state that you must be a landowner in order to subscribe. So he bought this farm and then later donated it to Virginia Tech. Now the center's mission is to improve the care, growth and health of the horse through research on pasture based nutrition. They hold an Annual Yearling Sale in the spring. This year, 30 mares are expecting foals, several of which may arrive during the Tour weekend.

The Middleburg Training Track is an

all-weather track where the public can watch the early morning work on Saturday from 7 am to 10 am. The Northern

Virginia Animal Swim Center & Stables is a unique facility, the Animal Swim Center specializes in swimming horses and dogs to get fit and to rehabilitate following injury or surgery. They can swim year round in the heated, specially designed pools. The large pool is 12 feet deep, 180,000 gallons for both dogs and horses to do lap workouts to swim anywhere from 100 yards to over a miles depending on their fitness level. A smaller 4 feet deep by 50 feet long pool allows for the training of dogs to the swimming process and the application of specialized hydrotherapy activities for rehabilitation. The Center is only on tour on Saturday,

Tickets for the tour are available on the internet, www.middleburg.com/stabletour and at every stop.

History on local farms taken from Hunt Country of America, Then and Now by Kitty Slater.

Dog Days in Middleburg

By Frederick L. Spencer, Contributing Writer



WAIT A MINUTE! It's the local dog show replete with all your friends' pooches, pets and perambulators. It was an all-encompassing animal amassment that brings forth the Proud, the Pretty and the Patient to show off what their wards have accomplished during the past year. Sheri Conrad, Manager of the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services brought forth the Third Annual Middleburg Dog Day on May 8, 2004. Well attended with 25 entries from the local area both adults and kids paraded their pooches through their paces in eleven categories at The Middleburg Community Center Show grounds.



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PLES

All Work for our Pleasure

Journeymen Saddlers

By Steven Schwartz, Contributing Writer

IN MIDDLEBURG IT SEEMS LIKE horses outnumber people. Since 1978 their owners and riders have come to Journeymen Saddlers for clothing, tack and repairs. Owner Punkin Lee and her score of employees make sure that boots and chaps fit perfectly, and that their many customers have everything both for the barn and "after the barn".

Punkin says, "People come in ranging from occasional riders to serious competitors. It's great to see so many local riders like Joe Fargus, Alison Firestone, Abigail Lufkin, John Williams, Jan Thompson,

and David and Karen O'Connor doing so well in selection trials for the Olympics this year." She continues, "It's a pleasure to say that they are our customers."

This morning, Elizabeth Brewer's chaps are being fitted by Kevin Caporalletti. He and his fellow employees craft custom chaps and belts, and repair boots, saddles, bridles, and equipment. In fact, Journeymen Saddlers makes custom chaps for many tack shops across the country. "Twenty years ago," says Punkin, "we added apparel to our repair busi-

ness. Our retail women's and men's clothing is classic sportswear - current but not trendy. People appreciate our selection, which can't be found at a mall."

Journeymen Saddlers offers women's hats, separates, accessories and shoes. For men there is a selection of shirts, trousers and shorts, ties, and Brighton/Legion belts. The shop also sells distinctive gifts and small leather goods.

"We have a lot to offer, but rubber muck boots are often the bottom line for what they want," laughs Punkin Lee.

And then there is that wonderful aroma. Long time customers may no longer notice, but Journeymen Saddlers' 25 years of leather and oil envelopes you as you step in the door. "We've had fragrance salesmen offer to sell us room fresheners, but it seems our customers like it just the way it is" says Punkin Lee.

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Steven Schwartz

Thomas Hays & Son Jewelers

By Steven Schwartz, Contributing Writer

WHERE CAN A GUY FROM New York find the rare combination of country living and people with sophistication? After traveling across the country in a converted van, the young Thomas Hays found exactly what he was looking for right here in Middleburg.

"Once I found this beautiful area, I started with a boutique and silver-smith shop" says Tom. "32 years later, I still love what I do. Everything I bring into the store or make, I have to like." He continues, "It all adds up to a distinctive look that connects with the tastes of my customers. I offer the kind of jewelry and jewelry making that you can usually only see in New York or Europe."

Thomas Hays & Son Jewelers is a brightly lit space; at the end of the store is a large case containing Hays' hand engraved and highly detailed originals. Other displays are filled with antique and contemporary jewelry, as well as elegant silver pieces - candlesticks, picture frames, wine coolers,



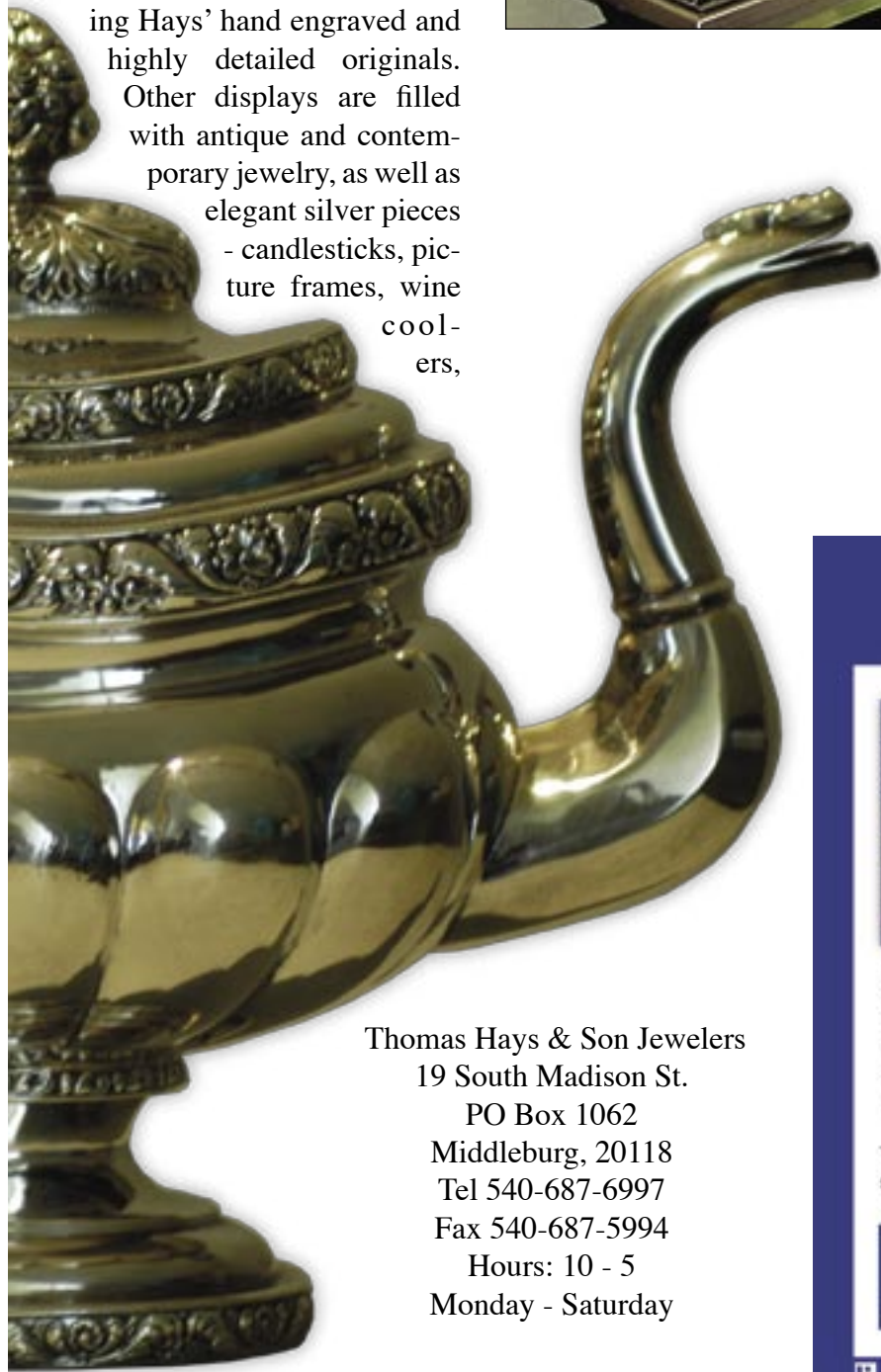
Steven Schwartz

urns, tea sets and trays. Looking like a gallery, the store is a bright, cheery space that owner Tom Hays fills with a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

"Because buying jewelry is for a happy occasion like getting engaged, anniversaries, and birthdays, I want to make sure people feel comfortable and enjoy the experience," says Tom. Hays also repairs the most delicate and precious pieces,

a service greatly appreciated by the store's customers.

"It takes more than one generation to build a jewelry business" says Tom. "I'm seeing the daughters and sons of my long time customers in the shop, I realize how lucky I am to be living and working in this wonderful small town." He adds, "To do what you love, making and providing beautiful things for people, what more could a guy want?"



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It is with great pleasure that **Thomas and Talbot Real Estate** announces that the **Greater Piedmont Area Association of Realtors** has awarded its 2003 Annual Top Honor Awards to nine (9) of our eleven (11) full time Agents.

* JOHN COLES *

JOHN COLES received the top sales award for the second year, "**Top Producer**", given by the GPAAR. This award is for the #1 sales agent out of 584 agent members. He also received the "**Million Dollar Sales Club - Gold**" award from the GPAAR for listings and sales completed in 2003 of over \$24 million dollars.

* MARY ANN MCGOWAN *

MARY ANN MCGOWAN received two of the top five awards, four years in a row, presented by the GPAAR, "**Million Dollar Sales Club - Gold**" as well as "**Top Five Club**" awards for listings and sales over \$17 million dollars.

* CATHERINE BERNACHE *

MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - SILVER & "Five Year" Award

Listings and sales of over \$4 million dollars

* DONNA BAKER *

MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - SILVER

Listings and sales of over \$4 million dollars

* CARO BENTLEY *

MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - SILVER

Listings and sales of over \$3 million dollars

* MARY OWEN CHATFIELD-TAYLOR *

MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - SILVER

Listings and sales of over \$3 million dollars

* CRICKET B. WHITNER *

MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - BRONZE

Listings and sales of over \$2 million dollars

* REIN T. DuPONT *

MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - BRONZE

Listings and sales of over \$1 million dollars

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MILLION DOLLAR SALES CLUB - BRONZE

Listings and sales of over \$1 million dollars

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