



Jay Hubbard

## Middleburg Elementary Opens New Playground

Gift of \$50,000 from Private Citizen and General Mills Contributes Mightily to the Quality of Play

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## Town Council Considers Proposal

Offers to Offset Sewer Repair Costs and Contribute Millions to Tax Base

Monty Tayloe

At the November 11 Middleburg Town Council meeting, Dr. Sheila Johnson's Salamander Inn Project restated their offer to help pay for improvements to Middleburg's water system while simultaneously reminding the council of the approaching deadline for a decision on that offer.

The Salamander Inn management team promised to submit their offer to the council in writing for the first time, in a formal letter to Mayor Tim Dimos.

Salamander is offering Middleburg \$1.8 million to pay for capital improvements to town wastewater and sewage

managers contend that the Town Council must reach a decision on whether or not to connect the Inn to the town water system no later than December, the latest date possible for Salamander to order the supplies and equipment to build a private system if they are to meet construction schedules for the

**"We can get the job done with or without the town's water,"**

— Jeff Zell, Salamander Inn Project Manager

systems in exchange for a connection to Middleburg's water utility.

Without a connection to town water, the Salamander Inn will have to construct their own water system, which entails creating their own drain fields and drilling their own well.

The Salamander project

Inn itself.

"We can get the job done with or without the town's water," said Salamander Inn Project Manager Jeff Zell.

"We've been waiting six or eight months for a decision. We're trying to hold firm for everyone's benefit, but time is just running out."

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## Wendy Pepper Stars in Bravo's 'Project Runway'

Local Designer Recognized

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## Splendid Coaches Roll Through the Hills

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# Middleburg & Environs

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## Handsome Draft Horses join "Christmas in Middleburg"

For the first time, Morrisville State College's Belgian Draft Team will participate on December 4th in Middleburg's Christmas Parade. The six enormous horses are as gentle and loveable as children and work with students in the college's Equine Science department. According to USA Today, Morrisville offers New York State's only Baccalaureate of Technology in Equine Science and the country's only bachelor degree in Thoroughbred Racing Management.

The Christmas Parade begins at 3 p.m. at The Community Center and travels east down Washington Street through Middleburg.



# News of Note

## Splendid Road Coaches and Park Drags Roll Elegantly On at Anniversary Drive

Patricia Barraza Vos

From a distance, they looked like horse-drawn carriages, but upon closer inspection it was clear to see that these lustrous vehicles, drawn by teams of four equally gleaming horses, were far more special than that. By the end of the National Sporting Library's October 23rd event, we knew them to be Road Coaches and Park Drags.

The last time these antique vehicles were gathered together in such numbers was over a century ago and across an ocean. To call the NSL's 50th Anniversary Drive a "once in a lifetime" event may be a bit of an understatement.

NSL board members and coaching enthusiasts Jacquelyn Ohrstrom and George Weymouth organized the event, which culminated in the show held at the Upperville Show Grounds.

"Enthusiasts" may be yet

another understatement, since the pursuit of this sport is more akin to a self-described obsession by those involved. After all, one does not come by owning an antique coach nor outfit it with a team of four well-trained horses (this really being just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the compendium of skills and accoutrements needed to participate fully) without a certain, shall we say, drive.

All told, more than 30 road coaches and park drags arrived by truck and trailer from across the country in order to participate. The award for farthest traveled went to a team from Boulder, Colorado. But a look at the roster of attendees gives evidence of representatives from all the horse-centric areas of our country: Ocala, Louisville, Aiken, Southern Pines, Gladstone and, of course, Middleburg and Upperville.

Most attendees arrived ear-

lier in the week and enjoyed daily drives on specially selected routes in the Upperville and Middleburg area. According to Mrs. Ohrstrom, the vehicles are heavy and cumbersome, so special care was taken to choose routes safe for horse and coach. She noted with pride that no accidents occurred during the course of the event.

On Saturday morning all coaches and park drags were gathered at the Show Grounds, under the oaks, for a full display for all interested parties to watch and learn about these vehicles.

The road coach and the park drag are clearly differentiated. The road coach, developed from the English stagecoach, has a coach body with a box at the front and a boot at the rear. They are mostly black, with quarter panels painted in bright colors, and named after the towns the coach passed through. The road coaches had a utilitarian nature, having been used for mail delivery and public transportation in England.

When road coaches were phased out with the introduction of steam trains, coaching became more a gentleman's pursuit. The park drags were manufactured specifically for this purpose. These were lighter vehicles, also mostly black but decorated by subdued tones of hunter green, maroon and navy.

Coaching came to America in the late 19th century and attracted the families of the New York Social Register. Many of the coaches (and coachmen for that matter) came from England and France, but soon American manufacturers joined them in producing fine examples of park drags.

With the advent of the motorcar, coaching pursuits fell by the wayside. Not until the 1950s, when historically minded collectors began to restore and refurbish the original



Jay Hubbard



coaches, did the sport come into vogue again.

Today, members of the Four-in-Hand Club and the Coaching Club are pleased to regale an interested party with the intimate history of their coaches. Harry Tucci, who participated in the NSL Drive with his two coaches, was happy to fill in the backstory on his prized possessions. Neither of his vehicles, both lovingly restored museum-quality pieces, had been taken out on a road in over 20 years. "For an occasion such as this, though," commented Mr. Tucci, "they have to come out."

There they all were, like the celebrities of a more refined time— the Tantivy, the Outlaw, the Nimrod and the Old Times. Dick Stanford of Pennsylvania narrated a full history and pedigree, if you will, of the coaches as each team drove through.

This one was built in Paris by the famed Million & Guigot in 1876. That one was used in

Ireland in the 19th century, then transported to the US, where it currently resides with its owner in New Jersey. This one makes a regular appearance at Devon, while that one can proudly claim as passengers President Nixon, Pavoroti and Nureyev.

The horses were equally alluring. Teams of matching Cleveland Bays, Welsh ponies, Shires, Gerderlanders, hackneys, and of course the ever crowd-pleasing Friesians drew applause and admiration from spectators.

Finally, the spectacle of coachmen, and whips, and passengers all dressed to the nines, top hats and furs, of course hats for all the ladies, matching throws, every last detail appropriate to the level of splendor of the horses and coaches themselves.

Overall, spectators, participants, organizers and the legions of volunteers necessary to run such an event all agreed it was a memorable one, and an absolute success. ✱

## Council Considers Proposal

*Continued From Page 1*

Although the current plan for the Inn is for 58 rooms, the project hopes to get approval for 120, pending possible special exception hearings.

Town Administrator Mike Casey was asked what increase of water usage and cost of additional lines would be generated by the addition of Salamander Inn.

"We have a study of what it would cost, from June of last year," said Casey. "... it would add about 50,000 gallons and cost around \$750,000 in additional lines and improvements."

None of these estimates include any consideration of the Inn's potential tax payments to the town if Middleburg extends its boundaries to include the Inn.

Salamander's Jeff Zell estimates additional tax revenue potential for the Town at roughly \$12 million per year if the boundary line is adjusted.

According to Mayor Dimos, the combination of the \$1.8 million offered by Salamander for water system improvements plus the tax revenue gained from a Salamander Inn annexed to Middleburg would greatly help town residents.

"This money would absolutely affect the town water customer. The improvements to the system alone will greatly help retard rates that are surely going to go up otherwise," said Mayor Dimos.

Zell emphasized that Dr. Johnson's offer and willingness to wait for the council's decision until the project is "on the one yard line" is motivated by a philanthropic desire to help Middleburg. If a town water connection is made and the Salamander Inn is annexed by the town, according to Zell the additional taxes and fees would

cost the Inn 4-5 million dollars more than if the Inn remained only within the dominion of Loudoun County.

"We want to be Middleburg's water/sewer Christmas Santa," said Zell.

### Leaking Pipes and Dissatisfied Water Customers

The November session of the Middleburg town council was presented with further illustration of the town's water woes by Herndon residents Bradford and Lurleen Coleman, addressing the council on behalf of longtime Middleburg residents Reverend Theodore and Lenora Haley.

Lurleen Coleman, the Haleys' daughter, showed the council Middleburg water bills charging Rev. and Mrs. Haley with water use fees in excess of \$300 a quarter. According to Town Administrator Casey, this far exceeds average water use for two people, especially in the case of the Haleys, who are both senior citizens.

The Colemans brought their problem to the council in the hopes of having town representatives personally look into the problem, which could be caused by leaks or pipe corrosion problems. "I think it most definitely helped. I think it helped open up some eyes. The water bills are just getting out of hand," said Lurleen Coleman.

### Third Grade Proclamation

Third graders from Middleburg Elementary made a special presentation to the Council on Thursday night, accompanied by bell ringing.

In celebration of American Education Week, Bernadette Boland, Jake Singh, Erin Mamula and Nathan Longerbeam presented a mission statement for Loudoun county

schools, informing the council that Loudoun is in the top ten of public school test scores and extending a welcome to the whole community to visit during American education week.

Quoting Benjamin Disraeli and Helen Keller, and Dan Rather, the students expressed their firm support of the schools and especially, those who teach in them.

"The dream begins most of the time with a teacher who believes in you," said one third grader, quoting Rather. "... a teacher who tugs and pushes and leads you onto the next plateau, sometimes poking you with the sharp stick called knowledge."

### Town Holiday Charity Donations Cut Sharply

After reviewing the accounts of the Town Health Center, the Council voted to donate \$16,000 to charity for the holidays, down from \$34,000 in 2003. Lower profits and high repair bills for the health center are blamed for the reduction.

Council Margaret New will lead a committee to select charities to receive shares of the \$16,000. Recipients will be chosen from a list of Middleburg-related non-profit organizations.

Pointedly absent from the Town Council's gift list this year will be the Middleburg Business Association's "Christmas in Middleburg" project, which, among other things, provides the town's "official" Christmas decorations. In the past the project depended entirely on charitable contributions. This year the Town Finance Committee will fund decorations from its marketing budget. ❄

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## News of Note

# Community Health Center for Middleburg, Purcellville and Lovettsville

Loudoun Healthcare and Inova Join Forces

Lucy Whittle Goldstein

If the recently announced partnership between Loudoun Healthcare Inc. and Inova Health System sounds like just another Dulles corridor high-powered merger to you, you may want to take another look. For Middleburg residents, this merger has teeth. With the new partnership between the county's hospital system and major Northern Virginia health system Inova comes very good news for Middleburg. One of three proposed new community health centers will be built here, as well as in Purcellville and Lovettsville, to more conveniently serve western Loudoun County.

Mark Tate, owner of The Coach Stop and former vice-mayor of Middleburg, has been instrumental in bringing the new health center to Middleburg. Mr. Tate claims to be "very, very excited about this great opportunity for our citizens," stating that the Middleburg area has long been underserved in terms of medical personnel. He says that for too long the closest

hospital has been 40 minutes from town, and, because of the county's growth, it only makes sense for health care to be more accessible.

The Middleburg community health center will provide primary care as well as diagnostic services. This means more doctors and better emergency care closer to you. So those 40-minute drives to Lansdowne in the middle of the night because your child broke her finger will be history.

Mr. Tate calls the initiative to bring better, more convenient healthcare to western Loudoun "generous," and he looks forward to working with the new partnership. He anticipates that the healthcare group will not waste any time breaking ground on the new initiative. While he can't say exactly where the new center will be built, he does say that he and the town will work closely with Loudoun Health-

care and Inova to "find what's best for the town" in terms of placement.

The people of Middleburg may welcome a new health facility, but what is the real reason behind the expansion of Loudoun Healthcare? Tony Raker, Director of Community Relations for Loudoun Healthcare Inc., says, "The Middleburg community has had limited health care services available in its immediate area. The sites themselves are designed to provide immediate access to primary and some appropriately planned acute care for issues ranging from bumps and bruises to very treatable illnesses, cuts, breaks, etc. It will also act as a triage point where more serious cases may be stabilized and transferred to a hospital for more specialized care. We were very pleased that the mayors proved enthusiastic and recommended adoption of the

plan} by the Board of Supervisors."

Rodney Huebbers, president and CEO of Loudoun Healthcare, Inc. commented, "Our vision is to build a hospital system designed for many tomorrows, and one that is within reach of every single resident of Loudoun County."

And those residents are growing in number by the day. The county's population grew 30% between 2000 and 2003, with some of those new residents cropping up in the western part of the county, and Loudoun healthcare was not able to keep up with the newly burgeoning population. So the idea of the community health center arose to serve as a point of contact between residents and Loudoun Healthcare. Inova, the biggest healthcare provider in Northern Virginia, jumped at the chance to help Loudoun expand its services in this way.

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## Coming to a Backyard Near You

Public-Private Road Partnership Brings Money and Questions

Mike DeHart

The Virginia Department of Transportation may have plans for your backyard. Literally. Unbeknownst to many residents, half a dozen neighborhoods along Loudoun County's suburban fringe include right-of-ways for a major new north-south highway, an outer beltway around Washington. Winding paths, grassy meadows, forested buffers, and indeed the houses themselves in Kirkpatrick Farms, Stone Ridge, and other seemingly tranquil neighborhoods may be replaced by a four- or six-lane Western Transportation Corridor if VDOT moves ahead with current plans. Places where residents like Nancy Giordano and her son Jackson walk every day. On November 1, VDOT requested formal input from road builders to determine if private investors might be interested in building this road.

The study area for the project, proposed to connect Interstate 95 in Stafford with Route 7 in Loudoun, extends across an expansive 1,450 square mile area. But the likely route is the one recently tabled by Loudoun's Board of Supervisors amid raucous protest – the route that cuts through Giordano's backyard.

Strolling down the popular neighborhood path in the Lakes at Red Rock neighborhood, across the covered bridge to the swimming pool and playground, it's hard to imagine a major road in this setting. For Giordano and other neighbors, it's a daily roller coaster ride that won't stop. "We don't know if any of this will survive," she reflects. "There's talk that there may just be a big wall. There's talk that houses may come down, two or three rows deep from the power

lines." Her house directly adjoins the right-of-way.

The Western Transportation Corridor, "WTC" or "Western Bypass" has been on and off of regional plans since the Eisenhower administration, and has been a hot button for decades. The Washington area lays claim to some of the nation's worst traffic, and frustrated commuters are hoping the road would offer relief. But studies conducted by VDOT in 1990 and 1997 found that the project would do nothing to improve commute times, and would actually add cars to some of the regions most overburdened arteries.

According to the Taxpayers for Common Sense web site, traffic on Route 50 west of 606, for instance would increase by 25 percent. The group ranks the project as #10 in its list of most wasteful road projects nation-

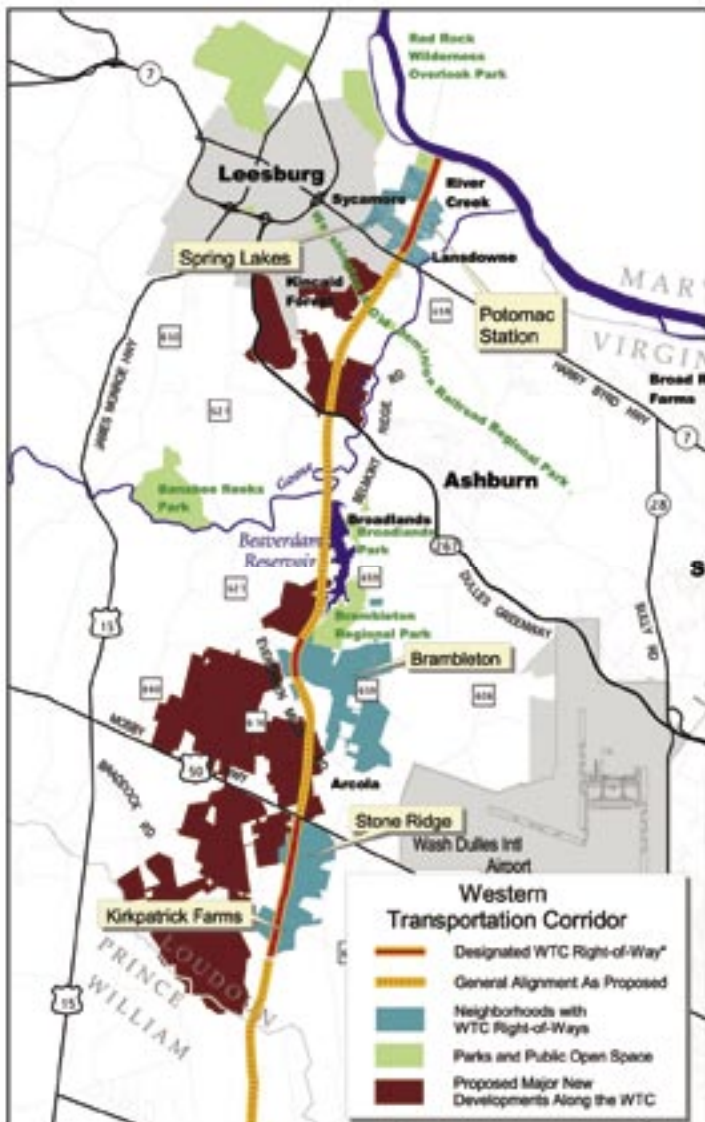


J. Knox Singleton, President and CEO of Inova Health System and Rod Huebbers, President and CEO of Loudoun Healthcare, Inc.

A spokesman for Loudoun Healthcare says, "With this merger, improvements will also come via more sophisticated and far-reaching services and enhanced care. For a community growing by leaps and bounds, this is a very important and exciting step."

Mr. Raker believes, as does Mr. Tate, that the merger and proposal for a health center is a win-win situation for Middleburg. He says, "The

most immediate benefit is the immediacy of health care – especially in an emergency situation. We could only assume that residents, business owners and visitors or tourists would find accessible health care a positive as it relates to quality of life for those living or commuting into and out of the community as well as a genuine amenity for those visiting the community on a shorter term basis." ❄



wide. They also cite impacts on air quality, loss of wetlands, and the degradation of northern Virginia's drinking water. The proposed route narrowly misses two major drinking water sources and crisscrosses a third. The project has sent up red flags with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service. And as with any major new highway project in the Washington area, the WTC could jeopardize federal highway funding for a region already struggling to meet clean air standards.

VDOT halted its impact study of the route in 2003, and

most local jurisdictions currently do not support the project. The Loudoun Board of Supervisors is split on the topic.

The road's reincarnation comes as no surprise to those familiar with the project. "What we're seeing is a convergence of developer influence to bring unprecedented new growth to this part of Loudoun County," said Laura Olsen of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. "You need sewer hookups to deliver large quantities of building lots, and that sewer has recently been approved. Now developers are requesting special amendments to approve 42,000 new home lots, principally along the WTC

right of way." The bulk of those homes are currently making their way through the County's approval process as Comprehensive Plan Amendments. "But you need highways to sell those lots. The Western Bypass and the newly formed Route 50 Task Force are chipping away at that."

Mark Smith represents the River Creek Regional Homeowners Association, an umbrella group of associations in Loudoun. He's pretty blunt about the WTC. "This is a north-south solution to an east-west problem. It's about adding rooftops, not fixing our transportation problem."

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## News of Note

# It Takes Teamwork to Make a Dream Work

Habitat for Humanity Builds More Than Houses

Lucy Whittle Goldstein

Mowing the lawn, cleaning the gutters, and fixing the leaky sink can seem mundane and bothersome to people who already own their own homes, but for some people, these everyday tasks will soon be part of a dream come true. Beginning in February, several area residents will soon become homeowners, thanks to Habitat for Humanity's most recent effort in Loudoun County.

Peter Kanis, president of Loudoun Habitat for Humanity, has a catchphrase to describe the efforts that go into creating, from scratch, a home for a family who needs one: "It takes teamwork to make a dream work."

One of the two new houses Habitat is now building in St. Louis, will belong to Chitonda Washington, a Middleburg resident who works at Middleburg Bank. Ms. Washington applied for the house in August, and heard the good news on September 10. Construction on her home began quickly thereafter.

She is projected to move into her new home in February. Currently living at Windy Hill with her six-year-old son, Ms. Washington is delighted about the prospect of owning her own

home, but, she admits, her son may be even more excited than she is, because "his best friend lives right next door."

It is hard to miss the pride in Ms. Washington's voice as she describes the layout of her future home – three bedrooms, one and a half baths, laundry and coat closets, living room, dining room, kitchen, and, "thank goodness," she says, no basement. She already has plans to paint all the walls and decorate with wallpaper, all of which she will do "definitely before moving any furniture."

But becoming the owner of a Habitat house is not all paint samples and decorating ideas, nor is Ms. Washington getting her house for free.

Habitat homeowners are able to buy their house at cost (in Loudoun County, around \$115,000) and are given a 30-year interest-free loan. So, Ms. Washington will have a mortgage, although it will be significantly less burdensome than would be most any other rent or house payment. In an area where the average house sells for \$474,000, Ms. Washington – like all other Loudoun Habitat homeowners – is getting a great deal.

Ms. Washington underwent

a rigorous application process.

In order to own her home, she will have to have put in 350 "sweat equity" hours by the time she moves in. This means helping with construction every Saturday, attending classes, assisting committees, and participating in Habitat events such as fundraisers and community outreach. Those 350 hours represent one of three main criteria for home owner eligibility – willingness and ability to partner with Habitat on the creation of the home.

### Ability to Pay

The other two criteria are need and ability to pay. These may seem contradictory; how would someone who needs a home have the ability to pay for it if they can't do so already? But Habitat's need scale is based on family size and income (there are certain ranges within which applicants must fall), and Habitat's version of someone's ability to pay is based on the steadiness of the applicant's income.

As long as the applicant has a good credit history and a steady income, the applicant is considered to have the ability to pay. Two other important eligibility caveats are: the applicant must be a U.S. citizen, and



the applicant must have lived or worked in Loudoun County for at least twelve months at the time of application.

Habitat houses are built completely with volunteer labor, and one super-volunteer is Bud Green, who chairs the construction committee. Kanis praises him for "making sure the houses go up as quickly as they possibly can."

It is Mr. Green whom Ms. Washington works with on those Saturdays when she is literally building the foundation of her home. She says that although the work can be tiring, "it is a lot of fun and rewarding, too."

Habitat for Humanity of

Loudoun is always looking for people who wish to invest time and money in the homebuilding process.

Jack Kemp, former U.S. Congressman from Western New York, former Vice Presidential candidate in 1996, and former HUD Secretary, is currently the chair of the global effort dubbed "More Than Houses" by Habitat for Humanity. Speaking on November 8 at Foxcroft School in support of the St. Louis Habitat build, he remarked on the importance of affordable housing in an affluent county such as Loudoun.

### Royal Visit

Kemp illustrated his comments with the inspirational story of Alice Frazier, an elderly woman living in Washington, D.C. who bought a house through Habitat. Fifteen years ago, when the Queen of England visited D.C., she wanted to meet Mrs. Frazier, who had made something of a media splash with her community efforts to fight drugs in her Southeast neighborhood.

Despite all rules Mrs. Frazier had been told to follow regarding royal protocol, when she saw Queen Elizabeth walking up the steps of her modest Habitat-built home, she rushed down the steps and enveloped the Queen in a bear hug, lifting her off the ground in the process.

Later, when asked why she hugged the Queen in such an inappropriate way, Mrs. Frazier said she had gotten excited because, "I wanted to show her my palace." ❀



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# From the Editor's Desk

## Give and Take

We all benefit from the tremendous synergies our businesses create during Christmas in Middleburg. Every holiday season we work together on this keynote event that features our commercial sector, because that success benefits us all. Sadly, a direct result of our success is the arrival of businesses that march to the tune of a corporate drummer far away from our beautiful hometown.

Consider, for example, the new branch of Provident Bank. According to their local spokesman, they are 'not allowed' to put up posters for local events or initiatives.

It's obvious that when Provident acquired Southern Financial, they let community service "go." Southern Financial was a fine, upstanding citizen and its officers and staff were committed to the strength and success of the commercial sector here. They welcomed posters and played a valuable role in community initiatives. That seemed an excellent business strategy for a local bank. If the businesses did well, so would the banks that served them.

When Santa asks us what we want for Christmas, it will be civilized, community-minded business leaders who care about the success of the town as a whole. What we don't want are "local" executives who aren't allowed to think for themselves and won't take a stand to promote town interests when we are all working to ensure the success of all.

## Letters to the Editor

### To the Editor:

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

It is with sadness and yet much excitement, for the future, that I say farewell to the Finicky Filly in Middleburg, Bill and I are retiring to the South. We have had 16 glorious years. This success is due to friends, customers, and very capable sales personal.

It is with much pleasure that I announce SALAMANDER TOUCH will be the new corner store at 100 W. Washington St. Sheila Johnson, the proprietor of Salamander Touch, and I both share the same customer and community commitment.

The Finicky Filly was a dream come true, and you made it possible.

Sincerely,  
Judy Casey - The Finicky Filly  
Middleburg, Virginia

### To the Editor:

There are many examples of Sheila Johnson's philanthropy in our area: I am most familiar with, and appreciative of, her immense generosity to the Hill School as evidenced in the Sheila C. Johnson Performing Arts Center, the Peard Building and her gifts to the school's endowment fund. However, at last night's Town Council meeting, Jeff Zell characterized the "offer" he made on behalf of Mrs. Johnson as philanthropic and I'm afraid I cannot concur.

As the "offer" was not made in writing (although promised to be shortly), it is difficult to judge exactly what the town would be receiving in return for its obligations to Salamander. It is not clear to me whether the \$1.8 million gift(?) to the town, to be made in exchange for being annexed into the town and utilizing town water and sewer, would be in addition to the availability and connection fees required by the town or would represent the payment of such fees. If it would be in payment of the fees, it is what would be required, at a minimum, by the town anyway. Philanthropic? The Town of Washington, Virginia is contemplating building a new sewage disposal plant of a size comparable to what Salamander would need if it built its own; the estimated costs, depending on type of plant, range from \$3 million to \$4.5 million.

I question the philanthropy of coming to the town a month ago to say the town had 30-45 days to make up its mind about extending water and sewer to the inn. While Mr. Zell said he was continuing a "dialog" he had opened two years ago, in reality there had been no discussion of the pros and cons of such a transaction by the town council prior to that point. In fact, Salamander paid for the Visioning process, which would have been an excellent opportunity for such discussion, but prohibited discussion of any portion of the Salamander property outside the current town boundaries. The Salamander representative on the committee threatened to withdraw from the process if there was discussion of the inn.

Concerns that I have heard expressed about the inn relate primarily to its size and the impacts to the town. Mr. Zell made clear last night that they will submit plans to Loudoun County for approval of 120 rooms in the inn and that there will be no limitation to the size of the project in exchange for water and sewer. Is it phil-

anthropic to generate 1,500+ vehicle trips a day through Middleburg in total disregard of the concerns expressed by local citizens?

There are those who feel that, by annexing Salamander, Middleburg will receive a financial windfall that will enable it to upgrade its sewer system and lower its rates; they seem to feel it necessary to rush into a deal before it gets away. The truth is that the town has only begun to look at the myriad of issues involved in such a transaction. Not only do the sewer and water costs need to be determined (the town has not decided what size plant it needs without Salamander, pending resolution of the inflow and infiltration problem; this needs to be known prior to deciding the extra cost of adding the capacity necessary for Salamander), but the cost of other additional infrastructure required such as more police and maintenance personnel, sidewalks, trash pickup, snow removal, etc.

An unfortunate casualty of this process has been the Comprehensive Plan. The size and location of the inn do not conform to the current plan and discussion of this has been completely lacking. The plan has evolved over many years and expresses the thoughts and desires of the community; annexation of the Salamander site would set a precedent which could easily lead to further annexation of properties contiguous to the town and further degradation of the vision of the comprehensive plan. Some may argue that a legal precedent would not be set, but the moral argument for fairness would be a difficult one for future town councils to refuse.

Instead of coming in and saying they are "on the one yard line" and going forward with the project with or without the town, Salamander would be philanthropic in encouraging the town to take its time to thoroughly review its options and then in working with the town to see if there is a solution that would truly be mutually beneficial. Ultimatums are not what come to mind when one thinks of philanthropy.

Sincerely,  
Michael Morency  
Middleburg, Virginia

### To the Editor:

No, we won't cooperate! That message came through loud and clear last Thursday at the Town Council meeting.

The four town council members who have been impotent in stopping or downscaling the building of Salamander Inn and Spa in accordance with County Zoning regulations are now going to exercise their power and force the town residents to bear the huge cost of Sewage Treatment Facility upgrades - see the January 2003 Water & Sewer Utility Master Plan by Whitman Requardt & Associates. This means an estimated 69% water rate increase within five years. And if you didn't notice, our rates just went up 10%. Inflation and increasing operation and maintenance costs will ensure Middleburg water rates remain astronomical compared to other communities in Northern Virginia.

How ironic that at last Thursday's Town Council meeting two public comments occurred in sequence. First, one couple pled with the Town Council to understand why their parents' water bill was 150% above the Middleburg norm. Picture it, two elderly people, living on a fixed retirement income, a water meter saying they are consuming much more than the norm, and the town water personnel not able to determine why. Our water rates are much higher than the norm. Not all members of our community can afford them, and certainly not the projected increases.

The couple was followed by Mr. Jeff Zell, there at the insistence of his boss, making an offer that he was not in favor of nor did he believe was beneficial to his client. Mr. Zell made a very specific offer of cooperation with the town on behalf of Salamander Inn and Spa. Essentially, Dr. Johnson is willing to pay the Town \$1.8M to connect to the town's water and sewage treatment system and then subject itself to the Town's gross receipt tax. Their estimated annual gross revenue is \$15M. Mr. Zell told the council he needed an answer in December or he must proceed with construction of his own sewage treatment facility. In response to a couple of questions, Mr. Zell said he would work night and day with the council, providing them any additional information they needed.

One council member remarked that they weren't being giving much time to discuss the issue. Has the fab four forgotten that they received the Whitman Requardt & Associates report 21 June 2004 that they commissioned in 2003, addressing this very issue? It is the Town Council that has been wasting time, standing still, doing nothing for months.

Council member Snyder's "If we get to it" comment made it quite clear he has no intention of working with Salamander. He and his three cohorts are either going to fail to maintain our water and sanitation systems or send our already high water and sewage rates through the roof.

Do you think the town should establish a formal relationship with Salamander Inn and Spa or are you in favor of the fab four's options?

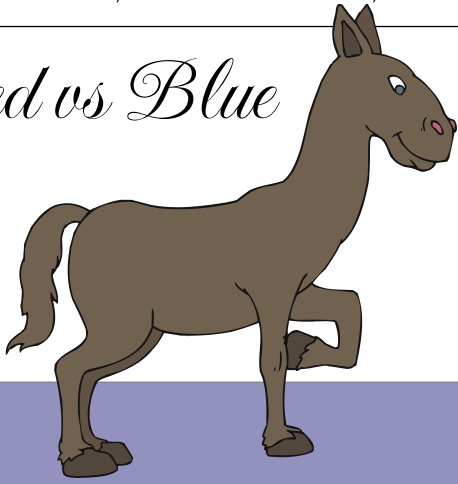
Tom Patterson - Resident  
Middleburg, Virginia

# Rants and Raves

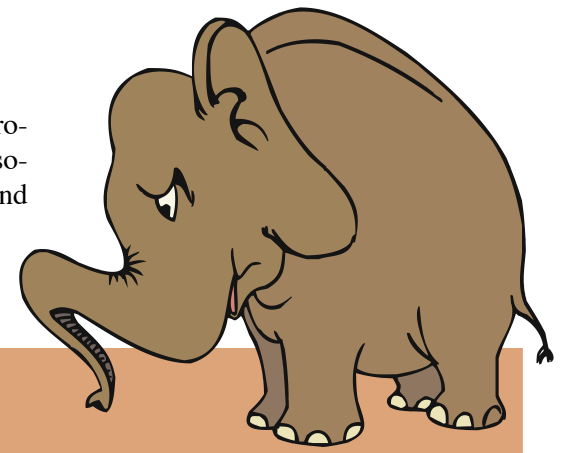
## Red vs Blue



Each month in this space Mark Tate (Red) and Dan Morrow (Blue) provide absolutely definitive, perfectly reasoned and indisputably global solutions to all the world's great problems . . . in 150 words or less. Send your problems to Mark and Dan at: redvsblue@mbecc.com



**Dan Morrow**



**Mark Tate**

### Why did President Bush Win?

For every 100 voters who "trusted" Mr. Bush, there were 96 or 97 American voters who did not. .

I believe Bush won because his "spin" on 9/11 and the war in Iraq allowed the GOP to unite an unlikely coalition of the fearful, the threatened, and the misinformed to reinforce the voters of their equally unlikely "base."

That "base" now combines traditional Republicans with the spiritual descendants of the Dixiecrats brought firmly into the GOP by Richard Nixon's "Southern Strategy" (The "converts" included Strom Thurmond, Jesse Helms, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and a host of other anti-civil-rights, pro-Vietnam-War, disproportionately fundamentalist voters and their kin.)

The "traditional" Republicans, then and now, regard their party-jumping "Dixiecrat" allies with the utmost contempt, but hold their noses and pander for the sake of . . . victory.

With Ronald Reagan they got very good at it . . . and they still are.

As President Bush said on Election Day "This Election is about whom America trusts." On November 2nd the American people chose the man they most trusted to lead America during a worldwide war on terrorism. Trust is usually the most important issue with American voters. And Trust turned out to be the Presidents strong suit. Whether you agree with President Bush or not he is very consistent about what he believes and what he will do. President Bush promised to cut our taxes- he cut them three times in four years; he promised to reform education - he brought us "No Child Left Behind Act". He promised to wage a worldwide war on terrorism and fight terrorist wherever they may be- he has waged the promised war. Now you may not like what he did but you can trust he will deliver what he promises. Now his opponent said he voted for the war before he voted against it. Choosing the Candidate you could trust was easy.

### Was The Election a Mandate for President Bush?

If Bush's 51% constitutes a mandate, it begs the question, even for his fellow Republicans: a mandate to do what?

Shall we: Continue to fight the war the way we're fighting it now? ; Repeal Roe vs. Wade; Invest your social taxes in the stock market? Deny the protection of the law to gays and lesbians? Ban embryonic stem cell research? Ignore the provisions of the Geneva Convention? Appoint more Scalias and Thomases to the Supreme Court?

For all too many members of Bush's coalition of the fearful the answer to ALL those question is a resounding YES! On the brighter side, for many good Republicans, the answer is an equally resounding NO!

Creaky coalitions of the fearful and misinformed, led by cynics, in an environment in which half the members of GOP hold the other half in deepest contempt, hardly makes for a mandate.

This election was clearly a mandate for President Bush and the Republican Party.

A presidential candidate has not won the majority of the popular vote since 1988.

A party's leader in the US Senate has not lost a re-election bid in 50 years.

The Republican Party has won a wide margin of seats in the Senate and increased there all ready sizable lead in the House of Representatives.

No presidential candidate has ever received more votes than President Bush (almost 60 million) received in this election. While this was a hard fought election the voters have clearly given a mandate to President Bush and the Republican Party. Now it is up to President Bush to use this mandate wisely.

### The "God Gap", Has the Democratic Party Lost Touch with America?

In the Southside Virginia of my youth, Evangelicals, main-line Protestants, and the few Catholics who had managed to survive the fear and contempt of their friends and neighbors roundly distrusted each other . . . or worse.

These diverse "white" churches united, however, in their scriptural justification of both racial segregation, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance.

I was taught from the pulpit that the Jews killed Christ. A faith-based segregated academy helped close the public schools of Prince Edward County.

Brave men and women of faith of all races . . . denounced, threatened, and sometimes murdered, helped change the face Old South for the better.

Their best allies, then and now. were Democrats, and their work is still not done.

"Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with God." was the sage advice offered to corrupt priests and politicians by the prophet Micah almost 3,000 years ago. It's still good advice.

On November 2nd President Bush won a decisive victory. Part of the credit for this victory has been given to the so-called "God Gap"- Voters most concerned with moral issues. President Bush had winning margins from Evangelicals, Main-line Protestants, Catholics and almost all religious demographic groups.

More importantly he had big gains over the 2000 election results from Hispanics and Women largely from their concerns about moral issues.

The Democratic Party used to be the party of the little people, including the little people who are believers. Now the National Democratic Party is the party of the intellectuals and big political contributors. Now National Democratic Party pushes away the faithful in America. The Republican Party has shown it is concerned about the moral issues facing America, and the faithful in America have become the base of the Republican Party. As long as the Republican Party shows itself as the compassionate party for the Faithful in America the Democratic Party can expect more elections days like November 2nd and more victories like President Bush's.

# Art of Citizenship

## Middleburg Elementary Opens New Playground

Gift of \$50,000 from Private Citizen and General Mills  
Contributes Mightily to the Quality of Play

Trust advisors know it is as hard to manage money as it is to make it, and that with wealth comes responsibility to give back and invest in one's community. Local philanthropist Sheila Johnson took a pro-active approach with her children by giving each of them the responsibility of managing an annual \$25,000 contribution

to an institution or organization of their choice.

When her son, Brett, decided to use his 2004 contribution to purchase new playground equipment for Middleburg Elementary School, everyone in the school and the community was delighted. Unfortunately, when the final plan for the playground was approved, the total

cost was twice what Brett had in his contribution account.

Did he ask the school to cut back? Not at all. He did what any conscientious citizen would do: he asked for help in all the right places.

After Mrs. Johnson made a call to General Mills, their executives quickly agreed that matching Brett's contribution

would be an excellent way for the company to contribute to the future of Middleburg.

Recently, on a beautiful October day, the ribbon was cut and young students gleefully inaugurated the slides, swings, climbing bars and recreational activities provided by Brett Johnson's generosity. ✱



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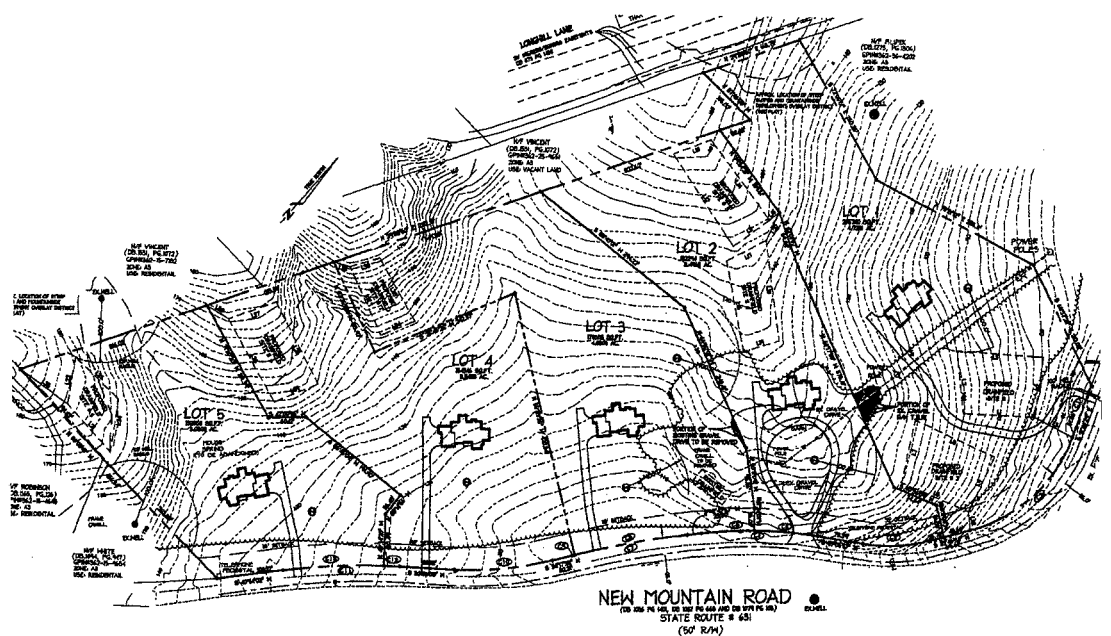
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# Art of Citizenship

## Not From Around Here

Wendy Shelton

I have recently moved to the area. Yes, I am a newcomer, and somewhat anxious in the role. I needed a change and needed to find a place whose vistas would sooth and inspire.

We are horsy, my daughter and I, so after years of brief visits to the region, Middleburg won the pick. I have learned that Loudoun County is sprouting like a teenager's limbs and is suffering the accompanying pains.

As a native Californian, I spent most of my youth in Orange County.

When my family moved to Newport Beach so my father could be city manager of a "promising and fast-growing community," our town was a well-circumscribed beach village perched on the bluffs above the Pacific.

I have memories of attending school with kids whose parents had moved to the ocean for their health or because they "...had always liked the sound of the waves." They lived in tiny bungalows that lined the many small streets radiating perpendicular from the coastline. I boarded my horse on the bluff, rode on the beach and on the gentle slopes dotted by Herefords. Then we were discovered. The onslaught began.

People from out of town and out of state began to pour into our area. They had to have money – and in the early days they couldn't buy into the subdivisions if they were Jewish or non-white. Still, their arrival marked the relentless terracing of the round foothills rising from the bluffs, and the defacing of the horizon as the most aggressive interlopers roosted on the hilltops with the best views – theirs, not ours.

There is a camera shot shown on "The OC," Fox TV's teenage soap, that pans a stack of elegant homes facing the ocean. That vista is so transformed that I, a local, have no idea where it is.

The traffic got bad, the roads were widened and the traffic worsened.

My father, who changed from city manager to city councilman to development executive, had a calm retort for his children when we protested the transformations. "Development and growth are inevitable. Our responsibility is to be sure that it occurs in an orderly manner."

The wildfire of building swept through the orange groves, family farms, and modest communities of Orange County. My father, now 81, still lives in Newport. He is retired and spends much of his time trying to save the local wetlands and improve bike paths or parks. He fights for the water quality of the bay. He laments what has happened to his home.

And yet, my best friends from

junior high and high school were the immigrants – those kids who came with the professors' families when the university was built. The climate remains edenesque, and with the help of Arizona's water, landscaping wonders are everywhere.

The communities are gorgeous, the schools well-funded, the quality of life for all of the "newcomers" is very high. Each new professional, business person, actor or lottery winner who moves in feels that he or she is entitled to a piece of paradise.

After graduate school, I moved to Granite Bay, a foresty rural community outside of Sacramento. It was undiscovered until ten years ago. Since then, the scrubby oaks have been manicured into lovely arches for the circular driveways of mini-mansions and starter castles. Variances on the five acre lot-size limit are granted summarily by the planning commission. We have high-end franchises littering our now ubiquitous strip centers. We have elegant markets and excellent tailoring. I ran a small business in this town and my best clients were the ones who swooshed in on a transfer. They brought generous vitality and a desire to make themselves at home. The dining is better now, and the traffic's still not too bad. There is room, alas, to grow.

Last week I attended a lecture at the Smithsonian on global climate change. The famous world-traveling scientist who spoke there said there are people everywhere. Their impact on the world is absolute and universal. He mentioned that there might, indeed, be more people in our world's future.

Middleburg and surrounding lands are beautiful partly because of the presence of humans. The fields allowing for those heart-stopping middle-distance prospects were cleared by human effort. The handsome homes and barns that dot the panorama domesticate and gentle the vision. All of this loveliness is evidence of humans living on the earth.

As a refugee from the California development jungle, I am not here to violate Virginia's beauty, I am here to honor it.

But how will my presence affect it? When it comes to change I advise that one step gently, proceed with caution, never stop paying attention, and stay open to the possibility of new delights. All people crave both the safety of permanence and the exhilaration of change. ✿

Dr. Wendy Shelton is a veterinarian who is serving as an American Veterinary Medical Association {AVMA} Congressional Fellow this year in Senator Joseph Lieberman's Office

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DEC. 3  
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DEC. 4  
CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG  
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA  
MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 8 - 10AM  
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW  
MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER 9AM - 5PM  
MIDDLEBURG HUNT PARADE  
WASHINGTON STREET - 10:30 AM  
MIDDLEBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE  
WASHINGTON STREET - 3PM

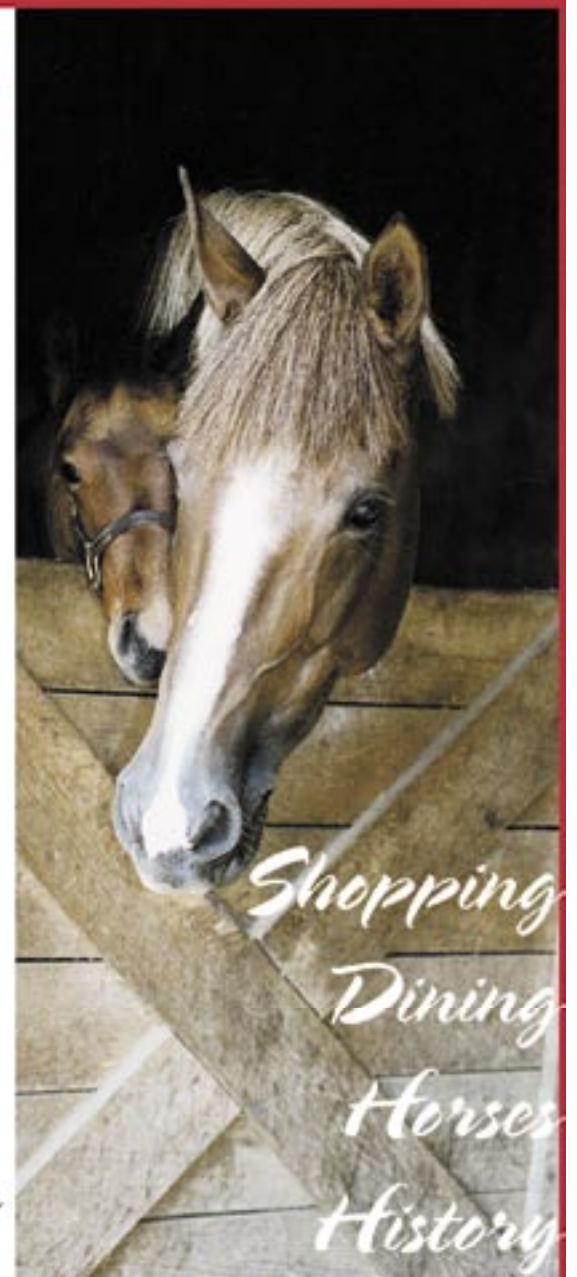
DEC. 4, 5, 11, 12  
ALDIE MILL HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

DEC. 5  
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DEC. 10  
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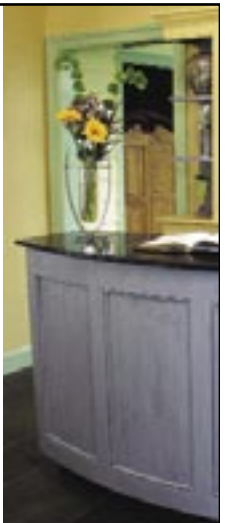
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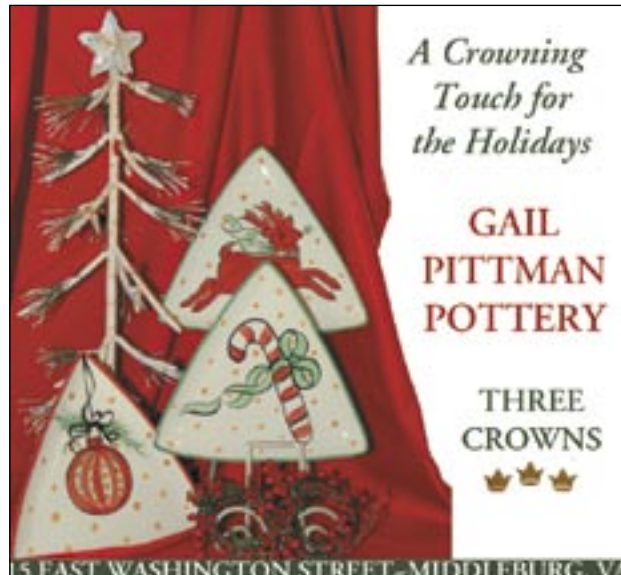
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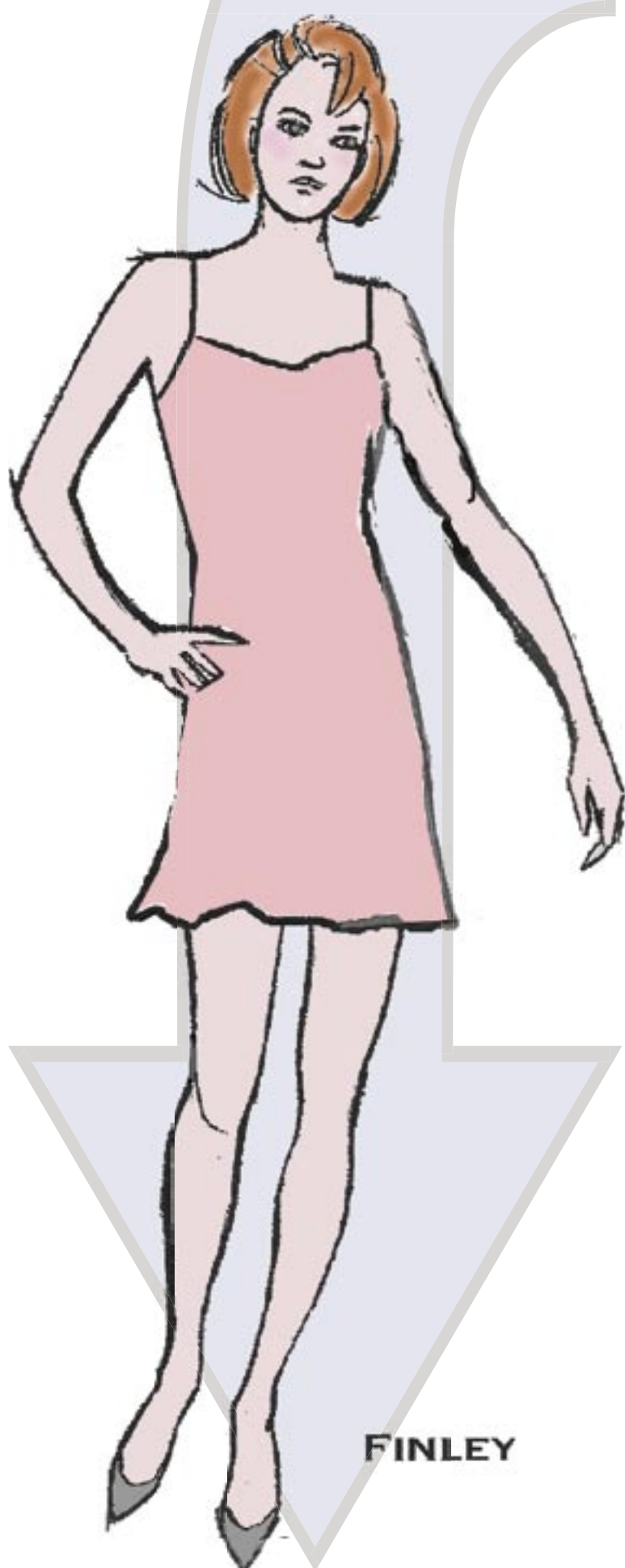
## News of Note

### NBC Launch Party for Project Runway

NBC will host a launch party from 7 to 9 pm on November 30th at PM Lounge in New York City's trendy meat packing district to preview Project Runway, the search for America's top new fashion designer, in which Wendy Pepper of Middleburg, Virginia, is one of twelve national finalists.

Project Runway debuts on the Bravo Network at 10 pm, Wednesday December 1st.

One of Pepper's designs will be included in a runway show at the launch party.



## Wendy Pepper Makes the Cut

Glenda Cudaback

While Wendy Pepper was learning to weave in the back country of Nepal, she often thought of Oatlands, hoping that someday she might return to Northern Virginia to help protect the plantation she loves and where she spent the happiest years of her childhood.

It never occurred to her that, at the close of 2004, she would be living in Middleburg and starring in a cable television show called "Project Runway" with eleven talented fashion designers chosen from thousands who auditioned across the country. Three of the final twelve will be chosen to present a collection of original designs at Fashion Week in New York City at the Spring 2005 shows. One will be chosen the winner.

Will Wendy be one of the final three designers chosen for even more national and international recognition? Will she even make the cut week after week as "Project Runway" evolves on the Bravo network? Only by watching each weekly episode from the December 1st launch Wednesdays at 10 pm will you know.

One thing, however, is certain. The young girl who returned to Virginia from Ohio with her mother following her parent's divorce – who grew up at Oatlands and who still speaks passionately about the power of creative, independent women like her grandmother

– has a real opportunity to become so successful that she would be able to play a role in the development of the Northern Virginia economy.

"I have no fashion sense personally," says the classically beautiful designer. "Fashion is simply a language for me, a vocabulary which allows me to communicate the beauty and refinement of a well-ordered, well-balanced life."

Her life speaks volumes about why she is so determined to make a contribution to Oatlands, and now, to Middleburg. These are the aspects of her history that have set her standards of elegance and beauty. These are the chapters of her life that shaped all her references for happiness and courage.

Anne Emmett, Wendy's mother, was the daughter of Ambassador Grenville Emmet, envoy to the Netherlands and to Austria before World War II. Anne Eustis Emmet, Wendy's grandmother, was the daughter of William Corcoran Eustis, the grandson of banker and philanthropist William Wilson Corcoran.

Edith Morton Eustis, Wendy's great grandmother, was the daughter of Levi Morton, Vice President under Benjamin Harrison. Edith's husband died in 1921, but she lived at her beloved Oatlands until her death in 1964. Edith's daughters inherited Oatlands, and gave the estate to The National

Trust for Historic Preservation in 1965. Oatlands was named a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

Wendy's mother, Anne, and Charles Pepper and moving to Ohio, where Wendy and her brother, Jeremy, were born.

After her parent's divorce, Wendy returned to Oatlands and lived in the Washington, D.C. area. For years, she made weekend visits to Middleburg where Wendy first began her family and what a journey it has been. A termination and a birth.

After grammar school and boarding school, Wendy attended Barnard College in New York City, making a decision to travel to Tibet. "My experience was formative," she remembers. "I was calm, measured and careful to weave and dye fabrics about myself."

After a time in the Pacific, she decided to finish her anthropology degree in Seattle, Washington, where she was flourishing regional art stage for a career choice could have anticipated.

When did Wendy begin designing dresses?

"About fifteen years ago," she says. "I was married, moved to Middleburg, and needed so



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something to do.

Fashion had always been an important aspect of life for me. I still remember specific pages from Vogue Magazine in the 60s and 70s....Richard Avedon photographs, elegant lines, unforgettable places."

"I'm certain I'm not the only woman alive who owes a debt to Diana Vreeland, the editor of Vogue in those years, for my sense of style. She shaped us all, and we all still respond to her code and standards."

"My grandmother's sister, my great Aunt Margaret (Margaret Morton Eustis) married David Finley, director of the National Gallery. He was a close friend of Jacqueline Kennedy and they were great correspondents. I named my daughter Finley in remembrance of them, but my images of them and that era are of beauty, romance, elegance and civility."

"That's what I want to create. We should all be able to enjoy those aspects of life, if we wish."

How did she learn of the Project Runway auditions?

"Last year, Rita Mace Walston did a story on me in Loudoun Magazine. She remembered me when she started working on a feature on fashion at Oatlands, and I had to scurry around calling friends to ask if they would lend me dresses I'd made for them to be photographed for the article."

One of those friends asked Wendy

if she'd read about the auditions for the Bravo network's competition to find the most talented new fashion designers in America. She had not.

But, upon reflection, and with considerable encouragement from her husband, Robert Downing, she investigated and found there was only one audition left, in Miami, Florida.

"My father lives in Palm Beach, so I called him and said '...bring your camera and please pick me up at the airport... I'm going to give this a shot,' " Wendy remembers. "It was insane, I'm more of a hider...this was totally out of character...but it was a time when I really needed to get serious about what I was doing, and I definitely needed a better income, so I headed to Miami for what they called 'Last Call.'"

Suffice it to say, Wendy Pepper did well at the Miami Last Call. She made the cut as one of the designers chosen to go to New York City for the finals, and she made the cut there.

Look for more about Wendy's progress on Project Runway next month in the Eccentric, as we get to know her competition, supermodel hostess Heidi Klum, and all the designer and fashionista judges. \*



# It's Your Business

## It's Not Your Father's Way of Banking!

On November 4th, Middleburg Bank officially opened its new Reston Financial Center, marking the Bank's first location outside Loudoun County. Currently, Middleburg Bank has six branches in Loudoun County and plans to open another Financial Center in neighboring Fauquier County next year.

Already enjoying a reputation for delivering the best personal service around,

Middleburg Bank is taking its service model to a higher level, going beyond a familiar smile, pleasant small talk and penchant for remembering customers' names. The culture is further evolving to one that more heavily emphasizes helping clients choose appropriate financial products based on their lifelong financial goals. The layout of the new Reston Financial Center reflects this strategy.

Joe Boling, CEO of Middleburg Bank, commented, "In the Reston Financial Center, we've created an atmosphere where clients can relax and more deliberately discuss strategies for achieving financial aspirations. They don't have to stand in a teller line. Instead, we can sit down in front of the fire and talk over a good cup of coffee. It seems like a new idea, but it really harkens back to the service traditions of a past era. It's certainly what customers deserve, and it's how we'll continue to build our reputation for unmatched personal service."

Indeed the new Reston Financial Center is not your ordinary bank branch. There are no traditional teller stations inside. Instead, there are execu-



tive desks. You won't find the typical transaction preparation counter looming in the middle of the lobby either. Instead, a cozy seating area frames an oversized fireplace flanked by a gourmet coffee and pastry bar. Even when you enter the Center, it quickly becomes apparent that something is different, as a concierge seated behind a

mahogany desk greets you and your eye is drawn to the large plasma TV above the fireplace broadcasting important financial news.

Middleburg Bank will eventually apply the new Financial Center layout and service philosophy to current branches as well as all new ones. ✱

### SOLSTICE



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Middleburg, VA

## Coming to a Backyard Near You

*Continued From Page 6*

Smith claims that residents weren't told the highway was planned in their neighborhoods when they moved in, and that most oppose it. "We are not anti-development. We do require communication, planning, and economic analysis, and we believe it is a moral and ethical responsibility of the development community and especially elected officials to provide these things."

In its current form, the road was floated by VDOT as a public-private partnership, dubbed "PPTA" by highway officials and others immersed in the world of transportation finance. Hank Dittmar, a transportation specialist working on transportation reform in Virginia, is suspicious of PPTAs. "They're paid for by the public to benefit private investors, he jokes. "That's what we call public-private transportation improvements."

PPTA proposals are becoming more common in Virginia, but the one just completed – the Pocahontas Parkway – has earned bitter critics. That high-

way, as VDOTS admits, has not produced sufficient tolls to recover its costs. Its bonds have been downgraded to junk status, and its tolls are going up.

Proponents argue that PPTAs are the best way to get more asphalt in the absence of state funds. Hobie Mitchell is one such proponent. He sits on the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), and is also one of the developers proposing a large development adjacent to the proposed highway.

VDOT claims that the level of scrutiny and public input is the same as for any other road. But Olsen disagrees. "By hiring a company to build the WTC at their profit, VDOT is closing the deal before the public even gets involved. Virginia's PPTA law does not require any public input, so VDOT can sign a contract with a company to build the WTC before they even do the environmental study or look at alternatives."

"Thus far in Virginia," she continues, "the PPTA process has proven to both reduce the level of scrutiny of impacts on

communities and the environment, and [to] be a financial disaster. A bad project is a bad project, no matter how you finance it."

"What concerns our communities," says Smith, "is the lack of transparency and accountability in the process. Elected officials are required to engage all stakeholders in this process."

The estimated cost for building the WTC is \$2 billion, according to the Taxpayers for Common Sense. State officials have said it would cost more.

For Giordano, the cost is measured in different terms. "It's more than just a road. Our feeling is... this is our dream house. We've lived here since we got married. I intended to get to know my grandchildren here. These are homes and communities. It makes me so..." her voice wavers and trickles off. "We love our house, and we love our neighbors. Most of our money and most of our memories are here." ✱

# Things to Do

## Middleburg Celebrates the Holidays Merchants to Have Extended Holiday Hours

Back by popular demand, many Middleburg merchants will remain open until 9 pm on Fridays from November 26 through December 17. Last year's extended hours saw many shoppers and more merchants are participating this year.

Known for its quaint streets and unique shops, Middleburg provides the perfect destination for shopping. "The Town looks like something from a Currier & Ives print," remarked a shopper last year who was loaded down with packages.

Some of Middleburg's restaurants such as the Red Fox will participate by having early bird hours and specials. Hot cocoa and handmade marshmallows will be available at "Mello Out" at 2 E. Federal Street.

On Saturday, Dec. 18 from noon to 4 pm., a German group of musicians dressed in typical Bavarian fashion will entertain shoppers in front of The Christmas Sleigh (5 E. Washington Street) and in front of Christkindl Haus (outdoors adjacent to 110 W. Washington Street). The group is sponsored by Dieter Rausch, owner of The Christmas Sleigh and Christkindl Haus.

Other area entertainment, also sponsored by Rausch, includes German hornblowers during the week of December 3 and 11. The group will be authentically dressed and will play music which harkens back to 600 year old German tradition. They will also participate in the Middleburg Christmas parade on Dec. 4 and will be playing their enchanting music

each afternoon in front of The Christmas Sleigh and Christkindl Haus.

Christkindl Haus is a special outdoor stand set up just for the holidays. It officially opens on the Sunday following Thanksgiving and will remain open 7 days a week from 11 am to 5 pm through the end of the year. Christkindl Haus sells authentic German bratwurst, Bavarian mustard and hard rolls along with hot mulled German cider and other fine German Christmas delicacies.

Visit the Town over the holidays and witness the magic of Middleburg. It's truly a friendly place with delightful shops and unique treasures for everyone. ❄️



## Drop N' Shop at Market Salamander for the Holidays Free Childcare for Middleburg Shoppers

Market Salamander in Middleburg, Virginia is ready for the holiday rush and they have thought of everything. Not only do they have the perfect gift selection for everyone you know, but they will take care of your little elves so that you can buy more gifts! The Market has partnered with Loudoun County Parks and Recreation to provide this service two Sundays during the holiday season from 1 pm to 4 pm at no charge.

"We are very aware of the pressure parents experience during the holiday season with finding care for their children. We wanted to make the process easy and fun for both the parents and the children, said Laurie Root, chief operating officer for Market Salamander.

The Kidzone will be located at the Middleburg Commu-

nity Center next door to Market Salamander. The Drop and Shop program will be available Sunday November 28 and Sunday December 19 from 1 pm to 4 pm and is free of charge. The children will be able to assemble holiday crafts, play holiday games and enjoy tasty treats from the Market. Children from age 2 and up are welcome to attend the Kidzone while their parents shop throughout Middleburg.

To receive the free service, each parent will be given a coupon once they have dropped their child off. Participating Middleburg Merchants will have a stamp to validate the coupon. Once the child is picked up, the parent will redeem the coupon. Otherwise there is a \$25 charge per child. Participating merchants include: Market Salamander and

Salamander Touch, The Fun Shop, Christmas Sleigh, Journeymen Saddler's, Ltd, Country Carousel, A Little Something from Middleburg, and the Virginia Country Store.

To make a reservation for the Kidzone, call Loudoun County Parks and Recreation at (540) 687-6375 by the Friday prior to each Sunday. Space is limited.

Market Salamander is located at 200 W. Washington Street in Middleburg, Virginia – the heart of Virginia horse country. Just 45 minutes West of Washington, DC and 30 minutes from Dulles International Airport. For more information, visit the website at [www.market-salamander.com](http://www.market-salamander.com) or call 540-687-8011. ❄️

## Trim Your Tree Benefits Seven Loaves

Middleburg elementary school students will sell Christmas Ornaments they have painted

themselves at the Middleburg Library from now until December 31st to benefit Seven Loaves, a community food

bank. The charming ornaments are \$15 each or two for \$25. All proceeds go Seven Loaves. ❄️

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## News of Note

### Foxcroft Students Present Annual Christmas Pageant

Middleburg, VA Foxcroft School extends an invitation to families from the local community to join students in celebrating the Christmas season. The Christmas pageant, held on December 5 at 2:00 p.m. is a traditional Christmas story written by Miss Charlotte Haxall Noland, the founder of Foxcroft. Performed annually by the New Girls

as a gift to the Middleburg Community, the Pageant is a visual and musical event that has been enjoyed by the Foxcroft community and children of all ages for many years. The nativity scene will be complete with live donkeys and pigeons.

Following the performance, Santa Claus will hand out gifts to the children in the audience.

Foxcroft is located on Route 626 (Foxcroft Road) four miles north of the center of Middleburg. This event is free. ✱

For more information, contact:

Elizabeth Ennis

Tel: 540.687.4516

Fax: 540.687.8836

Email: [eenis@foxcroft.org](mailto:eenis@foxcroft.org)

### The Spirit of Christmas in Upperville



**Friday, December 10, 7:30 pm.** Winchester Musica Viva, a 21-voice chamber choir, will perform "Mass for the Nativity," by 16th century English composer William Byrd, and carols for the holiday season at Trinity Episcopal Church, Rt. 50 in Upperville. Tickets for \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$6 for stu-

dents. Contact Wendy Oeslerling at 678-5590 or e-mail [jjmmark@crosslink.net](mailto:jjmmark@crosslink.net).

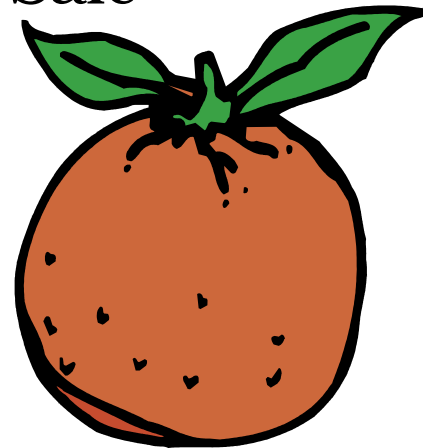
**Thursday, December 16, 12 noon – 2pm.** Open House at the Upperville Library. Stop by for refreshments, check out the stacks, and pick up a book list of good reads for the coming year. At the little stone building near Trinity Church on Rt. 50 in Upperville. Free.

**Saturday, December 18, 7 pm.** Community Sing at

the Baptist Church. Lift your voice and celebrate the season by joining your neighbors in singing your favorite Christmas carols. At the Upperville Baptist Church, Rt. 50 in the center of Upperville. Free.

**Tuesday, Dec. 21, 3 pm – 5 pm.** A Children's Christmas at the Upperville Library. Stories, fun, and the magic of Christmas for young children. Free. ✱

### Middleburg Lions Club Annual Fruit Sale



The Middleburg Lions Club will be promoting their annual fruit sale across the street from the Middleburg Bank and the Middleburg Post Office on Thursday, November 18, Friday, November 19; Saturday, November 20 from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm; and on Sunday, November 21rd from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. The 2/5 case prices for the navel oranges and pink grapefruit will be \$17.00 per case and \$32.00 for a full case (two 2/5 boxes of either oranges and grapefruit or mixed oranges and grapefruit). As the Middleburg Lions Club did last year, we are again (out of the proceeds from these annual fruit sales) donating money to the Seven Loaves Services, Inc. (located here in Middleburg) to purchase all the turkeys for this year's Thanksgiving dinners for the people they are helping. The Middleburg Lions Club has donated to the following organizations: Middleburg Community Center, Middleburg Fire Department, Middleburg Rescue Squad, Seven Loaves

Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Diabetes Awareness, LCIF, LOVE, Lions Sight and Hearing Van, and people in need of eye care in the Middleburg and Loudoun area. The Middleburg Lions Club is now in a membership drive to recruit people in our community who are interested in being a part of a great service organization in helping and providing for people in need. To get more information on what the Middleburg Lions Club is about and what to do if you wish to join, please call any of the following members: Maxi Falkenstein at 687-5055, Jack Elder at 687-8495, Pete Chittick at 687-6393, or Ed Kemon at 687-5557. ✱

### Vanishing Landscape Art Show

The Land Trust of Virginia will once again offer original works by noted Virginia artists at the Notre Dame Academy from 1 to 5 pm on Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5. Their third annual art show, just in time for special holiday shopping, will feature the paintings, photographs, limited edition prints and sculpture of new as well as favorite artists from previous years' shows.

On Sunday, Neil Rizos will set up his etching press and demonstrate the process of making printing and etchings. Underscoring the concept of "Vanishing Landscapes" will be a landscape donated by artist Virginia Treviranus painted the day before the bulldozers arrived to create the now existing Shenstone subdivision outside of Leesburg.

A sparkling Preview Party for members and guests is planned for Friday evening, Dec. 3. Proceeds from the art sale will benefit the LTV's Stewardship Fund. Please call Robin at the LTV office, 540-687-8441, if you would like to attend the Preview. For a complete list of the artists participating in this year's show, visit our web site at [www.landtrustva.org](http://www.landtrustva.org). ✱

## Christmas in the Loudoun Valleys

For a complete guide to finding Loudoun County farms with choose-and-cut Christmas trees, as well as holiday floral products such as wreaths and poinsettias, call Loudoun County Department of Economic Development at 703-777-0426 or visit [www.loudounfarms.org](http://www.loudounfarms.org).



# Middleburg Community Center Calendar

## Teen Program - The New Cyber World of Teen Dating

Wednesday 12/1 No Fee 5P-6P

Become aware of how technology is influencing teen relationships. There are both pros and cons to Internet exchanges. Come and learn ways to surf the net with friends, but also remain safe.

## Parents Night Out (Ages 5-12)

Friday 12/3 \$20/child 6P-10P Holiday Cookies

Join your friends for dinner, baking holiday cookies, and indoor games.

## Teen Program - The Circle of Friendship

Tuesday 12/14 No Fee 5P-6P

To have a friend, be a friend. Are you a good friend? What are the qualities of a good friend? How well do you know your friends? Do you surround yourself with positive peer influences? Bring your friends to this workshop and learn how to form and keep life-long friendships.

## Holiday Sing Along (Ages 3-6)

Wednesday 12/22 \$8/class 1P-2P

We'll be capturing the holiday spirit with all of your favorite songs.

## Mom & Me Open Gym (Ages 6 months to 3 yrs.)

Wednesdays ongoing 10A-11:15A Free

Our gym will be open for you and your child to play and meet new friends. You will enjoy a fun and friendly environment. No registration required.

## 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 10A-11:15A during the Mom & Me Open Gym. Children are welcome during meetings.

## Mary Ann McGowan - Hunt Country Properties

### POSSUM HOLLOW



Terrific estate in the heart of Hunt Country•Wonderful 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath home•29+acres •New 6 stall barn•Fenced paddocks• Riding Ring• Heated gunite pool surrounded by bluestone patio• Spectacular views• 2 level 5 car garage with studio/office above \$2,100,000

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### RAVEN ROCKS



Charming mountain retreat• Totally renovated• 3 bedrooms and 4 baths• Private study• 3 fireplaces• Custom woodwork and cabinetry• Fieldstone floors• Stone and Cedar exterior• Charming stone walls• Gorgeous gardens and fountain• 10 acres• Complete privacy \$949,000

### NEWLIN MILL



Beautiful 4 bedroom 2.5 bath Colonial•New construction• Minutes from Middleburg• Hardwood floors on main level• Gourmet country kitchen with Corian counters and cherry cabinetry• Gas fireplace in family room• Full unfinished basement• 9 foot ceilings• Mountain views \$599,000

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# Our Earth

## Margarita and George

The Plant Lady

Karen "The Plant Lady" Rexrode

In preparation for our first hard freeze, I removed the Ipomoea 'Margarita' from the bed at our sign along Route 50. A form of sweet potato, Ipomoea batatas translates to "similar to bind weed" and batatas meaning potato in Haitian. It's a tender vining groundcover that does form large tubers underground. Since the breeding is solely for ornament, I understand the potato-like roots are not very tasty, although I have seen chipmunks gnaw on them. This fabulous leafy annual performed admirably this summer, in fact some of the leafy stems were 15 feet or longer. Easy to care for, but definitely tender or annual, the plant will freeze and die, usually long before the middle of November. Interestingly enough I noticed something else quite pleasing about I. 'Margarita's' performance, no weeds, I had no weeds. Her

luxuriant foliage had smothered the ground so thickly that weeds had no place to sprout.

Popularity has never been a problem for Ipomoea 'Margarita'. The pale yellow to green leaves are a great foil for so many other annuals. In containers she excels, dripping over the edge and available in a dark, almost black leafed form, as well as a tri-color variety with leaves of pink, white and green. She is not the only plant with Margarita in her name. I know of another and it's a winner that is botanically known as Gelsemium 'Margarita'. Gelsemium is a vine as well, commonly known as Carolina Jasmine. Hardy for us, this vine can be left outdoors. When grown up a support it will wrap and climb, returning year after year. The foliage is evergreen and the yellow flowers of spring are very fragrant. A native plant,

Gelsemium is deer resistant, drought resistant and one of the 2005 winners of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Societies Gold Medals. I have noticed that some favorite plants often share the same species name or hybrid name. It can become quite silly imagining that you will grow all of these plants, all of the named Margaritas of the world.

The non-gardener may relate this to all of their friends that are named George. If the first and second George you ever met were nice people, you might grow fond of people with that name. So too this can happen in the garden. Now with Latin names, it may be a little more definitive. The Latin or botanical attachment to the genus is often descriptive. Divaricata means diverse, so a plant with this name is different, most likely it will look odd when



compared to others in its genus. Well that certainly sounds right, I love different plants and Campanula divaricata, Phlox divaricata and Caryopteris divaricata all have a spot in my garden, they are appropriately named. Another group of plants to collect are the ones ending in "alata". In Latin, alata means "winged", which helps me nary a bit. But Nicotiana alata, Passiflora alata and Sarracenia alata are the best in their families. In fact the joke at work is that we have to grow a lot of alatas. Which I guess translates to a lot of winged plants?

Now you may not go around knowing the exact names of your plants. Those

quirky similarities need not get in the way of your gardening, in fact restrictions in space may not allow you to collect various Margaritas, divaricatas and alatas of the world. So it's just as well. But did you know that the name George is derived from Greek and means "farmer" or "earthworker"? There's no harm in having a lot of friends, and so what if a few of them are named George. Chances are they will help you garden. Stake up the Margaritas even.

Karen Rexrode is owner of Windy Hill Plant Farm (703) 327-4211

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## A Global Look at a Local Topic

Chris Powell

I have been lucky to have traveled to many interesting places in my arboricultural career. The most intriguing was two years spent in Senegal, West Africa, as a Peace Corps Volunteer focusing on agro-forestry. I also spent a year in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, as the coordinator for their Urban and Community Forestry Program...many people ask why I left St. Croix, funny no-one asks why I left Senegal. While attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, (yes, I am a cheesehead!) I spent a summer in Europe in order to study how countries like Germany and Poland dealt with various environmental issues.

You may be thinking, "Hey, that's great Chris but what's the point?"

Well, my point is this: although the places I have mentioned are vastly different I have noticed some similarities that can be applied to our community.

Whether we like to think it or not, being this close to DC and the surrounding expansion, we live in an urban setting. Urban Forestry is defined as: The cultivation and management of trees and forests for their present and potential contributions to the physiological, sociological, and economic well being of urban society. However, there are two problems: what is sociologically and economically best for the community is rarely best for the environment itself, and the benefits of trees are received without realizing the effort involved in keeping them around.

There are numerous people who enjoy green spaces,

trees, etc. for various reasons, yet most see it as an endless resource not to worry about. In Senegal, tree removal was necessary for cooking and building, here it is builders clearing land for the latest luxury housing complex. In each situation it is necessary to find a motivation to get people involved in keeping their community environmentally sound. Taking action doesn't have to mean a political protest, but can take the form of joining your local tree committee, master gardener association, or taking an arboricultural class. The more you know and pass on to others the better.

In general I have found people buy into the benefits of trees within urban settings. Cooler temperatures are one we all enjoy in the middle of summer as un-vegetated areas can be 6-8 degrees warmer. This feat is accomplished by evapotranspiration, where wind and the moisture emitted from leaves produces a cooling effect...kind of like the misting-fans you see on the Redskins sidelines. One mature healthy tree can emit 40 gallons per day, equal to removing the heat produced in 4 hours by a space heater.

Here are some other benefits:

- Healthier Air -reduction of airborne pollutants
- Storm Water Runoff-reduced by canopy and roots
- Psychological- people are more productive when they can see "green" from office windows or have the opportunity to spend break time in a park
- Energy Efficiency-home/business
- Property Values-increase with well kept landscapes.

Taking action can also be something more simple like planting the right tree in the right spot, following sound pruning and landscaping practices, or supporting companies like The Care of Trees that can assist design/build firms on tree preservation techniques before construction starts. Setting up a consultation with a certified arborist will not only help you identify ways in which

you can get involved, but it will help you better manage your property, landscape materials and experience the benefits I mentioned above. Take advantage of this resource, we are here to help.

What is important is that you realize what is happening throughout the area in which you live and take initiative to do something positive about it, don't say "oh there are plenty of trees" or

"there is really nothing I can do." There is a lot you can do and every action helps so please get involved in your community and I want to thank those of you who already do. ❁

*Chris Powell is an arborist representative with The Care of Trees serving the Middleburg, Fauquier County, and Piedmont Valley region.*



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### CLARKE COUNTY ~ Berryville, VA

Just west of Berryville off Rt. 50 a darling small horse property. 5 acres with small 2 stall pony barn with hay and feed storage. 2 fenced paddocks, garage with kennel. The house is a renovated cottage with one bedroom and one bath with living room, dining room, large eat-in kitchen with allnew appliances and sun room.

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### FAUQUIER COUNTY ~ BROAD ROCK ~ Markham, VA



Beautifully picturesque and park-like setting, this small horse 19+ acre horse property offers a private, and tranquil setting among the mountains of Western Fauquier minutes from I-66. Features include a large country kitchen, living room each with stone fireplace, first floor master suite, mudroom 2 car garage. Upper level has 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom in suite and one hall bath. Lower level is walk out, partially finished with full bath. A separate 4 car garage and 36'X 54' new barn capable of 8 stalls. 15 acres in pasture with fencing and cross fencing. **\$1,080,000**

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# Parents & Progeny

## Notre Dame Academy Recipient of Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Grant



Photo: Mike Lockhart, Notre Dame Academy Athletic Director, receives grant from Tyler Pumphrey '07 and James Pumphrey, owner of Jock's Exxon in Leesburg.

Notre Dame Academy is the recipient of a \$500 grant from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program. The grant will support the school's baseball program. James L. Pumphrey, owner of Jock's Exxon in Leesburg and parent of a 2002 graduate of the school and current sophomore at the school, worked with school officials to secure the grant, which is one of 400 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobile stations. The grant is made possible through funding from the Exxon Mobil Corporation.

"For 40 years Notre Dame Academy has worked hard to turn out well-rounded graduates. Students at the school are encouraged daily by a caring faculty that challenges them academically, spiritually and physically. I am proud to be a part of what I feel is a rigorous program for young adults. I also feel good about an opportunity to invest in the future of our community," said Pumphrey.

Pumphrey met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant.

*Notre Dame Academy is an independent, Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school located in Middleburg, Virginia.*

## Notre Dame Academy National Honor Society Inductees

Notre Dame Academy inducted 24 students into the National Honor Society on October 28. The students were recommended by faculty and met criteria as being exceptional in academic achievement, leadership, and character.

Patrick Behan, junior, Leesburg  
Matthew Burch, junior, Leesburg  
Warren "Smoot" Carter, senior, Winchester  
Philip Embury, junior, Boyce  
Bryan Hinger, junior, Centreville  
Alice "Bunny" Houk, junior, Delaplane  
Christopher Jamison, junior, Warrenton  
Lamont Johnson II, junior, Oak Hill  
Charles Jones, senior, Leesburg  
Krista Juris, junior, Ashburn  
Paige Kettering, junior, Warrenton  
Erica Lindgren, junior, Upperville

Elizabeth Lipovsky, senior, Leesburg  
Elizabeth McFadden, junior, Round Hill  
Lindsay Nash, junior, Centreville  
Katherine Nolan, junior, Berryville  
Patrick Owlett, junior, Oakton  
Justin Porter, senior, Marshall  
Elizabeth Ritonia, junior, Leesburg  
Hanne Small, junior, White Post  
Emily Springer, senior, Frederick, MD  
Sean Verfurth, junior, Ashburn  
Taylor Walters, junior, Leesburg  
Katherine White, junior, Sterling



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# Pastimes

## No Beast Feast

From Behind the Stove

Brian Lichorowic

As I've gotten older, I find my table, holiday and otherwise, often frequented by true vegetarians, a brave circle of family and friends.

I've been serving vegetarians since I was a young line cook in my family's restaurant in upstate New York and have always felt empathy for these individuals – serving them and also dining out with them – as they were relegated to order the menu's "only" obligatory vegetarian entrée.

This entrée generally consisted of steamed broccoli, cauliflower and carrots accompanied with the occasional green or red bell pepper with the usual carbohydrate pile of rice or pasta at the center of it all.

The entire plate would be steamed until all of the robust colors were gone – including any

nutrients – and the plate would take on a dull hue, garnished with a lemon wedge. Sadly, year after year, this was the dining staple of the vegetarians brave enough to dine out in ours or other fine establishments. It just wasn't fair.

The categories of vegetarians can be understood if broken down in simple categories. That way if you're at a holiday party and someone mentions they are a "lactose intolerant vegan," you'll know enough not to ask them if they've tried the venison chili yet.

### Semi-Vegetarians

Semi-vegetarians eat no red or white meat (beef, pork, venison, etc). The only animals that semi-vegetarians eat are fowl and fish. (Purists would say that semi-vegetarians are not vegetarians at all, but in my world, if you don't eat any meat, you're a vegetarian.

### Ovo-Lacto Vegetarians

The most common type, ovo-lacto vegetarians do not eat any animals, but do eat eggs and dairy products.

Subcategories:

- Ovo vegetarians (eat eggs but not dairy)
  - Lacto vegetarians (eat dairy but not eggs)
- Vegans**

Vegans eat no animal products – no eggs, no dairy, no honey, etc.

### Raw/Living Foodists

Raw or Living Foodists eat only raw food, because normal cooking processes destroy enzymes.

### Fruitarians

Fruitarians eat only fruit, fruit-like vegetables (e.g., tomatoes, cucumbers), and sometimes seeds and nuts.

To the Vegans, Rawists and Fruitarians, I feel for you. After taking several high-end vegetarian cooking classes, it has become apparent to me that many, if not most, of these strict type of vegans live this lifestyle not by choice. Most have health concerns/problems, some more serious than others.

This summer I took a cooking class to learn how to make a holiday meal for vegetarians. My teacher, Chef Gloria Mann Craft, is a captivating, full of life, former actress turned CIA (Culinary Institute of America) trained chef who is currently finishing her first cookbook called "Conscious Cooking."

The class was intimate in size, and we explored a whole host of different recipes and various cooking styles. In the end, based on our

studies, we would prepare and digest a six-course meal. With a little bit of modification from yours truly, I present the "No Beast Feast" for my vegetarian brethren.

### First Course

Vietnamese Smoked Tofu Salad Rolls with Asian Dipping Sauce

### Salad Rolls

8 rice paper rounds, 6" diameter

### Filling

1/4 lb rice noodles  
1/4 lb carrots, julienne  
1 bunch leaf lettuce, chopped  
1 bunch cilantro, chopped  
1 lb smoked tofu, chopped

### Sauce

1/4-cup Ponzu sauce (seasoned soy sauce)  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 tsp chili sauce  
1/4 cup rice syrup  
2 lemons, juiced  
3 tbs rice vinegar  
1/4 cup water

Combine all dipping sauce ingredients and mix well. Make ahead of time and keep cold.

Cook rice noodles for 3 minutes in boiling water. Drain, set aside with filling ingredients.

Place rice paper in boiling water briefly to soften, remove rice paper, and blot off water. Lay flat. Liberally fill with filling ingredients. Carefully roll, tucking ends into themselves. Cut the roll in half and place on a serving platter with sauce in dipping bowl.

### Second Course

Akkra (Black Eye Fritters)  
1-cup black-eyed peas  
2 red bell peppers, seeded & chopped  
1 bunch scallions, chopped  
2 tsp salt  
Canola oil

Soak the beans overnight in water. Rinse and drain, put in a food processor. Chop fine and put in mixing bowl. Add the red peppers, scallions and salt. Mix until they are light and fluffy and considerably increased in bulk.

Heat the oil in a heavy frying pan and fry the mixture by tablespoonfuls until golden brown on

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both sides. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot with Tomatillo Sauce (see recipe with fifth course below).

### Third Course

Ayurvedic Salad Composed of Arugula, Avocado, Sunflower Seeds, Bulgarian Feta and Golden Beets

12 medium raw golden beets, grated  
1/2 cup lightly roasted sunflower seeds  
1 avocado, sliced  
1 lb baby arugula  
1 lemon, juiced  
1/4 cup cold pressed olive oil  
1/2 cup Bulgarian feta cheese  
1/2 cup Annie's Goddess Dressing

Mix beets with seeds and Annie's Dressing. Wisk together lemon and oil, toss with arugula and feta. Place beet salad in center of plate, surround with arugula mix and top with sliced avocado. Serve.

### Fourth Course

Fresh Green Chile Soup w/ Tumbleweed Greens  
12 green Anaheim chilies (mild, also known as California green chilies)  
2 red bell peppers  
2 potatoes, cubed  
2-1/2 tsp salt  
6 cups vegetable stock  
1 tsp black pepper  
3 garlic cloves, chopped  
2 bunches tumbleweed greens (spring mix)

Roast and clean the chilies and peppers. In a medium saucepan, parboil the potatoes with 1 teaspoon of the salt until tender.

Puree the green chilies and then the red peppers separately in a food processor until smooth. Mix the purees together, add the potatoes and stock and continue processing until smooth. Add the remaining salt, pepper and garlic and process again. Press the puree through a medium sieve. Heat the puree in a saucepan. Serve hot. Place a small handful of tumbleweed greens in the middle.

### Fifth Course

Poached Fish (or Tofu) with Tomatillo Sauce, Frizzled Leeks, Wild Mushroom Quinoa and Fresh Al Dente Asparagus

1 lb fresh firm fish filets (Halibut, Snapper or Monkfish), OR 1 lb firm tofu cut in 4 oz. cubes

1 cup vegetable stock  
2 cups olive oil  
1 lb fresh asparagus  
Salt and pepper to taste

Tomatillo Chipotle Sauce  
25 large tomatillos (about 2 lbs)

1 white onion, finely chopped  
3 cloves garlic, chopped  
3 tbs olive oil  
4 cans chipotle chilies in Adobo sauce  
2 tbs Adobo sauce (from above can)  
1 bunch of cilantro leaves (1 cup)  
1 tsp sea salt  
2 limes, juiced

Wild Mushroom Quinoa  
1-1/2 cups Quinoa, rinsed  
1 pound of mixed mushrooms (shitake, crimini or button), sliced  
1/4 cup of olive oil  
1 shallot, chopped  
1 bunch parsley  
1 cup of good Parmesan Reggiano  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
Salt and pepper to taste

Frizzled Leeks  
2 large bunches of leeks, julienned whites only

Prepare the sauce first. Husk and wash tomatillos under hot water. Using a large iron skillet, cook them for 20 minutes over high heat until soft and blackened all over (don't dry them out but "burn" them well). Sauté onion until soft. Place tomatillos, garlic, onion, and remaining ingredients (except of lime juice) into a food processor. Pulse until ingredients are combined and consistency is smooth. Add water if necessary. Add lime juice and pulse for a few more seconds. Add more cilantro to taste. Can be served warm or cold. This is wonderful stuff.

Place fish filets (or cubed tofu) and arrange them in a baking dish. Completely lather each one with tomatillo sauce and veggie stock. Bake on top rack for 7-15 minutes (15 -25 minutes for tofu) at 300 degrees until desired consistency.

While the fish or tofu bakes, drop Quinoa into 3 cups of boiling water. Return to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Heat the olive oil in a small cast iron pan. Brown mushrooms in oil, sauté chopped shallots with mushrooms. Add parsley, Parmesan and stir. Fluff Quinoa into a large flat bowl; add the sautéed mixture with the garlic and salt and pepper to taste.

In iron skillet, add and pan fry to brown small amounts of the leeks at a time; let them dry on a paper towel and set aside to use as garnish.

Serve with lightly steamed asparagus.

### Sixth Course

Vegan Vanilla Cake with a Duet of Organic Raspberry and Blueberry sauce accompanied by Vanilla Tofutti

Cake  
2 cups spelt flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 cup pure maple syrup  
2/3 cup water  
1/3 cup canola oil  
2 tbs vanilla extract  
9" baking pan

Sauce  
4 baskets fresh berries (blueberries, raspberries and blackberries - no strawberries)  
2/3 cup maple syrup  
2/3 cup apple juice  
2 cinnamon sticks, 3" long  
6 cloves, ground  
1 vanilla bean

Prepare the sauce first and set aside. Can be refrigerated.

In a deep saucepan combine all ingredients and bring to boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for 20 minutes. Uncover, raise heat and stir until sauce thickens.

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and dust the pan with flour.

In a mixing bowl, sift flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl whisk together maple syrup, water, oil and vanilla. Combine two mixtures; gently fold into each other, don't overstir. Pour batter in prepared pan and bake for 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the middle.

Remove cake from pan. Cut into wedges and serve with warm sauce. Serve with a scoop of store-bought tofutti.

So for the holidays, treat the vegetarians in your life to a true feast - or at least some variety. Try putting a couple of these dishes out on the holiday buffet this year. And for the carnivores out there, all these dishes go great with turkey. ❄️

Comments or Catastrophes  
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# Pastimes

## Holiday Brunch Favorites

### Sweet Revenge

Susan Williams

The holiday season is a time of celebration over food and drink with our friends, and in rare cases, our relatives. This season is also a time when my kitchen becomes off-limits to my husband or anyone else who expresses a desire to "help" me prepare holiday food. I admit that it's a female stress thing, but with sharp knives and blunt instruments at my disposal, my husband would rather engage in hand-to-hand combat with Godzilla than to enter my kitchen.

While I love cooking, I hate

doing everything at the last minute.

My solution to the problem is to prepare as much of each recipe a day ahead of time. My physicist husband's solution (see "help" above) to accelerating the preparation process is to invoke what he refers to as a universal truth of all matter: the product of the stove temperature X the cooking time = a constant. For example, if the recipe calls for 350 degrees for 30 minutes, it can as well be prepared at 700 degrees for 15 minutes (you get the idea). It is

his view that, with a controlled thermo-nuclear reaction, we could prepare the food while seated at the table.

But I digress.

Through the years I have collected and traded many recipes from dear friends. They continue to remind me of our friendship, even when we are thousands of miles apart. Here are some of my holiday brunch favorites:

#### Orange Sauce Crepes

This recipe is about 35 years old and come from Kris-

ten Taylor of Salt Lake City.

1. Combine 3/4 cup flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

2. Add 1 teaspoon grated orange peel  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
2 eggs, slightly beaten  
7 ounces of Seven-Up

3. Beat quickly until well blended and fairly smooth.

4. Chill in refrigerator one hour.

5. Combine 1 tablespoon melted butter  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil

6. Heat a 6-inch frying pan or crepe pan over medium heat.

7. Brush butter and oil mixture on pan between each crepe.

8. Pour in enough batter to coat bottom of pan with thin layer.

9. Cook until delicately browned on underside; turn and brown on the other side.

10. Remove from pan. Roll up place seam side down in ovenproof serving dish.

Note: The crepes can be stored for several days ahead by placing a piece of waxed paper between each and placing in a bowl with a lid.

#### Orange Sauce

1. Combine in saucepan 1/2 cup melted butter  
1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar

2. Add 5 tablespoons orange juice,

1 teaspoon grated orange peel  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

3. Heat thoroughly; pour over crepes.

Note: The sauce can be made several days of time and stored. Reheat before pouring over crepes.

4. Garnish crepes with banana slices and toasted coconut.

5. Place in pre-heated 350-degree oven for 20 minutes or until bubbly.

Serves 6 to 8

#### Hot Open-Face Crab Sandwiches

My friend, Joan Petty, from Baltimore gave me the recipe for a crab dip, which I have adapted for hot crab sandwiches.

1. Cream together 8 ounces cream cheese  
2 teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce  
Juice of 2 lemons  
1/2 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

2. Fold in 2 pounds lump crabmeat

3. Put ingredients in cover bowl and refrigerate for at least 24 hours.

4. Split English muffins or any hearty bread and spread with crab mixture. Place on cookie sheets.

5. Place in pre-heated 400-degree oven on broil for 5 to 7 minutes or until bubbly and lightly browned.

Serves 8 to 10



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### Bubble Bread

This recipe is from my friend, Susan Horsely, of Scottsdale, Arizona.

1. Place in 2-quart saucepan, cook until butter melts

1 cup milk  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar

1/2 chopped pecans or walnuts (if desired)

2. While milk mixture is cooling, dissolve 2 packages of yeast in 1/2 cup warm water.

3. Beat lightly 2 large eggs and add to cooled milk mixture.

4. Stir in dissolved yeast into milk mixture.

5. Add 4-1/2 cups of flour and mix well. Knead in enough flour to stiffen dough (not dry). Let rise until double in bulk, knead down. Let rise 10 additional minutes.

6. Melt 1/2 cup butter and add 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, and 1/2 cup raisins (if desired).

7. Make dough into small ball the size of walnuts. Roll in sugar mixture and place in a greased tube pan.

Note: At this point you can place the pan in the refrigerator covered with plastic wrap. It will continue to rise, but this is not a problem.

8. Let rise until double in bulk. This will take longer if removing from refrigerator.

9. Bake in pre-heated 350-degree oven for 45 to 60 minutes until golden brown. Invert onto a serving platter.

Note: The bubble bread can be baked ahead of time. When cooled, wrap in aluminum foil. When ready to use place in pre-heated oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Serves 8 to 10

### Onion Pie

This recipe comes from my friend, Gail Long, of Winchester. It can be served warm out of the oven or at room temperature.

For this reason, it is an ideal make-ahead brunch item.

1. Sauté

2-pounds of thinly sliced and separated sweet onion in 1/2 cup butter. Drain thoroughly.

2. Combine 3 large eggs, slightly beaten

1 teaspoon

salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

Dash of Tabasco sauce

1 tablespoon Dijon style mustard

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

3. Add onions and pour into unbaked pie shell. Top with 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes, and then reduce heat to 325 degrees and bake for an additional 20 minutes.

ENJOY ☼

Comments

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## Morven

Markham, Virginia

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



## Longfield

Middleburg, Virginia

Built in 1986, stone house with slate and metal roof, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, hardwood and onyx floors, and rear flagstone terrace. 96.73 gently rolling, mostly open acres with mountain views. Improvements include a 5-car garage, in-ground pool and spa, and cattle barn. \$3,900,000.



## For Rent

The Plains, Virginia

Single level, stone house with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths on 5 acres with a pond. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, master bedroom suite with soaking tub and separate shower, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, central air and carport. Available immediately.



## Goldenrain

Middleburg, Virginia

Frame and stone residence in excellent condition, built in 1989, on 10 professionally landscaped acres with specimen plantings and pond. The residence features 4 bedrooms, 4 and a half baths, 3 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, wrap-around deck and 3 car garage. \$1,325,000.



## 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. \$1,975,000.



## Waverly Hill

Middleburg, Virginia

Elegant custom colonial with stucco exterior. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, ash floors, high ceilings, energy efficient and low maintenance. 2-car garage. 20 very private, mostly wooded acres with mountain views and frontage on Goose Creek. Minutes to Middleburg. \$2,375,000.



## Briarlea Farm

Purcellville, Virginia

Rare and special 18th century stone and brick Quaker home, completely updated. 4,400 square feet with 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, gourmet kitchen, 7 stone fireplaces, original chestnut and walnut floors, plaster walls with crown molding, broadband access. 13 acres with mature landscaping, extensive boxwood gardens and views of surrounding mountains. 2-car garage, swimming pool and fencing. \$1,400,000.



## Bonnie Glen

Middleburg, Virginia

1915 stucco Virginia farmhouse with 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, den with wood floors, built-in bookcases and 2 fireplaces. 24 acres of open pasture make this a manageable horse property in a great location. Extensive perennial gardens, stone walls and mature trees. Bank barn, 3-car garage, large run-in shed, 6 stalls and a guest house overlooking a spring-fed pond. \$1,475,000.



## For Rent

Rectortown, Virginia

100 year old stucco farm house ten minutes from Middleburg. Immaculate home with loads of charm. Old floors, two fireplaces, beamed ceilings, 2 staircases, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Great location, small stream and storage shed. Fully furnished. Available immediately.

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## Pastimes

### Cartoons and Cocktails at the National Press Club

What does one experience when standing in an enormous conference room at the National Press Club inundated with national and international cartoons along with the personal appearance of their creators? Sheer hypoethesia!

That sums up the adventure Gina and Lynn Marie Hilleary, freelance cartoonists and originators of The Eccentric's "Giovanni", enjoyed while attending the "2004 Cartoons & Cocktails."

This annual celebrity auction is held to benefit "Young D.C." which offers teenagers in the metropolitan Washing-

ton, D.C. area training opportunities to become tomorrow's journalists. The auction also supports National Press Club Scholarships and the Cartoonists Rights Network, which is an international organization "devoted to helping editorial cartoonists who face censorship, imprisonment, intimidation or even death for their commentary".

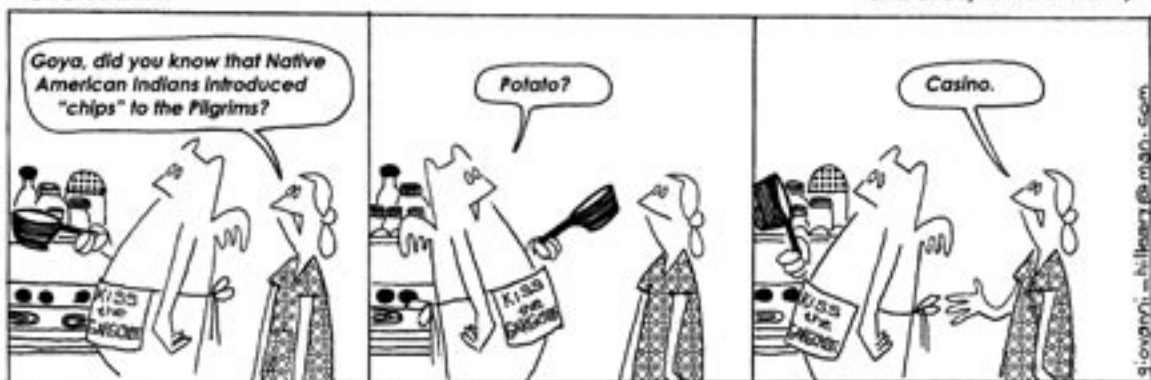
The guest list was quite extensive and extremely impressive, with artists such as Matt Davies, editorial cartoonist of The Journal News,, Tom Toles of The Washington Post, Mort Walker ("Beetle Bailey"), Lynn Johnston ("For Better or For

Worse") and Garry Trudeau ("Doonesbury"), to highlight a few of the facete farceurs. Cartoonists submit original hand-drawn strips for silent and live auction.

"Being invited was truly an honor," says Lynn Marie., "Actually meeting the cartoonists was quite euphoric."

The two sisters donated four "Giovanni" strips and are pleased to announce that all were quickly snapped up by bidders. Gina and Lynn Marie look forward to attending the gala next autumn as they plan to auction panels from their second cartoon series, "Onesies". ☼

#### GIOVANNI



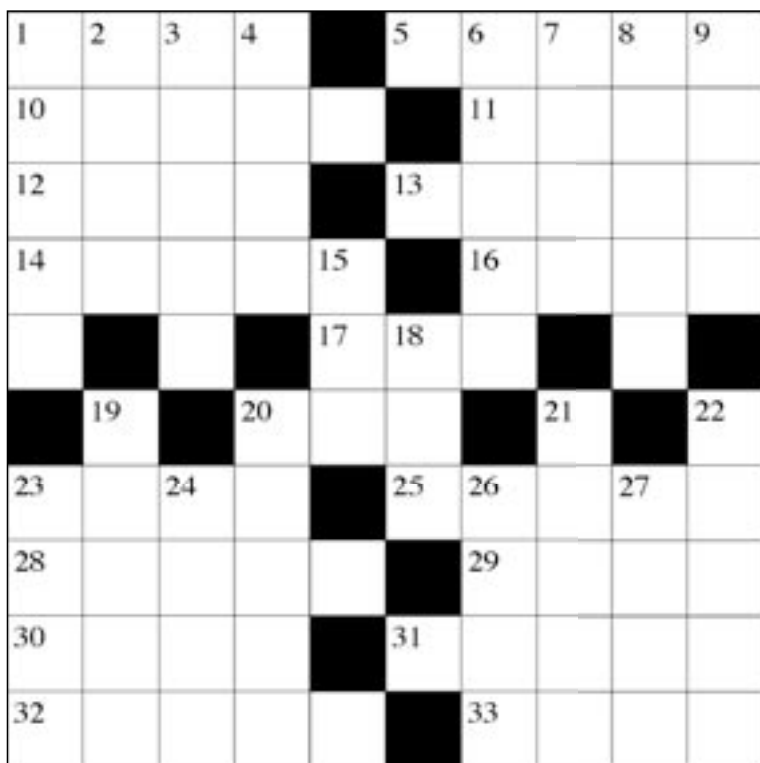
### November Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 June 6, 1944
- 5 Flat-topped seamount
- 10 Occur again
- 11 Bright star
- 12 British nobleman
- 13 Monetary unit of Saudi Arabia
- 14 Farewell
- 16 Carry
- 17 Sister
- 20 Spout
- 23 Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 25 Fragrant
- 28 Hives
- 29 Gap
- 30 Admirable
- 31 Wash lightly
- 32 Jitterbug dance
- 33 Rind

#### DOWN

- 1 Fear greatly
- 2 No longer living
- 3 Bitterly pungent
- 4 Christmas
- 6 Single things
- 7 Spoollike toy
- 8 Egg-shaped
- 9 Story
- 15 Exploit
- 18 It is
- 19 Caravansary
- 20 Worn-out
- 21 Monetary unit of Sierra Leone
- 22 Refined iron



- 23 Knot in wool
- 24 Web-footed aquatic bird
- 26 Lash
- 27 Otherwise

Last Months  
Solution on 35

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This is just a sampling of the variety of menus À LA CARTE is offering this Holiday Season. Please call 703.754.2714 or email [karen@alacarteevents.com](mailto:karen@alacarteevents.com) for more menu information, and/or how you can help SERVE.

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Happy Thanksgiving!  
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#### October Crossword Solution



# Friends for Life

## Middleburg Humane Foundation

**Rae-** 14 year old, 13 H Chestnut QH cross pony mare. Rae is a wonderful pony although, she has not been worked with for the past two years and needs an experienced rider to reschool her! She is a beautiful mover and 100% sound. Rae would make a terrific juniors pony.



**Marmy-** A super special young lady! Marmy has a big bubbly personality that goes along with her big bubbly body! She is a Sharpei/ Great Dane cross, about 11 months old. Marmy has started obedience classes and is doing beautifully! Marmy

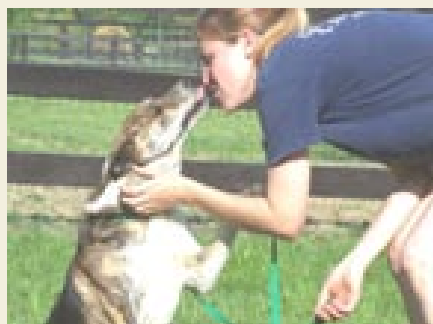
needs a lot of room to play and run, she would make a fun family friend.

**Leone-** 14 year old, 16H TB Chestnut mare. Leone has never been ridden but she is very personable and is truly



**Sydney-** 2 year old Lab/ Rottweiler mix. "Beauty is only skin deep". I am looking for that special person who recognizes that truth! I used my head to protect my puppies when someone threw a caustic material at us. I'm best friends with all of the animals here at the shelter and I

love the kids that visit too! If you're looking for devotion and unconditional love, I'm your man!



**Nikko-** Please please please give me a chance! I came here last October so that means I have been trying to find my own family for a whole year now. I don't understand why no one wants me. I am best friends with all of the dogs, in fact, I help out here by making friends with every new dog that comes in. I give gentle kisses, love to shake hands and I walk very nicely on a leash. Please give me a chance!



**"Chelsea"**- Chelsea has a long sad story. Fortunately she is now with us and we will be sure to find her a wonderful new home. Chelsea is a 4 year old Shepherd mix. She is extremely quiet, gentle and loyal. She would make a wonderful companion for a retired person.



**"Becky"**- 14 week old kitten who lost her hind leg due to an injury. But- it hasn't slowed her down a bit! Becky is very people oriented: she purrs and follows you everywhere! Becky needs a home where she can be kept strictly indoors until the spring then gradually allowed outdoors-supervised.



aged Husky mix who truly deserves a second chance.

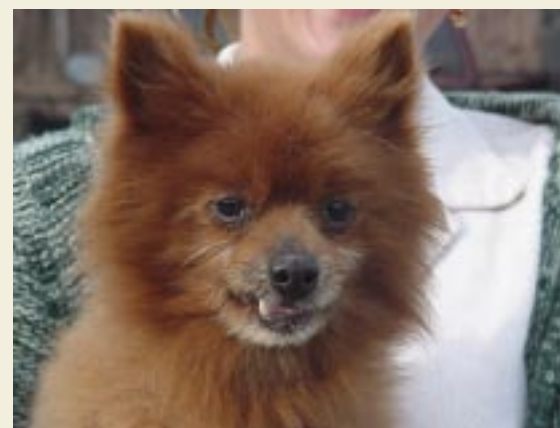
### Here kitty kitty!

Boy do we have gorgeous kittens! We have a group of absolutely gorgeous Himalayan mix kittens that are now 8 weeks old as well as some cutie pie litters and individual orphan babies. Everyone is AIDS/ Leukemia negative, have started their vaccines and de-wormings. The spay/ neuters are included in our \$80 adoption donation. Ask about our "Buddy Program" that helps keep friends together!



### Lisa & Lu Lu

Gorgeous purebred 8 month old Foxhound sisters. Lisa & Lu Lu were found wandering down a country road, their owner was never found. These 2 girls are very gentle hounds that would do best on a large farm or in homes with fenced yards. They interact well with all other dogs and have recently started obedience training.



### Bear

Poor little Bear. Bear has lived his entire life in a large breeding kennel. He is 13 years old, 8 pounds, and has several medical issues. But he is an absolute doll and we have fallen madly in love with this little guy. He is very gentle and loves to be cuddled in your lap. He has a guardian angel family who has offered to help with his dental and medical expenses so we will pursue his neuter and dental soon! Bear truly deserves a place where he can live out his life in a gentle, loving home.



### Vinnie

Vinnie was rescued from a slaughter sale last week. His paperwork shows that he was at the New Holland PA. sale recently and the dealer who brought him to the sale said that he had bought him from an Amish family. Two little

*Contributions to Middleburg Humane Foundation are tax deductible.*

MHF

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## Albert's Corner

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



**W**ow. I thought I was a smart. But I've been upstaged by a pigeon! It wasn't just any old bird, mind you. It was a homing pigeon, which is a specially trained animal from a deep lineage of skilled athletes. These birds fly up to 600 miles from unfamiliar locations to race back to their lofts and mates.

No one really knows how they find their way home, but they usually do. Some people think the pigeons rely on magnetic or astronomical navigation. Others claim smell or hearing. Still others point to psychic senses. Homing pigeons have earned a place in history by performing such feats as delivering life-saving messages in World War II and shuttling mail when Paris was under siege.

When homing pigeons fail to return home, it is usually because storms have driven them off course. That was most likely the case with a recent visitor to Middleburg -- a homing pigeon named Percy.

Percy arrived in Middleburg just after the recent hurricanes. He

was very weak, hungry and thirsty. Intelligent bird that he was, however, he flew straight to our pet supply shop, walked through the open door, and towards the counter. Bands around his legs were an immediate clue that he was no ordinary pigeon.

With the help of Middleburg Animal Hospital, the Middleburg Humane Foundation, [www.ifpigeon.com](http://www.ifpigeon.com), and area resident Barbara Riddleberger, my people were able to understand what they needed to do. Percy stayed in the shop for a few days in a kennel, with plenty of food and water. When he was strong enough, he flew away several times only to return many hours later. The last time we saw Percy, he had befriended a wild pigeon whom he had brought back to our shop to share a meal (really).

Because of the bands Percy was wearing, it was possible to use the internet to track his home address -- which turned out to be in Massachusetts!

If you ever find a lost homing pigeon, remember:

- Homing pigeons do not know how to find food in the wild
- Pigeons who are off course need rest, water, and bird seed or corn
- Lost birds require a cage for temporary shelter
- Pigeons do not bite, so do not be afraid to handle a pigeon
- Do not expect to keep the pigeon as a pet -- he wants to go home!

I just had to write about Percy, since his story is pretty interesting. Apparently, lost pigeons are not entirely uncommon, so look for telltale bands around a pigeon's legs. You just might spot a domestic bird in need. That said, as much as I was fascinated by Percy, I'm quite glad he's gone. He was getting way too much attention and taking the spotlight off of me! ✨

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

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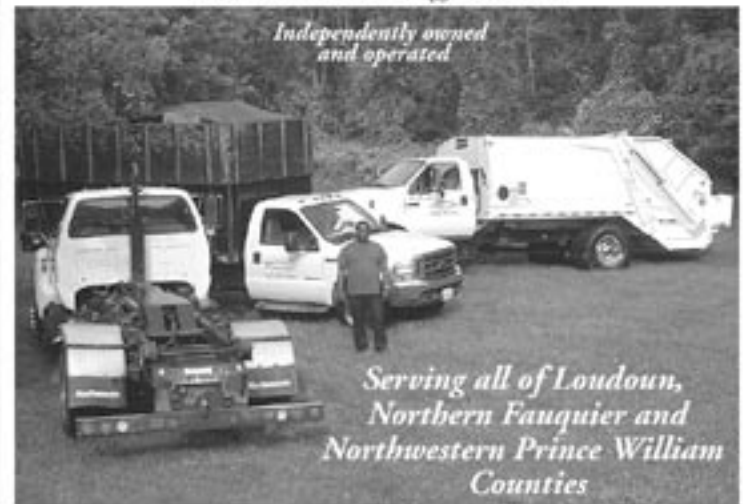
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# All Work for Our Pleasure

## Building a Business on Trust

Steven Schwartz



The new retail businesses in town can look downhill for guidance on how to be successful in Middleburg. Middleburg Millwork has been a trusted provider to the community since founders David Ball and Dan Burner began making custom cabinets way back in 1969. At the request of local builders and homeowners they added building materials and, for the past 35 years, have supplied lumber for thousands of projects. A few years ago David's son Bob took over the family business.

"I've been here since I was old enough to walk, and since I took over the business, we've added a lot of new products," says Bob. "Many people don't know we carry a full line of hardware, tools, paint, and fasteners. As a matter of fact, our hardware supplier is the second largest hardware company in the country - so, whatever we don't have we can special order. People also think they have to go to a big home supply to get good prices, but we work hard to make sure our materials are affordable."

The company's main areas of business are building supplies, the millwork shop, and custom-designed kitchens. "As a local supplier, we offer convenience to contractors and homeowners with our good parking, free delivery, and we encourage people to come by to pick up our free wood shavings (for animal bedding) and kindling.

Bob and his friendly staff, both outside in the yard and in the office, are ready to

help you find the right materials for your projects. Mary Jane Furman, Vice President, started out as a bookkeeper and has helped grow the business since 1985. Cindy Wines knows where every



screw and nail is located, and the guys in the shop can make absolutely anything you need. One customer recently asked the Millwork to custom-make her new windows, not trusting the quality of those made in a factory.

On Saturday mornings it's a weekly ritual - scores of local customers (weekend warriors) first hit the coffee shop, and then head down to Middleburg Millwork to get supplies for their weekend projects.

The store's best selling product gives a clue to how special the Middleburg area really is. "We sell more oak fence boards than any other product," says Bob. "We are proud to be part of this beautiful community, and to have so many great customers." ❄

**Middleburg Millwork Inc**  
**(540) 687-6318**  
**106 S Madison St**  
**Middleburg, VA 20117**

**Monday - Friday 7:00 - 4:30**  
**Saturday 7:00 - 12:00**





## Adventure in Shopping

Steven Schwartz

Here's a quick quiz about the history of retail in Middleburg. Which of the town's stores, 1) is the oldest, 2) stocks over a million products? And 3) fill in the blank - "Kids, if you don't behave, we won't go to the \_\_\_\_\_!"

There is only one store where, since 1956, parents have taken their children for clothing and toys, bought presents and greeting cards, and furnished their homes - that store is the one and only Fun Shop. It all began when Nancy Allen started a children's toy shop and moved into a building with her husband Howard's photography business. Today, the store fills two floors in three buildings. "I've been pushed up to the third floor," Howard laughs.

Nancy's daughters Betsy Davis and Page Allen run the shop with a great team of employees, most have been with the company for many years. Recently celebrating her twenty



fifth year with the store, Terry Bell recalls a man who came in with his children. "I recognized him-as someone who, many years ago, had a full blown tantrum - he was lying on the floor kicking and screaming! I reminded him of the incident and we all had a good laugh. It's so wonderful to see the children of our customers come in."

This family-owned business has four generations in the store today. Nancy's great-granddaughter Emma is held by granddaughter Liza. Reflecting on her long and successful career, Nancy says, "I like people so much...I love helping them find what they are looking for." She and her daughters have created a one-of-a-kind shop that has served the community for over 48 years. "There is a myth that Middleburg stores are expensive. Very often people pick up one of our items and say, 'I just bought this same thing at a mall and I paid a lot more for it.' We work very hard to carry products that offer good quality at an affordable price."

Whether a reward for children's good behavior, or the place to stop for a special gift, "The Macy's of Middleburg" has to be experienced to be believed. Nancy laughs when she recalls what one customer was inspired to say about her store - "If the Fun Shop doesn't have it, you don't need it!" ❄

**The Fun Shop**  
117 West Washington Street  
(next to the Post Office)  
Middleburg, VA 02177  
540-687-6590

**Monday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00**  
**(Fridays after Thanksgiving**  
**open until 9:00)**  
**Sunday - 1:00 - 5:00**



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# PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

## BOLINVAR



Beautiful 327 acre estate with an exceptional stone manor house in Middleburg Hunt Territory • Superior renovation blending characteristics of old Virginia Houses with today's luxuries and conveniences • 6 bedrooms • 6.5 baths • 11 fireplaces • Pool • Stone 11 stall barn with apartment • 3 Bedroom Guest House • 22 Stall Barn • Tenant house • Pond **Price upon request.**

## ROCK HEDGE



Gently rolling 184 acre farm with views of the Blue Ridge Mtns • Circa 1810 field-stone house • 5 BR, 3.5 BA • Charming details consistent with those of era; old pine floors, fireplaces • Mature plantings • Stonewall enclosed gardens • Guest house • Tenant house • Garage with apartment • Bank Barn • Pasture with meandering stream • Piedmont Hunt Territory **\$3,600,000**

## DELAPLANE MANOR



Extraordinary brick manor on 76 beautifully landscaped acres • High ceilings • Gorgeous millwork • Stone & hardwood floors • Historic residence w/updated kitchen & BA's • Approx 12,000 sf of living space • Library • Sunrooms • Office • 7+ BR's • Formal living & dining rooms • Pool • Spa • Brick terraces • Pond • Stream • Tenant house **\$3,600,000**

## FARM AT LITTLE RIVER



Two story custom fieldstone home with views of the Bull Run mountains • 50 Acres in The Plains • Spacious, elegant, yet cozy • 5 bedrooms, 3.5 Baths • Exposed beam ceilings in great room • Open foyer • Main floor master suite includes private porch, paneled office, stone fireplace • 7 stall barn with 2 BR apartment • High end details, design and amenities **\$2,500,000**

## LAND

406 +/- Acres - Aldie Dam Road  
**\$12,000. Per Acre**

32 +/- Acres - Poor House Lane  
**\$1,000,000**

50 +/- Acres - Delaplane  
**\$595,000**

18 +/- Acres - Blantyre Road  
**\$400,000.**

## LEITRIM



Exquisite Georgian Colonial • Custom built in 1998 with extraordinary design • Approx 7000 sf of living space with high ceilings, gleaming wood floors and gorgeous millwork • 4 Fireplaces • Fabulous gourmet kitchen • Banquet sized dining room • Sun-filled Great Room • Wine cellar • Ideal for gracious entertaining • 17 +/- acres **\$2,390,000**

## ROBERT'S RETREAT



174 + Mostly wooded acres in Harris Hollow • Improved by a modern brick home overlooking pond • Old apple packing shed • Shop • Second dwelling high on the mountain • Numerous other buildings • Mountain stream • Several small ponds • Dramatic mountain views • Near Washington, Va in Rappahannock Co. **\$1,895,000**

## GLENLOUGH



Immaculate stone & cedar home by Thomas Beach on almost 70 acres in Warrenton Hunt Territory • Winding, oak-lined drive • Superior quality & detail • Bright rooms, oakwood floors, high ceilings & French doors • 4 BR, Master suite on main level • 2 Fireplaces, attached garage & mudroom • Spacious porch with lake & forest views • Conv. & charm **\$1,585,000**

## STONE OAKS



Custom built all brick residence • 14 +/- acres in Piedmont Hunt territory just outside the village of Upperville • Master suite with sitting room • Three additional bedrooms • Formal living and dining room • Family room • Sun room • 2 car-garage • Deck • Separate brick building for an office/studio • Towering trees, stone walls **\$1,300,000**

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

- \* Donna Baker
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