



COUNTYWIDE HEALTH CARE APPROVED

CITIZENS TURN OUT IN FORCE TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS

JENNIFER HEYNS

AFTER A YEAR OF MEETINGS, revisions and public hearings, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved (7-1) the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) known as the Countywide Health Care Facilities Plan on March 8.

Prior to taking their vote, the BOS hosted the fifth public hearing regarding CPAM 2004-0017. Due to the overwhelming need for more accessible health care services in western Loudoun County, attendance at the hearing was tremendous. In fact, public interest ran so high that occupancy in the room actually became a fire hazard concern.

Included in the throng of healthcare-conscious citizens were Middleburg resident Lisa Patterson and Town Council member Eura Lewis.

Patterson read her prepared recommendation CPAM approval, citing concerns about having adequate healthcare close by for her infant daughter, Remy.

"I can tell you as a resident of Middleburg for 25 years, the distance to healthcare facilities may still be the same as the crow flies," said Patterson, "but the time to reach these facilities has increased dramatically and will continue to do so until new facilities are built."

Lewis addressed the Board to encourage them to affirm the CPAM. She provided them with support in the form of the Middleburg Town Council's May 2004 resolution to bring

better health care to the citizens of Loudoun County.

"When and how health care facilities should be laid out in the county was missing from the plan," said Jim Burton, Blue Ridge District Supervisor. "We already plan where schools should go, where fire departments should go and where parks and recreation should go, it's only right that we include in the plan where health care facilities should go."

The needs assessment study, conducted by Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSANV), clearly stated that the proposed Broadlands Hospital was not what the county needed and that it may, in fact, be detrimental to residents by increasing medical costs through competition with its Lansdowne counterpart.

Loudoun Healthcare President and CEO Rod Huebbers speculated that this might be why the CPAM was not approved in its previous Board of Supervisors vote.

"Supervisor Scott York is in favor of the Broadlands project," said Huebbers, "and we just don't see eye-to-eye."

York, BOS Chairman at Large, confirmed that he was the dissenting vote on the Facilities Plan, citing hospital site specificity as his reason for opposing.

"I voted against the proposal because they made it site-specific," said York. "The Planning Commission did a

Continued Page 6

THE ENVELOPE PLEASE...

TOURISM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

JENNIFER HEYNS

Leo Scherer, Washington Airport Task Force and The Waterford Foundation took the top Tourism Awards as Winner of The Judy Patterson Tourism Awards for 2003 and 2004.

The Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association compiled their list of 2003-2004 Tourism Award nominees and planned to announce the winners in five categories at their 9th Annual Meeting on February 24th but snow and inclement weather forced the Association to postpone announcement of the winners until March 14th.

Nominations were accepted through January 7 and the LCVA made every effort to seek out individuals, businesses, organizations and events that helped promote tourism in Loudoun County.

"There was also an outreach effort made by the LCVA Annual Meeting and Awards Committee to contact organizations and encourage them to enter their tourism initiatives or those of someone with whom they work," said Cheryl Kilday, LCVA President and CEO.

Continued Page 6

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PAGE 4

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MIDDLEBURG & ENVIRONS

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THINGS TO DO

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PROJECT HOPE HONORS LOCAL DONORS



MEGAN HUBBARD

Doctors, nurses and major donors were recognized by Project Hope Sunday, March 6 at a luncheon hosted by President and CEO John P. Howe III, M.D. The event took place at Millwood, Project Hope's historic headquarters.

The doctors and nurses were recognized for volunteering their time on the USNS Mercy in the wake of the recent tsunami disaster in South Asia. Major donors who were recognized included Middleburg's Project Helping Hands committee, whose energies and generosity to Project Hope made it possible for several medical professionals from our area to volunteer their time on the USNS Mercy.

Founded in 1958 by William Walsh, M.D., Project Hope now provides medi-

cal training and health care education programs on five continents. Health Opportunities for People Everywhere (HOPE) focuses its work on its mission, which is to provide health education and humanitarian aid.

In early January, seven nurses from the Winchester Medical Center were sent to Baltimore, MD to the USNS Comfort, the USNS Mercy's sister ship to take part in two days of training in preparation for their journey to Banda Aceh, Indonesia and their duties on the USNS Mercy. From there they were sent to Singapore and then on to the USNS Mercy off the coast of Indonesia.

The USNS Mercy is one of the seven largest hospitals in the world. It boasts 1000 beds and 12 operating rooms. For this mission it held a staff of 500 from 22 states and 21 hospitals, 93 of which were volunteer doctors and

nurses from our area working 12 hour shifts on 30 day rotations of duty.

With a helicopter as their main mode of transportation to and from the ship, they set up a screening area at the University Hospital in Banda Aceh. The hospital had also been ravaged by the tsunami- at one point sitting in four feet of water and two feet of mud.

Throughout their tour of duty, the doctors and nurses were gratified by the graciousness and warmth of the Indonesian people. Asked how she felt about the experience, one nurse described it as "life changing."

As the relief effort continues, assistance will focus on more than just emergency aid, to ensure that rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts are well supported.

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NEWS OF NOTE

TOWN COUNCIL BURNS MIDNIGHT OIL OVER SALAMANDER INN

JENNIFER HEYNS

Although the Middleburg Town Council has been meeting on a nearly weekly basis, they are still not ready to respond to the request made by Salamander Development LLC for water and wastewater service.

The Town's five primary committees presented their recommendation reports, which Mayor C.M. "Tim" Dimos termed "wish lists", on the Salamander request to the public at a special meeting on February 24.

Public Works called for Salamander to donate their wells to the Town for operating purposes, pay all costs associated with providing water and wastewater service and "other costs which the Town might incur". The Town would provide a pump and line to transport water and be responsible for a water storage facility on Salamander property.

Council Member Mark Snyder added that Salamander must also donate the land that the water tower would be situated on and disagreed with the Mayor, stating that these were minimum requirements, not wishes.

The Land Use Committee's 13-point recommendation included that Salamander transfer easements on their property to conservation easements, reduce developable land within Town to 5-10 acres, agree to an architectural concept plan review by the Historic District Review Committee and prohibit private aircraft transit to and from the spa.

The Finance and Personnel Committee report included recommendations that Salamander pay for taxes on real estate and personal property, a business license and meal and occupancy taxes at rates already established by the Town. They also contend that Salamander should pay the Town water and wastewater user fees, \$5 mil-

lion for implementing those services, additional sums "to finance other costs which the Town might incur", and money for legal costs incurred by the Town for the purpose of a boundary line adjustment or annexation.

Town Administrator Mike Casey explained that if Salamander pays to Middleburg sums laid out in their report, the Town stands to gain sizable income from the operation of Salamander's Inn, spa and restaurant.

The Public Safety Committee report stipulates that Salamander must agree to assess through-traffic to their site and share the costs of implementing necessary safety controls and must address additional parking needs imposed on the Town.

The Economic Development Committee report defined that Salamander should "design, develop and landscape a public parking lot at the north end of Pendleton Street", provide a pedestrian trail through Salamander property "linking the Inn and the Town's commercial district, and to provide resources to "establish an independent Main Street Middleburg program".

Dimos instructed the Council to compile the reports into an authoritative set of instructions that could be discussed with Salamander.

When asked if they would prefer to do so in closed session, the Council agreed and set a special meeting to take place on March 3 for that purpose.

By the time that the Town Council reconvened on March 3, the Virginia Supreme Court had effectively negated Loudoun County's low-growth zoning laws. (See sidebar: "Virginia Supreme Court Opens Door to Developers")

"Everything has changed," said Mayor Dimos.

Town Attorney Liz Whiting explained that the Court had in-

validated the mapping of some of the county's rural zoning designations. Whiting reported that there were no longer any AR-1 or AR-2 properties in the county.

Mayor Dimos pointed out that the Salamander property, as a result of the ruling, is now A-3, which means that Dr. Sheila Johnson "has many more options now than before" and wondered aloud if Johnson would now sell her property to developers to "build a slew of McMansions".

The question came about as to whether Johnson was vested and if her intentions had changed. In a

timesaving effort, Whiting agreed to ask Salamander their intentions and report back at the regular Council meeting on March 10.

Whiting reported back that Johnson intends to move forward with her Inn and still awaits Council's decision. This knowledge sparked hope in some of the residents present.

Town residents, Tom Patterson, Sonny Underwood and Reggie Dawson each encouraged the Council to move forward with its plans for negotiating with Salamander.

Whiting reiterated, at the

Mayor's request, the Supreme Court ruling and how it affects Middleburg. Dimos noted that three County Supervisors introduced a plan to the Board to re-advertise to validate the AR-1 and AR-2 zoning. In an effort to encourage the Board to adopt that plan, Council made a resolution urging "the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to take all steps necessary to address the issues raised in the Supreme Court decision and reenact the AR-1 and AR-2 zoning districts as soon as possible."

Continued Page 5

VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT OPENS DOOR TO DEVELOPERS

IN A UNANIMOUS DECISION ON MARCH 3, the Virginia Supreme Court overturned a Loudoun County Circuit Court decision and opened the door to development in previously zoned rural districts.

The Loudoun County Circuit Court, in the Gas Mart Corporation, et al. v. Board of County Supervisors of Loudoun County, et al, zoned properties in AR-1 and AR-2, a rural designation. Now, those properties are vulnerable to wider development.

In January 2003, the previous Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, asked the Virginia Supreme Court to shield the region from rampant development. The court "enacted comprehensive amendments to the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map (ZOA)." The Court's finding was written by Senior Justice Roscoe B. Stephenson, Jr. and was known as the Conservation Design Policy.

The amendments heavily restricted development in the AR-1, AR-2, JLMA and Transitional Residential zoning districts.

Within one month of this decision more than 200 lawsuits had been filed against the county challenging the ZOA.

"These districts," read Stephenson's opinion, "encompass approximately two-thirds of the area of the County. The notices state that 'most of' the existing A-3, A-10, and CR properties 'in the western portion of the County' would be re-designated to either AR-1 or AR-2 zoning districts."

The recent decision by the Virginia Supreme Court upheld most of Circuit Judge Thomas D. Horne's ruling, but overturned his decision based on two aspects of the case.

The Court found that Notices supplied to the public by the Board of Supervisors failed to satisfy the "descriptive summary" requirement of Code §15.2-2204(A), and public hearing notices posted by the Board failed to state specific geographical "boundaries or landmarks that would have allowed the public to ascertain the areas that would be affected by these amendments."

The Court's ruling means that areas re-designated into the AR-1 and AR-2 districts in the "Conservation Design Policies" adopted by Loudoun County in January 2003 are now remanded back to their original zoning category.

PEPPER DESIGNS FOR SUCCESS AT FASHION WEEK



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NO AMOUNT OF FAME could make Wendy Pepper leave home for success.

When her 'Thrill of the Hunt' collection started down the runway at Fashion Week, it was immediately clear that of the three Project Runway finalists, only Pepper understood and could design for the most critical customer

and market: the upper demographic woman who wants her wardrobe to express her personal style not compete with it, and has the bank account and civility to indulge in fashion as an asset.

Pepper's collection was all luscious, autumnal Hunt Country textures and colors shaped to cosset and create a context for the woman who demands the very best independent style. Her equestrian

cut orange pantsuit drew cheers from the audience; the shimmered brown silk jersey off-the-shoulder blouse and short leather shirt had even Jay's fans on their feet; and Ivanka Trump nodded in appreciation with the boys from 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy' when the impeccably tailored gossamer tulle, shirt strolled past.

Every piece gestured to tradition and soared into the future of

a highly articulate and confident woman's life. These were not clothes for the junior set, nor were they appropriate for either slaves to or victims of fashion.

That's why Wendy was not the final winner on Project Runway. Her Fashion Week Collection was designed for her clientele, the women she admires, respects and who fascinate her. Not for the bitchy hangers on whose under-

standing of the fashion business is slim at best,

In two weeks, those women and the thousands who have emailed her following the conclusion of Project Runway, will find Wendy and her beautiful collections in her new shop at the corner of South Pendleton Street and Federal in Middleburg, Virginia.

TOWN COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The resolution was passed unanimously.

In other business; the Marshall Bank was approved to occupy space vacated by Akre Capital, Middleburg and Potomac Schools were recognized by the Virginia Department of Education for high levels of achievement and Eura Lewis described her experience at the Board of Supervisors public hearing on the Countywide Health Care Facilities Plan.

"The stars were baby Patterson and her mother," said Lewis of Lisa Patterson's presentation to the Board of why Middleburg needs more healthcare facilities. Lewis also addressed the Board to read a May 2004 Council resolution that mirrored the Facilities Plan.

Mayor Dimos noted that the National Historic Trust Site Directors gathered in Loudoun County and dined at the Red Fox Inn.

"It was a great compliment that they chose Middleburg," said

UPPERVILLE POSTMASTER RETIRES

The Upperville Community League Board invites you to a community party on Saturday, March 26 at 1 p.m. in honor of retiring Upperville Postmaster Marge Denham.

For 12 years Marge has not only dispensed the mail to Uppervillians, but has been central to those who gather at the post

office to get the village news. "If you wanted to know what was going on, you just asked Marge," she says. "My customers are my friends. I hate leaving them."

Everyone is welcome at this community gathering to say goodbye to Marge. Refreshments will be served.

Before coming to Upperville, Marge was the postmaster in Flint

Hill, Virginia, and she has enjoyed small town postal life. "Leaving Upperville is tearing me apart," she says. "My customers are my friends. I hate leaving them."

Everyone is welcome at this community gathering to say goodbye to Marge. Refreshments will be served.

ALICE DUNIVAN LLOYD

Alice Dunivan Lloyd, 72 of Front Royal died Saturday, February 19, 2005 at Heritage Hall.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, February 23rd at Maddox Funeral Home in Front Royal. Internment followed in Middleburg Cemetery.

Mrs. Lloyd was born Sept. 25, 1932 in Charlottesville, daughter of the late Jake C. and Victoria

Shifflett Dunivan. She was the owner of the Hamburger Hut in Middleburg for many years. She was married to the late Wilmer Lloyd.

Surviving are a daughter, Arlean L Keyser of Front Royal and her husband Bill; two sisters Annie Ganette Glascock of Winchester and Louisa Foley of Bell Flower, CA; and one grandson

Bryan Lloyd Keyser.

Pallbearers are Norman Dunivan, Bob Dunivan, Jack Dawson, Jack Soaper, Ricky Glascock and David Dunivan.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Middleburg Humane Foundation, P.O. Box 1288, Middleburg, VA 20118 or to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 Cork St., Winchester, VA 228

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NEWS OF NOTE

THE ENVELOPE PLEASE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MARY VITALE, OUTGOING LCVA BOARD MEMBER

HEALTH CARE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

great job, but when the plan came back they added a site in the Route 50 corridor.”

York proposed including a site in the center of the Greenway, where, he said, the population has already severely increased and continues to grow. His plan was rejected, but York still favors having a new hospital closer to Dulles as opposed to one along the Route 50 corridor, where, he said, it could take up to 12 years before population growth in that area justifies a hospital.

The study did, however, state that a hospital in the Dulles South area would be of great benefit as it “would produce travel time reductions of about 10 minutes for Loudoun residents along the Route 50 corridor, including persons in Middleburg who are about 35 minutes from a hospital.”

CPAM 2004-0017, which can be viewed at www.loudoun.gov/compplan/healthcare.htm, was finalized on February 28 and includes a 16-policy plan and plan incentives.

“I think it’s a great plan,” said Huebbers. “It puts a wonderful plan in place that has a good geographical balance.”

LHI is currently working to add four new healthcare facilities in Loudoun County, to be operational by the summer of 2006. The new facilities include a health clinic located in Middleburg, as well as a 20,000 square-foot facility in Purcellville, another in Lovettesville and a mobile clinic at Dulles International Airport.

“This plan calls for greater



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER, EURA LEWIS, ADDRESSES THE LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

access to such facilities in western Loudoun County,” said Burton, “it’s been something that was sorely needed for years.”

The facilities planned by LHI have already found funding through the organization’s merger with Inova Health System. The merger agreement included Inova’s pledge of \$200 million to be used for Loudoun Hospital upgrades, four new facilities, and construction of an urgent care center south of Dulles on Route 50, to be converted into a full-service hospital in the future.

Although the approval of the CPAM doesn’t change Huebbers’ plans, he stills sees the vote as a win for Loudoun County.

“It validates the plan that we set up a year ago,” said Huebbers, “and it may even accelerate things a little bit. We’re really moving forward, and fairly quickly, to bring proper health care into the Route 50 corridor.”

According to the LCVA official web site, “The LCVA Tourism Awards Program showcases the work, service, creativity and contributions of individuals and organizations as it relates to tourism promotion. It acknowledges key individuals and programs that deserve recognition and thanks for their valuable contribution and success.”

Nominations were divided into five categories: volunteer of

the year, employee of the year, event of the year, tourism promotion/campaign of the year and the Judy Patterson Tourism Award.

For the most part, the first four categories are self-explanatory and are designed to recognize the people, events and programs that made a positive difference in the tourism industry in Loudoun County in the previous year. The fifth award, however, is considered to be the most prestigious one given by the

LCVA. It is named after a founding member of the LCVA – “a creative, innovative, tourism professional with a passion for Loudoun County, its towns, historic sites, and tourism opportunities,” according to the LCVA web page.

The criteria for this award includes making a significant economic impact on the tourism industry, multiple years of contributing to the benefit of the tourism

Continued Page 19

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OUR EARTH

NURSERY ZEN

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

HERE IS SIMPLY NO better time to visit a nursery than in early spring. Before all the hoopla of April, while there is still a chill in the air and perennials are just beginning to emerge, the thousands of white labels speak volumes to a gardener with any knowledge and a little imagination. The slow walk through the hundreds of pots and labels often motivates the visitor to prod the soil in search of growing tips that clearly isolate the fullest, most hopeful specimen. There is always one that's just bigger and better than the rest and today it may be spirited out of its pot and placed in a new home. This is quiet time, no need for assistance, the mind is intent on the job at hand as there are so many labels and so much to imagine. Time is unimportant, most things are

unimportant because the spirit of the visit is to just enjoy the moment.

On occasion the fingers get cold and the wind seems raw, there is always the greenhouse to visit and get warm. At this time of year the greenhouse is filled with green, it's an intense study in the many shades and forms of green. It spills from hanging baskets, covers flats as they sit on the floor and billow from pots on benches. All of this a reaction to the wonderful environment of a greenhouse. The air is full of humidity and easy to breathe, full of the rich odor of water meeting fresh soil. No need to speak, no desire to be spoken to...the feeling and touching of lush greenness is so powerful in early March. On occasion a flower rises out of dense mats of green and its quality is indescribable. Those first flowers of spring are al-



ways so magical. A stark contrast to the sleeping plant world outside. Its ninety degrees with the sun and it quickly heats up the multiple layers of clothes. The first thing to go is the hat,

the hat has to go! Then the coat and then the sweat shirt... ah-hhhh! Labels to read, so much to imagine.

It's called nursery Zen and students of this seasonal experience know that it requires no

timetable and comes with no pressure. Like all good things it leaves you feeling relaxed, fulfilled. What a simple pleasure.



MADISON STREET BEAUTIFICATION



BONNIE DEAHL

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS YOU may have noticed some changes along Madison Street in downtown Middleburg. At one time a stately American elm growing in front of the police station once shaded the entire southern half of the street. Now gone, this end of the street has a changed character and a new face lift. Thanks to the combined efforts of Middleburg Beautification and Middleburg Treescape committees and Cornerstone Landscaping the planting of 3 new trees has finally been completed in the past 2 weeks.

Two 'Winter King' hawthorns have been planted in front of Tom Hayes' place at the corner of Madison and Federal Streets and another hawthorn was planted directly across the street. The addition of a crape myrtle has also been added to this planting. The three hawthorns provided by the committees were grown at the Dornin Science Center tree nursery at the Hill school and were dug earlier this month. The hawthorns will provide several seasons of interest by providing flowering in spring and colorful red fruit in the fall. The crape myrtle will lend a summer flowering event that serves to entice passersby to this part of Madison Avenue.

On the opposite side of Madison near Main Street have been extensive sidewalk repairs. The

willow oak trees at this end of the street are growing ever larger each year. Their presence on both sides of the street now provides a much desired shade canopy on the north end of the street. There is a plan by the Beautification Committee to uncover the root system in efforts to allow the trees' root flares to have more space and to correct any soil depth issues. A planned treatment aimed at slowing down the rate of growth of these trees will buy them time in their current location and help them to manage these adverse street conditions. This treatment will also lengthen the pruning cycle of these trees.

An additional planting in front of the Safeway includes a white blooming Fringe tree. This planting will be completed by the planting of a ginkgo which will be planted sometime this spring by Greenworks Nursery. Watch for the fringe tree to come into bloom sometime in May. A lovely Virginia native, Fringe tree botanically known as Chionanthus virginicus shows a lovely drooping, white fringe-like blossom in late spring. Next issue will celebrate spring blooming trees around Middleburg.

Bonnie Deahl is a Certified Arborist with The Care of Trees. www.thecareoftrees.com Dulles 703.661.1700 and Piedmont 540.687.6800

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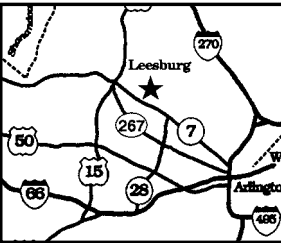


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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Tax revenues from Middleburg’s 300 licensed businesses provide well over 60% of the Town’s revenue.

As the county grows, the pressure on Middleburg’s infrastructure will grow proportionately, even if the town itself does not choose to expand beyond it’s current geographical limits.

For the town to meet the needs of its citizens, and still maintain it’s special character, it’s businesses must either prosper, or be replaced by other businesses that generate revenue within the special context and ambience of the town

The Middleburg Town Council should allocate resources to promote “economic development” in Middleburg, in that special context: promoting tourism and traffic for Middleburg’s businesses, and attracting new businesses, in ways that enhance and preserve the special character of the town. It’s sad, but true, ad hoc simply won’t work anymore.

Editors note: There is a weekly meeting at the Purcellville Town Hall on Wednesdays to discuss the topic of Western Loudoun seceding from Eastern Loudoun at 7pm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I was very disappointed in the article on the last Town Council meeting written by Jennifer Heyns. The entire article was very misleading and erroneous. And unfortunately several people whom I approached about attending this Thursday’s meeting said “the paper said the meetings are closed” and they weren’t planning on attending.

All Council meetings on Salamander will be held in open session until the meeting where we finalize our negotiation position – that was the Council’s unanimous vote. Our discussions, as always, are a matter of public record and open to the public.

The Committees have been meeting regularly to work on our reports. Anyone attending those meetings has heard Council members’ opinions, questions, concerns, and thoughts. They’ve seen us wrestling with water and wastewater questions, personnel concerns, land use concerns, among others. Members of the public in attendance have chimed in their ideas.

As far as the comment, “due to lack of reports from 80% of the Committees assigned to prepare them, the Council had no choice but to agree to hold another meeting,” that is pure garbage”. The Council had always planned on having another meeting once the reports were finished and all members of Council, the town staff, and the Mayor were well aware of when the Committees were meeting, how the reports were proceeding, and when we would have them finished. In the last week alone, I attended 3 meetings and talked to several Council members and citizens by phone and in person. Some Council members and town staff attended more meetings than that. As you are well aware, we have been talking over issues related to Salamander for several months.

I have worked with media from all over the world for over 25 years and never have I encountered a reporter who got the story more wrong. Unfortunately many people who read the “Eccentric” will not show up on Thursday. Your paper does a good job in informing the citizens about what is going on in town, but this article was way off the mark. Many people believe what they read in the newspaper, so I strongly recommend that Ms. Heyns make a point to check her facts. She is welcome to call me at any time. What “the Eccentric” does for the town is important, but it’s even more important that it be accurate.

Most sincerely,
Darlene Kirk
Middleburg Town Council

To the Editor:

I just saw a play Saturday night entitled “The Wrestling Season” performed in Sterling by the Trumpet Vine Theatre Company. This wonderful production written by Laurie Brooks addressed an important and problematic issue in our society- making schools safe for children. I don’t mean just metal detectors and outlawing nail scissors, I mean addressing the serious issues of bullying, violence, alienation, and sexual orientation.

The recent controversy surrounding Stonebridge High School’s production of a student one-act play about homosexuality is a case in point. While the playwright addressed students bullying each other, she did not foresee the bullying by the conservative community afraid of her views. If students don’t feel like they have a safe voice with which to express themselves, and explore their own attitudes and opinions, how can we guarantee that we are sending intelligent, reasoned people out into our democracy? Like it or not, kids are exploring their sexual selves in high school, and without an honest discourse about the bullying and violence surrounding these issues, how can students hope to make any sense of it? The virulence of the outcry against one student’s expression of herself is an indication that our society is becoming less tolerant of individual freedom.

Just a few short years ago, in 1995, I graduated from Loudoun County High School. In my senior year, I wrote, directed and produced a one-act play with much the same message as this Stonebridge student’s play. It dealt with a high school girl uncertain of her sexuality and coming to terms with the realization that she might be a lesbian, and of those ramifications in a threatening society. At the time it was written and debuted at Loudoun County High School, 1995, not one parent, not one school board member, not one student, not one member of the community had anything negative to say. There was no uproar. There was no controversy, because there was no reason for one.

My question is this- is this what we want to become, an intolerant, censorial society that refuses to allow individuals’ rights to express themselves and grow?

Sincerely,
Sarah Fulton
Boyce, Virginia

MIDDLEBURG ECCENTRIC WELCOMES AND ENCOURAGES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED AND INCLUDE WRITER'S NAME, ADDRESS AND DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER. PLEASE SUBMIT LETTER VIA EMAIL: EDITOR@MBECC.COM OR P.O. BOX 1768, MIDDLEBURG VA 20118

RANTS & RAVES

RED VS BLUE MARK TATE

THE VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT OVER TURNED LOUDOUN COUNTY’S DOWN ZONING. WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHAT SHOULD THE COUNTY DO?

Last week the Virginia Supreme Court delivered a terrible blow to Loudoun’s efforts to control growth, spending and taxes.

The Court overturned the county’s sweeping down zoning of western Loudoun County on technicalities about notice to landowners. This action could be the most significant action in recent history for Loudoun County.

It means 50,000 more houses in Western Loudoun, at least 100,000 more cars on already over crowded roads, more over crowded classrooms in an already stressed school system and sky rocketing taxes required to provide services to all these new people.

This court decision dramatically changes Loudoun County.

The down zoning was challenged with the purpose of protecting people’s property rights. Now the people in Western Loudoun that paid exorbitant prices for land and houses away from the crowded neighborhoods of Eastern Loudoun are wondering about their property rights. One wonders how you calculate the value of open space and quality of life in the land prices and how much value may have been lost.

The good news is that the Court ruling had nothing to do with the issue of property rights only public notice to landowners. So the Board of Supervisors could re-advertise and reenact the same zoning.

This Board probably will not, but let’s hope they quickly come to a compromise that puts some growth control back in place. Otherwise get ready for more over crowded roads, classrooms and much higher taxes.

DOES WESTERN LOUDOUN HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH EASTERN LOUDOUN ANYMORE?

The two regions look nothing alike. The east demands more services... bigger schools, bigger paved roads and bigger government in general. And says they are willing to pay for it with higher taxes and more bonded debt.

The west wants lower taxes, less debt, gravel roads, small schools, more open space and smaller government in general.

Eastern Loudoun certainly has more things to do: movie theaters, more restaurants, and more entertainment in general. But Eastern Loudoun also has more crime and more traffic.

Western Loudoun still has some farms, open space, a slower lifestyle in general.

The two regions do not seem like the same county, but they are.

Western Loudoun still has small towns where as Eastern Loudoun has large bustling “Town Centers”.

Some people in Western Loudoun are wondering and asking the question “Can Western Loudoun secede from the rest of Loudoun?”

It seems the two have little in common.

But there are some downsides.

Western Loudoun would have to build their own infrastructure: County Court house, County Government building, etc.

Hire new staff to run a new county government and sheriff’s department and Fire and Rescue.

We could put our own zoning in place to reflect what the residents of western Loudoun want. Very expensive undertaking to create your own county, but in this case it may be worth considering.

Loudoun looks a lot like what eastern Loudoun looks like now. In Western Loudoun there is certainly a desire to not become what Eastern Loudoun has become. With the huge population centers in Eastern Loudoun the only way to preserve the quality of life we enjoy in the west may be to secede. Otherwise the future for Western Loudoun will look a lot like Eastern Loudoun does today.

DAN MORROW

What?! Is my good Republican friend suggesting that we shouldn’t WANT 50,000 more houses and 100,000 more cars? I am shocked. SHOCKED! All us tree-hugging squarepants liberals LOVE unfettered growth. Let developers be developers.

The Republican “majority” on the Board of Supervisors has spoken, and they have a dream: new roads flow like water across the county’s farm, forest and parkland; a new house rises on every three acres; and in time, a Sheetz appears in every village; cheek-by-jowl condos line the Blue Ridge like time-shares on the Laguna hills; the air’s so thick you can see it; and the water’s so thick you can pave roads with it. The Rockville Pike comes to Loudoun.

Mark’s on the right side of this one. I’ve been working hard on turning him into a liberal . . . or at the very least, an Independent. Is it working? Watch this space!

Don’t you love it when the party of Lincoln starts talking “secession?”

Once a proponent artillery as a last line of defense against the developers, I now concede the prospect of having troops from Eastern Loudoun oversee the “reconstruction” of the West compels me to a kinder, gentler proposal.

Loudoun East and West are, indeed, different; but we love each other. We “westerners” love our easy access to the jobs and amenities of the east. We “easterners” love “our” Middleburg, and Waterford, and the open fields stretching to the Blue Ridge.

The trick is to find a way to manage inevitable growth and development, in a way that preserves and improves the best of both East and West.

Ridding ourselves of the current Republican majority on the Board of Supervisors would make a good start.

DEAR NATS FANS,

ALEX CUDABACK

It is my great pleasure to welcome you, not just to the wonderment that is the National League East, but also to actual baseball. (The Orioles don’t count; they play in the American League and are owned and operated by the Grinch.)

As a lifelong fan of the game I’d like to offer some valuable insights you will no doubt find excruciatingly helpful.

- 1) The Nats will not be good, not this season.
- 2) Conversely, they will not be bad.
- 3) The distinction, a maddening sort of

Continued Page 13

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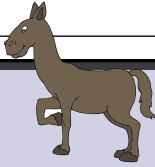
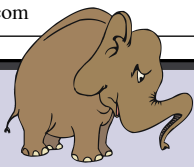
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Phoenix Hill

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. \$2,100,000.



For Rent

Marshall, Virginia

8629 Anderson Ave. All brick home with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and hardwood floors. Great commuter location minutes to I-66. \$1500 a month.



Morven

Markham, Virginia

Morven is a meticulously restored neoclassical house, stucco over stone begun in 1819. A two-story addition includes a kitchen with fireplace and seating area. Situated on 85 acres of open pasture and paddocks in 4 parcels. Improvements include 4-stall barn with heated tack room, laundry, and wash stall. The original brick kitchen has been turned into a comfortable guest house. Close to many hunt territories. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. \$3,500,000.



Stringfellow Farm

Round Hill, Virginia

Grand country home, restored and enlarged. 8-12 bedrooms, 9 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, 13,000 square feet. Ample room for a home office. Amenities include built-in bookcases, bar and wood floors. Situated on 17.91 acres, gently rolling and mostly open with mountain views. Improvements include a barn, pool with pool house, and 2-car garage. \$1,875,000.



22204 Willisville Road

Upperville, Virginia

Charming frame and log colonial on 17.55 acres in excellent Upperville location. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, pine and cherry floors, log family room, and 2 fireplaces. Improvements include 4 stall barn with tack and feed room, run in shed, 2 paddocks, in-ground pool with back terrace, mountain views. \$1,450,000.



Land

The Plains, Virginia

50 very private acres of mostly open land with spectacular views of the mountains and surrounding countryside. Located on Busthead Road in the Orange County Hunt. \$1,000,000.

RANTS & RAVES

DEAR NATS FANS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

gle direction but straight.

More likely, the entire team will just sink into some mysterious gloaming wherein any and all inherent skill for playing the game will simply disappear; the ability to hit, to pitch, to field, even to competently run the bases, will, for absolutely no reason whatsoever, go straight out the window.

4) Those are the times to stick with your Nats.

Stick with them you must, and stick with them you will, for if you don't, quite possibly the most remarkable relationship in all of sports, that of a fan and his favorite 'ball team, will elude you now, and possibly forever, and you will, on occasion, find yourself waking up in the middle of the night wondering what that empty, hollow feeling is inside of you.

5) You WILL go to at least one home game.

You have no excuse not to. Not in a sport that has 81 HOME GAMES; not in a sport whose regular season lasts roughly half the year; not in a sport that plays games every day of the week and at all times of the day.

There is simply no other sport more magical, more transcendent, live and in person, than baseball. From the first splash of green when you emerge from the tunnel and the field spreads, like a child's hope, before you, to the chatter in the stands during warm-ups, to the smack of a perfectly tossed, hard-biting slider into the mitt of the waiting catcher, the batter grimacing as his caught-napping hack of a swing torques his whole body into the dirt of the batter's box, to the crunch of peanut shells under your feet as you leap to your feet, your heart, oddly, both stopped and in your throat, as the towering majesty of a home-team homerun streaks heavenward before arcing gracefully over the outfield wall, to the goofy grin on your mug as you leave the stadium with 25,000

other fans after your boys win a big one.

6) You will find yourself drawn back for more than one.

7) The Braves will win the Division.

They always do, not that it ever seems to do them any good. The Braves are the Jim Kelly-led Buffalo Bills of baseball. The Marlins will give the Braves a run early, but fade down the stretch. Woe to any other teams in the playoffs if the Fish win the wildcard, though; they have a nasty knack, unbecoming an expansion team, of winning the World Series if they can latch onto that wildcard.

The Phillies will be irrelevant; the Phillies are always irrelevant. Don't ask why. By the end of the season, most of baseball has forgotten Philadelphia even has a team.

The Mets will be a disaster. The Mets have, in recent years, taken on the role of divisional train-wreck. They will simultaneously implode and explode, a difficult combination to replicate in the rest of the universe ruled by conventional physics. The only thing left of the Mets at the end of the season will be mutters of "we looked so good on paper...." and the sound of millions of dollars being flushed into the Hudson.

It is a foregone conclusion that the Nats will finish in last, but they'll look good doing it. And they will get better. They'll get better much more quickly than people think. Don't worry; they won't stay on the bottom for long. The Mets will be fighting them tooth and nail for sole-cellar-dweller-residence status in no time.

So, welcome Nats fans. Jump on the bandwagon and enjoy the ride. And sleep easy knowing that your guys have, without a doubt, the best nickname of any pro team in all of sports.

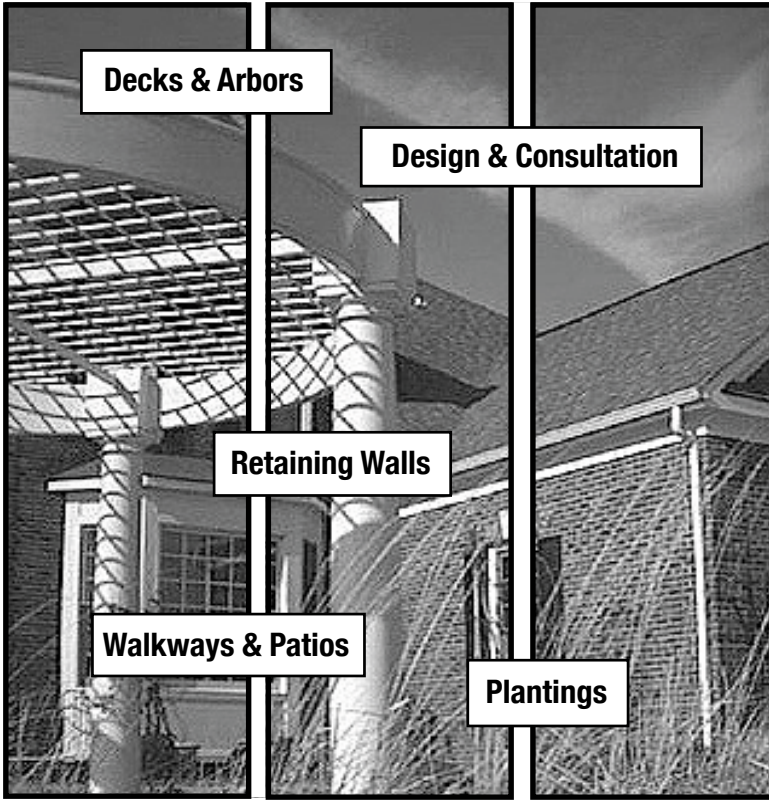


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PASTIMES

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FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

Is it I, or do people always serve pretty peculiar creations around the dark days of winter? I'll try anything put before me. I guess it's my upbringing in general, but if someone took the time to make it, I'll try it. And, if asked, give my honest opinion to boot.

Every year though, there's always the conundrum. I'll put something in my mouth that just makes me cringe and, because I'm stupid, I'll go back and get another one hoping for a different result. Every year something new creeps onto the buffet table.

This year's winner was my Mom's neighbor, Francine in Ft. Myers, Florida, who proudly put out a tray of "French Cocktail Prunes." (She could have just feigned sickness and asked us to leave.) These were normal prunes, stuffed with (and I kid you not as I have witnesses) smoked oysters, anchovies, bacon, artichokes hearts and onions. At least that's all I could make out with my stupefied palette.

Francine is a nice 80-year young lady, who claims proudly this is her family's 50-year secret, "I'll die before I tell you the

recipe," she claimed. The thought of "whacking" her myself just to end the noxious cycle entered my mind.

I find that people, for the most part, put out their finest fare during the silly season that is winter. However, some might use social gatherings as a chance to accentuate with heirloom, miscellaneous oddities.

It is specifically in the appetizer department that people have time-honored, coveted recipes that have been tweaked to their (and our) liking. I think we all have a few of our favorites in the form of gently worn recipes turned yellow over time with disappearing ink notes. These are the gems I yearn for...

Honey Figs with Pecan Crusted Goat Cheese

1 cup pecans, roughly chopped
1 6-oz. log of plain goat cheese
12 fresh figs (Black Mission or Calimyrna), quartered
1/2 cup Tupelo honey (naturally any honey will work but there is a

difference when you use Tupelo for browning or caramelizing)
Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper

Allow the cheese to get to room temperature. Chop the pecans so they're fairly uneven in size and have a few rough spots. Melt a dab of butter in a non-stick frying pan large enough so that the pecans spread across the entire bottom of the pan. Add 2 tablespoons honey, salt and bring to a bubble. Let brown, remove from heat and spread mixture onto a piece of wax paper. Roll the cheese log around in the pecans until fully covered. Press firmly if you have to. Refrigerate log until firm. Cut into 1/2" slices. Place the cheese on a small plate and top with a couple of pieces of fig and drizzle with honey.

Caramelized Pear, Leek and Brie Tart

Food combining is something that has to be learnt. (Just ask Francine.) But certain combinations just don't jive with our mental palates. So you have to try things. Better yet you have to get someone else to make it so you can try it. My

apologies for the long recipe but it's definitely worth the trouble. I had to bribe a chef for the recipe.

3 bosc pears, peeled, cored and diced 1/2"
3 lg leeks, sliced 1/4"
4 Tbsp canola oil
1/2 cup pine nuts, lightly toasted
1/2 lb brie cheese, rind removed
1/2 tsp coarse sea salt
1/4 tsp white pepper, freshly ground
Pinch nutmeg
9" partially cooked tart shell of pate bris  e
Pate Bris  e ----
1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup butter, cubed
4-5 Tbsp chilled water (as needed)
1/4 tsp coarse sea salt
Pinch sugar

Heat 2 Tbsp of oil in a saut   pan. Saut   the pears over a high heat until golden brown. Be mindful: the pears will burn very easily. Remove from pan and set aside. Heat the remaining oil in a clean pan and saut   leeks over a med heat until translucent. Combine pears,

leeks, half of the pine nuts, salt, white pepper, and nutmeg in a bowl. Fill tart shell and top with remaining pine nuts. Dot top of tart with all of the brie cheese. Place in 350   oven until cheese has melted through. Serve warm or at room temp. Yield: 6 servings.

Pate Bris  e

In a bowl combine flour, salt, and sugar. Cut in butter until it is broken up into very small beads. Add water until just incorporated. Form dough into a ball and knead on a floured board just until it is uniform. Wrap in plastic wrap and allow to rest in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. On a lightly floured board, roll out dough to 1/8" thick and a 12"-13" circle. Place in tart shell and form it to the side. Prick sides and bottom of crust, line with parchment and fill with dried beans or pastry pellets. Place on a sheet pan and bake in a preheated 400   oven for 15-20 minutes. Remove parchment and beans after 10-15 min. and bake so that it cooked with just a hint of color. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Continued Page 19



“DIET” IS A FOUR LETTER WORD

SWEET REVENGE

SUSAN WILLIAMS

Let us consider some definitions:

cel-lu-lite

Function: *noun*

Etymology: lumpy fat found in the thighs, hips, and buttocks of some women, and,

bi-ki-ni

Function: *noun*

Etymology: a woman's scanty two-piece bathing suit

Cellulite is arguably nature's most stable compound: insoluble in everything but concentrated sulfuric acid and removable only by an industrial model Hoover vacuum with a special, rather invasive attachment.

Erma Bombeck once mused, "I've been on a constant diet for the last two decades. I've lost a total of 789 pounds. By all accounts, I should be hanging from a charm bracelet."

There is a mere three months before we women must stand in front of a mirror and deal with the

above conundrum. We women could incite a rebirth of the Victorian-era swimsuit craze, in which our "allure" would be judged only by our exposed ankles. Consider the newsstand sales of the "Swimsuit" edition!

So we are doomed to diets patterned after that of an emaciated Hunt Country rabbit.

However, there is hope--an edible salad container! Consult your favorite diet book. I guarantee that the author never explicitly lectured against eating the salad plate.

The easy recipe below is for Parmesan salad baskets. They are an elegant way to serve salad and also satisfy you low-carb South Beachers.

Parmesan Baskets

This recipe requires a 10 or 12-inch non-stick skillet.

1 bag shredded Parmesan cheese

1. Heat the non-stick skillet over

medium heat.

2. Measure 1/2 cup of shredded Parmesan cheese and spread over the bottom of the pan. Do not worry about uniformly filling in the spaces.

3. Cook until the bottom of the basket has changed to a light golden color.

4. Remove basket using a rubber spatula and invert over a large drinking glass.

5. Fill each basket with a variety of greens and place it on a dish.

Tips:

•Due to the high humidity in our area, the baskets should be made the day you are planning to serve them.

•You can use a smaller glass to form each basket if you plan to serve the salad on the same plate as your entree.

sweetrevenge@mbec.com

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

WELCOME HOME

WANDA K. CROSSLEY

THINKING BACK TO A most wonderful dining experience, I ponder, "...how did they do that?" The greatest chefs start with the same basic ingredients available to all of us: meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and grain. So, what did our host know that we don't?

They understand a secret -- the difference in everything is in the details, the small, subtle variations that make fine food and life, so diverse and delicious.

Cooking and gardening combine life's basic ingredients in just the right measure and balance to form infinite personalities of flavor, style, texture and visual expression.

Start Here

To create a wonderful living space, we all start with the same ingredients: architecture, furniture, fabrics, flooring, accessories and lighting.

A careful combination of the basics forms the foundation of function. But we can then incorporate subtle or conspicuous variations to ascribe unique personality through color, texture, style, - and details, details, details.

The secret is in finding the right recipe that reflects how you define beauty and comfort.

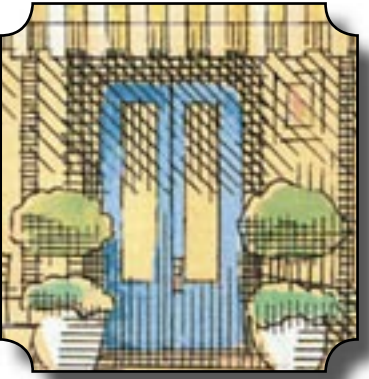
We all begin with four walls, a floor and a ceiling. But look what happens when we add crown molding, wainscoting, some raised paneling, perhaps a built-in bookcase, or a stately mantle.

Suddenly, we have a room with character!

We begin with an ordinary window. Add whimsical window treatments to color and filter and soften the incoming light.

Take a simple lamp. Top it with an unusual shade and even a distinctive bulb.

Perhaps add original artwork that makes you think, or makes you smile. Now we have flavor



and style, and the room becomes interesting and personal.

Happily, there are endless selections on the menu of decorating details. Fabrics can be woven, linen, silk, cotton, velvet, mohair or synthetic, depending on desired texture, weight, durability, and formality. Patterns can be plain, stripes, checks, prints, or chintz.

The most interesting details are often in the smallest aspects, such as welt and trim. Trim can be a simple cord or more intricate bullion, brush, scalloped, or ball and tassel.

Pillows might have sophisticated tufts and adorning buttons of similar or contrasting material.

A lovely lampshade will complement its base and diffuse light either up or down. Shades may be plain or pleated and of almost any material, such as parchment, colored fabric, or silk depending on your desire for either an elegant or casual feeling.

Floor lamps of bold brass or a soft finish can either make a statement or can quietly illuminate a nook.

Always in vogue in Europe, wallpaper is making a comeback in America and comes in limitless patterns -- however, often a subtle paint finish will warm or cool a room and is the perfect backdrop for great artwork.

Enjoy!

Wanda Crossley is the owner of 'The English Manor' in Leesburg, Virginia

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NEWS OF NOTE

PERFECT DOGS, PATIENT TRAINER, GENEROUS COMMUNITY:
WINNING COMBINATION FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE



PATRICIA BARRAZA VOS

WHAT IF YOU WOKE UP ONE day and decided to single-handedly raise tens of thousands of dollars for those less fortunate? How would you go about it? Who would you help? Do you think you would enlist the help of your trusty pet dog?

There are plenty of generous people in our community who have done precisely that (with, perhaps, the exception of the dog), but when it comes to earning points for consistency and dogged (no pun intended) persistence, only a few individuals come to mind. Among that noble few is Pam Dickson of Fursman Kennels.

For 32 years this charming English woman has simultaneously worked toward three goals in the Virginia countryside: Running a top notch boarding kennel; training a few choice dogs of her own, and, in partnership with those dogs and the community she serves, raising money for charity.

Ms. Dickson has discovered that it takes a special confluence of three factors in order to accomplish all this: The perfect dog, patience and time and a generous community.

The Perfect Dog

More challenging than finding one perfect dog, one must, of course, find a succession of perfect dogs that can be trained and trusted. Ms. Dickson has had just that good fortune.

Rocky, a German Shepherd, was Dickson's first partner in charitable pursuits. When a friend's Aldie home was flooded by the Little River's overflow in the early seventies Rocky performed at a benefit on her behalf, passing a bucket and accepting cash donations for the restoration of her

home. So successful was he that Dickson recognized a worthy calling and decided to pursue it.

Having trained Rocky to star in his own feature film (his acting ability could be compared to those of Rin Tin Tin), Dickson alternated his commercial pursuits with visits to hospitals and homes for mentally and emotionally challenged children, while she and Rocky raised funds at benefits.

At the time of Rocky's passing, Dickson might have called it quits had she not met an unlikely pup to carry on the legacy.

Treasure Chest was a weak, sickly pup who was severely malnourished. Another German Shepherd, he was fortunate that it was the ever patient, ever loving Dickson who found him and gave him a new life.

Together the two pursued a career path similar to Rocky's – mixing acting jobs and television appearances with charitable work. Dickson built what we would now term an agility course on her property (this long before the activity became a popular pursuit for dogs and their owners everywhere) and trained her partner to do amazing feats (jumping through flaming hoops, bounding up and down ramps and balance beams) before appreciative audiences.

Next up, Treasure Jr. had awfully big paws to fill when Dickson's beloved Treasure Chest died, but he seemed to be the dog for the job.

Like his predecessors, Treasure Jr. was perfectly trained – not only to do impressive tricks that would wow the crowds (like carrying his little basket of live bunnies and budgies, always a crowd pleaser), but also to tolerate all manner of patting and youthful appreciations of his lustrous coat.

To Dickson's absolute dismay young Treasure, after raising so much money for cancer research, got cancer himself and died

last year at the shamefully young age of six.

Dickson was devastated and rightly so. She had lost not just a sweet and loyal pet but also a partner in an endeavor that achieved so much good for so many. Would she ever be lucky enough to find yet another friend and partner as reliable and true as her previous companions?

The answer came in the form of Young Rocky, a now two-year old German Shepherd hard at work and play. He is the hope for the future of Dickson's charitable initiatives.

He is handsome. He is loving, friendly and sweet. He is a decidedly strong candidate for the job.

Local citizens and Dickson fans everywhere can look forward to witnessing the happy exploits of young Rocky beginning this fall. It would have been sooner, but a leg injury set back Rocky's training schedule – and one thing Dickson has learned is that these matters cannot be rushed.

Which brings us to the second element in her plan for success.

Patience and Time

Everything Ms. Dickson has done has taken her time and her own blood, sweat and tears.

When she found the property where Fursman Kennels is now located it was not exactly the park-like setting you see now. Luxury kennels now house happy canine clients where dilapidated stalls once stood. An appropriately English style cottage also had to be completely redone.

Looking across the picturesque setting now it's hard to imagine the heaps of trash and the sorry state of things Dickson found all those years ago. Today Fursman Kennel

is exactly the kind of place a dog, or a person, would love to spend a good chunk of time.

The dogs took time as well. In order to have the perfect working partner, one you could trust with a child's life, short cuts cannot be taken. Dickson has shown year after year, dog after dog, that patience and kindness in the end delivers the kind of training in a dog of which most of us only dream.

A Generous Community

So the perfect dogs meet the patient trainer and off they go to tackle their chosen task – to raise money for charities. What final element is necessary for their success? A generous and dynamic community, like the one Dickson recognized as soon as she arrived in Middleburg all those years ago.

For years Dickson's clients and friends and neighbors have all generously donated time, money and support for Dickson's charitable endeavors. She is as grateful and amazed by this as she is by the kind hearts of her dogs.

Who has benefited all these years from Dickson and her dogs' commitment – Breast Cancer Research, the Fauquier Hospital Foundation, the Shriners Hospital in Houston, local schools and nursing homes throughout the Virginia countryside, and the hundreds upon hundreds of children who have attended Dickson's Day in the Country affairs. And of course all of us lucky enough to count her among our esteemed neighbors.

Those interested in helping Pam Dickson raise funds in the memory of Treasure Jr. may send tax deductible contributions to Treasure's Cancer Fund, c/o Pam Dickson, P.O. Box 625, Middleburg, VA 20118.



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Emergency Services Report Card A+

	Leesburg ER		Lansdowne ER	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Volume (# of Patients)	11,535	13,736	29,662	31,736
Average Length of Stay (First Assessment to discharge)	2hrs. 21mins.	2hrs. 18mins.	3hrs. 37mins.	3hrs. 16mins.
Triage to Room (waiting room time)	5mins.	4.33mins.	19mins.	8.8mins.

And, Here's How We Did It...

- Added 65 new in-patient beds for a total of 155 beds
- Opened a second emergency room at our Leesburg campus which increased ED treatment areas from 21 to 36.
- Expanded radiology services at our Lansdowne and Leesburg campuses.

Our goal is *your* satisfaction. *Our* pledge is to continue improving efficiency and effectiveness thereby better addressing the health care needs of you and your family.



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PASTIMES

APPETIZERPALOOZA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Pepper's Crabbies

A winter's night years ago, an old neighbor made these succulent treats for my wife and I. It was meant to be an appetizer but it ended up being the main course!! We begged for the recipe and since then, when Debi serves them, they still have this way of stealing the show. Nothing like cooking for 4 hours, serving the entree, then having guests ask during the meal, "Got any more of those Crabbies left?" After much reflection, I take this as a compliment. So to all of our friends who attend our parties, at which these are a staple, here, make your own.

2 Tbsp mayonnaise
1 clove garlic, minced
3 Tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
1 small jar Old English Cheese Spread (or Velveeta)
1 small can backfin crabmeat

Fold ingredients together. Spread on muffins and cut into quarters. Bake at 400° for 8-10 minutes or until brown and bubbly.

Serve immediately or place on foil pan and wrap for freezer. Take out frozen and bake 10-15 minutes at 400° until brown and bubbly. They freeze beautifully.

1 small package Thomas' English Muffins
1 stick salted butter, room temperature

Email Comments or Catastrophes (or if you have another prune recipe) behindthestove@mbccc.com

THE ENVELOPE PLEASE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

industry as well as passion, enthusiasm, drive, momentum, and team-building skills.

"Tourism is important to our community, economically - visitors pay taxes that keep our own tax bills lower," said Kilday. "Tourism also improves the quality of life for those of us who live and work here. Recognition of the individuals who make a difference is valuable and inspires us all to do more and work toward excellence."

Kilday emphasized that tourists visiting Loudoun County spend, on average, about \$511 per household in local taxes.

"Tourism is good business," said Kilday, "and service, quality events, and promotions are all part of what make up an effective tourism program."

In previous years, said Kilday, Middleburg has had several nominees and been awarded recognition in various areas of tourism excellence. In 1999 Middleburg Bucks was awarded the title of Tourism Promotion/Campaign of the Year.

According to Kilday, the LCVA did not have an awards banquet last year, so this year's meeting will recognize nominees for 2003 and 2004. Some of these

nominees are our neighbors and friends and the events that they have cultivated in our community and deserve our recognition and thanks as well.

Local LCVA Tourism Award nominees include Marvin Simms, Jr. of the Town of Middleburg for Employee of the Year and Dee Dee Hubbard of the Middleburg Eccentric for the Judy Patterson Tourism Award.

Local events and campaigns that have been nominated for the 2003-2004 recognition period are Christmas in Middleburg and Middleburg Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show for Event of the Year and Tuesdays in Middleburg for the Tourism Promotion/Campaign of the Year.

"The LCVA Annual Meeting and Awards Program is an excellent opportunity to celebrate tourism, its benefits, and those who contribute to its economic rewards," said Kilday. "All the nominees are winners and they all deserve recognition."

The LCVA is located in Leesburg and can be reached at 703-771-2170 or by visiting www.visitloudoun.org.

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MARCH 26, 2004

HUNTER'S HEAD TAVERN (9048 John Mosby Hwy/Route 50, Upperville, Va.; 540-592-9020) - Once you realize nearly everything on this menu, including side dishes and appetizers and definitely desserts, are big enough for a meal, you can lean back and play into the neo-Colonial atmosphere. Most of the meats are organic, and the real flavor of the steak will remind you of what those big-name chopouses have sacrificed for size. The pâté is chewy and the cheeses rich; the bean soup senatorial, the bangers discreet and the beef stew (and yes, mac 'n' cheese) homesick-making. And you don't have to wait till spring for perfect asparagus. Entrees \$12.95 - \$21.95

- Eve Zibart

DECEMBER 29, 2004

NEW BUTCHER ON THE BLOCK. On a recent afternoon, butchers wearing straw boater hats carved thick steaks from a Scottish Highland steer that was raised on Ayrshire Farm in Upperville. Side by side in the showcase were attractive and expensive rib-eye steaks labeled prime, Angus and heirloom. Lovely legs of fresh ham... are from Gloucester Old Spot pigs. Seven kinds of sausage... including English bangers and German bratwurst are made by master butcher Paul Branner. In addition, there are plump, free-range chickens. Of particular note, in a prepared food area, are tasty Cornish pasties—savory turnovers filled with seasoned meat and vegetables. They are available hot for a quick bite on the run or frozen for later use...

- Walter Nicholls

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THINGS TO DO

MIDDLEBURG LIBRARY MARCH 15-APRIL 15

Art in the Afternoon
Friday 3/25 at 2pm
Linda Conti
slide lecture on Photography

Book Discussion
Ella Minnow Pea by Mark Dunn
Monday 3/28 7pm

Passing the Book
Come and share a book you’ve enjoyed
Monday 4/4 7pm

Children’s program
Mr Stinky Feet
Monday 4/11 11am
Celebrate National Library Week

MIDDLEBURG POINT-TO-POINT MAY 1

The Middleburg Hunt Point-to-Point promises a full day of steeplechase horse racing over the spectator-friendly Glenwood Park course in Middleburg, Va., on Sunday, May 1, 2005. The race card kicks off at 1 p.m. and includes the Middleburg Bowl, a 3-mile timber challenge; The Middleburg Hunt Cup, an owner-rider contest over 2 1/8 miles of National fences;

the Samuel E. Bogley Memorial Open Hurdle challenge; the 3-mile Louis Leith Maiden Timber Race; and the Matthew Leslie Maiden Hurdle Memorial. Two flat races round out the day.
“Spectators always love Glenwood Park because you can see all the racing action, from the first fence to the last,” says Penny Denegre, Joint-Master of the Middleburg Hunt and race co-chairman. “But most of all, it’s a great way to spend an afternoon with family and friends in a beautiful setting.”
The day’s feature race is the Middleburg Bowl, both the name of the timber challenge and the huge silver prize that is large enough to hold the liquid contents of a case of champagne. The mega-bowl was first awarded in 1931 when Mrs. John Hay Whitney’s thoroughbred Brave Patriarch, Arthur White up, crossed the finish first.
Aside from the paddock diversions, there are tailgate picnics that run the gamut, from simple sandwiches and fried chicken to al fresco spreads that include everything from Norwegian salmon to tiered layer cakes, silver candelabra and fresh flowers. This year will bring the third annual tailgate competition, which has been featured in Loudoun Magazine. Again this

year, one of the esteemed judges will be Channel Nine’s own weather man Topper Shut.
The Middleburg Hunt Point-to-Point costs \$10 per person at the gate or \$5 if purchased before race day.
Sponsorships are also available; Patron parking (\$175) includes five tickets and a parking spot along the stretch, and subscriber parking (\$50) also provides good viewing. Both options are ideal for enjoying an afternoon with family and friends.
For tickets and more information, call Lois Tuohy at (540) 687 8382.

PIEDMONT FOX HOUNDS
POINT-TO-POINT
MARCH 26

Salem Race Course – Upperville
Features steeplechase over hurdles, wood fences, walls and flat lands.

PIEDMONT REGIONAL ORCHESTRA

On March 20th at 3:00 p.m., the Piedmont Regional Orchestra will host its fourth Young Artists’ Competition in the Rice Theater at The Highland Center for the

Arts. This competition is open to all students up to age 19. In November of 2004, students submitted a tape with a classical piece of their choice. Players’ committee members reviewed the tapes and selected five semi-finalists. In January, judges narrowed it down to three finalists who will rehearse and perform in the first half of the concert. At the end of the concert scholarships will be awarded. First place will receive a \$2500, second \$1,500 and third \$500. This year’s three finalists are Derek McQuay, a Stafford High School student who will play Concerto in d minor by J.S. Bach on the piano; Rachel Ryon, a student at Liberty who will play Beethoven Concerto in C minor, No. 111 on the piano and Davone Tines, a student at Fauquier High School, who will play Kabalevsky violin in C.
The second half of the concert PRO will perform a piece that premiered in 2002 called Ellis Island: The Dream of America, composed by Peter Boyer. This piece is considered Boyer’s most ambitious work to date celebrating the American immigrant experience and the American dream. The piece will be presented with the state of the Art AV capabilities of the Rice Theater.
The PRO wishes to congratulate

late all three of the finalists and thank all of the contestants who submitted tapes. The PRO encourages the community to come and support the outstanding young talent in the community. Tickets are available at g.whillikers in Warrenton. Students attend free with a ticket, adults are \$15 and seniors are \$12. For additional information contact Linda F. Lounsbury at 540-270-3168.

UPPERVILLE LIBRARY
“MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR” PROGRAM

Tiny Upperville, with its once flourishing five churches, was often called church town. At 2 pm on Sunday, April 17, the Upperville Library kicks off its 2005 “Meet Your Neighbor” series with a program on the fascinating history of the Baptist Church building, built in 1889.
The roots of the church go back to 1775 when it was part of the Lower Goose Creek Baptist Church up the road.
Upperville Baptist Church Pastor Bill Wennersten will discuss the history of the church and parsonage, built with bricks from first Baptist Church on the current site, dating from 1840.
Early records from the church

and other historic items will be on display.
Refreshments will be served. The Upperville Baptist Church is located at 9070 John Mosby Highway (Rt. 50) in Upperville. Admission is free.

Other library activities: The Upperville Library Book club meets the last Thursday of every month from noon to 2 pm at the Upperville Library. Currently discussions center around readers’ choices of books about Iran and South Asia, with an emphasis on the role of women. For more information, call Maggie Fehr at 540/869-2795.

EQUINE EVENT EAST

Northern Virginia’s Only All-Breed, All-Discipline Horse Expo
The region’s largest equine trade show, Equine Event East, returns this year to the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA (approximately 25 minutes west of Washington, DC) on March 18 through 20. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 18; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 19; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 20. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children, and free for children under 6 years. In addition, the event will offer free admission to all Virginia Horse Council members (proof of membership required). For information on how to join the Virginia Horse Council, visit the web at www.virginiahorsecouncil.org.
“We are delighted to have a partnership again this year with the Virginia Horse Council,” states Janice Donahue, show organizer for Equine Event East. The VHC will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the show.
Other activities at the event include “Breyer Fun Days” which will include games, prizes and crafts all weekend and “Paint Your Own Horse Day” on Saturday, March 19 from 10 am to 5 pm. During “Paint Your Horse Day”, children will be allowed each hour to paint a model horse. Plan to arrive early for this event as it’s very popular and space is limited.
Author Buck Lakinowski will be available to autograph books and horse sets. The actual horses “Cupid” and “Arrow” will be on site. These two have become internationally known through Buck’s books and through Breyer’s modeling of the two horses. Cupid was rescued at an auction by Buck when he noticed the perfectly formed heart on her face. Although she had been extremely abused and was in terrible condition, he bought her and brought her home to care for her. Cupid then gave birth to a foal with a perfectly formed arrow on his

back. The two horses have stolen the hearts of many children and adults.
Drawings will be held throughout the weekend for giveaways of saddles, bridles and all types of horse equipment.
Dave Seay, Nina Fout, Bruce Davidson, Josh Lyons, Karen and David O’Connor head up a list of all-stars that will provide a variety of demonstrations and clinics on a wide array of topics including loading and trailering your horse, horse nutrition, dealing with aging horses, achieving successful fitness levels, farm and field management, competing, tack, breeding and technology. A “Horse Ownership 101” will help those trying to decide how to select a horse and what to look for.
A wide variety of vendors will sell items ranging from riding clothing, tack, and feed to trailers, stables, and fencing, and everything in between. The American Quarter Horse Association will offer free rides on Quarter horses.
This comprehensive three-day program will bring together some of the best national and equine experts and companies. There is something at this show for everyone!
For more information and discount coupons to the show, visit the web at www.BlueRibbonShows.com. Sundowner Trailers are the official trailers of Equine Event East.

CALL FOR FINE ARTISTS AND CRAFT ARTISANS

Plan now to participate in Arts in the Alley ’05 on July 16, in the center of the traditional business district of Purcellville, VA. North 21st Street will be closed to vehicular traffic at Main Street, creating a festive promenade of craft artists leading to the student art exhibit, fine arts booths in the “Alley,” food vendors, live entertainment, and displays at the Train Station. All fine craft and art media are invited including, but not limited to: painting, photography, sculpture, fiber, mixed media, metal, wood, furniture, clay or glass. All items must be for sale and must be the original work of the artist. T-shirts and commercial items are not acceptable. NO commission on sales. Artists may share a space, but each artist must submit photographs of work to be exhibited.
See <http://www.loudounsbest.com/art> for the on-line entry form or send a SASE to P.O. Box 479, Purcellville, VA 20134-0479. Send in your application with photos representative of your work and a non-refundable \$25 fee. Applications will be evaluated as received.

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THINGS TO DO

CALL FOR FINE
ARTISTS AND CRAFT
ARTISANS
Continued from page 21

Don't delay - every available space was taken last year. Spaces for fine craft vendors on 21st Street are \$150. Spaces for two-dimensional art in the original "Alley" are \$50.

Arts in the Alley is presented by local artists and art supporters in association with Main Street Purcellville, The Purcellville Preservation Association and the Purcell Contact: Jane Butler
Phone: 540-668-6716
Fax: 540-668-7118
Jane@shorthillstudio.com
ville Business Association.

CHILDREN'S ART SHOW

Presented by Joan of Art Cus-tomPictureFraminginMiddleburg, Virginia will run through March 31st. The show features many fine works from children from all over the area. Admission is free. For more information please call (540) 687-8303.

THE BERKLEY GALLERY EXHIBIT

Exhibit of oil paintings by Dennis Perrin. March 19 - April 9, Berkley Gallery, 40 Main St., Old Town Warrenton, VA. Artist's Reception: Sat. March 19, 4:30 - 8:00 pm. www.berkleygallery.com

Questions? Please call Berk-ley Gallery (540) 341-7367.

1ST HISTORIC LEESBURG ANTIQUES SHOW

1st Historic Leesburg Antiques Show to be held March 19-20 at Historic Carradoc Hall, circa 1773 at Holiday Inn Leesburg. The show will be sponsored by The Ladies Board of Loudoun Hospi-tal Center who will host a preview party on Friday, March 18. Reser-vation are required.

The event will showcase 45 dealers in room settings from around the country who will offer a wide selection of 18th-20th cen-tury American and Continental, formal and country furniture and accessories including paintings silver, porcelains, antique jewelry, folk art and much more.

The show will feature 100% different offerings from the 13th Hunt Country Winter Antiques Show Dordy Fontinel hosted in January at Carradoc Hall.

Shop with confidence at Dordy Fontinel Show Manag-ment, Inc. events as participating dealers are required to guarantee their merchandise. Admission is

\$9 per person and tickets are good for both days. Saturday hours are 10 -5 and Sunday 11- 4. Refresh-ments and parking will be plenti-ful.

For more information visit www.dfshows.com or call 703-779-2800.

OATLANDS OPENS FOR 2005

Oatlands Executive Director David Boyce announced today that Oatlands will officially open for 2005 on Monday, March 28.

Back by popular demand, tea at Oatlands returns for the spring on April 7 and runs Thursdays through Saturdays through the end of May. The price for spring teas is \$19.95, not including tax. Seat-ings are between noon and 2 p.m. and reservations are required.

The Four Seasons of Oatlands Art Show & Sale kicks off on July 10 and runs through Aug. 20. Fall will bring back Oatlands Bridal Show on September 25 the An-tiques Fair on October 15 and 16 with more than 75 antique dealers and the same quality of Oatlands past shows. Christmas at Oatlands will recreate Christmas Day, 1945, from November 18 through De-cember 30 with the very popular candlelight tours on Saturday eve-nings.

Hours for 2005 are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Satur-day, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sun-day. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$7 for students, and free for children five and younger. House tours are conducted on the hour. The Oatlands Gift Shop is also open for business beginning on March 28.

Oatlands, a 360-acre co-stew-ardship property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is located six miles south of Leesburg on US Route 15. Call 703-777-3174 for additional information or visit the web at www.oatlands.org.

OATLANDS NAMES "MARCH" VOLUNTEER MONTH

Oatlands Plantation, a Na-tional Trust for Historic Preserva-tion, relies on the generous work of over 100 volunteers for much of its maintenance and daily du-ties, which is why March has been named Volunteer Month to high-light the importance of volunteers at Oatlands and to raise awareness about the continuous need for vol-unteers.

"We're so grateful for all of our dedicated volunteers," said David Boyce, executive director at Oatlands. "We're reaching out to the Loudoun County community to see if they might be interested

in sharing their time and talents at Oatlands," he added.

"It's been a joy and a great learning experience while vol-unteering at Oatlands," said Oatlands volunteer coordinator, Sandy Ruefer. "We encourage others who may have an interest in gardening, education or his-tory to visit Oatlands to see if they might want to join our volunteer team," she said.

Volunteers contributed more than 1,950 hours of service in many program areas of Oatlands in 2004. To inquire about vol-unteer opportunities at Oatlands, call the volunteer hotline at 703-777-3174, ext. 33. Orientation is planned for Thurs., March 24, 2005 at 10 a.m. in the Carriage House.

Oatlands is a 360-acre prop-erty of the National Trust for His-toric Preservation. In addition to an 1804 mansion, restored 4-1/2 acre garden, 1810 greenhouse, and Carriage House, the property holds numerous other dependency buildings. For additional infor-mation on Oatlands, visit www.oatlands.org or call 703-777-3174 for hours, special event dates and directions.

LOUDOUN CANCER CARE CENTER TO PRESENT: AN INTRO-DUCTION TO REIKI FOR THOSE TOUCHED BY CANCER

Loudoun Cancer Care Center will introduce the Reiki program and other energy medicines at the Loudoun Cancer Care Center at 14 Pidgeon Hill Dr., Suite 130, Sterling, Va. on Thursdays, March 24, 2005, April 28, 2005 and May 26, 2005 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration is required and class-es are FREE.

Reiki is a Japanese word meaning universal life energy. The Reiki program helps re-es-tab-lish homeostasis and becomes a positive agent for change by pro-moting holistic balancing for the mind, body and spirit. The pro-gram is taught by Bruce Winkle, a Reiki Master, and several of his master's students. He special-izes in advance energy work, and teaches energy healing.

"Mental health care is just as important as physical care in the treatment of cancer," said Karen Archer, Loudoun Cancer Care Center social worker. "For those touched by cancer, like patients, family and friends, we're thrilled that we can offer an introduction to Reiki as part of their compre-hensive care," she added.

The following classes will be included: "Introduction to Chakras," on March 24, 2005,

which focuses on the body's energy centers called Chakras, meaning spinning wheel or vor-tex. These energy centers are re-sponsible for bringing in a major portion of people's daily energy supplies. On April 28, 2005, in-structors will teach "Tuning Your Own Energies," which teaches participants to clear and strength-en their own energy systems, in-cluding Chakras, Meridians, and Auras. "Chakra Meditation," is taught on May 26, 2005, which stresses the power of group, spe-cial music, guidance and energy assistance. For more information or to register for classes, please contact Karen Archer at 703-444-4460 or e-mail karcher@lh.org.

For nearly a century, Loudoun Healthcare, Inc. (LHI) has been dedicated to both community ser-vice and community healthcare, meeting the needs of all Loudoun County residents through family-centered medical care, health edu-cation, and community service

Continued Page 24

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THINGS TO DO

LOUDOUN CANCER CARE CENTER TO PRESENT: AN INTRO- DUCTIO TO REIKI FOR THOSE TOUCHED BY CANCER

Continued from page 23

programs. The Leesburg Campus is part of the overall Loudoun Health- care Inc.(LHI) system, which in- cludes Loudoun Hospital Center (LHC), a state-of-the-art medical campus located in Lansdowne. The facility offers a wide range of health services, including The Birthing Inn, emergency ser- vices, inpatient rehabilitation, diagnostic imaging services, and cardiopulmonary health services. Other off-site campuses include the CountrySide Ambulatory Sur- gery Center, the Loudoun Nurs- ing and Rehabilitation Center, the Loudoun Cancer Care Center, and the Loudoun Adult Medical Psy- chiatric Services. Visit www.loudounhealthcare.org.

LADIES BOARD SPONSORS ANTIQUE SHOW PREVIEW

Continuing their nearly 100 year tradition of fundraising for our community hospital, The La- dies Board of Loudoun Hospital Center will host a Preview Night Cocktail Party for Dordy Fonti- nel’s First Annual Leesburg An- tiques Show at the Holiday Inn, Carradoc Hall, Leesburg on March 18th. From 6:30-9:30 p.m., guests can enjoy an evening of cham- pagne, wine, hors d’oeuvres, and entertainment along with the op- portunity to view and purchase the offerings of 45 selected antiques dealers from around the country. Fine art, silver, porcelains, jew- elry and American and continental furniture and accessories are just a few of the categories represented. Cochairmen Judy Mazzucchelli and Barb Gardner said they are “very excited to have this new op- portunity to raise funds for nursing scholarships. With the commu- nity’s support we hope to start an an-

nual event that will raise money, entertain, and provide an opportu- nity to buy some beautiful antiques prior to the start of the weekend antique show.” The ladies have even included valet parking with the \$50 tickets. All proceeds from the event will go toward nursing scholarships. Tickets can be re- served by calling 703-771-2985.

THE GROWING STAGE ANNOUNCES AU- DITIONS FOR THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The Growing Stage Theatre Company, now in its 11th year in providing quality family theatre entertainment and instruction, an- nounces auditions for its Summer Mainstage production of Rogers and Hammerstein’s beautiful and heartwarming musical, The Sound of Music. Auditions will be held by appointment only at Heritage High School, Leesburg, on March 29 and March 30 from 6 PM to 9 PM. Those auditioning should come prepared with a one minute

monologue and be ready to sing their favorite song. To schedule an audition or for more information, call 540-338-5367. Call backs will be held on April 2 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Performances of The Sound of Music are scheduled for June 24 – July 4, at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville.

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

For information and registra- tion call 540-687-6375 or email mcc@loudoun.gov. Summertime Fun Camp Reg- istration begins March 15th (Ages 3-4 & 5-7) Licensed Preschool Program- Applications being accepted for the 2005-2006 school year. Cre- ative Preschool-Instructor: Mar- garet Moore Assistant Instructor: Sybrina Hill Ages 2 _ -3 _ T/TH 9- 11:30A \$105/month Ages 3 _ -5 M/W/F 9-1:00P \$210/month

WATERCOLOR CRE- ATIONS WITH TIA MAGGIO (Ages 7-11) Tu 3/29-4/26 5:15-6:15P \$50/5 classes Every story paints a picture! Tia Maggio from the Middleburg Library combines her story-tell- ing charm and painting talents to provide your child an hour of fun and creativity. Each student will create their own original picture book! \$10.00 material fee due the instructor on the first class.

HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS (Ages 9 & up) Loca- tion: Stonelea Farms M 3/28-5/23 \$320/8 les- sons 6-7:00P Beginner/Inter W 3/30-5/25 \$320/8 les- sons 6-7:00P Beginner/Inter Lessons will follow a progres- sive movement based on basic skills to include horse introduction, proper and safe movement around horses and mounted instruction.

HELLO PONY (Ages 2-6) Location: Stonelea Farms-Aldie Tu 3/29, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, 5/24 10-11:00A \$25/class W 3/30, 4/13, 4/27, 5/11,

5/25 10-11:00A \$25/class

Introduce your child to the horse world. Participants will learn horse safety, grooming, take a ride and make a souvenir.

TEEN JOB CLUB (Ages 15-17) No Fee Th 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12 (Mock Interview) 5:00-6:15P

Want to make MONEY this summer? Come share free pizza from Back Street Café and des- sert from Market Salamander and learn the skills you need to get a good job. Teens will learn how to talk about their strengths with con- fidence, to dress for success, fill out job applications, answer tough interview questions, and more! Teens will have an opportunity to meet with an employer and prac- tice their interviewing skills. Pre- registration required.

STAMPIN CLASS (Grades K-5)

Th 3/31-4/20 2:30-3:30P or 4:00-5:00 \$40/4 classes

The newest craze-make small gifts and the cards you always need. \$12 supply fee due to in-

structor first class.

PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT (Ages 5-12)

F 4/1 Fear Factor 6- 10:00P \$20

Mom and Dad can enjoy a night out while we entertain the children. Dinner included. Call 540-687-6375 to register.

DOG OBEDIENCE

M 4/4-5/23 6:30-7:30P \$55/8 classes Sit, come, stay, heel! Does your dog look at you funny when you say these words? If so, try our dog obedience class- es.

BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

Tu 4/5-5/24 7-8:00P \$80/8 sessions Beginner Swing

You’ll learn basic patterns and styling that will spark your desire to dance! Come learn some new steps and then head out to dance the night away. Instructor: Jason Conrad

GARDEN ART (Ages 18 mos-3yrs)

Tu 4/5-4/26 9:45A-10:30A \$32/4 classes

Combine gardening and na- ture to make crafty art projects to include terrariums, decorative pots, etc. \$4.00 supply fee due to instructor.

CREATIVE CRAFTS (Ages 4-6)

W 4/6-4/27 1-2:00P \$32/4 classes

A perfect way for your child to use some of their creativity and have fun with friends making springtime crafts.

ABRAKADOODLE ART CLASSES

MINI DOODLERS W 4/6-5/11 2:30-3:10P \$80/6 classes (Ages 3-6)

TWOOSY DOODLERS W 4/6-5/11 3:30-4:10P \$80/6 classes (20-36 mos)

Develop new skills that in- spire the imagination to create a unique masterpiece, using paints, watercolors, pastels with other creative tools and materials. \$35 material fee due to instructor at the first class.

FUN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Th 4/7-4/28 7-9:00P \$50/4 classes or \$14/class Bring your digital or film camera and a note pad to class at the Middleburg Community Center. Have fun learning how to take better photos of all your favorite subjects.

MOTHER/SON DANCE- (All Ages)

Friday, April 8 7-9:00P \$15/couple

Dress up your handsome boys and bring them for a special night of dancing, pictures, and refresh- ments. Reservations required.

SPRING FLING

M 4/11 Ages 3-5 9A- 2P \$25/child

M 4/11 Ages 5-12 8:30A-5:30P \$40/child

School’s out! Our activities will add excitement to your child’s day. Explore arts and crafts, games, sports and more. Bring a lunch.

HORSEBACK RIDING CAMP (Ages 8 & Up)

M 4/11 9A-12P \$70/ child Camp held at Stonelea

Farms-Aldie

School’s out. Why not spend time at the horse farm? Time will be spent grooming, tacking, rid- ing and learning about our equine friends.

STAMPIN CLASS (Adults)

Th 4/14 5:15-6:15P \$10/ person

The newest craze-make small gifts and the cards you always need. \$3 supply fee due to instruc- tor first class. Instructor: Debra Shaw

ADVENTURES IN SCI- ENCE (Ages 4-7)

M 4/18-5/16 1-2:00P \$62.50/5 classes

Children will learn science through hands-on experiments/ activities and take-home projects. \$18 supply fee due to instructor at the first class.

MOM AND ME OPEN GYM (All ages)

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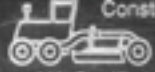
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PARENTS & PROGENY

SCHOOL CENSUS UNDERWAY

The Loudoun School Census is currently underway. Census survey forms were recently sent out in distinctive green envelopes to all Loudoun residents. Please take a moment to fill out this important document whether or not you have children who will attend a county school. The state provides funds for education, which offset county taxes for every Loudoun resident, so an accurate census benefits all taxpayers. You may fill out the census online if you prefer at www.loudoun.k12.va.us.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Registration will take place April 19th for all Loudoun County Public Schools.

MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY

Middleburg Elementary has been awarded the Distinguished Title I School Award by the Virginia Department of Education for raising the achievement of economically disadvantaged students and for meeting or exceeding the objectives of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The school met the Annual Yearly Progress goal by maintaining mean test scores for both English and mathematics at the 60th percentile or higher. A banner and framed certificate from the Department of Education are on display at the school.

The Annual Art show begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29. All students in grades kindergarten through 5th will ex-

hibit artwork. Students and guests will create a work of art together during the event.

New Attendance Policy

The Loudoun County School Board recently announced an important admittance change that will allow Loudoun County students outside the Middleburg area to attend Middleburg Elementary by special request. Previous policy required a "hardship" circumstance for attendance. If you would like more information, please contact Middleburg's principal, Gary Wilkers, at 703-771-6680.

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL

Wakefield School in The Plains will host the Grand Opening of its new \$2.4 million athletic facility on Friday, February 18, at 2:45 pm. The inaugural celebration will include music, speeches, alumni guests, and the untying of a gigantic ribbon spanning the length of the 9,000 square foot maple floor of the new gym.

The new 17,000 square foot athletic building comprises the

gym, a fitness center, and a training room, as well as athletic offices and space for concessions. It is Wakefield's first fully athletically-focused building, the original gym having been designed from the start as a multipurpose

room.

The new facility is the third new building project Wakefield has undertaken since moving to its campus in The Plains in 1996, into the building that now serves as the Lower School. The new Upper School building was completed in November of 1999 and an Arts and Music building in spring of 2002.

The afternoon dedication will immediately precede the gym's maiden basketball games, the final regular season competitions of the year, against Quantico. Both the girls' varsity game at 4:00 p.m. and the boys' varsity game at 5:00 p.m. will feature the traditional Senior Recognition ceremonies honoring senior members of the teams, competing at home for the last time, and their parents.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Three Notre Dame Academy seniors have signed national Letters of Intent to take their soccer skills to select college programs in the region.

Dana Scobey, son of Steven and Renate Scobey of Round Hill, will attend Wingate University (Division II) in Wingate, North Carolina. He was a midfielder for the Dragons and will play midfield and defense at Wingate.

Elizabeth Lipovsky, daughter of Stephen and Kathryn Lipovsky of Leesburg, will attend Wheeling Jesuit University (Division II) in Wheeling, West Virginia. Ms. Lipovsky plans to study elementary education. She has played soccer since she was very young, starting out on a boy's team. She was the Lady Dragons' leading scorer with 60 plus goals in her four-year career, and plays midfield and forward.

Miles Patterson, son of Rutledge Patterson of Stephens City, will attend High Point University (Division I) in High Point, North Carolina. Mr. Patterson plans to study political science. Although he spent only one year as a Dragon, he scored more than 20 goals.

All three students play for coach Bill Moravek at Notre



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Paul Rice, a freshman from Ashburn, took home top honors among ninth graders at the First Annual Joan of Art Student Art Show, with his technical drawing Gardening Tools (see attached photo). The show is open through March at the Joan of Art store in Middleburg and features art created by local students. The show is jurored by renowned artist, Aerron Hynes.

Other Notre Dame Academy freshmen recognized for their work include:

- * Maria Salas of Purcellville, first prize in the drawing category
- * Jennifer Wallace of Purcellville, second prize in the drawing category
- * Kelly Struder of Hamilton, honorable mention for collage
- * Rebecca Thomas of Warrenton, honorable mention for collage

Dame Academy.

Eighth Annual Art Show Award Winners include Melissa Cornak, a junior from Ashburn, who took home top honors with her painting "Love in the News."

Drawing winners are: Paul Rice, Melisa Astorga, Erin Manning and Emily Berg.

Painting winners include Theresa Davis, Mike Wentz, Amy Visonhalaer and Emily Berg.

Collage and Mixed Medium winners are: Kelsey Struder, Andrea Alverez, Erin Stamer and Nadia Sagafi.

Photography Winners include April Steffler, Crystal Goetting, Max Weinstein-Bacal and Taylor Welsh. Ceramics winners are Teddy Stevens, Kelsey Struder, Katie Patchett and Noelle Turbitt.

Local artist Linda Hughes juries the show. Four prizes are awarded in each category.

Kelsey Struder won The Susan B. Byrne Prize, a recognition which goes to a student who is not only talented, but also has a demonstrated commitment to art and plans to pursue art as a career. Ms. Struder, a senior, will attend the Corcoran School of Art after graduation from Notre Dame Academy this spring.

HIGHLAND SCHOOL

Students learned about the importance of soil from guest speaker Chuck Hoysa, education specialist from John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation Distirct.

He also helped each student make a "soil tube" with layers of bedrock, subsoil and topsoil.

Middle School Head John Harmon nominated Zachary Nicholls (Grade 7) to attend the Junior National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. April 23-28. Zachary and his peers will also visit Congressional staff members on Capitol Hill.

The Annual Father-Daughter Dance takes place Friday, April 1. Invitations were sent last week in the backpacks of grades Pre-K through 5, and in the mail for grades 6-8. Proceeds benefit the Middle School Student Council.

Little Graces Family Fun Fair Saturday, April 16, at Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains, VA. Silent auction, moon bounce, crafts, petting zoo, bake sale and more. Admission is free, a \$10 per family donation is appreciated. Contact Michelle at 540-253-9800 or Karen at 703-753-1815.

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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- A lovely 14 year old Chestnut TB mare. Leone is a great babysitter with excellent ground manners. She has never been ridden but loves people and to be bathed & sprayed with the hose! She is an easy keeper too. Leone has a few friends like Starsky who need lawn ornament/ babysitter homes as well.



CINDY LU & NOEL-

Two very special 1 year old kittens that were adopted from us as baby kittens. Unfortunately their family did not make a life long commitment to them so now that they are no longer small and cute, they gave them back. Both have adorable round faces and gorgeous green eyes. Please come meet the girls!



PERCY Oh y goodness what an adorable little kid! Percy is a 2 year old Chihuahua mix- about 15 pounds. He has been chained all of his life so doesn't have great manners but has a wonderful fun personality and a heart of gold!



VINNIE

12 year old 11H Chestnut pony gelding. Well mannered under saddle but tough and sour on the ground! Vinnie was rescued from a slaughter sale. His paperwork shows that he came from Pa. Amish country. The dealer told us

that the Amish kids has handled him poorly and "rode the cow hide off of him". He needs time and proper handling to regain his trust and comfort with humans. Vinnie needs a very experienced handler/ trainer.



Chip & Dale-

2 absolutely adorable, calendar cute Shepherd mix puppies. These two little 12 week old brothers were left in a box on a country road. They are very healthy. Chip and Dale will grow to be big gorgeous dogs- the perfect family friends

SOPRANO

Soprano is a 6 year old 13.2H pony mare who has been under saddle for the past year. She has been shown locally by juniors and has also been on trail rides. Soprano is 100% sound and very attractive. She is still green so she needs an experienced handler and rider.



OLIVIA

Miss Olivia is full of life. She was chained to an abandoned house and very thirsty and hungry when we found her. She has been with us for several months now and is doing beautifully. She loves all other dogs and people. Olivia will bring lots of entertainment and joy into your home!



MARIAN

Miss Maria is an adorable purebred rough coated Jack Russell Terrier. She is good with kids, cats and other dogs her size! Maria was very sick when she was found. She had emergency abdominal surgery and is now all healed and ready to find her new loving home. Maria is a special little girl who is very affectionate and well manner



JESSE-

Poor Jesse. He was abandoned in the woods, chained and hungry. His family moved and left him behind. Jesse is a sweet middle aged Husky mix who prefers to be outside. He is very loving and gentle and really wants a new family to call his own. Please give Jesse a chance.

540-364-3272



PEDRO

Pedro is much cuter in real life! He is a happy go lucky, super fun guy who was rescued from a neglectful owner. Pedro was in horrible condition when we first rescued him but now is very healthy and is having a blast playing with his new canine friends. He adores children and has a big personality! Please help us give Pedro a second chance at a happy, healthy life.



ALBERT'S CORNER

A MONTHLY COLUMN FOR PEOPLE WHO SHARE THEIR HOMES WITH FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS.



WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME DOGS OUT there sporting stylish outfits, the truth is that most dogs wear just one thing: a collar. That collar might seem like a minor consideration, but it is extremely important to put some thought into what goes around your dog's neck.

First and foremost, make sure that your dog's collar fits properly. You should be able to fit two fingers comfortably under the collar but not be able to pull the collar over your dog's head. It's easy, especially with a growing puppy, to let collars get a little too tight.

Another consideration is whether or not your dog pulls while on a leash. Although training collars are not to be worn all of the time, they are excellent tools to use if your dog pulls during your walks. Haltis and Gentle Leaders look like muzzles but definitely are not. These products do a terrific job reinforcing polite walking manners. Another great training collar is a martingale. These are limited choke collars that stop choking well before any damage can occur but still get small enough to provide incentive to stop pulling.

While Haltis, Gentle Leaders, and martingales get my paws up of approval, choke collars absolutely do not. I'm sure there are trainers who disagree, but I ask you to think about one irrefutable fact: if you put a choke collar on your human neck, you will be in pain when it is taut. With traditional choke chains,

there is no limit to how tight the collar can get. Why risk tracheal damage when there are so many great alternatives to choke collars? I'm similarly not fond of prong collars, but debates rage on about these, and I will refrain from saying too much. Again, I doubt you would want one around your neck.

Whatever collar you choose, it's a good idea to use it to promote the safety of your pet. There are reflective collars that make your dog more visible to cars, as well as blinkers that radiate light for long distances. There are even "headlights" for collars that help make you and your pet highly visible when you're walking. Of course, the most important safety measure collars provide is identification. Whether the information is embroidered on the collar itself or engraved on a tag that hangs from the collar, it is critical to insure that your dog's identity is quickly available. One final word of advice regarding your dog's safety is to check the condition of collars frequently. If you're walking your dog, the collar and lead are lifelines protecting your pet from traffic, other animals, etc. If the collar or lead is wearing out, get a new one immediately.

Phew! Seems like a lot to say about a little strip of leather or fabric, but as you can see, collars are so much more than a fashion statement! I'm heading off now to beg my people for new neck ware. Life is all about the proper accessories.

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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Wine Tasting With Pearmund Cellars,
Saturday, March 26, 4-6 p.m.

Chris Pearmund of Pearmund Cellars will host a tasting of some of his winery's finest wines. Included in the \$25 ticket price is a brand new book just published this month, *Wandering Through Virginia's Vineyards* by Walker Elliott Rowe. Cheeses will be selected to compliment the wines. You will be able to place orders with Chris for those wines that please your palate.

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BY STEVEN SCHWARTZ

LOCAL MIDDLEBURG DINERS KNOW WELL THAT THE Black Coffee Bistro is a fine restaurant, not a coffee shop. If the name confuses first-timers, it was inspired by an Ella Fitzgerald blues standard that starts out:

*I'm feeling mighty lonesome
Haven't slept a wink
I walk the floor and watch the door
And in between I drink
Black coffee*

Chef Bryan Kimmet and co-owner/wife Annie serve contemporary regional American cuisine in their bright, comfortable restaurant. The artwork on the walls changes frequently, and is provided by the Byrne Gallery just down the street. The atmosphere is a perfect setting for the restaurant's unique and delicious food.

Bryan combines local herbs and greens with mushrooms and produce from across the country. Coffee is custom roasted and the tea service is real loose tea served in real china. For those who like something different, Black Coffee Bistro includes dishes made with game from the Broken Arrow Ranch in Texas. Many dishes change monthly, so you will find new tastes to explore. Many of the wines are hard to find "boutique" labels, selected to match the current dishes. (Note: You can order the Sanford Pinot Noir made famous in the movie "Sideways".) "We serve "First Plate" dishes," said Bryan. "First plates are a larger portion than an appetizer; many customers order them with a soup or salad for their entire meal."

"We have a really wonderful staff that provides great service and always strive to exceed our customers' expectations," says Annie. The restaurant is truly a family business, in addition to Bryan and Annie, 19 year-old son Adam was a regular staff member until he recently started a



new job. Regular customers have watched daughters Sophie and Emma grow.

Bryan says, "I grew up in Annapolis, and after Annie and I tired of working in cities, we've achieved our dream of running our own restaurant. It's great to live in a historic town surrounded by beautiful countryside." Adds Annie, "We've traveled around the world and are really happy have found a place to raise our daughters in a beautiful town filled with wonderful friends and great customers."

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Lunch 11:30 - 2:30
Dinner 6:00 - 9:00

Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30



MIDDLEBURG BANK OPENS NEW PURCELLVILLE FINANCIAL CENTER

STANDING BEHIND THE COUNTER OF A mahogany concierge desk and flanked by a blazing fire, Joe Boling, President and Chief Executive Officer of Middleburg Bank today officially launched the bank's first "Financial Center" in Loudoun County. The new "Financial Center" is located at the site of the bank's former Purcellville branch and is designed to further enhance the client experience at Middleburg Bank.

Upon entering the Purcellville "Financial Center," it quickly becomes apparent that this is not an ordinary bank branch. Clients are first greeted by a concierge seated behind a beautiful mahogany desk. Behind the concierge a large fireplace spreads a warm, cheery glow throughout the branch as a plasma TV delivers the days financial news. In front of the fireplace are large overstuffed armchairs where coffee and beverages are available for clients and visitors to enjoy. In comfortable offices spread throughout the Financial Center, clients and bankers discuss financial products that make the most sense for the client, not the financial provider. This is financial services Middleburg Bank style.

Beyond the warm glow of a great atmosphere in which to bank, there's another major selling point of Middleburg Bank's "Financial Center" model. All the financial professionals a client could ever need are physically located inside. For example, the "Financial Center" houses mortgage lenders, investment and financial planners, trust officers, commercial

lenders and retail banking staff. This is not typical in the industry. Often a client is required to travel to another location or make an appointment for the next time the financial professional is in town. Middleburg Bank's model offers clients the immediate attention they want and deserve.

"The high level of personal service we're able to deliver is one of the reasons the bank has been successful over the years", said Joe Boling, President and CEO. "An atmosphere conducive to delivering an even higher level of service is the logical progression of our business model. The Purcellville Financial Center is a good example of our continuing commitment to providing the highest level of service by offering the best products and the best financial advisors in a great atmosphere".

Middleburg Bank also plans to convert its other Loudoun branches to Financial Centers. Last year, the bank opened a "Financial Center" in Reston and plans to open another this year in neighboring Fauquier County.



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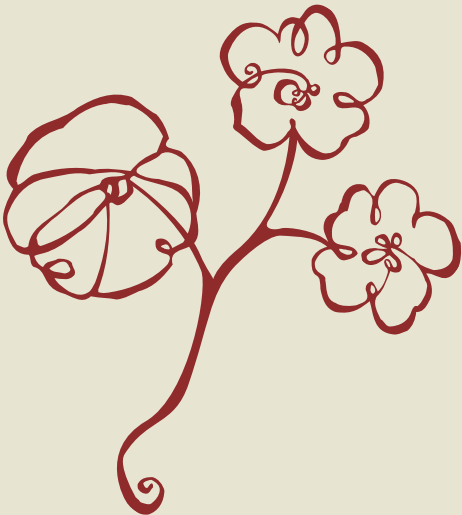


SPRING BRUNCH-TO-GO

We've put together a great brunch menu for you to grab and go, or sit and relax on our back patio. Choose from Brioche French Toast with Vanilla Crème and Maple Syrup, Croque Monsieur with Country Ham and Brie Cheese, Lemon Glazed Cinnamon Buns, Traditional Quiche Florentine and Sour Cream Coffee Cake with Fresh Blueberries, just to name a few.

EARLY MORNING ON-THE-GO

The front of the Market is now open for those early birds searching for a great cup of coffee. Starting at 7:00 am stop by for a fresh cup of Sheila Johnson's select brew coffee, cappuccino, hot chocolate or variety of fine tea. We also have fresh baked muffins and bagels. Start your morning right with a hot beverage and pastry and you will be sure to have a wonderful day!



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Beautiful property •190 acres of rolling countryside •Bordered by North Fork, Goose Creek, and Crooked Run •Spring fed pond with dock •Attractive 4 bedroom Cape •Gazebo •Ideal for horses •Spectacular views
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Delightful country property on 26+ acres just outside of Middleburg •1st floor Master Suite with luxurious bath •4 Bedrooms •4 Baths •Formal Dining Room & Living Room •Pine paneled family room •5 fireplaces •Gourmet kitchen •Heated pool •Separate 4 car garage
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