



FACES & PLACES DOG DAY IN MIDDLEBURG

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LOCAL ARTIST MAKES NATIONAL TV DEBUT

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MIRACLE ON MADISON

DOG DAY VISITORS UNITE TO HELP A SICK PUPPY

Middleburg citizens, the tall and the small, showed their true colors at "Dog Days" by reaching deep in their pockets to donate enough money to ensure that Bella, a five-month old German Shepherd under care at the University of Pennsylvania, would have life-saving liver surgery Friday, August 12.

Why would so many children, adults and foundation officers who attended the weekend "Dog Day" event be moved to help a puppy so many miles away? Because Kate Bland, a Loudoun County resident who insists that she "...simply needed to help..." is driven to help animals and, thereby, help everyone who helps her feel better about themselves.

When Kate, a successful marketing executive, and Simon, a re-knowned animal portrait artist, lost their two beloved Labradors to cancer almost two years ago, Kate was haunted by a need to focus her deep sadness on helping others animals in distress. When she learned about Shadow, a golden retriever who had lymphoma but no funds for treatment, she was determined to find a way to help.

Out of Kate's determination to help Shadow

was born 'Wrapped in Kindness,' a local initiative that raises funds for the care of animals who are desperately ill but have no financial resources.

Initially, Kate found animals in need on the World Wide Web. Today, Wrapped in Kindness's reputation precedes it, and veterinarians, families, shelters and friends come directly to the website, www.wrappedinkindness.com for help.

It was Bella's owner who contacted Kate with Bella's sad story. Her rare liver condition demanded complicated surgery to insert coils in her stunt that would dissipate ammonia. Without the surgery, Bella would die, but the surgery, even with kind consideration by the professionals and institution involved, was so expensive it was impossible for the owner to have it done.

Kate had been helping animals by knitting scarves and selling them for upwards of \$100 each. She sold the first one to a gentleman who was seated beside her on a flight back to Dulles from Omaha, and the rest, as they say, is heart warming history.

"Although I'm far from what anyone would call a craft person," Kate explained, "I've found that

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TOWN COUNCIL CELEBRATES "DOG DAY"

MIDDLEBURG BANK PARKING LOT DEBATED, APPROVED

The Middleburg Town Council, minus absent members "Bundles" Murdock and Darlene Kirk, unanimously approved a "Proclamation of Appreciation and Recognition" at its August 11, 7:30 PM meeting, honoring Laura and Larry Clark, proprietors of the Wylie Wag, for their "sponsorship, leadership and tireless hard work" in making "Main Street Middleburg's Dog Day in August" a resounding success.

Officials estimated the Saturday, August 6, "first annual" crowd at 100-150 dogs and 700-800 humans.

To applause and the persistent chirping of a 1-ounce cricket with a 10-pound voice,

Mayor Dimos presented an official "Certificate of Appreciation" to the Clarks. The Council also thanked formally more than 60 individuals, businesses, organizations and institutions for their active and enthusiastic support of the event.

Dimos cited the special, safe, positive, family-oriented, tone of the entire day's proceedings, and thanked Officers Matt Ash and David Payne of the Middleburg Police for their outstanding, polite, and friendly approach to managing the



MAYOR DIMOS PRESENTING AN OFFICIAL "CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION" TO LAURA AND LARRY CLARK.

day's potentially dangerous mix of happily distracted pedestrians, canine and human, young and old, moving in and out of the day's unusual high-August volume of vehicular traffic.

The Council noted that the day's contests, exhibits, and happy attendees yielded outstanding positive publicity for the town, generated more than \$2,000 for local "dog-related charities, and brought a large number of shoppers out on a hot, humid, "dog day" weekend in the traditional sense of the word. At least 200 of the "humans" visited the Town's Visitor Center on North Madison Street, the "Pink Box."

Middleburg Bank Parking Lot Approved

Council Member Margaret New stood alone in opposition to a motion granting the "Special Use Permit" required for the construction of the Middleburg Bank parking lot at 105 West Federal Street.

New told the Council that Don Woodruff of the Hill School had convinced her to oppose the mo-

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Clyde Lamond 540-687-5655



Glen Gordon Lodge, Rappahannock Co.

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Windance Farm, Unison, VA

Spectacular equestrian mini-estate on 33+ acres near Middleburg. Excellent horse facilities with indoor arena and 7 stall center aisle barn. Welcoming Colonial style farmhouse with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, completely remodeled. Piedmont Hunt territory. \$2,550,000.

Clyde Lamond 540-687-5655

Patricia Burns 540-454-6723



Mt. Airy Road, Upperville, VA

Special offering in Greystone. 50 acres with beautiful mountain views, pond, stone bridge. 9,000+/- sq. ft. Custom built brick Colonial (3 levels), many amenities. Large rooms, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 half baths, large custom kitchen, soaring ceilings in living room. FQ5157421. \$2,245,000.

Gloria Armfield 540-687-6395



Shepherd's Purse, Bluemont, VA

Excellent horse farm on 25 useable acres. House with 3 bedrooms, separate apartment on lower level. Center aisle stable has 7 box stalls, 4 standing pony stalls, wash area, tack room, hay loft, large storage area. 4 paddocks each with run-in shed and access to water, very large bluestone riding ring. Piedmont Hunt. \$1,300,000.

Carole Miller 703-705-9110



Springfield Farm, Delaplane, VA

Enchanting setting on 7+acres. Recently remodeled 1803 main house, with 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, pool and guest house with 2 full baths. Pond, stream, rolling hills. Great opportunity to own an organic farming operation with state-of-the-art greenhouses. Very private. Village zoning. \$1,165,000.

Julie Martin 540-364-2100



The Gay Street Inn, Washington, VA

One of Washington's best known and loved Bed and Breakfast Inns, the Gay Street Inn is an historic home and thriving business. Terrific living space with 7 bedrooms, 6 baths, and cottage gardens on two tax parcels. Great in-town location. \$849,500.

Howie Swaim 540-937-3996



23655 Landmark School Rd., Middleburg, VA

1939 stucco farm house, spacious lot on a quiet street, large enclosed porch, deck, detached garage, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement with outside entrance, recently added central air conditioning. Price reduced to \$699,000.

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NEWS OF NOTE

BEN WHITE, A FIERCE DEFENDER OF ANIMALS,
DEAD AT 53

A fierce crusader who fought for decades to save animals has lost his battle to save his own life.

Surrounded by family and friends on San Juan Island, Ben White, 53, died Saturday afternoon after a six-month struggle with an aggressive form of abdominal cancer. Never one to back down from a challenge, he said recently that he faced death with curiosity, not fear. "It could be a whole new adventure."

White was renowned internationally for his passion and his daring feats.

He swam under cloak of night to cut open dolphin-holding nets in Japan, scaled New York buildings to hang anti-fur banners, jumped in front of naval ships in Hawaii to stop sonar emissions, and slept atop old-growth trees to protest logging in the Northwest.

In Seattle, he protested the capture of sea lions at the Ballard Locks by locking himself to the cage used to hold them, then did what he always did -- called in the media to press the cause.

Ironically, his most famous action was one of his least dangerous. In 1999, he marched as head turtle at the 1999 World Trade Organization protests, standing on a truck bed and declaring, "Welcome to the revolution."

White, an arborist by profession, masterminded the turtle costumes, scrounging cardboard and latex paint, organizing work parties. He warned his turtles they would be "shelled" if they misbehaved. The costumes became the international emblem of opposition to the WTO.

A well-read man of wry humor, White called the turtle protest "a stupid publicity stunt that worked."

Those costumes will resurface at White's memorial procession later this week, when they will be worn by eight members of his honor guard. The young men and women he trained as arborists for his "Natural Guard" will be pallbearers. Helping escort his coffin to the San Juan Island community cemetery will be marimba players and drummers.

Fellow animal activists say White brought imagination and an independent spirit to the cause.

"He was a source of inspiration and courage," said veterinarian Dr. Elliot Katz, president and founder of In Defense of Animals. Katz and White once planted themselves in front of Japanese tourist buses to block their entry into Marine World.

White compared keeping whales and dolphins in captivity with shutting a human inside a closet for life.

On July 11, the veterinarians organization awarded White a lifetime achievement award for his work saving animals. Previous recipients include environmental activist David Brower and primate researcher Jane Goodall.

White was born in Virginia, son of an Air Force officer. He protested the Vietnam War, even as his father served in it. His animal activism took fire after an eye-to-eye encounter with a dolphin off the Kona Coast decades ago.

"I was suddenly aware that the entire world is conscious," White said.

White lay in grace yesterday on San Juan Island in a custom coffin of cedar, yew and juniper made by local friends.



He is survived by his ex-wife, Ann; his daughter, Julia May; his son, Benjamin Lewis White III; his brother, Wesley; his sister, Beverly Mefford; his mother, Jean, and his father, Benjamin Lewis White Sr.

Donations can be made to the Ben White Fund at Islanders Bank, P.O. Box 909, Friday Harbor, WA 98250, or to the Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20027.

TOWN COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion, repeating his long-standing contention that the proposed non-permeable asphalt surface of the lot would send high volumes of run-off water into nearby ditches and streams, with potentially disastrous impact on those living downstream. New asked that Middleburg Bank "look into" a permeable surface, one that would allow water to soak through into the ground below, as an alternative to asphalt.

Marchand Schneider, Town Planning and Zoning Administrator, noted that Middleburg Bank had long ago agreed to "look into" the matter, and, indeed, to adopt whatever "best practices" the Town and its engineering consultants recommended. Clay deposits underneath a permeable surface, Schneider noted, produce only "pooling."

Council Member Betsy Davis noted that she, too, was concerned about rain water, had talked to Wood-

ruff, and had assured him that a system to control run-off was already part of the plan for the lot. She also noted that Middleburg Bank had promised to address with dispatch any unexpected problems, should they arise. Given the bank's long history of good corporate citizenship, she said, she felt confident voting "yes." Middleburg Bank reaffirmed its commitment to do whatever was best for the Town.

The motion to approve the permit passed 4-1, with Margaret New opposed.

Salamander Rumbblings

During "Public Comments" Middleburg citizen Edward Swain revisited last month's contentious vote in support of adding the Salamander Inn property to the Town.

He thanked the Council for approving the memorandum of understanding with Salamander, with its acceptance in principal of the organi-

zation's offer to build a new water system for the town. Council Members who opposed the agreement, Swain noted, should now work with their colleagues, fellow citizens and Salamander to make the project a great success.

The vast majority of both Town and area residents, according to Swain, had favored the agreement. He pointedly warned council members who insist on continuing their opposition to the project that elections are coming. If he is any judge of the Middleburg electorate, he said, persistent opponents and obstructionists will simply be replaced.

Council Members Helen Hyre, Catherine ("Bundles") Murdock, and Margaret New voted against the agreement in July. With Murdock absent, only Hyre replied, indirectly, to Swain's remarks, noting that "outsiders" (i.e. Middleburg area residents

who are not eligible to vote) are important to the Town, volunteer in droves to support Town activities like "Dog Day", and deserve a "voice" in Town affairs.

Other Town Business

In other business the Council heard presentations from Kevin and Joanne Hazard the new proprietors of the Middleburg Country Inn, and from John Stout of Element H2O, a distributor of "ultra pure" bottled water.

Motions to authorize solicitation of bids to replace Town water system valves and fire hydrants, to appoint architect David Rosenthal of Rector-town to the Historic District Review Committee, and to support the mission of "Go21", a non-profit working to move heavy freight off roads and on to railroads, passed unanimously.

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NEWS OF NOTE

I CAN SEE YOU NOW

JENNIFER HEYNS

If seeing is believing – count me among the devout.

In July, I had LASIK laser eye surgery at the TLC Laser Eye Center in Fairfax. After years of weighing the pros and cons, I am thrilled with the results. The world has never looked so good.

In early 2004, I visited Dr. Daniel Goerl at his Manassas office. Custom LASIK, he told me, is the latest technology in laser eye surgery and, by all accounts, the most accurate and effective.

"It yields potentially clearer, sharper vision due to WaveScan map-guided treatment," said Dr. Goerl.

To show me what he meant, Goerl set up his equipment. I placed my chin in a special rest, looked at a target, and in seconds a computer showed me a highly detailed map of my corneas. This map used by a computer to guide the laser during surgery.

Another process, known as "Intra-

lase," makes the process much safer. Intralase is a "less invasive, computer controlled approach" to making something called a "flap" over your eye's cornea. The laser surgery is done in the tiny area exposed by the flap, and then, the flap is carefully replaced. (It was this aspect of the procedure that triggered my greatest fear).

Normally this tiny transparent "flap" is made with a surgical blade. With "Intralase", however, the flap is made by laser instead of a blade. This "dramatically reduces the risk of complications" (and puts queasy patients, like me, a lot more at ease.)

Dr. Perraut, who has performed more than 2000 Custom LASIK surgeries and 15,000 LASIK procedures, performs all of the Intralase procedures for the Whitten-Perraut practice. To date 98-percent of his patients have 20/40 vision or better after surgery.

Although facts and figures are important when choosing a laser surgeon, his "supporting cast" is equally important. I could not have asked for

a better support team.

When I arrived at the surgical center I met with Jamie Kerkstra, who travels with Dr. Perraut to all of the five TLC Centers at which he practices, Jamie told me more about Dr. Perraut and how he works. I also met with Dr. Valerie Seligson, who double-checked Dr. Goerl's data, verified the mapping images to make sure that I was a good LASIK candidate and that my data map was accurate.

On surgery day, I was confident but nervous.

Dr. Perraut explained everything that would happen in the surgery room: what I would see; not see; what I would hear; and how I would feel.

"Being appropriately nervous is a good thing," said Perraut, "Almost nothing you can do will compromise the procedure. If you get fidgety, we'll just have to start the procedure over again."

A small dose of Valium helped. It also helped to know that Dr. Perraut had the surgery himself six years ago.

After donning an attractive blue shower cap I was led to surgery.

Reclining in the chair was very similar to a dental visit. I was shifted from side to side while the doctor placed a guide ring over one of my eyes, lasered a flap, changed the shape of my cornea with the VISX laser and then repeated the procedure on the other eye.

The flap procedure was, be far, the most uncomfortable, but completely bearable.

I was tense, and very stiff during surgery, but I knew that it was going well. I experienced exactly what Dr. Perraut had told me would happen. He talked me through the surgery and uttered encouraging words throughout.

A little more than an hour after I walked in the door wearing glasses, I walked out with near-perfect vision – though it was hard to tell because everything was still a bit hazy.

I was instructed to go home and nap for three-to-four hours – a feat I thought was near impossible.



After nearly four hours, however, I awoke and the world snapped into focus clearly and crisply for the first time since the third grade!

The next morning Dr. Goerl checked my vision and surprised me with better news than I had expected. Only 24 hours after my Intralase Custom LASIK surgery I had 20/15 vision – better than perfect.

Take that and pair it with the Whitten-Perraut Lifetime Commitment program (they'll re-treat my eyes, if ever needed, for free), what more could you hope for?

To explore the options of laser eye surgery, call TLC at 1800-626-LASER or visit www.whittenlasereye.com. You may also contact Dr. Goerl at 703-392-7515, Dr. Stine at 540-687-3634 or Dr. Char at 703-723-8988.

MIRACLE ON MADISON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

helping these animals has motivated me to do almost anything to give them a chance. I derive as much pleasure and satisfaction from the process of helping as their families and the vets who refuse to let them die do from knowing they'll have a chance at a long and happy life."

As summer approached, Kate was searching for something to knit that would be appealing during warmer seasons, and it was Bella's owner, who was desperate to give her puppy a chance, who suggested Kate knit embellishment for flip flops.

The campaign for Bella's surgery was well underway by early August, but only half the funds needed had

been raised when a friend suggested that Kate set up a small tent at Middleburg's 'Dog Days' event.

"I've been helped by so many people," Kate says. "Tara, Barbara and Mabel of Lou Lou's have been amazingly generous. Larry and Laura Clark at Wylie Wag have been wonderful; Dr. Janet McKim of Middleburg Animal Hospital is my best customer and has been amazingly supportive and I couldn't have done it without Bob Kelly of Hunt Country Yarns."

But the response to Bella's desperate situation at 'Dog Days' illustrates clearly that deep within us all is a seldom-tripped mechanism that responds with sincere generosity when a

helpless creature is in need of help.

"I needed to raise \$600 to be able to pay for Bella's surgery," Kate said. "...And the surgery was scheduled for the next Friday, the very latest she could have the operation and still have a chance for success"

Kate arrived on Madison Street and filled her tent with fabulous flip flops, her new "Designer Fabric Dog Beds" and lots of fliers describing Bella's condition and her need for help.

"It was slow in the morning," she said. "I was pretty sure we wouldn't make the goal. But something happened just before noon and almost everyone who stopped, young or old, made a donation. I was seeing chil-

dren tug on their parents arms to go back to their car to find change, and older couples giving me money they probably needed to help this puppy they would never see. It was amazing."

As the afternoon began to wind down, Kate still needed \$475. The spontaneous generosity of so many people had been wonderful, but Bella's operation was difficult and very expensive.

"I was pretty resigned that I wouldn't make it," Kate remembers.

At that moment, a woman walked up to the 'Wrapped in Kindness' table and asked if she could read about Bella's story. The woman was Carol

Adams of The Mosby Foundation, an initiative that began by the family of a wonderful dog who was shot and killed in Staunton, Virginia.

"The Mosby Foundation would like to donate \$400 to help Bella," said Carol.

"There was no way she could have known how close that total was to what we needed," Kate said. "And, when she asked how much we needed and I said \$475, she made out the check for the larger amount. I could not believe our good fortune in having so many wonderful people care and give so much."

"Sometimes, it takes a small, helpless individual to bring out the very best in all of us," Kate concluded. "By helping one sad animal, we help their family, their vet and many in their community. It's an unbelievably powerful and positive feeling to help the helpless. We all benefit enormously when we share that feeling and combine with others to help."

Kate and Simon Bland are now the proud family of Hannah, yellow Lab, and Nikko, an Australian Cattle Dog mix adopted from the Middleburg Humane Society.

'Wrapped in Kindness' continues to provide funding to animals in need by selling items Kate makes.

"Other than the cost of materials, every cent we make goes to help animals in need," Kate emphasizes.

Although she does not feel she's a craft person, Kate knits and knits to raise money.

Late Breaking Good News!!!

Thanks to Wrapped in Kindness and all the generous people and the Mosby foundation who made a contribution to Bella's Recovery Fund at dog Day in August Bella's surgery was a success. Bella is resting comfortably at home and receiving the attention she needs.

To purchase scarves, flip flops or dog beds please visit www.wrappedinkindness.com.

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*Due to an error in the last issue, please note the above correct telephone number.

Dr. Edward Perraut
LASIK Surgeon

Dr. Daniel Goerl
LASIK Director

Dr. Mark Whitten
LASIK Surgeon

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Longfield

Middleburg, Virginia

Built in 1986, stone house with slate and metal roof, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, hardwood and onyx floors, and rear flagstone terrace. 96.73 gently rolling, mostly open acres with mountain views. Improvements include a 5-car garage, inground pool and spa, and cattle barn. \$4,400,000.



Mulberry

Middleburg, Virginia

True Middleburg location, minutes from town, surrounded by large estates. Stately brick Georgian Circa 1965, completely updated and enlarged by current owners. 4 bedrooms, large studio, 6 full baths, 7 fireplaces, paneled library, spectacular entrance hall, exquisite detail throughout, high ceilings, lovely molding. Improvements include 22 x 50 inground pool, new pool house with kitchenette, spa, and entertainment area, 3-stall barn, brick tenant house. 75 gently rolling acres, with 35 acres of potential pasture, landscaped lawns with sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. \$4,500,000.



Tallwoods

Delaplane, Virginia

Charming stucco home in wooded setting in Delaplane on 11 very private acres. High ceilings, and large windows fill the house with natural light. Living areas and master suite are located on the main level with generous room sizes and lovely millwork. \$1,150,000.



Phoenix Hill

Middleburg, Virginia

Lovely brick colonial with 5 spacious bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths. Located on 14 pristine acres bordering Goose Creek in Middleburg. Improvements include inground gunite pool, pond and two paddocks. \$2,100,000.



Rocky Mist Meadow

Delaplane, Virginia

Immaculate 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath brick colonial on 26 +/- open rolling acres bound by Goose Creek. Highlights include great room with two-story gas fireplace, well-equipped kitchen, large master bedroom and bath with jacuzzi tub, and gorgeous views from every window. 3-car garage and shed. \$1,200,000.



19306 Loudoun Orchard Road

Leesburg, Virginia

Elevated Mt. Gilead location with stunning views, minutes to Leesburg and Toll Road. Stone home constructed in 1992, completely updated, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, open floor plan. Improvements include inground heated pool, stone 3-car garage with workshop and apartment, and tractor shed. \$1,250,000.



Sutherland

Upperville, Virginia

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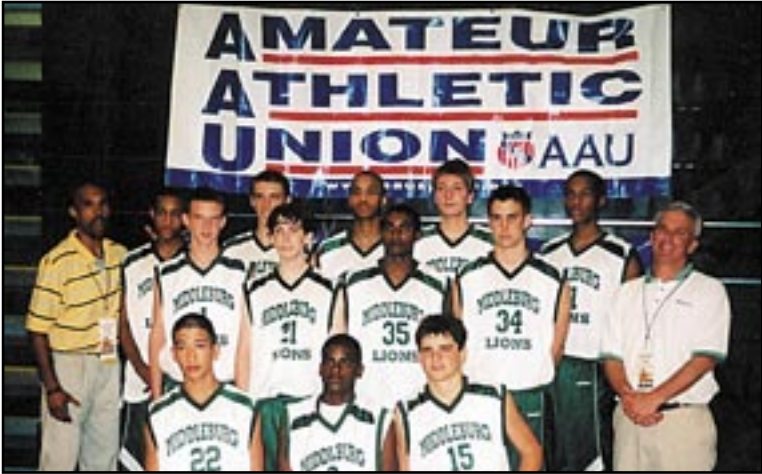
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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG LIONS FINISH 8TH IN COUNTRY



TEAM MEMBERS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
1ST ROW ISAAC BARNETT, BRANDON WINBUSH, MATT MILLER
2ND ROW JASON AUGUSTOWSKY, DREW MACMAHON, JOSH MALLORY, BRAD THIESING
3RD ROW COACH SKIP WALKER, DARREN WARREN, MIKE LONDON, JEREL WRIGHT,
GREG DOYLE, AARON LEWIS, COACH PAUL MACMAHON

The Middleburg Lions U-14 Boys AAU Basketball Team finished 8th in the country at the AAU National U-14 Championship held in Orlando, Florida, the week of July 9th-16th. The Lions finished the week 7-2.

The Lions currently have a record of 104-20 and have accomplished the following, first place in the Capital

Beltway League, won the San Juan, Puerto Rico Shoot Out, won Super Regional AAU Tournaments in Greensboro, North Carolina, Philadelphia, PA., East Coast Clash in Washington, DC, and won many other tournaments all over the east coast.

This is the third consecutive year a Middleburg Lion Team has qualified for Nationals.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW CONTRIBUTOR

The Directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) are pleased to announce the J. Preston Levis Charitable Foundation has joined the list of repeat contributors to the community foundation. PCF executive director, Karen Krei, said gifts from a private foundation are a wonderful manifestation of everybody working together on behalf of the community's charitable needs. The J. Preston Levis Charitable Foundation was formed in memory of Charlotte R. and J. Preston

Levis, parents of Middleburg resident John P. Levis, Jr. who serves as president of the private charitable foundation.

The Piedmont Community Foundation is structured to honor all manner of charitable interests important to donors.

To learn more about how you can participate, please contact Karen Krei, PCF executive director, at 540 687 5223.

MOTHER TO MOTHER: TRANSITIONS AND WHAT'S NEXT?

This fall, two experienced and down to earth clinicians, Jane Jones, Ph.D. and Heather Paige, Psy.D. are offering a seven week informational and process group for mothers in the Middleburg and surrounding area. Topics to be covered include: issues with maintaining identity, exploring changes in body image and sexuality, balancing time and self-care, dealing with overwhelming and new emotions, and finding time for your relationship with your partner. The group format will be a combination of open process

and discussion as well as information exchange for members with more direct and critical parenting issues. The group will meet at the Solstice Healing Center in downtown Middleburg on Friday mornings from 9 to 10:15AM starting September 16th and ending on October 28th. Advanced registration is encouraged, as limited space is available.

Informational brochures are available at the Solstice Healing Center. 540) 687-4750

MIDDLEBURG BANK NAMES TODD BRAITHWAITE VICE PRESIDENT

Todd Braithwaite has been named Vice President of Information Technology, a promotion from his prior Assistant Vice President position. Braithwaite will manage and support the bank's network infrastructure, network systems and telecommunications, including servers, computers, phone systems and communication lines. He will also support the technological needs of Middleburg Financial

Corporation, the holding company for Middleburg Bank.

Braithwaite joined Middleburg bank in 2000 as a Network Administrator. Prior to joining Middleburg Bank, Braithwaite was employed by O'Sullivan Corporation in Winchester, VA. He has over 14 years of information technology experience and is a Microsoft Certified System Engineer.

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OUR EARTH

THE GARDEN IN HIGH SUMMER

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

On any given August morning the temperature will have reached seventy degrees. Even on an overcast day, before 10:00 AM, the morning temperature can read seventy-six in the shadiest part of your yard. By this time of year, our ears have become accustomed to the sound of cicadas. So much so as to ignore them, like a ringing in your ear, it's constant. No matter how distant or near, this sound of summer is always there and we pay it no mind. August is a lackadaisical month and many things go unnoticed. It can be a month of rewards for the gardener, what with long days, plentiful harvests and non-

stop flowers. There are a quite a few perennials that bloom in August and I consider this month my favorite of the year. Only in close contention with July and maybe June, I love summer. But it's far more than the flowers and the sound of cicadas, there is activity everywhere, one must simply practice the art of observation to see just how busy things really are.

At seventy-six degrees, even at sunrise, our cold blooded insect world is busy and as the day progresses, so too will they. There are hubs of activity that alter as the month passes, isolated stations of convergence, food stops, open every hour - on the hour, the amount of food being processed is astonishing. Towering Joe-Pye weed

and the waist high cone flowers are just a couple of August's perennials, both reaching a climax. Liatris or blazing stars, in its many forms becomes a hub, it joins the others in luring pollinators by offering flowers that are brimming with sweet nectar.

If one observes the flowers of Joe-Pye Weed, there comes a point, almost a definitive minute, when the flowers have begun to ripen and the nectar seekers arrive. The hordes descend, the monarchs, swallowtails and bumblebees. The same can be said for all flowers, a few simply make this transition so much more obvious both by virtue of size and lure of particular pollinators, in this case butterflies. The cone flower is interesting as each tee



tiny composite unit on the cone opens, spiraling around the cone. Look closely and you will see the small yellow rings presenting pollen for the hungry visitor. Here many of the smaller insects arrive to feed, satisfied with the size of the dinner plate. Bumblebees, skippers and smaller butterflies pin-point the location of the next sip of nectar as it winds around the cone. Early in the morning the bumblebees are the most active. As the day progresses, the temperatures rise and more nectar seekers arrive. It seems that eighty degrees is necessary for the last of them to feel fluidly mobile enough to flit about. The hummingbird moth arrives at that time, with its furry abdomen and quickly beating wings, many observers at the plant farm ask if they are baby hummingbirds. There are two lo-

cally abundant species, one the snowberry clearwing which has a body that is tan and black. The other is the hummingbird clearwing moth which has a body that is mostly dark brown. Their larva feed on native honeysuckle and snowberry or symphoricarpos (hence the common name), the caterpillar looks like a dainty form of the tomato hornworm. They complete two

life cycles each summer and I suspect that the most visible form, the adult, is the shortest lived.

And then there are the carnivores. The mantis and spider lay in wait for the unsuspecting. Food is plentiful in the right place during the month of August. Many a garden spider weaves its web between flowering stalks of liatris and every grouping of flowering plants is home to at least one praying mantis. They are patient and oh-so-still. It may take hours, but they are ever watchful. Camouflage aids them as they wait and a few prey actually escape after being caught. But time is on their side right now, day after day of warm weather and lots of nectar seekers.



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THE EDITOR'S DESK

A TOWN'S BEST FRIEND

When it was miserably hot and everyone's energy was low, the first annual 'Dog Day in August' brought a lovely assortment of canines, their friends and masters to the Village of Middleburg last Saturday for a fun-filled day of activity and shopping. It did not lower the temperature but raised a real sense of community and the town's profile with many individuals who will return as customers and friends.

To give credit where credit is due, we recognize all the following individuals, organizations and businesses for making our first Dog Day in August such a successful endeavor:

Thanks go to: Laura and Larry Clark, Vince and Tutti Pericone, Betsy, Mark and Lauren Davis, Eura Lewis, Bundles Murdock, Donna Strama, Prem and Donna Devadas, Mabel Walsh, Melissa Clough, Claudia, Bob and Sarah Dornin, Officers Matt Ash and David Payne, Marvin Simms, Marchant Schneider, Pun-kin Lee, Patricia Jones, Karen Buckley, Jay Hubbard, Lisa Patterson, Andrew and Kevin Clark, Ray Sullivan, Terry Davis, Liz Thomas, Canine Companions, Northern VA Animal Swim Center, Paws4People, OBG Cocker Spaniel Rescue, The Mosby Foundation, Wrapped in Kindness, Simon Bland, Karen Derrico, Bill Pursche, Middleburg Humane Foundation and HART, Genevieve Warner, Middleburg Animal Hospital, Martine Bertell, Lucky and Dare, Sonya Winter and Little Toot Sweet, Charlotte Rosenberg, Micki Hazaard, Middleburg Printers, Quail Run Signs, Fursman Kennels, Market Salamander, Wisdom Gallery, Wylie Wagg, Middleburg Country Inn, Middleburg Eccentric, Middleburg Business and Professional Association, Loudoun County Animal Control and Canine Units, Main Street Middleburg Committee volunteers and all the local canine and human volunteers who gave of their time and talent to ensure the Dog Day in August event's success.

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

saved the town approximately \$500,000 in potential sewer and water availability fees for 49 residential units, certainly a substantial sum, but a powerful case? The other change he made, involving the placement of a VOF easement, was inconsequential (read the revised document).

Contrary to another item in the editorial and statements in the article about the council meeting, Mrs. Johnson has not offered to pay for a new water system; Salamander is paying for a SEWER system. Many citizens seem to be under the impression that the town's water treatment plant needs repairs or replacement, when, in fact, the plant is brand new and the town has sufficient water capacity to serve all projected development within the town plus Salamander for 20 years or more, according to a report by the town's engineer. There are certainly pipes within the town that need replacing, but good, clean water is now being pumped into the system without the need for any of Salamander's wells.

Your closing suggestion to "forget the fight and welcome the decision" is a curious one, after making so many contentious and antagonistic remarks. I would suggest your paper attempt to be more objective and factual in its reporting and less pejorative in its characterization of those who share an obvious interest in the welfare of the town.

Michael Morency
Middleburg, VA

velopment in western Loudoun might not result in lowering taxes or reducing congestion and traffic but it sure will result in controlling the increase of them. He and his minority group would rather have uncontrolled growth and sprawl.

Like all tyrants when faced with a majority view different from their own he tries to play the "class warfare" card by pitting neighbor against neighbor. But it won't work this time. Last time it was the "Middleburg elitists". This time he tries to insinuate that those "radicals" that want to control growth are dehumanizing the farmer and taking away his 401K savings. The truth is that the Clem-Burton plan allows for land owners to sell off lots; it doesn't allow them to indiscriminately cut up their land into postage size development lots. Let's call a spade a spade; his concern is for his developer buddies and he could care less about the majority of the land owners in western Loudoun. Yes, I said the majority because the majority in western Loudoun has spoken, at a rate of 7 to 1, for controlled growth. Now I know he and his minority view supervisors don't want to hear that and continue to insist that the "majority" haven't come forward to voice their real concern. Do they mean the small group that makes up CPR and is funded by real estate interests? Well, the problem there is CPR does not hold the majority view on this issue. But here's an idea for you; put the question of western zoning to a referendum of those voters who it affects the most, the citizens of western Loudoun and see where they vote.

He shouldn't try to scare/threaten us with lawsuits that will cost millions and could lead to another defeat in court as he and Snow have indicated. They need to accept the majority decision and do their job in crafting zoning for western Loudoun that represents what the majority of citizens want and will stand the test in court, if need be.

The citizens of western Loudoun have spoken. In the military there is a saying; lead, follow or get out of the way. I suggest Supervisor Staton decide which he cares to do.

Jeremy C. Rosenberg
Middleburg, VA

To the Editor:

I was gratified to see Supervisor Staton's letter in a recent countywide publication. He's finally shown his true colors.

He talks about people taking away other peoples rights. I guess he assumes that his developer supporter buddies have a "right" to make money off of their real estate speculations in Loudoun County. He insinuates that there is no sprawl issue by claiming a "straw man has been created in the form of the nameless, faceless developer". Maybe Mr. Staton should drive around the county; try driving down Gum Springs Road, Evergreen Mills Road or Belmont Ridge Road to name a few. If he can't see the "faceless developer" there, he should make an appointment with an optometrist.

He may be right that controlling de-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Your editorial in the most recent Middleburg Eccentric appeared to be lacking in the perspicacity you attribute to those who voted in favor of the agreement with Salamander and Loudoun County. Casting those who have opposed the scale and unknown development associated with the Salamander project as Luddites, as Sheila Johnson has done in the past, is an unfortunate characterization of many citizens, both inside and outside Middleburg, who share "a commitment to the traditions we all revere". I think there are many who are able to look past the promise of a new sewer plant and

decide that the Salamander development is not necessarily an improvement, given the lack of limitations in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The suggestion was made that certain members of council did not examine all the facts of the case, which was not evident to me in attending many hours of committee meetings wherein most of the facts pertinent to the subject were discussed over the last two years. Perhaps you were alluding to the lack of balance in the presentations by those promoting the project?

What was Mark Snyder's "powerful case"? As far as I can tell, Mark possibly

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PASTIMES

WHAT TO DO WITH A ZUCCHINI THE SIZE OF A CANOE FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

Bob Kaplan plods over with his annual bushel of zucchini each the size of a canoe.

Tom Anderson gave me a bagful of goosenecks (squash) and bell peppers from his bountiful garden.

Paul Hoog even drops off a huge assortment of bell peppers, more squash and green beans, then brings by some extra squash the next day. I sit now with a produce section the size of Wegmans™.

To accommodate all of this new harvest, for which I am grateful, I had to adjust the shelving in my two fridges. Thank heavens for friends & neighbors with vegetable gardens.

Enormous zucchini have stumped me for years. I've learned to stew, pickle, pummel, casserole, freeze, fry

and grill these things until I can't see straight. But because of their size, I think some of the best ways to serve these puppies up, especially for family style dinners, is to hollow them out and stuff them as well as pair them with the other bounty of the summer.

Sky's the limit on ingredients for stuffing. We're all familiar with the usual suspects - rice, breadcrumbs, mushrooms and dried herbs - but I found that with a bit of prep this wonderful vegetable is a worthy main dish. Plus you can water ski with one on each foot in a pinch.

Zucchini Canoe with Pine Nut & Red Apple Stuffing

Another original. By putting the two sides together and wrapping them in foil to bake, you allow the flavors to fuse together nicely. Perfect for picnicking. Transport in the foil and carve

up on site.

1 lg Zucchini, large & overgrown, the size of a canoe

1 lg Vidalia Onions, sliced

4 tbs Butter

1/2 cup Pine nuts

1 1/3 cup Bread crumbs, unseasoned whole wheat if you can find

3 tbs Fresh Sage, chopped

2 tbs Fresh Mint, chopped

2 med Apples, Red Delicious or Spartan (red skinned), peeled and sliced thinly

Sea salt and fresh, cracked pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut the stems off the zucchini and slice it in half lengthwise, making two good

size canoes. Scoop out the seeds (not the meat) leaving a nice canal for stuffing.

Sauté the onions in the butter until translucent then add the pine nuts, bread crumbs, sage and a dash of salt and pepper. Turn off the heat and add the apples and mint, folding in gently.

Stuff both sides level and then place them back together securing with toothpicks. Wrap completely in aluminum foil, wrapping the ends tightly. Bake for about 30-45 minutes until desired tenderness is achieved. Pierce the foil with a toothpick to gauge. Cut into slices.

In closing, as I started to write this month's column I saw an article in The Washington Post by Candy Sagon titled, "What's Green and Flies 120 Feet?" She provided some recipes for ways to "use up" all that zucchini, e.g. summer slaw, the conventional zuc-

chini bread and a zucchini cake. Nothing astounding...except for this. She spoke of a competition that involved flinging zucchini about called "Squash Put." Interesting...but in my opinion (coupled with being raised in a restaurant family) wasting food in any manner goes against my grain (pardon the pun). So for those who are looking to "use up" their zucchini, in lieu of participating in contests such as these, how about donating it to the local food bank? There are many around... email me and I'll help locate one for you.

*Comment or catastrophes?
fbts@middleburgeccentric.com*



ALL BATS ARE OFF SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Say it ain't so.
Say it ain't, Raffy.
Please.

That's all the little kid in me has managed to say over the last few weeks since the curtain was ripped aside and there Raffy sat, weak, evasive, and relying on the paper-thin kind of semantic argument we haven't heard in these parts since we started actually considering what the definition of is is. Or was.

Rafael Corrales Palmeiro's now infamous finger waggle targeted squarely at the House Government Reform Committee is laid bare, at best as an overly zealous, don't-you-tell-me-my-business-type of waggle, and at worst as a grossly transparent, manipulative, over-acted bit of smoke and mirrors waggle designed simply to elevate himself above the above the mush-mouthed mumblings of Sammy Sosa and weepy-eyed, let's-just-look-to-the-future claptrap emanating from Mark McGuire. A clever bit of

guile designed, ingeniously, to make Palmeiro the straight-shooter of the bunch, the only one wearing a white hat.

Say it ain't so.
Say it ain't, Raffy.

The little kid in me wants to believe that someone slipped Raffy a roofy.

Because that's essentially what Rafael Palmeiro is claiming; he failed Major League Baseball's newly mandated drug test because someone, or something, managed to get the drugs into him without him knowing. Gasp!

I can see it now... A dark, smoke filled bar, neon lights buzzing, overhead fluorescents flickering, Palmeiro sitting there, back to the room, nursing a tepid High Life, when a passerby "accidentally" stumbles into him. Instinctively, Palmeiro turns and, in so doing, misses the sinister gloved hand that snakes up from under the table and sprinkles the finely ground, stanozolol dust into his beer.

Or maybe, and this is just as likely, Palmeiro was simply walking through

the locker room one day before a game, minding his own business, maybe offering an encouraging word to one of the young guys in the clubhouse who look up to him like some sort of baseball immortal (you think the young guys DON'T?) when, just like Indiana Jones, Palmeiro stepped on a secret tile and the air was suddenly abuzz with hundreds of stanozolol tipped darts, pricking, piercing, and puncturing Palmeiro's innocent skin.

Yup, I can see it now. Hell, I can hear it now.

Stanozolol, for those of you keeping score, is the man-made steroid that Palmeiro, according to published reports, got busted for using. If it sounds familiar, it's because it was once made famous by Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson. Johnson was ever so briefly the world record holder in the 100 meters, before getting busted for, you got it, stanozolol. Ben Johnson, however, didn't play for Major League Baseball; he played for the International Olympic Committee. Whereas Palmeiro only got a 10 game vaca-

tion from MLB for his crime, Johnson got a lifetime vacation from the IOC. Whereas Palmeiro has to keep all those silly records he set while being a doper, Johnson got to get rid of all his burdensome records. Whereas Palmeiro actually has to go back to work for MLB (can you IMAGINE?!), Johnson got to spend his "early-retirement" years doing such noble things as racing, I could not make this up, horses and stock cars.

The really sad thing about all of this is how complicit Major League Baseball has been in the whole thing. Depending on your definition of time, or dates, Palmeiro and MLB have known about this failed test for months. Remember all the build-up leading to, and the subsequent hoopla surrounding, Palmeiro's joining Willy Mays, Hank Aaron, and Eddie Murray as the only men in the history of baseball to collect 3,000 hits and 500 homeruns? Remember the full-page ads MLB took out in Baltimore area papers to congratulate Palmeiro and his heroic achievement?



All of it was done with the knowledge that the man, the myth, the legend they were trumpeting was a proven drug-user.

They were celebrating the Wizard, not of Oz, but of O's, and when the curtain was torn away we all saw what the Wizard really was: a sad, sorry, little boy in a man's body who'd gotten caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

Say it ain't so.

*You may always reach Alex Cudaback
at cuda2@yahoo.com*

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PASTIMES

A WELL LIVED IN HOUSE

WELCOME HOME

WANDA K. CROSSLEY

When you first meet someone, do you ever wonder just who they are? What are their likes and dislikes? What are their passions in life? Often, the best way to truly get to know someone is to visit their home.

For me, it's always exciting to visit a home well lived in, one that has been decorated with love and personality. Like their owners, homes come in all varieties. Homes can be tastefully furnished and simply practi-

cal, or distressingly impersonal like a model home or a show house.

I never expect a well lived in home to be perfectly decorated with everything rigorously in place as portrayed by the shelter magazines - that's not how we live. I love homes that reflect the true expression of the owner, be it a passion for books, china, children's art work, or the love of flowers that flourish on textiles, furniture and just about everything.

It's okay for a chair to be worn or for fabric to be faded, or furniture to have scratches and dents. When my son was four he took a play saw to my

new dining room chair. At first I was horrified. Later it was hard for me to part with the chair because of the memory.

I often find people don't want me to see their house because it's not perfectly decorated. I guess I find myself doing the same. Not everyone has an artistic eye - that's why I have a job. However, most people have an ability to express their true character through their home. Our homes should always be a work-in-progress; it's what keeps life interesting.

It's never too soon or too late to start making your house into a home.

For someone just starting out or starting over it's more of a challenge, especially in a new house. On the other hand, lifetime collectors find it easier to move on and take their possessions with them wherever they go.

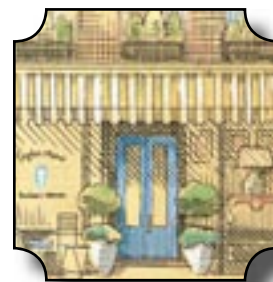
Your home is your sanctuary, your security, your social means, a place of good times and sadness, your nest. Forget about impressing or copying your peers. Whether it be classic or eccentric, elegant or informal - express yourself. I know my favorite homes display an eclectic mix of the unexpected, born from years of living.

Seek out what makes you smile.

Use your favorite color, not just what the latest trend is. Blue makes me smile. Don't let the TV be your focal point and get sidetracked of who you are. Let your home reveal your most sentimental emotions.

Show me a well lived in home, and I'll show you a life well lived.

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



LOCAL ARTIST MAKES NATIONAL TV DEBUT

Purcellville artist Alana McFall will be featured on HGTV's Mission: Organization on September 6th at 9:30pm, repeated on September 10th at 2:30pm. In this episode, professional organizer Amy Rehkemper transforms a seemingly unusable basement area into a lively multipurpose family room, made magical by Alana's mural.

Alana adds her creative touch to the children's play area. The basement ceiling becomes a cloud-covered sky, laced by the branches of a friendly tree that smiles down in invitation over the children's reading area at its base. A magic beanstalk climbing up to a castle in the clouds is designed especially for Jack, the little boy lucky enough to live in the transformed home. Alana's

mural helps to turn an ordinary space into an extraordinary one.

A longtime Baltimore City public school special educator, Alana recently relocated to Purcellville with her husband to be closer to his work. Alana, who also has a post-baccalaureate degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art, used this change of locale as catalyst for a life and career reinvention. With much support and encouragement from her husband, she has successfully started her own mural painting business, called Amazing Spaces. Her new business allows her to combine her love for children and education with her love of art.

Amazing Spaces specializes in creating imagination-stimulating environments. Alana is quick to point



out, however, that children are not the only ones with imaginations that need stimulating. "Murals can be wonderful addition to all sorts of spaces," she says. "Bedrooms, kitchens even bathrooms!"

Alana and Amazing Spaces can be reached at amazingspacesart.com, or at 540-668-6484.



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MOON SALE

THE FUNCTION OF ART

THE ART OF ART

TOM NEEL

I am always a bit surprised when I visit homes or offices with nice things and much thought given to those things and their placement, but where art does not exist or is treated at best as an accessory. I find myself asking, why is this so? How could the presence of art be so much a part of our lives, our history and our culture and then be given so little presence of mind in our embellishment budgets?

The answer could simply be that as expensive as a fine sofa or table might be, it still has function and we tend to think of function first because it grows out of need. A fair point indeed, but without being a historian, I'll bet you early man (and woman) were painting and telling stories on the walls of caves while they were still sitting on cold dirt floors and or even knew what tables were.

You see, art has always had its place, its purpose and function

throughout time. And while I'm not suggesting that you bust out the kid's crayons and start telling your family history by sketching on your walls, I am implying, art has had its place in every civilization. Whether it be the Romans or American Indians, the Egyptians or the great kingdoms such as England or France, art was always important and purposeful and never an after thought. I would also go as far as to say, a museum of art is largely how we define our notable cities today. Ask yourself this, what significant city is without a museum to celebrate art?

Art is simply what people think of first when they think of the word museum. Oh yes, there may be a spy museum or even a Elvis museum, all with a purpose, but museums such as the Louvre in Paris or the National Portrait Gallery here in Washington D.C. or the Guggenheim in New York City, are places of true treasure. We are quiet when we are there, careful not to touch, in true awe and inspired. These treasures preside in great build-

ings as well, towering monuments to civilization and masterpieces in their own right and you know when you are in their presence.

Art truly has a powerful presence. It has the power to captivate audiences and therefore handled correctly, is likely to be the focal point of any room or setting. This of course has great advantages and if you needed but one simple function for art, this could be it, but there are so many more.

Unlike a mirror which can only reflect it's surroundings, art can reflect our emotions, especially if we choose it properly. As an example, art can reflect a part of our lives or some place special we have visited. It can show we are fond of someone through a portrait, maybe even of a pet and it can reflect our passions in rich florals through unbridled color. It can be narrative and tell a story, imply motion, call for deep thought, pain or complete happiness. But, art can even do more than this, it can even reflect power.

Years ago I was employed by a

publishing company whose President had in his office a sofa he would sit on for many of his meetings. The staff or visitors would then sit in chairs nicely arranged facing him, with a coffee table between them, you get the picture. The sofa was against a wall and on that wall was a "very" large painting done by a talented Chinese artist. It was of that famous scene we all saw on television of the protests in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, with a single defiant student standing strong in front of a tank. Every time the tank inched forward with its long, projecting barrel or made a move from side to side, the student would hold his ground. It was a powerful scene that made for a very powerful painting and a very interesting place for it to have been hung wouldn't you think? Purposeful? Yes, and it was one of the most interesting and psychological negotiating tools I've ever seen. I witnessed the power of that painting many times and hey, who says art's not functional?

Art can be far less overpowering



though. Its versatility can bring us to a very peaceful state of mind, nice for a family room, but how about a dentist's office? It can create a splash of color thus drawing attention away from an area we would like there to be less focus on. It can create conversation, continuity and contribution. Art is much more likely to reflect the essence of you and it's easy for me to see art coming first to a room with everything else playing a supporting role, but whether art comes first or last, it should never be forgotten.

There is art for all budgets, personalities and places. Choose what you like, not just something that goes with the other things you have chosen. Then do what I do, enjoy it!

Tom Neel is a Middleburg area artist.
www.tomneelstudio.com

FOX CHASE FARM CHANGES LEADS

Fox Chase Farm is ending the lesson and boarding at their site in Middleburg, VA to focus on more horse shows, clinics and events.

Owner Mrs. Eileen Hanley who owns the barn, and her daughter Mau-

reen Hanley, who runs the facility said on Monday, "We are NOT going out of business; we are just changing our focus. We feel that there isn't a great location to have horse shows anymore." Maureen Hanley said, "Fox Chase Farm is in a great location in

Middleburg on Route 50 for horse shows, clinics and events and because of the massive lesson and boarding program that we have had here, we couldn't do as many horse shows as we would have liked to do. We now have the opportunity to do a Winter

Series and more clinics AND we still plan on continuing our very successful horsemanship camps in 2006."

All lessons and boarding will finish on September 30, 2005. At that time, most of the school horses will be for sale at auction at the farm.

Fox Chase Farm already has 3 shows and a 2-day Joe Fargis Clinic slated for October. For more information on the farm go to: www.foxchase-farm.net or call 540-687-5255.

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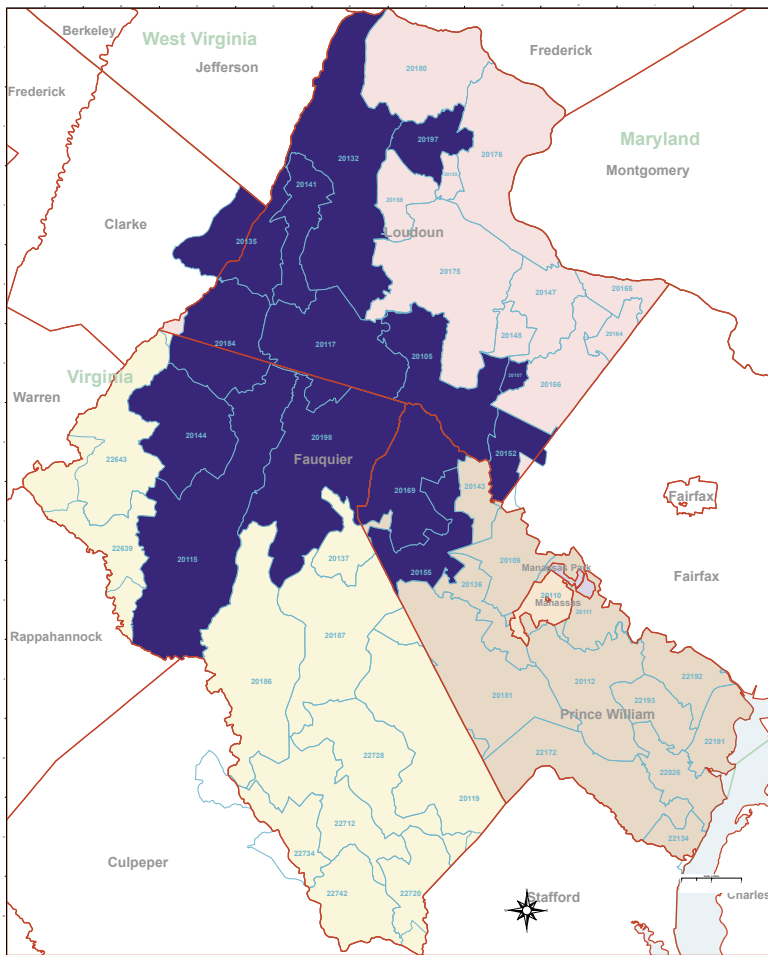
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PASTIMES

MUST SEE TV

ALEX CUDABACK

For those of you really dedicated Seventh Inning Stretch readers (yes, both of you), you may remember that back in April a piece appeared in this very real estate, or some close enough approximation thereof, that encouraged the Philadelphia Eagles to send Terrell Owens to the corner with a big old dunce cap on his head.

I am proud to say that I came up with this rather ingenious, progressive-minded idea all on my own. I am also proud to reiterate that I came up with this idea IN APRIL!

Now, nearly four whole months later, the Eagles have followed my advice nearly to the letter. Granted, "the corner" in this case is Owens' own house. And granted, the Eagles didn't need to issue Owens a dunce cap; this was deemed unnecessary when the Eagles realized that Owens not only already owned a ridiculous-enough looking camouflage cap but that he was apparently happy enough to wear it.

Any day now I am expecting to receive a real-deal thank you note from the Eagles organization for coming up with such a forward thinking strategy and letting them use it, gratis.

In the meantime, however, I am content to sit and watch T.O. and his shark-in-human's-clothing agent, Drew "Show Me the Money" Rosenhaus, appear on national television making the case for their reprehensible, though admittedly comedic, behavior.

These are the two guys who are bound and determined to get the Eagles to rework T.O.'s seven year, 49 million dollar contract. And they have concocted a bold and breathtaking strategy to do it. Allow me to elaborate... Whine and complain during the off-season that the current contract woefully undervalues Owens. Threaten, briefly, to hold out once training camp starts. Quickly change tune and proclaim, for all the world to hear, that Owens will indeed show up for training camp on time, but imply, none-too-subtly, that he will be unhappy, surly, and generally a pain in the derriere. Show up for training camp, act out all the aforementioned implications, and, just for good measure, refuse to speak to the quarterback, his position coach, and for that matter, just about anybody else. Allow this behavior to simmer in the hot summer sun. When, after just about everybody on the team has had enough, lash out at the head coach when he tells Owens to "shut up," reminding him that Owens' last name is, indeed, Owens, not Reid, and therefore is being "disrespected" by his coach's missive. Get sent home.

Huh...

If these guys were military strategists, instead of negotiators, I think we could safely put them in the same class as James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan, and George Armstrong Custer, the two brain-trusts that brought us the Charge of the Light Brigade and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, respectively.

My favorite part of all this though, really, is watching Owens and

Rosenhaus on television, telling a nationwide audience that all of this is the Eagles' fault and that what they should be concerned about is "making Terrell happy."

It's delicious T.V., honest to God, and there simply is nothing better going right now. Owens sits there in his T-shirt and shorts, looking more like a petulant twelve-year-old than the "professional" he professes to be, spouting

on about the organization's disrespect versus his work-ethic and dedication; Rosenhaus sits next to him, his just-too-broken-in blue jeans and blazer a sign of someone trying just a bit too hard to be coolly at ease, nodding and grinning like the orchestrator and enabler that he obviously is.

It's train-wreck T.V. at its finest, and if you're missing it, rest easy. Just as day follows night, and night follows

day, this silly little merry-go-round is guaranteed to spin on into the summer, and the fall, and the winter, and the spring, and the summer, and...

Well, you get the idea.

Football is back, and with it, the world's finest, funniest, most ridiculous made-for-T.V.-docudrama; Owens and Rosenhaus, a Fox News production if there ever was one.

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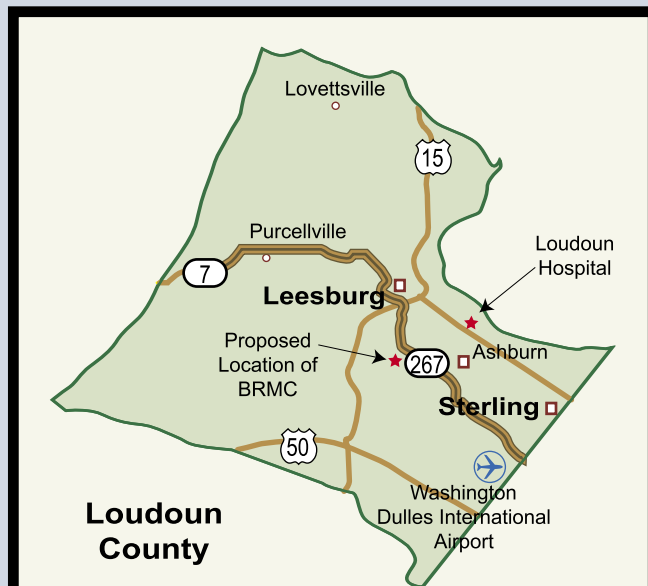
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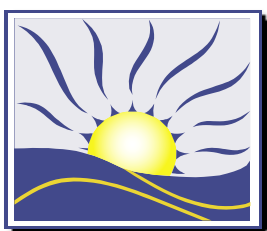
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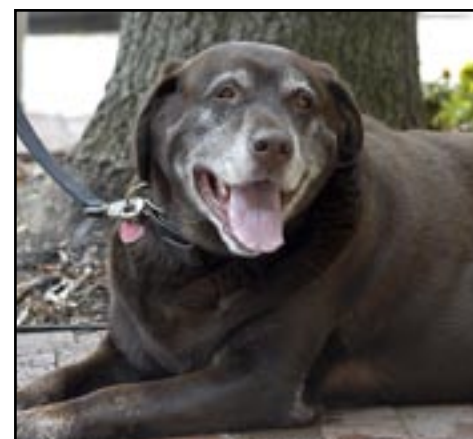
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WADE SMITH'S 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER ~ AUGUST 13, 2005

PHOTOS BY JAY HUBBARD



WADE AND PAULA SMITH



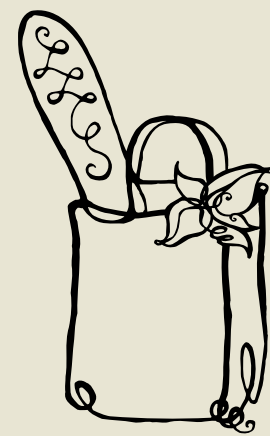
TUTTI PERRICONE



MELVILLE TIBBS



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



The lazy days of summer are starting to dwindle, but not at Market Salamander! We have recently added more seating for you to sit and relax and enjoy the sights and smells of our fine Market. Our chefs have recently expanded our selection of freshly prepared items to eat in or take out. So don't delay! Come in, sit down and sample everything the Market has to offer.

WINE-TO-GO

Our wine cellar has recently been reorganized and we have some wonderful selections to choose from. Priced right to accompany some of the many cheese and prepared items the Market has to offer. The Market staff is ready to help you complete your feast with the right selection of wine.

CATERING-TO-GO

Looking for some specialty items for your next gathering? We have prepared a sumptuous array of items to delight your guests for any catering event, whether large or small. Our new catering manager Kisha Phillips is ready to help you plan an on-site event, or plan a menu and pick it up at the Market. Kisha can be reached directly at 540-878-3544.

COOKING CLASSES

We are pleased to announce openings in our popular cooking class series. Upcoming dates include:

SEPTEMBER 13

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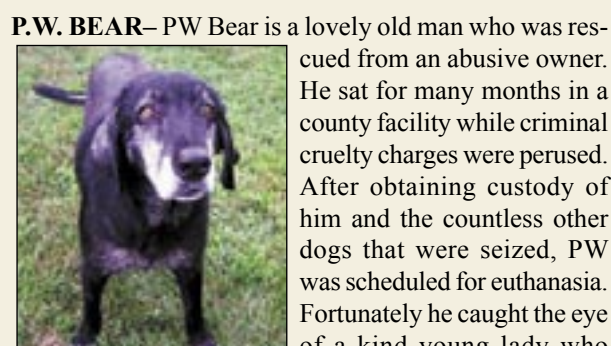
540-364-3272



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.



KITTIES! Schedule an appointment to come to our shelter to meet and greet a wonderful group of kittens and young adult cats. Everyone is AIDS/Leukemia negative and has started their vaccines and dewormings. The spay/neuters are included in our adoption program. Ask about our "Buddy program" to help keep friends together.



P.W. BEAR - PW Bear is a lovely old man who was rescued from an abusive owner. He sat for many months in a county facility while criminal cruelty charges were perused. After obtaining custody of him and the countless other dogs that were seized, PW was scheduled for euthanasia. Fortunately he caught the eye of a kind young lady who adopted him and brought him to us! PW will win your heart. He loves kids, cats, dogs and his stuffed toys. He is housebroken, quiet and gentle with everyone. He has some skin issues that we are currently working on but other than that he is a healthy guy! Please help him have the loving retirement that he so truly deserves.



ANN MARGARET is an absolutely gorgeous TB mare, about 20 years old but looks like a 4 year old! She is 16H, VERY easy keeper, sound and very healthy. She needs to be re-schooled since she has not been ridden in many years. Ann Margaret needs a home with an experienced rider to help her get going again.



TACO - . OK- this kid is just to much fun! Taco is full of life and energy. He gets along well with all other dogs but will chase kitties. Taco is an adorable small 1-2 year old lab mix with a big personality who would bring lots of laughter into your home.



JOYCE - Joyce is a special old TB mare who had a tough winter. She is quite healthy now and just needs more groceries! Joyce is easy to handle and very gentle. She must be grained and would benefit from good pasture as well. A wonderful babysitter/ lawn ornament!



GINGER & PAPRIKA - Two super special sisters rescued from a rural county shelter where their time was up. Both of these little girls are petite medium sized 1-2 year old dogs. They are very gentle and cuddly girls who are now loving life!



DINGO - Poor Dingo. He is a cattle dog cross that was raised with small children. Unfortunately, he didn't have a job of his own so he continued to herd the kids into the closet and occasionally eat their toys!!! Dingo is a gentle dog. He is housebroken and well mannered but he really needs an interactive home with lots of fun things to do!



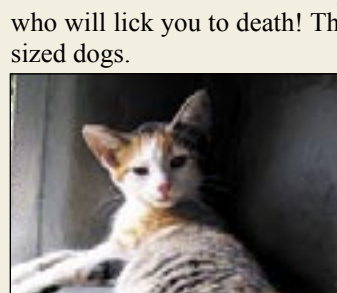
BLACKIE - A special old man who got ill and could no longer care for him. Blackie is a 12 year old purebred Border Collie who is deaf and a little arthritic but gets around well. He adores kitty cats and children. Please help..



HAVE MICE?? HERE KITTY KITTY!!! - We have many gorgeous, healthy, spayed and neutered adult kitty cats that need homes! Kittens go quickly but our adult cats sit for months looking for homes. Please, if you have room in your heart, home or barn- give us a call!



LOLLY & POP - 9 week old Beagle/ Cocker ? mix pups. They were rescued from a shelter where their time was up. Even though they are the cutest little things and you would think they would have no problem finding a home, there simply are not enough homes for them all. Lolly and pop are fuzzy little kidlets who will lick you to death! They will grow to be medium sized dogs.



POSSUM - Possum is one of our favorites. She is tough as nails! Possum is now 12 weeks old and is strong willed! She has a huge personality and would be the perfect barn kitten!



SAMMY - Sammy is a huge 6 year old purebred Chocolate Lab. He weighs 125 pounds and is currently undergoing treatment for heartworms. Sammy is very well mannered and an absolute love muffin.



BEAUTIFUL BUNNIES - These two pairs of bunnies are very special! They are very people friendly, spayed & neutered and very healthy. Both pairs must stay together and need homes with lots of love and daily interaction.



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ALBERT'S CORNER

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



As you might have heard, Main Street Middleburg held a canine celebration on

Madison Street in Middleburg called Dog Day in August. Bow-WOW was it ever fun! There were more people and pets than I've ever seen in one place in my whole life. It was simply amazing. It would take pages and pages to thank everyone involved in pulling off the event successfully, but apparently I am not allowed to take up the entire newspaper with my thank-you note.

I can, however, devote my whole column to saying what an extraordinary group of people and dogs came to the party. I've never seen such manners! The street remained clean of litter and "accidents," all the dogs got along, and all the people were perfect guests. I was so proud!

And the vendors...where do I begin to express my gratitude? Many of them devote their lives to raising money for animal charities and finding families for homeless dogs. The people I met that day warmed my heart and reaffirmed my faith in humanity. A lot of money from the event went to Middleburg Humane Foundation to support the tireless work they do on behalf of so many needy animals. In addition, one of the charitable organizations, The Mosby Foundation, wrote a big check to another charitable organization, Wrapped in Kindness, to save a five-month old puppy. Kate Bland, who founded

Wrapped in Kindness, is calling the generous gesture "The Miracle on Madison Street."

All in all, it was a terrific party. I loved seeing the dogs playing in the wading pools and winning prizes in the contests. (Admittedly, I was a little disappointed that I was ineligible to enter those contests. I would have had the "Best Beggar" category all locked up.) I loved seeing the people sharing the afternoon with all of their beautiful best friends. Most of all, I loved knowing that I live in a community that welcomes my kind with open arms.

One small postscript to the person who said she's a big fan and keeps a picture of me on her wall: it was such a pleasure to meet you and I am terribly flattered. You seem like a very, very nice person.

And one last small postscript to Winston, who wrote me a letter after the event: I love getting mail! Thanks for taking the time to write.

To everyone out there who came to the event or participated in it as a vendor or volunteer: thank you from my furry little ears all the way down to my stubby little tail.

Your Furry Friend,

Albert



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

MIDDLEBURG VETERINARIAN NAMED ULTRASOUND PRESIDENT

Dr. Jack Love co-owner of Middleburg Animal Hospital was named president of the International Veterinary Ultrasound Society (IVUSS) at the society's annual meeting in Arizona ending July 13th. Dr. Love previously held a seat on the board of directors of IVUSS. His two year term will begin following the organization's meeting in Scotland in 2006 insert what month here.

IVUSS was established in 2001 with the goal of helping to set the standard for the use of ultrasound in companion animal medicine and surgery. "All major ultrasound companies provide education for veterinarians" according to Dr. Love. "Our purpose is to help doctors take their abilities to the next level." To accomplish this, IVUSS is the only organization offering an ultrasound

certification program for veterinarians. It is a 3 year program consisting of the submission of 15 clinical cases in both abdominal and cardiac ultrasound, a written exam and a practical exam involving the candidates correct interpretation of select ultrasound images. "My goal when I joined IVUSS in 2003 was to be the first veterinarian in the country to achieve certification" said Dr. Love. "I am still on course to accomplish this, hopefully by the end of this year. It is an honor to be in this position and to also be named president."

Dr. Love and his wife, Dr. Janet McKim, have owned and operated Middleburg Animal Hospital since 1984. Dr. McKim is a certified Veterinary Acupuncturist. They are joined in the practice by Dr. Stephanie Henderson and Dr. Jane Currie Kaye

A few words of appreciation from Wylie Wagg.

As the sponsor of Main Street Middleburg's 2005 Dog Day in August, Wylie Wagg would like to thank everyone who came to the event, participated as a vendor, acted as a volunteer, donated a raffle item, or helped publicize the celebration.

We would also like to thank those of you who contributed to the support of animal charities.

We were overwhelmed by the kindness of our community, the impeccable manners of our two-legged and four-legged guests, and the tireless efforts of the animal-loving organizations who joined us.

Last but not least, we would like to extend a special thank you to Middleburg Eccentric for donating a full-page color ad, Middleburg Printers for donating printing services, Bendure Communications for donating public relations services, and Main Street Middleburg for dreaming up this doggone great event in the first place.

Thank you!



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JANET MCKIM, DVM
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THINGS TO DO

FOX CHASE FARM announces that Nina Fout (Bronze Medal winner at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney) will be judging its schooling show on August 20, 2005. Two-time Olympic Gold medalist, Joe Fargis will be judging their September 25 show. For more information see: www.foxchasefarm.net

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION in partnership with Sloans & Kenyon Auctioneers and Appraisers of the Metro Washington area will be holding an Antique Appraisal Day on Saturday, October 29th from 10AM to 5PM at The Hill School in Middleburg. A team of expert appraisers will be on hand specializing in Paintings, Decorative Arts, Silver, Porcelain, Jewelry, Furniture, Clocks, Books, Civil War Relicts, etc. \$25 fee per item appraised. \$5 admission fee includes raffle ticket. Lunch available on premises provided by Mr. B's Barbeque. Call MHAA at 540-687-6681 for further details.

THE MIDDLEBURG ART LEAGUE announces the third annual Middleburg Art Show, October 1st-2nd, 2005 at the Middleburg Community Center, Middleburg, Va. The juried show will feature artists from all over northern Virginia and beyond, in a variety of media including oil, watercolor, acrylic, sculpture, photography, jewelry, stained glass, wood turning and more. Prizes and gift certificates will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place entries in each category, and a special \$300 gift certificate from Waller Framing in Middleburg will go to the winner of Best in Show. The show opens Friday night, September 30th, with an Artists Reception and Preview from 5:00pm to 8:00pm that will feature local wines, hors d'oeuvres and live music. Admission for Opening Night is \$10.00 per person, (kids under 12 are free); and free admission to exhibitors, sponsors and Middleburg Art League members. The show runs Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1st & 2nd from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The show is open to the public and admission to the show is free. For more information about the Middleburg Art League or the Middleburg Art Show, contact Aeron Hynes at 540-687-8799 or email middleburgart@yahoo.com.

ALDIE RURITAN TO SPONSOR \$10,000 EVENING. On September 24, the Green at Aldie Peddler will be alive with dinner, dancing and anticipation. The Aldie Ruritan Club will be sponsoring their first Grand Raffle. Tickets are \$110 each and only 200 will be sold. Your ticket entitles you and a friend to dinner, dancing to the Fox Band and a chance to be a winner! Numerous cash prizes will be awarded ranging from \$50 to \$300, with a top prize of \$10,000. You will also have the opportunity to bid on a truly impressive assortment of items donated by local merchants for a silent auction. All profits from the raffle and auction will be used to continue the Ruritan Club's tradition of service. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call Tyler Gore at 540-687-6075 or John Duggan at 703-754-0470.

THE MIDDLEBURG PLAYERS proudly presents **OLIVER!** IN CONCERT, on Friday, August 19th at 7:30 P.M.; Saturday, August 20th at 2:30 and 7:30 P.M.; and Sunday August 21st at 2:30 P.M. OLIVER will be performed at the Sheila C. Johnson Performing Arts Center, at The Hill School (130 South Madison Street) in Middleburg, VA, by some very talented local actors and proteges.

Advance purchase tickets are Adults, \$15, and Children, \$12, and at the door \$20; and \$15. Order Tickets today, by phone at 703.327.6742:

Please support our local non-profit arts and theater company!

The greater part of this tale was originally published in a magazine in 1838. The author, Mr. Charles Dickens, expected at the time that it would be objected to in some very high moral quarters, and the result proved to be the justice of his concerns. Therefore I feel it a duty to warn you that some of the characters in this production are drawn from the most criminal and degraded of London's population. Sikes is a thief and a murderer. Fagan, a receiver of stolen goods, the children are pick-pockets and Nancy is a prostitute. But, Mr. Dickens believed it to be an established truth that a lesson of the purest good may be drawn from the vilest evil. In this spirit, he wished to show in little Oliver, the principal of good surviving through every adverse circumstance and triumphing at

last!

Among public buildings there is one that is common to most towns great and small, a workhouse. A cold, crowded and dismal place indeed. And it was here that Oliver was born. The circumstances of his birth, his parentage, even the day and date were never told to him. At his birth, Oliver cried lustily. If he could have known that he was an orphan left to the tender mercies of churchwardens and overseers, he would have cried the louder. As it was he fell into his place — a parish child — an orphan of the workhouse — a humble half-starved dredge, loved by none, cuffed and buffeted by the world.

And so he continued for 9 years....

Don't miss OLIVER! IN CONCERT

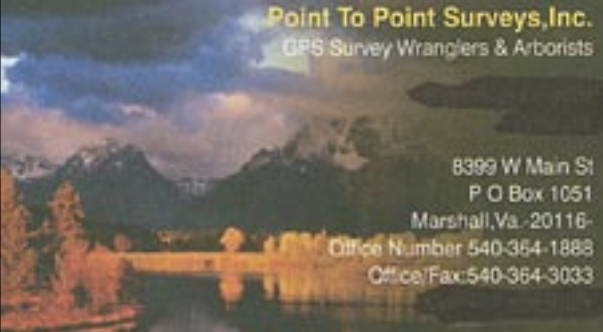
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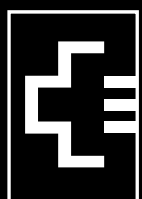
Saturday, October 22nd

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

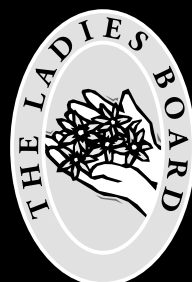
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LOCUST GROVE



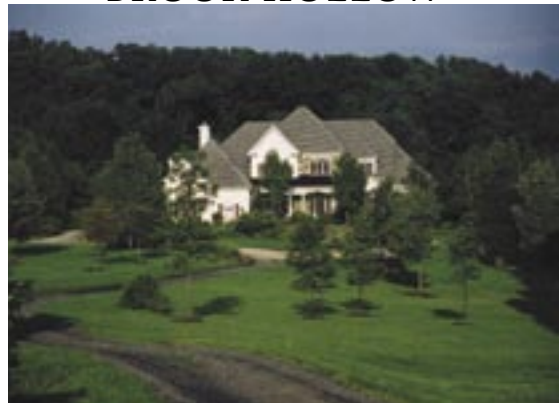
Extraordinary 250+ acre farm • Meticulously restored stone main residence • Charming log guest house • Separate office/studio • 4 stall center aisle barn • Separate apt. over garage • All in pristine condition • Gorgeous views in a protected area **\$4,975,000**

BEACON HILL



Grand estate on 55 gorgeous acres in a secluded setting • Utmost in luxury • 3 furnished levels • Brazilian cherry floors • Marble baths • Floating staircase • 2 story ceilings • Au pair suite • Sauna • Library • Designed for gracious living **\$4,900,000**

BROOK HOLLOW



63 acres • 4 BR • Family room with FP • First floor Master BR • 2nd family room on lower level • 3 car garage • Views of 5 acre lake & pool • New 7 stall barn • Board fenced paddocks • Great location between Middleburg & Leesburg **\$3,200,000**

THE MEADOWS



Washington, VA • c.1749 Manor house • Greek revival wings added 1810 • Completely restored with modern fieldstone kitchen & grand living room additions in 1990 • Central air • Heated Pool • Paved driveway • Pond • 21+ acres in the village **\$2,995,000**

FOXLEIGH



Delightful country property on 26+ acres just outside of Middleburg • 1st floor Master Suite w/luxurious bath • 4 BRS • 4 BAS • Formal Dining Room & Living Room • Pine paneled family room • 5 fireplaces • Gourmet kitchen • Heated pool • Sep. 4 car garage **\$2,975,000**

RAPPAHANNOCK CO.



19th century farm • Nearly 50 acres • Mostly rolling, fertile crop fields in area of vineyards and horse farms • Quiet retreat with 1 bedroom cottage • Several home-sites • Large pond • Abundant wildlife • Peach orchard • Pastoral views • Route 211 frontage **\$1,295,000**

MT. MARSHALL



Washington, Va • 25 acre retreat • Spacious chalet style home • Fabulous mtn views • 10 acres fenced for horses • 5 stall barn • Paddocks • Mtn stream • Miles of hiking and riding trails in Shenandoah National Park right from your doorstep **\$999,000**

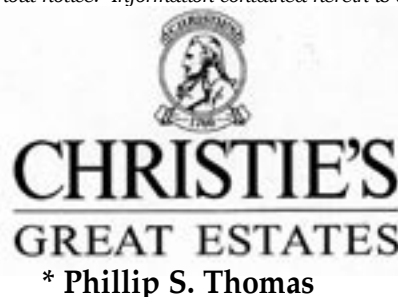
POTTS MILL



Stunning 3 bedroom home on 6.3 acres • Board fenced pastures • Gorgeous pool, spa & terrace • Pristine condition • Fabulous country home boasts spacious rooms • Two fireplaces • Master suite with fireplace • Ideal horse property **\$979,000**

For further information regarding the properties above or for any of your property requirements please contact any of our qualified agents. All inquiries shall be held in the strictest of confidence. Offers subject to errors, omissions, change of price or withdrawal without notice. Information contained herein is deemed reliable, but is not so warranted nor is it otherwise guaranteed.

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