



CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

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MY, WHAT NICE HIPS YOU HAVE

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PACKED COUNCIL MEETING STAYS LATE PRESENTATION FROM SALAMANDER

A standing-room-only crowd stayed late and listened quietly to an end-of-the-meeting presentation from Salamander Development at Town Council's December session on Thursday, December 8.

Salmander's Prem Devadas armed with architectural models, presentation boards and pointers outlined both a new and much-revised site plan, plus new building designs and floor plans for the much-debated Salamander Inn and Spa project. (For more on the latest Salamander revisions see page 4)

Following the Board of Supervisors' recent approval of required zoning changes, public hearing on boundary line adjustments that will bring the Salamander property officially into the Town of Middleburg was set for January 12, 2006, 7:30 PM

at the Town Offices.

Asnow-storm threatened and Mayor Tim Dimos officially assigned Police Chief Webber to sky-watch-and-warning duties as he gavailed Council to order at 7:30 PM for an end-of-the-year agenda otherwise devoted to routine business.

Joe Burke of BOWA Builders described the renovation and design work done out of his new offices on East Washington Street and was formally welcomed by Council at the traditional monthly presentation by new businesses in town.

Waterford's Kate Magennis Wyatt followed Burke with a power-point overview of the nationally and internationally recognized achievements of the "Journey Through Hallowed Ground" foundation and its supporters to date, leading to unanimous Council approval

of two resolutions supporting protection of the historic treasures along the Route 15 corridor from Gettysburg to Charlottesville: one recommending that the corridor be considered for National Heritage Area designation; the other recommending National Scenic Byway designation.

Tom Patterson thanked the Council and Town Staff on behalf of the Fox Run Homeowners Association for paving the eastern end of Marshall Street, drawing a gracious response and laughter after a wry warning from Mayor Dimos about "being careful how you speak about unpaved roads" in Loudoun.

Tom Pratt, a twenty-year resident of Middleburg, requested that Council consider joining Winchester, Warrenton, and the District of Columbia as "Communities of Peace." The Council, with

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RURAL ECONOMY SMALL FARMS ARE BIG BUSINESS IN LOUDOUN

STEVE DRYDEN

In many Northern Virginia neighborhoods, two miniature Sicilian donkeys could add up to a heap of trouble. In western Loudoun County, they are simply part of the charm.

"Mercifully, my neighbors have not commented," says Karen Lowe, whose Loweland Farm occupies 60 acres on Steptoe Hill Road in Middleburg. The donkeys have a "strong, deep chest" that belies their stature, and the all-hours braying can be heard across property lines. But because Loweland borders another farm and a camp, there aren't any complaints.

In northwest Loudoun, the smooth functioning of Malcolm Baldwin's 28-acre Weather Lea Farm near Lovettsville depends on more than friendly relations with his neighbors. He needs hay for his sheep, but can't

afford the expensive equipment necessary to cut his fields. A farmer who lives nearby performs that task for him.

Loweland and Weather Lea exist in a delicate but thriving sector of Loudoun County called the rural economy. Delicate because both farms are entwined with the community in intimate ways. Thriving because of the booming demand for their goods and services.

The impact of proposed new zoning regulations on western Loudoun's rural economy is an important part of deliberations this winter by the Board of Supervisors. Baldwin is watching the debate very closely. If most of the fields that surround his property become subdivisions, he could see his hay service vanish and his profits disappear.

"I'm simply too small to control my rural environment so I'm very vulner-

able," Baldwin says.

Many of the businesses that make up the rural economy are, like Baldwin's, modest-sized. Wineries, pick-your-own farms, farmers' markets, antique shops, bed and breakfast inns, and animal hospitals are among the other enterprises in this sector, often started by entrepreneurs who have moved to the county from more populated Washington suburbs in recent decades.

There are also the larger farms that specialize in such traditional Loudoun products as grain and cattle. And of course there is the equine services industry, which leads the state in horse sales and employs 2,480 people.

Put together, the big and small make up a robust part of Loudoun County commerce, with rural economic income of over \$40 million annually. In 2002, the latest year for which agricultural census data is available, Loudoun

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Fox Meadows, Delaplane, VA

Magnificent estate situated in the heart of the Virginia countryside. The brick Georgian built in 2000 is uniquely sited on 82 acres comprised of open land, pastoral views, woodlands and manicured lawn and gardens. The property has 4 bedrooms, guest suite, 16 foot ceilings, beautiful outdoor terrace, one level living, and large 3 bedroom tenant house. All this yet only one hour from Washington, DC. \$4,250,000.

Jim.Thompson@erols.com 540-687-3216



Grove Lane, Delaplane, VA

Breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains on 70+ acres. Custom built 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home features hardwood birch floors, 2 fireplaces, kitchen with granite counters and custom cabinetry, and full finished basement. Farm is fully fenced & cross fenced, and includes a run-in shed, equipment barn and small pond. Located in Orange County Hunt territory. \$1,650,000.

Camden M. Littleton 703-568-1097



23655 Landmark School Rd., Middleburg, VA
1939 two-story 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. \$649,900.

Dave Olimpi 540-729-0354



Roscommon, Upperville, VA

94 acre professional horse farm designed and created by Olympic Medalist. Light filled sophisticated main residence, spacious rooms for entertaining. Pine floors throughout, granite counters in updated kitchen, 6 fireplaces. 12 stalls, 11 paddocks, large sand/rubber arena, garage with apartment, tenant house. Piedmont Hunt country. \$3,350,000.

Linden Wiesman 703-408-4696



Dover Road, Middleburg, VA

Completely updated 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath Colonial on 3 acres. Amazing kitchen opens to family room and breakfast area. 2 fireplaces, sun porch with heated ceramic floor. Pool, 2-stall barn/shed, 2-car garage. Many shade and fruit trees. \$1,375,000.

Camden Littleton 703-568-1097



21 Chinn Lane, Middleburg, VA

Charming cape located in the Village Hamlet. New kitchen, stone walls, stone walkways, new furnace, just painted outside. Beautiful moldings, Spanish Tile floors in kitchen and powder room, 3 sets of french doors open to private terraced patio garden, garden shed. Walk to restaurants, grocery, schools, churches and lovely shops. Room for expansion if desired. Wonderful location! Owner/agent. \$885,900.

Anita Sisney 703-973-1987



The Pot House, Middleburg, VA

11.3 acres with 3 fenced pastures, and 6 dwelling units. Historic main house has 3 bedrooms (one on 1st floor), 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, large living spaces, porches, gardens, greenhouse. Guest house, 2 cottages, studio with kitchen and full bath, and 3 stall barn with apartment above are included in this "personal village." \$2,250,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-6395



Havenleigh, Middleburg, VA

Gracious country living with all the amenities including au pair/in-law suite. Situated on 3.5 acres near Middleburg, VA, this is a commuter's dream. View a virtual tour at www.armfieldmillerripley.com. Motivated seller. Make offers! \$1,095,000.

Clyde Lamond 540-687-5655

Patricia Burns 540-454-6723



23465 Melmore Place, Middleburg, VA

Lovely 4 bedroom home on 3 acres in Melmore Development in excellent condition. Beautiful private setting with screened-in porch and deck overlooking pond and stream. Underground watering system, attached 2-car garage, detached 2-car garage with water and electric. \$775,000.

Carole Miller 703-705-9110

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NEWS OF NOTE

JOHNSON JUMPS INTO POLITICS

NAMED CO-CHAIR OF GOVERNOR ELECT INAUGURATION COMMITTEE

ALEX CUDABACK

The past twelve months have been busy ones for Sheila Johnson. Her latest, and probably best-known business venture, at least locally, the Salamander Resort and Spa, has moved closer to completion; she became the first female, African-American to hold the position of owner/partner in three professional sports franchises; and on November 9th, she was named co-chair of Governor Elect Tim Kaine's inauguration committee.

On January 14, 2006, Timothy M. Kaine will be officially sworn in as the 70th Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. And for the first time in over two hundred years, that inauguration will take place not in Richmond, but in Williamsburg.

Kaine and Johnson have grown to know each other well over the last several years, he as

the Lieutenant Governor, she as a prominent resident and business-owner in the increasingly important northern region of the nation's original Commonwealth.

Throughout the recently-completed Governor's campaign, Johnson proved an invaluable ally to Kaine, contributing more money to his campaign than any other individual donor and using her connections and savvy to help further the Governor Elect's message and vision for Virginia.

"The most important things for me about Tim Kaine," said Johnson, "are his incredibly high standards. He's a true family man, and as a public servant he has shown remarkable vision, an ability to see the big picture, to set goals and use all the tools at his disposal to reach them. I see Tim Kaine as being not only an architect of change, but, at the same time, as a real steward of the Commonwealth, in the finest tradition of Virginia's leadership."

Why Williamsburg?

According to Johnson, two of the main reasons to hold next year's inauguration in Williamsburg are to recognize not only the Commonwealth's rich diversity and history, but also to bring the inauguration to as many residents as possible.

"We want this inauguration to be for everyone," stresses Johnson. "At the same time, Williamsburg allows us to showcase the rich historical traditions of Virginia. We're approaching the quadra-centennial of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in not only Virginia, but America. The upcoming inauguration will be an important part of that celebration."

Johnson is quick to point out that, although Williamsburg will be the site of next year's inauguration, Richmond will by no means be left out.

"There will Inaugural Balls in both Williamsburg and Rich-

mond," Johnson says. "Tim will get to take a helicopter between the two cities."

She laughs. "I don't think I'll be so lucky! I see a car ride in my future."

Johnson is expected to bring her entertainment background to bear, and she's already working hard to line up some top acts for the celebratory series of events.

"It's trickier than people might think," she says. "Scheduling the kind of bands that people expect to see with only two months in between can prove challenging. Most of these groups schedule events six to twelve months in advance."

That being said, Johnson seems not only up to the task, but excited by the prospects.

"We're talking to the Dave Matthews Band. They said the dates looked difficult, but they're like native sons! I'm going to stay on them."

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES BLUE RIDGE HOSPICE ENDOWMENT FUND

Directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) have established an endowment fund to permanently assist Blue Ridge Hospice as the organization continues to provide quality end-of-life care to patients and families facing serious illness, and to support community members affected by death, dying and loss.

The Blue Ridge Hospice board of directors created the new endowment fund to offer Western Loudoun families an opportunity to make a lasting tribute to a loved one in the local community. Gifts of any size are welcome from those who wish to support the BHR endowment through the community foundation.

Blue Ridge Hospice is a

not-for-profit health care organization founded in 1981 by Gail Rogers and Helen Zebarth. Today BHR serves Western Loudoun County, plus Frederick, Clarke, Warren and Shenandoah counties. In October BHR marked the first anniversary of an eight-bed residential center located in Winchester, built to assist those who require care beyond services administered in their home. The center is staffed around the clock with nurses and nursing assistants. Karen Krei, PCF executive director, expressed appreciation that PCF was chosen as the steward for the new endowment thereby enhancing our community through this charitable endeavor.



CRAIG MATTHEW SCHULZ

BELOVED SON, AND BROTHER, CHERISHED FRIEND

On December 4, 1980 in Falmouth, Massachusetts, Craig Matthew Schulz was born to Barbara and Dale and sister Lisa Schulz. At the age of 6, he moved from Fairfax to Middleburg, Virginia where he grew up.

Craig attended Loudoun County High School and graduated from Embrey Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida in 2003 with a degree in Aeronautic Science.

Craig was a certified pilot in single-engine and multi-engine aircraft and was fully rated for instrument flying as a CFI instructor. Because of his true passion for flying he became a flight instructor at AV-ED in Leesburg, Virginia.

On November 9th, Craig died in a tragic plane accident.

With his untimely death, the great energy that radiated through him to those around him is lost. He was a generous, caring, loving and all-around nice guy. His smile never left his face, and your name never left his memory.

Craig was our beloved son, our adored brother and our cherished friend.



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Thank you!

This year's chili dinner raised just over \$5,000

Due to the generosity of Salamander Market, Light Foot Café, Backstreet Café and other donors who underwrote the cost of the evening, the admission cost and tips will go directly to local charities to feed and support local families

Thank you to all who came out and supported this cause!

See you next year!



NEWS OF NOTE

A PROPOSED NEW LOOK FOR THE SALAMANDER INN AND SPA

SALAMANDER ASKS COUNCIL TO CONSIDER APPROVING A NEW SITE WHICH MOVES THE INN CLOSER TO MIDDLEBURG

Salamander Development LLC's Prem Devadas closed Thursday night's Town Council meeting with a detailed presentation of the corporation's latest plans for the buildings and grounds of the hotly debated Salamander Inn and Spa, including a suggestion for a new site.

Mayor Tim Dimos introduced the Salamander Inn presentation session by recognizing and thanking Dr. Sheila Johnson for her "graciousness"

The New Site Plan

Prem Devadas, speaking for Salamander, noted that the Board of Supervisors had, indeed, approved on Tuesday morning, by a vote of 8 to 1, "our right to build a 120-room resort" on a 340-acre tract and that the Board's approval cleared the way for the Town and Salamander, working under the terms of their Memorandum of Understanding, to move forward, not only with boundary line revisions and the construction of the Inn and Spa, but the

ruption, moves the main entrance road farther away from the Inn and Spa's neighbors to the north, lowers the above-sea-level height of the Inn as a whole, and makes it easier for guests at the Inn to get to town without using their cars, either by walking or biking,

Though Salamander could go ahead and build using the old already-approved site plan, Devadas requested that the Council and the public give thoughtful consideration to the new one, and inform Salaman-

The "feel" is to be that of an ancient Virginia manor house that has been added to by succeeding generations until it reached it's current configuration as an Inn and Spa.

The proposed new location will also allow buildings to be fitted into the lower contours of the property, preserving the highest ground on the property for forest land.

Reception Areas, Restaurants and Conference

Guests will enter the Inn through a courtyard, reached

combination of Virginia and continental cuisine, at moderate prices.

The stuccoed conference facility will seat 300 comfortably and include a 5,000 square foot ball room. Roughly half the Inn's business is expected to be based on conferences.

Guest Rooms

The main lodging house will contain 44 rooms. They're large, 600 square feet, and each features a foyer, a small dining area, a working gas fireplace, LCD television sets in bedroom

New Site Plan



for "being such a wonderful partner to work with" during the lengthy approval process to date. He also expressed his pride in, and personal gratitude to, the Town Council for their hard work. "I am grateful to Jim Burton and the prior Board of Supervisors for having the vision to enact a comprehensive plan and an AR-2 zoning ordinance that this all to happen," he continued with a certain restrained irony, "and I'm grateful to the current Board of Supervisors for working closely with the Town of Middleburg to help make this happen."

building of the Town's new waste water treatment plant.

But Salamander has a new and better idea. "One of the main reasons we want to discuss this tonight," Devadas began, "is because the County has approved our 120-room resort in a particular location . . . in a forested area completely outside the current boundaries of Middleburg, in the County.

Salamander wants Council to consider approving a new site (see maps) which moves the Inn closer to Middleburg, but leaves the forest intact, requires less earth moving and soil dis-

der of their preferences as soon as possible.

Virginia Stone Exteriors

Salamander's design team has also suggested extensive changes to the outside appearance of the Inn. Gone is any notion of a French/Tuscan villa design. The new look is Virginia Countryside, with all the major buildings faced with natural stone in the style of the Red Fox Inn, stone chimneys reminiscent of the German stone farm houses that dot the county, natural slate roofs, gravel and stone walkways.

via a long shaded drive. After entering a spacious reception area, guests will be registered in a private library-like room. At the other end of the reception area will a wine bar, open to the public, serving casual lunches and dinners and afternoon teas. Next to that a room for billiards and TV is planned.

The main restaurant will seat 110, including a private dining area. About 135 guests could also be served on outside patios with views overlooking the Bull Run Mountains in the distance. Open to the public, the restaurant will feature a

and bath.

The Spa will add another eight rooms, designed to allow in-room treatment. In addition to world class Spa facilities, the area will also include facilities for a cooking school.

Nine private cottages, three of them with four bedrooms each, are also planned for the grounds.

The rest of the rooms are contained in a conference living facility, which the proposed new site will allow to be built as a three-story facility that appears to be only two stories high.

My other horse is a Hummer

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NEWS OF NOTE

RURAL ECONOMY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

farm sales were 39 percent higher than in the previous census taken in 1997. Tourism – based in many instances on the existence of a pastoral landscape – delivered \$2.9 million to the county government in taxes in 2004.

After the Virginia Supreme Court last spring struck down the previous Board of Supervisors’ zoning plan for western Loudoun, zoning reverted to the old one house/three acre (A-3) rule that agricultural experts say would ruin the open space conditions needed by farmers. “We cannot sustain the rural economy with a development density of one house/three acres,” declares Richard Fiske, former president of the Loudoun Farm Bureau.

The previous board’s zoning rules limited building in the west to one house per 20 or 50 acres, depending on the location, though with “clustering” options, the effective zoning was 10 acres and 20 acres. Clustering involves placing homes close together so that more open space is preserved.

In July, the current board gave county staff the go-ahead to work on a draft for a zoning proposal sponsored by supervisors Jim Burton (I-Blue Ridge), and Jim Clem (R-Leesburg). The proposed zoning would be more restrictive than A-3 but less so than the 2003 ordinance. It would allow one house per 20 or 40 acres, though it provides other subdivision options, including a cluster option that would double the number of houses that could be built. Through a more complex rezoning process, the number of houses could be increased even more in return for proffers, or promises to offset some of the additional costs to tax-

payers.

This month’s board work sessions will attempt to settle differences among board members over key elements of the ordinance and how it will work. One significant issue involves the question of open space easements. Under the housing cluster option, which leaves approximately 70 percent of the land in open space, the question is whether that space should be placed in a permanent easement. The county staff’s draft says only “restrictive covenants” would be required; these could be abolished over time.

Another issue is the timing for passage of the ordinance. Under the most efficient scenario, it could be completed by the end of February. The worst-case scenario would leave it in the hands of the county planning commission to work on as long as they wished, before voting and sending it to the board for enactment.

A third question is grandfathering. If the subdivision applications that are now in the pipeline but still not through the administrative process were to be grandfathered or “vested,” then many building lots would be made available.

Other issues include the list that will define what kind of businesses are allowed to operate and the required approval process, and the rules governing set-backs, buffers, noise, lighting, parking spaces, and other performance standards.

The fact that such details must be specified reflects the reality of a working landscape in Loudoun. Martha Polkey, who raises sheep north of Leesburg and sells the sheepskins, fleece and lamb prod-

ucts, comments that “development interests often try to portray the preservation of open space and agricultural land as a mere ‘viewshed,’ primarily for the wealthy. But the open land we want to retain in Loudoun is commercial land.”

Polkey, a member of the Virginia Sheep Industry Board, says she can see “the envy in the faces of my fellow producers in more rural portions of the state who see the ready market we have for our products, and the prices we can command.” New ethnic populations in the Washington area, for example, have created a demand for fresh lamb and goat.

But Polkey and others who raise vulnerable animals such as sheep have to contend with numerous problems arising from the proximity of suburban-style communities. A household dog allowed to run free may “pack up” with other liberated canines, which then form an efficient killing machine.

A broader concern for businesses and residents alike is the quality of drinking water if vast acres of county land in the west are paved over. Major waterways such as Goose Creek suffer from construction site runoff, fertilizers dumped on the lawns of large-sized lots, and roadway chemicals.

Beverly Morton Billand, owner of Patowmack Farm, which overlooks the Potomac River across from Point of Rocks, suggests the county do more to help small businesses flourish in the rural areas. “The process (for approvals) is long and arduous,” she says. (Billand did most of the applications herself, with help from her husband, a professional county planner.)

Patowmack Farm is an all-organic enterprise that grows a variety of vegetables and fruits as the basis for the elegant meals at its “Dinner in the Garden” facility. Billand wants to preserve the countryside ambience around her property “I’m for controlled and intelligent growth,” she says.

Karen Lowe is effusive about the pastoral setting of Loweland Farm, calling it a “real blessing,” as is the increasing business she is getting from county residents. She and her husband Richard grow Christmas trees (the Sicilian donkeys are an attraction for visiting families); their other activity is Karen’s gourmet food product line, which uses ingredi-

ents from the farm’s garden.

The bottom-line beauty of Patowmack and Loweland farms is that while they make good money for the owners, they also save money for county taxpayers.

Compared to subdivisions, rural economic businesses require much less infrastructure – roads, schools and other services.

Supervisor Burton estimates the should the one house/three acre zoning stay in place, it could add \$1.8 billion to the tax bill as 48,000 new houses are added in western Loudoun. The new zoning plan, if enacted as currently outlined, would cut that tax bill by more than half.

LINDA TRIPP SERVES UP GERMAN BRATWURST

THE CHRISTMAS SLEIGH CONTINUES HOLIDAY TRADITION IN MIDDLEBURG



Linda Tripp and her husband, German architect Dieter Rausch, owners of Middleburg’s Christmas Sleigh (5 E. Washington Street, Middleburg), can now be seen serving up real German Bratwurst at their authentic German Christmas Market House in the heart of downtown Middleburg.

“It’s been great fun opening The Christmas Sleigh in Middleburg and bringing beautifully made German Christmas treasures to Middleburg,” Tripp said. “It’s a great fit and the Bratwurst Haus is yet another of our beloved German Christmas traditions that we were excited to share.”

“During the month of December, Dieter and I are either in The Christmas Sleigh gearing up for the season or across the street in the ‘Weihnachts Markt’ overseeing the Bratwurst and hot cider. It’s all a terrific feeling of a true old world German Christmas right here in downtown Middleburg.”

Heralding the start of Advent, “Weihnachts Markt” opened this week and will remain open 7 days a week from 11 -6 through the end of December. The “Weihnachts Markt” located on the main street in Middleburg in the garden of The Noble House (101 W. Washington Street), offers authentic German Bratwurst, authentic German Christmas Stollen, hot mulled cider and a variety of German Christmas confections.

For more information on The Christmas Sleigh or the “Weihnachts Markt”, please call 540-687-3665 or visit www.thechristmassleigh.com.

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Circulation 42,800

Advertising Deadline

Jan. 12th for
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NEWS OF NOTE

TOWN COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thanks to Pratt and Jerry Eichner, later voted to approve the designation in principle, but to defer until a later time any specific actions in support of the Communities of Peace foundation. Mayor Dimos noted further that, for a short time after the Revolutionary War, the new United States actually had a “Department of Peace.”

Staff Reports

Town Manager Mike Casey reported to resounding applause that the new town parking lot was open, and free . . . at least until parking meters could be installed, which could take several weeks. Casey also reported that a framed

litograph of a Mort Kunstler painting of JEB Stuart on horseback in front of the Red Fox Inn had been presented to the town by the artist and would be hung in the town visitor center.

Police Chief Webber reported that his department had handled 116 calls for service in November and that he had attended another in a series of training seminars on handling terrorist events.

Town Attorney Elizabeth Whiting has been working on producing materials for a legal “finding” related to a dispute over a Ridgeview right of way. Materials dating back to 1923 have been produced to help decide whether

or not there has been an illegal “taking” of a five-foot strip of land included in a long-standing forty-foot right of way.

Town Planner and zoning administrator Marchant Schneider noted that some “big ticket items” would soon be forthcoming for review related to Southern States plans for the old Middleburg BP station, early discussion of primary health care facility plans at the corner of Jay and Federal streets, and in-fill design plans for the area between the County Way and the Hockman Building. Middleburg Brewery’s James Justice, he noted, is also opening a pub by the parking lot on the corner of Liberty and

Federal. Justice may also be looking for local names for new beers in the near future. He’s contracting with Old Dominion Brewery and is thinking, according to Schneider, of opening a brewery over in George White’s area.

Ann Lackman, David Rosenthal and Linda Cornwell were appointed to three-year terms on the town’s Historic District Review Committee.

Council appointed Kevin Pasarello, Kevin Hazard and Timothy Clites to the town Planning Commission.

New staggered terms for members of the Advisory Board operating the town’s visitor center, “The Pink Box” were approved, and the number of members increased to up to fifteen members, allowing more representation from the hospitality industry.

Council unanimously approved the re-appointment of Howard Armfield and Edward Swain to the town’s Health Center Advisory Board. They’ll serve through December, 2008.

A unanimous recommendation was dispatched by Council to the Circuit Court that Virginia Lux be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals; a rationalized Development Fee Schedule was adopted; and the purchase of Holiday Gift Certificates for Town Employees and members of the Town’s various Boards were approved.

After lengthy discussion Council also unanimously approved David McDonald’s request that a silver maple tree occupying space between 15 and 17 West Federal Streets be removed. McDonald had presented evidence that the roots of the tree were damaging the foundations of his building, and that it blocked the addition of an exit required for further development of the property. He also offered \$1,500 to the joint owner of the tree “to remediate the area once the tree is removed” and will donate \$1,000 to the Middleburg Beautification and Preservation Committee plant trees elsewhere in the town.

TROWBRIDGE-LEWIS GALLERIES OFFERS WORK OF TOM NEEL

Trowbridge-Lewis Galleries, which offers Middleburg a truly unique blend of original fine art, glass, sculpture and antiquities from around the world will now also feature the work of local artist Tom Neel.

Founded in July 2005, the gallery offers a broad portfolio of individually selected pieces from artists around the world but, until now, did not include any local artists.

“It was very important to us to find an artist who would not only represent local interests and the feel of Virginia, but an artist who understands the mission of the gallery, the blend of art we wish to offer and the sensibilities of our clientele,” said Adrienne Lewis, co-owner of the gallery. “We’re delighted to announce that artist is Tom Neel”

While Tom Neel is well known locally for his rich, colorful, oil paintings of Virginia and Europe, he had actually stopped working nationally with galleries in places such as Carmel, California to, as he says, “. . . get my finger back on the pulse of my custom-

ers.” Neel will continue to stay in close touch with his customers through commission work but his relationship with Trowbridge-Lewis will give him broader and better representation in the Washington D.C. area, nationally and internationally.

“We see Tom as more than a local artist,” said Adrienne. “His work are in private collections here and abroad and his subject matter is certainly not limited to our area. Tom is an international artist who happens to live and work locally.

“Adrienne,” says Tom, “has great passion for art and the artists she represents. Her travels throughout the world as an art collector and enthusiast make her a perfect gallery owner because she thinks like her potential customers. Simply put, she knows the kind of information her clients want and need and I’m a big believer in that!”

Trowbridge-Lewis Galleries is located at 5 East Washington St. Middleburg, VA. For more information call 687-6653.



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THE EDITOR'S DESK

THE RIGHT DECISION

We understand the pressures on our elected officials, and, whether or not we stand on the same side of an issue, we appreciate the commitment they make to serve their communities, counties and citizens. Sadly, however, and with regret, we must take issue with Supervisor Jim Burton who, in a public forum last week stated clearly that Middleburg's Town Council Members had not done a thorough job of reviewing the Salamander Inn proposal.

This proposal has received intense, long-term scrutiny with almost two years of public comment, formal convocations, review, re-design, requests for adjustment, revisions, refusals, elections and consistent inclusion on the Town Council Agenda for both public and private discussions.

Supervisor Burton should walk down off the mountain and take a good look at what's happening on Route 50 between Washington D.C. and Route 15. That's what we do not want to happen in Aldie, Middleburg, Upperville and beyond.

After an enormous investment of time on the part of all Middleburg Town Council Members and Staff, they came down on the side of the Salamander Inn. We believe this is not only the best decision, we believe it can be the saving grace for our Village and environs. We also believe this decision it is the result of long and careful analysis, debate and discussion on the part of our elected officials.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The Unison Preservation Society requests that the Board of Supervisors announce to the public their intentions regarding adopting vesting language in relation to the Clem/Burton Proposal. If the pro-developer Supervisors are pursuing an amendment to the Clem/ Burton Proposal that would permit their developer supporters in Western Loudoun County to continue on with subdivisions that have only "started" but have not had approval of a preliminary plan, we would like to know about it. The Unison Preservation Society does not support such liberal vesting language. The Unison Preservation Society urges the Board of Supervisors to restrain itself from pursuing vesting language that supersedes the 2005 Judge Home decision that requires an approval of a preliminary plan before vesting

is established. The people of Unison and many people in Western Loudoun County need the Board of Supervisors to provide us with a sense of stability that we can rely on state law as it relates to the development of the western portion of our county. If the Board of Supervisors permits large scale development even after the Clem/Burton proposal is adopted, our taxes will be raised and the "started" developments will be out of step with the new overall plan. The pro-development Supervisors can still meet their developer friends' reasonable expectation to a profit with less dense subdivisions under the Clem Burton Proposal and no liberal vesting. Liberal vesting would only result in the unjust enrichment of developers at the expense of the tax payers.

Caroline and John Helmly
Middleburg, VA

To the Editor:

The new plan offered by Prem Devadas and Salamander is a huge improvement over the one we have seen for the last two and a half years. The location of the project and the positioning of the buildings are much more sensitive to the existing topography and will certainly be less obtrusive to neighbors on all sides. The Salamander design team should be commended for their work in making this change.

Unfortunately, there are two elements missing from the plans presented in the town office this week: Location of the 49 houses Salamander has reserved the right to build and the open space/conservation easement promised to cover 75% of the 341 acres. These two missing parts go hand-in-hand, as delineation of the boundaries and the specific terms of the easement will determine where the houses can go, as well as other conditions regarding use of the property within the easement. Consequently, as presented, the site plan is incomplete and misleading.

Prem has expressed great interest in accommodating use of the property by the Middleburg Hunt, which would be of great benefit to both parties as well as the community. Preservation of the open space and

natural elements, including all the forest, shown on the plan to the west and north of the buildings (basically all the land currently outside the town boundaries) is important not only to foxhunting, but to providing the ambiance Prem has indicated is a vital part of the resort. Most importantly, it is an integral piece in maintaining what is left of the rural boundary around the town.

Therefore, I ask the town and Salamander to work together to quickly place an easement (to be held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation) on the property that preserves forever the natural resources and open space that exist today. Both sides have achieved what they have been striving for in this deal – let's preserve the balance of the property for the present and future benefit of all concerned. Achievement of this goal can and should be part of the remaining approval process, as it will fill in the missing pieces and allow all of us to better judge the parameters of what may happen in the future.

Michael Morency
Middleburg, VA

To the Editor:

A picture is worth a thousand....



Fred LaVinga
Middleburg, VA

RANT & RAVES

RED VS BLUE

SADDAM ISN'T HITLER... HE'S STALIN

DAN MORROW - (D)

George likes to pretend that he and Tony Blair are the new FDR and Churchill... standing alone (well, almost alone) against enemies of freedom. Nonsense... even if one discounts the comparison of titans to pygmies.

Rambush and Company's decision to invade Iraq and depose the criminal regime of Saddam Hussein BEFORE finishing the job in Afghanistan made about as much sense as Roosevelt and Churchill deciding to invade the Soviet Union and depose the criminal regime of Josef Stalin BEFORE finishing the job in Germany.

Were both Saddam and Stalin despots, and guilty of crimes against humanity to boot? Well... duh.

Does launching a pre-emptive war we didn't have to fight... to bring a despot to justice... while we were still neck-deep in the middle of a different war make sense? No. Not then and not now. (And never mind that the Rambush crowd only came up with the "liberation of Iraq" excuse after their "reasons" proved embarrassingly less than credible.

Saddam and Osama bin Laden

(remember him?) detested each

Saddam saw Bin Laden as a dangerous religious fanatic. Osama hated and feared Saddam because he was defiantly secular and testy to boot.

Saddam feared that Osama-inspired religious fanatics would either kill him, or give aid and comfort to his religious enemies (of whom there were, and are, many)

Osama feared Saddam's desire, will, and the despot's ability, to turn on him, track him down, hold him in a secret prison, torture and then and kill him, quietly, without a trial, or any other "messy" publicity. (More on THOSE tactics later. Watch this space.)

But Bush and the Rambush crowd cleverly made allies-of-necessity out of supporters of two natural enemies, alienated public opinion in most of the Islamic world, most of the non-Islamic world, and now, it seems, in most of the United States as well.

Even worse, they have led us into a strategic, tactical and economic disaster, and tried to sell us a bill of goods about why.

Hitler and Stalin understand completely. Winston and Franklin weep.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MARK TATE - (R)

Usually, Dan and I argue about politics in this space, in the spirit of Christmas I thought I would focus more on what we agree about.

Dan and I certainly agree that Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. A time of Joy and peace. Not a time to argue about or differences but a time to celebrate our good fortune and help those less fortunate. We do not agree on many political issues but we agree that every person and view should be respected whether we agree or not. We agree that we live in one of the most wonderful places on earth and we should do everything we can to protect it. And we hope that you have a wonderful Christmas season.

We all celebrate the season in our own way. The season is a wonderful time of giving. Christmas is a season of joy and peace.

A season to we wish the best for all of our neighbors and friends. But most importantly a season remember the least fortunate among us. As we rush around worrying about finding the perfect gift for everyone on our list lets not forget the ones who may not be as fortunate. The smallest gesture can help a great deal. Whether help victims on Katrina or some other terrible event or just throwing a dollar in the Salvation Army's bucket. I have always found the greatest joy of Christmas is giving since I have already received the greatest gift.

I believe Christmas time is a time to celebrate the greatest gift of all. The day we are reminded that God so loved us that he gave us his only son. And we can certainly show the same love and respect for our fellow man.

We wish all our readers the most Wonderful and Joyous Christmas.

Join us for the Northern Virginia Bridal Event and visit with the area's top bridal vendors while enjoying an afternoon of champagne and fun.

EVENT INFORMATION

Date: Sunday, January 8th

Time: 12p.m. to 4p.m.

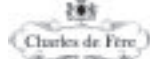
Location: Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club

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PASTIMES

SPELT IT OUT...

FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

Does it bother anyone else that 7/11 is marketing so called “gourmet” items now? I’m at a loss as to how to explain why “gourmet” is now the new label for some basic foods and a little variety. The obvious answer is that it has everything to do with marketing and targeting the American public to get a few more cents a pound. It irks me to no end.

Winter is upon us and lots of baking is going on so I’d like to focus on the various flours and grains you find in these gourmet sections. Some of these flours include soy flour, which makes everything I cook sticky; rice flour makes everything an eerie looking clear skin “potsicker” thingy and raw wheat makes pancakes taste like cardboard. Real gourmet, ey ?

I like spelt flour. I have tried for years to work with spelt. Usually everything I have tried turns out into a flat dry tasting pasta or bread. The learning curve on it was long and disappointing but the end result now is wonderful. So learn from my mistakes: Dust pork chops with it and it burns too fast. Add to homemade pasta flour try and it tastes gritty. You can thicken with it because it clumps. Why bother right?

Not to be confused with oats or wheat, spelt is a member of the same grain family but is an entirely different species. It is one of the original seven grains mentioned in the Bible. This 9000-year-old grain originated in the Fertile Crescent and over the centuries found its way throughout Europe where it remained a very popular grain for hundreds of years. To Germans it is their beloved “Dinkel” and is now found in a wide variety of foods and beverages from bread to beer. To Italians it is called “Farro” and is found in gourmet soups, pizza crusts, breads and cakes.

Spelt’s uniqueness is also derived from its genetic make-up and nutrition profile. Spelt has high water solubility, so

the body easily absorbs the nutrients. Spelt contains special carbohydrates, which are an important factor in blood clotting and stimulating the body’s immune system. It is also a superb fiber resource and has large amounts of B-complex vitamins. Total protein content is from 15 to 30% greater than the common varieties of commercial wheat.

Bottom line is it’s really, really good for you if you can work it into your diet on a regular basis. As stated in a study published in the July 2004 issue of the American Journal of Gastroenterology, spelt has been known to help with migraine headaches, atherosclerosis, cardiovascular issues for postmenopausal women and gallstone prevention.

Problem is, cooking with it is tricky because it can be moody.

One of the first things you will notice when using spelt flour is that it always seems to require less liquid than other flours. To use spelt in a recipe designed for wheat flour, you would start by using _ less liquid than called for or _ more spelt flour. Try it out on easier items, such as muffins, pancakes, coffee cake, etc. before trying to make yeast breads.

I messed up pounds of this stuff forcing me to go back to my local “gourmet” store.

The best baking instruction I ever had was from a gourmet Monk who taught a culinary class at the Omega Institute in NY. Seppo was his name. His way of baking was to cook clean and quickly. His biggest rule of thumb was to keep your wet and dry ingredients separated until you are ready to combine. It works for me and my mess is minimal making my wife exultant.

I share these three bastions that I make with spelt.

Pecan-Sweet Potato Spice Spelt Bread

The name is a mouthful but so is the bread. A perfect holiday bread. It is packed with nutrients.

Dry Ingredients

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 1 3/4 cups | Spelt Flour |
| 3/4 cup | Whole-wheat pastry flour |
| 1 cup | Pecans, (or walnuts) chopped |
| 1 1/2 tsp | Ginger, ground |
| 1 tsp | Nutmeg, ground |
| 1/2 tsp | Cinnamon, ground |
| 1/4 tsp | Cloves, ground |
| 1 tsp | Baking powder |
| 1/4 tsp | Sea salt |

Wet Ingredients

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 1 cups | Applesauce, unsweetened |
| 2/3 cups | Sweet Potatoes, cooked & mashed |
| 1/4 cup | Molasses |
| 2 | Eggs, large |

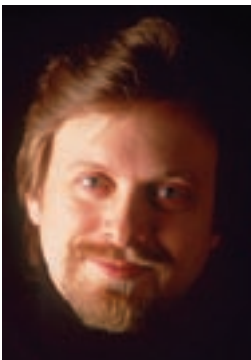
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9x5x3 pan with spray or oil. Combine all the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Combine all the wet ingredients in a medium bowl. Add the wet ingredients to the dry and mix just until evenly blended using as few strokes as possible.

Pour the batter into the loaf pan and spread evenly. Bake for about an hour or until bread begins to turn darker brown around the edges and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool before slicing.

Comment or catastrophes?

fbts@mbccc.com

For more recipes at mbccc.com/fbts



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. \$4,200,000.



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 62 acres of open pasture and paddocks. 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. Additional land available. \$2,800,000.



36643 Leith Lane

Middleburg, Virginia

Small horse property in a great location near Foxcroft School. Traditional home with cedar clapboard siding has 3 bedrooms upstairs and additional guest room in lower level and lots of storage. There is a large family room off kitchen with solarium, lots of light, and great views of surrounding farms. 5 stall center aisle barn, 2 paddocks and large 3 car garage on 3.5 acres. \$895,000.

P.O. Box 1380
Middleburg, Virginia 20118



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.



Brickland Yard

Delaplane, Virginia

Beautiful views from every window. This completely updated home has 2 separate master suites with 3 additional bedrooms. Renovation includes the new kitchen with upgraded appliances, new baths, hardwood floors, extensive custom trim and new windows throughout. Hardiplank siding and the new all weather deck minimizes maintenance of this immaculate property of 20+ acres fenced for horses with two run-in sheds. \$1,400,000.



20011 Forest Hill Lane

Bluemont, Virginia

Unique cottage on 6.78 acres in fantastic location near Upperville. You can see mountains in every direction. Most of the views are deed restricted and should never change. Built in 1968, this house would make a great weekend getaway or incorporate into a new home. 4 bedroom septic approved. \$495,000.

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PURCHASING ORIGINAL ART; PART THREE

THE ART OF ART

TOM NEEL

As the year comes to a close, so too will this 3 part series. I hope those of you that have been reading along have gathered some useful tips and information. In this final installment I hope to share a few more thoughts and offer some constructive ways to put the series to good use during your art explorations.

Let me start with an analogy I often use with purchasing and appreciating art. Art, is in so many ways like wine, in that there is something for everybody, something to suit a variety of tastes and budgets. Most important is knowing there is no rule book, it’s simply subjective. You don’t have to like what others like or because it’s trendy, but it’s okay to as well, remember, no rule book. If you like it, for whatever the reason, if it makes you feel good, well then, that’s the only rule book you really need. This I would guess also includes purchasing art as an investment. Collectors do purchase art for this reason too. I have always said this though, “don’t buy art for it’s ability to appreciate, but rather for your ability to appreciate it and you won’t loose a penny”.

As with wine, old and rare almost always affects the price, but with contemporary art (living artists) and newer wine, an artist’s name, popularity, reputation, biographical information, etc. tend to do the same. As with wine, understanding the taste can be complex and often require experi-

ence to fully appreciate it and art is no different. But, even with a lot of experience, two collector’s or wine taster’s opinions will differ and isn’t that great. For if we all liked the same thing, life and the world around us I think would be rather boring. Buy what you like. Let your taste grow and mature with time.

In keeping with the no rule book theme, comes the question, “can I have different types of art in the same room?” Yes, you can have whatever you want. Okay, so now let me follow that with a tip. I think the main thing you should think about when having any art together, be it paintings, sculpture, fiber, etc., is continuity. As with anything in your room, continuity brings meaning and understanding. Continuity can be as simple as colors that work together and as complicated as a theme or narrative aspect. An example would be a room that gave you the feeling of Africa. With no rules, you could put a painting of a colorful Paris street scene on the wall, but continuity would likely ask why and prefer it to be a majestic sunset over the Serengeti plains.

If though, you have a wide variety in taste towards art, this could become your theme and continuity. And if it feels like home, I say, go for it! It’s the “life’s too short” theory. Enjoy!

When searching for art, always remember there are many sources. Art galleries certainly are a logical start, but there are many shows, art events and artist studios that can

also be helpful. Whatever source you choose though, parts 1 & 2 of this series are good to keep in mind. Ask questions, don’t be afraid to look at more than just the “I like it value”.

As well, while almost impossible to do at art events, bringing art to your house before purchasing, I feel especially with expensive pieces, is a reasonable thing to do. Now when doing this, I personally also feel it’s best when it is brought to you, the collector, rather than you taking it from the store yourself. It starts with a question of responsibility, care and transporting of expensive items and in most, but not all cases, the art is on consignment and not actually owned by the gallery. It can work fine with smaller pieces, larger ones can be a problem and each gallery has their own policies with regard to this. Be sure to ask. When I personally bring art to a collector’s home though, I rarely bring one painting or just one size. I figure both of our time is valuable and just looking at one thing is limiting. You can learn about how different paintings affect your room in the way of color and scale that would be otherwise difficult to know. This would also be true of sculpture. There should never be any obligation to buy, so why not try a few things, even in a few different places. It can be interesting, you can learn

Continued Page 14

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PASTIMES

NORTHERN LIGHTS

WELCOME HOME

WANDA K. CROSSLEY

With the holidays and our first snowfall, winter has surely settled in. The colder days ahead shorten the pattern of light penetrating our windows. For those of us who live for sun and warmth at home, it's really hard to imagine any designer style originating from the North Pole. And yet I must confess - I love everything Swedish.

Since the winter sun rises at 8:47am then sets a scant six hours later, Swedes do everything possible to capture and enhance the amount of light in their homes and lives. Interiors are always light and airy. Swedish colors reflect the soft palettes of the Earth, using subtle blues, grays, whites, pale greens, pale yellows, red and ecru, but never harsh or stark whites.

The Swedes fashion their fine homes with a delicate understatement, furnished with down-to-earth elegance. Their style has been described as "modest majesty with a grandeur not relying on size for its effect."

Walls are typically tongue and groove

wainscoting. But rather than elaborate wood molding or ornamental plasterwork, this effect is achieved more easily by painted linen or canvas panels to imitate neoclassical designs or aubusson tapestries. The Swedes love symmetry and order and so they often outline their walls with pretty painted borders.

When wallpaper is used, the most popular colors and themes reflect their preference for off-white and light colors with fine, classic medallion patterns within an overall striped motif.

Softwoods such as Scots pine and Norway spruce fill the Swedish countryside. As you might expect, virtually all furniture is made of these basic materials. However, Swedes have developed unique techniques for painting to make their furniture sophisticated and refined.

Floors in Swedish homes are often scrubbed and bare, but can be painted in white or silver grey, or otherwise with simple geometric shapes with roots in folk art traditions. Window treatments, upholstery and bedding are almost always cotton or linen. Fabric patterns are woven checks, stripes

and delicate florals. The overall effect is minimalist, but never boring.

As the Swedish style is not particularly prevalent in our area as compared with fine homes in the Upper Mid-West, here is a real opportunity to differentiate your home. Swedish style is the perfect counter to our stressful American living. I have been incorporating a mix of English and Swedish elements into my new kitchen design and am really enjoying its peaceful sense. Finely crafted reproduction furniture and paint colors are now becoming available to the rest of the world.

It's fun to uncover style ideas from unusual places and unexpected origins. As it gets colder I have a much greater appreciation for the emphasis on scarce sun light and uncomplicated elegance from our friends to the North - they should know.

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



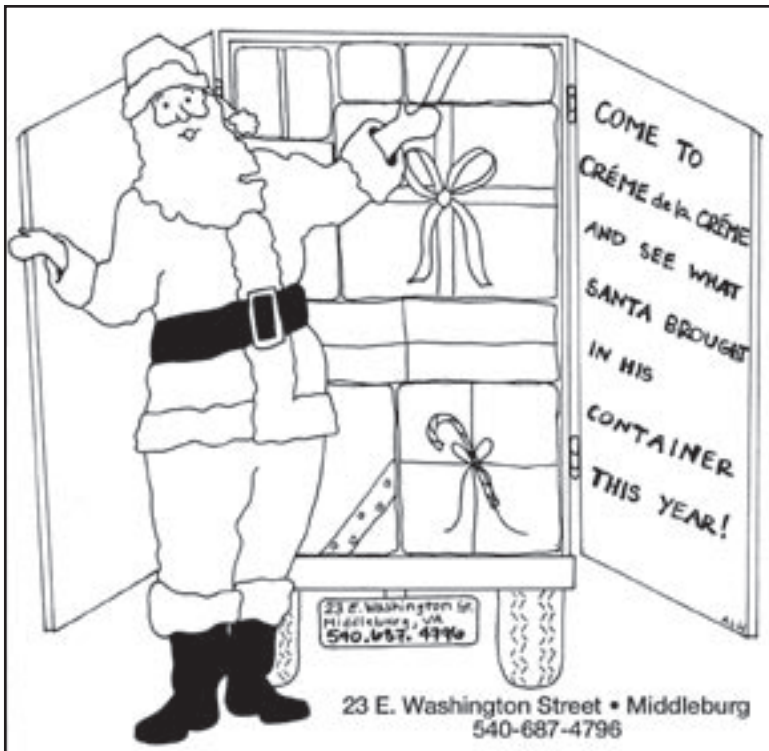
PURCHASING ORIGINAL ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

from the experience and it's fun. So, if a gallery or artist is making a visit, you may ask to see more than one thing.

Well, that brings our little series to a close. I hope it's been helpful and that you find that special piece you've been looking for. Try to enjoy the hunt as much as the find and then look forward to enjoying it for a lifetime.

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PASTIMES

MY, WHAT NICE HIPS YOU HAVE

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

All of us were greeted by a beautiful snow last week and one of the most enchanting visions were the many berries coated in white as they hung from trees and shrubs. These are among the brightest adornments in the garden at this time of year, a clever ploy to attract hungry birds and mammals so they might disperse their seed as they feed on them. Rose hips are one of the more common forms of fruit, not only are they very pretty but they provide a valuable dietary supplement for many local birds. The most common wild rose is Rosa multiflora, a non-native that was first introduced from Japan in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. Later introduced by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and sold for erosion control and as ‘living fences’ for wildstock confinement. The flowers of late spring are single, white with a yellow center and not fragrant. Frequently found growing along fence rows and under power lines where birds expel the seeds. Seed is viable for up to 20 years, hence the proliferation of Rosa multiflora. There are several other climbing native roses that are easily confused with Rosa multiflora, these all have pale pink, single flowers that are fragrant, often flowering after R. multiflora. Native roses include

Rosa carolina, R. virginiana and R. palustris which is usually isolated to wet areas.

There are quite a few roses that are grown primarily for their showy hips rather than their flowers. Rosa rugosa provides the largest hips and some of the most beautiful flowers within the ‘just for hips’ group. Most varieties grown simply for showy fruit have single flowers and a vigorous habit of growth, not always suited for confined garden spaces. Others that produce amazing fruit are Rosa moyesii and R. pomifera (aka Rosa villosa). Unlike Rosa rugosa the hips on R. pomifera are plum-colored and bristly, commonly known as “The Apple Rose”, the fruit is large and oblong. Rosa moyesii’s hips are slender and orange to red in color, also bristly. A native of China and one of over 50 rose species that Ernest Henry Wilson brought to culture as he explored China and Japan.

Rose hips are very high in vitamin C, much more so than oranges. The seeds are high in vitamin E. Historically prized by Native Americans, hips were collected to consume in winter months to prevent scurvy. Valuable for local wildlife as well, robins, purple finches, northern mockingbirds and cedar waxwings will feed on the smaller hips of Rosa multiflora as well as numerous native roses.

It is simple to harvest rose

hips and prepare them in recipes to boost your intake of vitamin c. Always harvest the fruit after a frost, the fruit will be softer and you will be able to press into the hip. Most popular as a tea, boil the hips for at least 10 minutes, you want them to expand and the water to boil over the seed inside as it cracks open. The tea will be pinkish in color. Use a coated pan or a glass container, metal containers will interact with the acids in the fruit. Sweeten with honey or sugar. Below are a couple other recipes that are just plain simple, great ways to harvest some of your lesser known garden fruits.

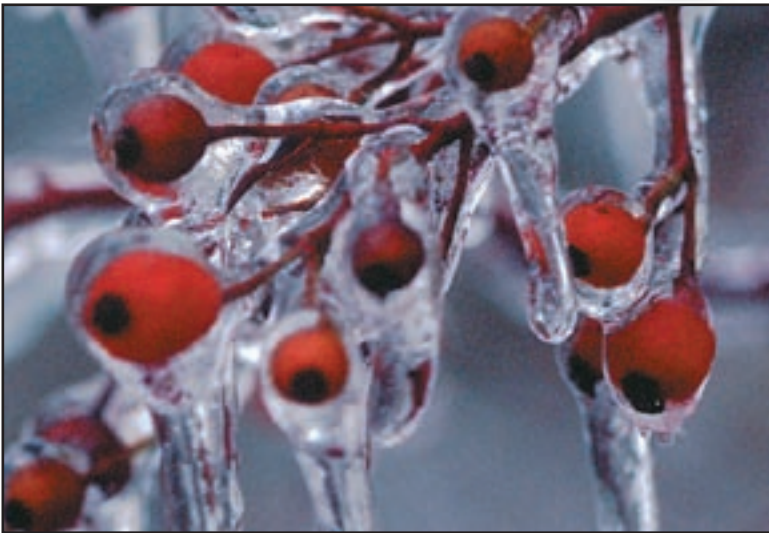
Rose Hip Lemonade

- 2 cups water
- 1 cup mild honey
- 3 teaspoons rose hips
- 3/4 cup lemon juice

Heat water in a coated saucepan or glass container, stir in honey, add rose hips, steep for 1 hour. Strain and stir, add lemon juice. Store in a glass container in refrigerator.

Rose Hip Flavored Wine

Remove the seeds from 3 1/2 oz. of dried rose hips and steep the hulls in 1 qt. of dry red wine for 2 weeks. Strain. Drink a small glass of wine daily.



IT’S YOUR BUSINESS

GREEN INVESTMENT LEADER VISITS HORSE COUNTRY

DEBI LICHOWIC

Amy Domini, recently named one of the Top 100 people to watch this decade by Time Magazine as well as one of the 50 leading individuals in the History of Investing by Financial Planning magazine, came to Upperville the other night to speak on “Conservation and the Power of Investments” at an event hosted by John Campagna of Legg Mason.

The event in Upperville was held on the Hunter Head Pub’s patio under a beautiful fall night. As guests mingled over glasses of Virginia wines and locally raised food and cheeses prepared by the pub’s staff, Ms. Domini discussed how environmental issues can be positively impacted by the way we invest our money. “The world we live in today was shaped by investment decisions made by previous generations”, says Ms. Domini. “Today, investors can follow this simple truth and use their investment dollars wisely in order to create the future we hope awaits us and our children.”

John Campagna, the host for the event and financial advisor whose practice focuses on Environmentally Responsible and Sustainable Investing at Legg Mason, echoes Ms. Domini’s sentiment. “With all of our concerns about land use, open space preservation

and wildlife conservation in this area, it is important that we as individuals consider all methods we have available to us to help support these causes. Being conscious of where we invest can in the long run make the difference.”

Ms. Domini is a pioneer in the field of Socially Responsible Investing (“SRI”), founder of Domini Funds (a leader SRI mutual fund company), and sits on various pension and endowment boards. In explaining how SRI works Ms. Domini states, “All of our investments meet a comprehensive set of social and environmental standards because we believe that corporations that meet certain baseline standards of behavior are helping to create a healthy and wealthy society with increased opportunities for everyone. We believe that companies, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations that have an authentic commitment to their societies and to the natural environment are better positioned to succeed and prosper”. This she emphasizes also means good investment opportunities for investors.

For more information about Amy Domini and Domini Funds (www.domini.com), green investing and about upcoming local events, please contact John Campagna at 202 778-1593.

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STEVEN SCHWARTZ



Nothing makes a person feel wonderful like losing ten pounds, finding a wad of forgotten cash, or getting a big promotion. For the rest of us, a great haircut can go a long way to improve our mood. Many Middleburg residents have discovered that they can go to Salon Alure for the great feeling that comes when you look your best.

Salon Alure’s proprietors Harman Nayyar, Seema Dybey and Mannisha Nayyar, provide a wide range of products and services. The salon sells top-of-the-line Aveda all-natural hair care products. Clients can choose from services like cuts and color, mini-facials, scalp massages, “threading” facial hair removal (better than waxing), and even temporary

henna tattoos.

Both Harman and Seema have 18 years experience, and she spent 7 years training in New York and at Graham Webb in Britain. They do “makeovers” that are defined by a careful analysis of a person’s features, their skin and hair color and texture, and their personal lifestyle. Haircuts that can cost \$150.00 in New York start at only \$45 at Salon Alure. So, Middleburg has a place to go for the best in hair and skin care, at a good price - Salon Alure.

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PARENTS & PROGENY

FOXCROFT SCHOOL NEWS

Several Foxcroft faculty members made presentations at the Nov. 7 Virginia Association of Independent Schools Conference in Richmond -- but only one had students working with him! Matt Mohler, whose physics classes are a favorite with many Foxcroft students, was assisted by juniors Timnah Geller, of Lincoln, VA., and Shannon Walker, of Purcellville, who both studied Physics with Mr. Mohler as sophomores.

Timnah, Shannon and Mohler acted as a lab group during the presentation, which sought to show other physics teachers how to present dozens of concepts in novel ways designed to make even the subtlest of physics concepts accessible at the "gut" level.

Dean of the Faculty/Academic Dean John Sutor, who along with science teacher Carolyn DeLoach served on the VAIS conference committee, reported that the demonstration was a great success.

Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer also presented at the annual conference.

Timnah Geller, a junior at the Foxcroft School, was recently named to a select group of students who will represent their schools and communities at the People to People Leadership Conference in Los Angeles in July, Foxcroft School announced. Geller, who is a resident of Lincoln, Va., had to meet rigorous standards of scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential to be accepted into this program, which helps students develop their leadership skills and community involvement by creating an action plan~ to make a difference in their community upon returning home.

Elizabeth Waters, a Foxcroft senior from Flint, Mich., met with top policy makers Nov. 15-20 when she participated in the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, NYLC offers students the opportunity to discuss current events and issues with government officials, to analyze concepts and then put them immediately to work.

The program gives high-achieving sophomores, juniors and seniors a greater understanding of their roles in democracy and the responsibilities of leadership. Through interaction with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, diplomats, lobbyists, journalists and academicians, NYLC scholars receive direct experience and guidance that cannot be found in textbooks.

Foxcroft Students Present 110 Miniature Christmas Trees To Nursing Home Residents

Carol's filled the air and smiles were shared across the generations Wednesday night when 30 Foxcroft School students visited the Loudoun Hospital Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Leesburg to deliver 110 miniature Christmas trees to the elderly residents.

"It was just wonderful," said lifelong Middleburg resident Jane Lockhart, who is director of activities at Foxcroft and the architect of its many holiday community service initiatives.

Students and faculty at the Middleburg



school went without dinner Friday Dec. 2 so that the money could be put towards gifts for the less fortunate. They spent the evening putting together holiday baskets for needy families, creating care packages for animals at the Middleburg Humane Foundation and wrapping scores of gifts for children. They stuffed 4,000 holiday cards, created a float for the Middleburg Holiday Parade, caroled on horseback and prepared for the annual Foxcroft Christmas pageant.

The girls also decorated the miniature trees that they delivered to their "Special Friends" at the Loudoun long-term care facility whom they visit weekly as part of Foxcroft's on-going community service programs. Other school-year-long service activities include regular trips to help at the Middleburg Humane Foundation, volunteering in a therapeutic riding program in at Morvern Park in Leesburg and tutoring children from Windy Hill on a weekly basis.

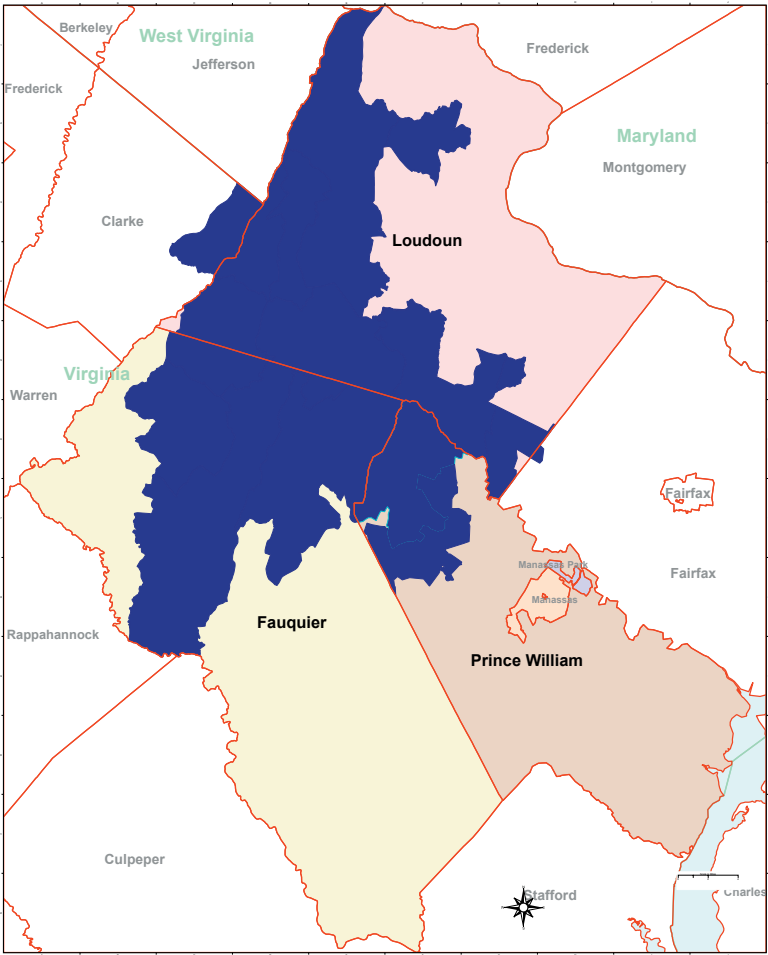
Foxcroft Field Hockey Honored

Led by Loudoun/Fauquier Player of the Year Jessi Coil of Middleburg, the Foxcroft School field hockey team capped a terrific 2005 season last month by collecting a gaggle of post-season honors.

Coil, a senior co-captain, was joined on the Washington Post's Loudoun/Fauquier All-Extra team by senior co-captain Julis Hoppmann of The Plains and junior Laura Block of Leesburg. Chelsy Coil, a sophomore from Middleburg, was named honorable mention while Katie Ryan Kantz was tabbed as Coach of the Year in her second season at the helm.

Jessi Coil, who along with Hoppmann played in the National Field Hockey Festival over Thanksgiving weekend and is being recruited by a number of colleges, also earned first-team All-Independent School League honors while Block and Chelsy Coil were given honorable mentions.

Foxcroft finished the season with a 10-4-1 record, its best in recent years. Second only to St. Stephen's & St Agnes School in the ISL, the squad was ranked fifth among independent schools in the state.



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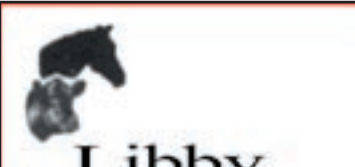
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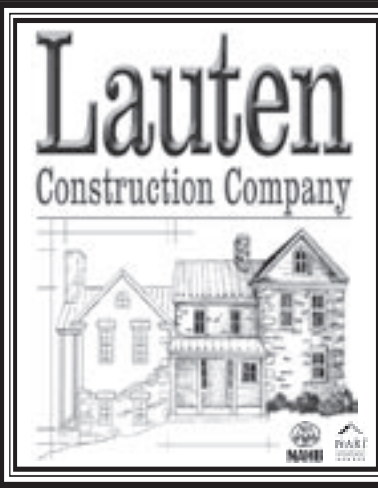


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PARENTS & PROGENY

LOUDOUN YOUTH INITIATIVE RECOMMENDS FUNDING FOR PURCELLVILLE TEEN CENTER

The Loudoun Youth Initiative (LYI) Advisory Commission on Youth (ACOY) listened to a presentation by the new Purcellville Teen Center Manager on Monday, 28 November, and unanimously recommended that \$20,000/year be budgeted for the Purcellville Teen Center operations. The recommendation will now be forwarded to the Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors for their consideration, and a decision is hoped for in January. At the presentation, Philip Message, Teen Center Manager expressed his personal interest in the County-wide Teen Centered Network being formulated, and he told Tim Chesnutt, director of LYI, that “while we wish to retain our independence, we look forward to working closely with the County on this initiative.” In his first public comments since taking

over the Teen Center four months ago, Philip opened the presentation by acknowledging his thanks to Janet Clarke and the other members of COPE who founded the Center earlier this year, noting that several of them are still actively involved in its operations today. Highlights of the presentation then included an overview of the activities provided at the Teen Center and a discussion of the statistics collected by the Center – ACOY committee members were surprised to hear that slightly more than half of the youth that attend each week live outside of Purcellville, further strengthening the argument for County-level funding.

Philip went on to say that “while an average attendance of 240 youth per week is impressive (with peaks in excess of 300 youth), our goal is to increase that number by 50% within the next six months. To do

that, we plan to organize High School dances, equip the Center with high-tech TVs/gaming systems, and purchase additional furniture. Attainment of these goals will require substantial community involvement, and a Teen Center Management Committee is now being formed to ensure that Center operates indefinitely, independently of the contributions of any single individual”. This theme was echoed in the request for funding: “Our long-term success cannot be dependent upon any single sponsor, and for this reason we’re asking for relatively small amounts from multiple sources”. The meeting concluded with a unanimous vote of approval by the ACOY Committee Members, and a call for volunteers to help out at the Purcellville Teen Center and to help serve on the Management Committee (visit www.the-teen-center.com for details on each)

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL NEWS

The following students are from your local area and were named to the High List, Episcopal High School’s academic honor roll, for the 2005-06 fall term. This honor denotes an average of 90 or above in five or more academic courses for the term.

Anneka Marie Wilhelmina Wisker, junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrikus P.L.M. Wisker of Round Hill, Va.

Hendrikus Cody Johannes Wisker, sophomore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrikus P.L.M. Wisker of Round Hill, Va.

Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va., is a coeducational boarding school that prepares students in grades 9-12 for college. Founded in 1839, EHS offers a dynamic academic program that integrates the educational and cultural resources of Washington, D.C. Academics are enhanced by equally strong athletic, extracurricular, and community service programs. Episcopal’s valued Honor Code is one of the oldest among secondary boarding schools in the country. Episcopal High School enrolls 410 students from 32 states, the District of Columbia, and 12 international locations.



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Purcellville This 8 year old home 5900+ sq ft, brick on 3 sides, 3 car side load, on 5.5+ partially fenced acres. The wood floors on the entire first level just refinished, and upstairs carpet brand new. The family room has a stone wall (Flr to ceiling) raised hearth, wood burning fireplace and butternut walnut pegged floor, newly refinished. The home is freshly painted in 2 tone neutral color 975,000



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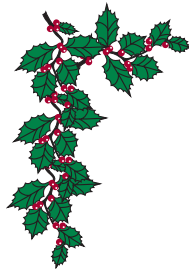
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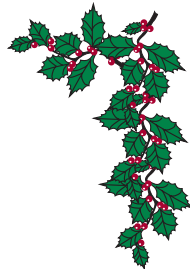
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THINGS TO DO

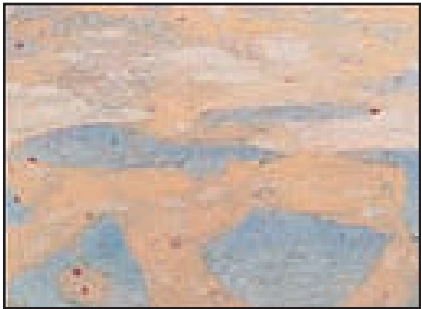
Holiday Happenings at Buchanan Hall

Three one-act Christmas plays By the Middleburg Players Dec 16 & 17 at 7:30pm, Dec. 18 at 2:30 pm
Qigong and Tai Chi Tuesday's 7:00 pm
Kundalini Yoga Wednesday's 9:00 am
Heather Allen, Instructor
Pilates Thursday's 9:00 am Sally Behrendt, Instructor
8549 John Mosby Highway, Upperville, VA 20184 For more information call 540-592-3455 Meralyn Autry Manager, Buchanan Hall office hours: 10-2 Tue, Thur

The Studio

DECEMBER 15th 6 to 8 pm A show of work in sculpture, paintings and jewelry by noted artist LEONARD URSO.
Leonard was born in 1953 and grew up in Rome, New York. His pursuit of art began when he was a young man. After graduating with a Master of Fine Arts Degree, from the State University of New Paltz, he began his professional career as a designer and silversmith for Oneida Limited Silversmiths.

Currently he holds an endowed chair as the Ann Mowris Mulligan Distinguished Professor in the School for American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology.
The Leonard Urso art studio is located in Rochester, New York where the artist is actively involved in creating large and small



scale sculptures and paintings, as well as silver and jewelry art forms. Exhibited nationally and internationally, his works are represented in many museums and both corporate and private collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Memorial Art Gallery of Rochester, Shanghai University of China,

Kanazawa University of Japan, The New York Times, Bucknell University, Bausch & Lomb World Headquarters, Colgate University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Garth Fagan Dance, Sybron Corporation, The Washington Post, Highland Park "Aids Garden" Rochester NY and the Gyeongnam Art Museum in South Korea.

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www.bansheereeks.org

December 17th - Volunteer Day 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Come help maintain the preserve
December 17th and 18th -Trails open 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
December 18th Guided Family Walk - 2 p.m. from the Visitors Center
December 28th - 9th Annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the Friends of Banshee Reeks www.bansheereeks.org and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy www.loudounwildlifeconservancy.org.

Anyone who would like to donate binoculars to the preserve for educational programs,

please call Carole Miller 540-687-6395 x204

Middleburg Library

December and January events

Middleburg Library Family Book Discussion ages 9-12 with parent Saturday January 28 2pm
A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park Discuss the book and see a demonstration of pottery on the wheel by Nancy Frank

Master Singers of Virginia Christmas Concerts

All concerts will be held at 8:00 p.m.,



preceded by a pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m. Concerts will be held on the following dates, and locations:

Saturday, December 10, 2005
- St. James Episcopal Church, 14 Cornwall St., NW, Leesburg
Friday, December 16, 2005
- Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43115 Waxpool Rd., Ashburn
Saturday, December 17, 2005
-St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 37018 Glendale St., Purcellville
Tickets are now available for the Christmas Concerts at \$15 for adults and \$12 for students/seniors (65+). Limited seating is available for the Christmas concerts. Advance ticket purchase is strongly suggested. Season tickets for the Christmas, winter, and spring concerts are also available for \$32 adults/\$25 students/seniors (65+). For a complete concert schedule and to order tickets on-line, visit www.msva.org. For more information call 703-655-7809.

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Local Inventor Seeks Capital Partner

From the mind that brought you extra security and peace of mind during the cold war by inventing the use of computer models and finite element analysis to analyze electromagnetic interference between weapons systems. This invention did as much for our systems readiness as it did significant economic damage to the old Soviet Union second only to the damage caused by the Strategic Defense Initiative. Mark also saved a \$100M S.A.I.C. nuclear event sensing prototype from extinction, created the first Internet based Kindergarten through 12th grade school and saved the US Treasury from a national security disaster.

Four years ago Mark invented an anti-terrorism tool that is exponentially more powerful than what we have today and engineered a way to shave \$20B off the government's IT budget while increasing security. There seems to be no market for these inventions so Mark turned his creativity to his ongoing passion for the finest handling cars in the world.

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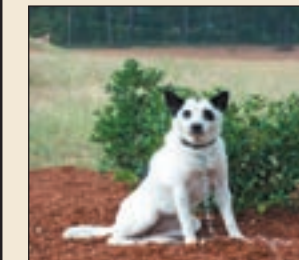
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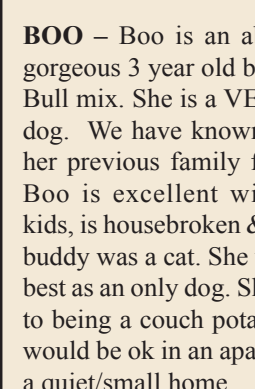
BRAMLEY – Katrina Survivor - Bramley is a special young gal who we rescued from New Orleans. Bramley gets along well with other dogs. She is the perfect barn dog!



RC – RC is a 1 year old red Chow mix who is a really great guy! He was found on the side of the road in horrible condition - emaciated and the pads of his feet were raw. RC has a big personality who would bring lots of love into your home. love into your home.



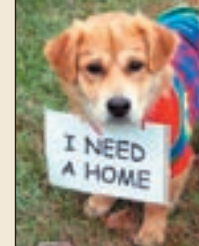
JIMMY – Katrina Survivor - Jimmy is Gingers pup. He was one of 2 pups that survived the hurricane in Mississippi. Jimmy is a 16 week old Pit Bull puppy who has had tons of socialization and love.



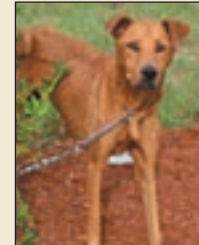
BOO – Boo is an absolutely gorgeous 3 year old brindle Pit Bull mix. She is a VERY good dog. We have known her and her previous family for years. Boo is excellent with small kids, is housebroken & her best buddy was a cat. She would do best as an only dog. She is used to being a couch potato so she would be ok in an apartment or a quiet/small home.



LORANNA – Katrina Survivor: Loranna is a funny girl! She was rescued from a home in New Orleans. Loranna is a sweetie, she actually smiles when you greet her! Loranna is great with other dogs.



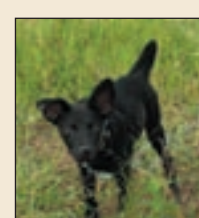
LITTLE BROWN - (NEW pic and NEW description): Katrina Survivor: What a cutie! Little Brown is an adorable 1 year old terrier mix who was rescued from New Orleans. He is a small dog with a big heart.



KENDRA – Katrina Survivor - Kendra was rescued near death due to starvation after being locked inside of a house in New Orleans for 34 days. She was 29 pounds the day she was rescued. She is 50 pounds now and still gaining! Kendra is good with other dogs, children, impeccably housebroken and is very affectionate.



MYLES – A super cutie! Myles is an Otter Hound mix who came to us from a county shelter where his time was up. He is very happy go lucky and seems to



NATHAN – Katrina Survivor - We found this adorable little kid hiding behind a toilet in a completely devastated house in New Orleans. Nathan is about 6 months old, he will grow to be a medium sized dog. He is a super funny kid who would be a great family friend.



KATIE – Katrina Survivor – The Sharpei mix mom dog from Waveland Mississippi. Katie is about 3-4 years old. She is very gentle, beautifully behaved and quiet and would be a wonderful companion for just about anyone.



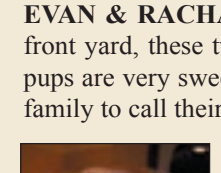
PUPPIES - Take us home for the holidays - call to inquire about the wonderful puppies looking for homes.



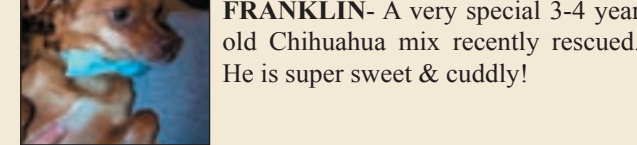
MOJO, CRICKET & RALPH - Katrina Survivors - The cutest and sweetest kittens in the world! These kidlets barely survived the hurricane- they are now very healthy and truly absolute love muffins!



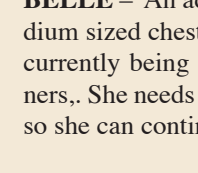
JENNY'S KITTENS – Katrina Survivor - We have two adorable little babies still looking for homes 10 weeks old and very healthy. They are



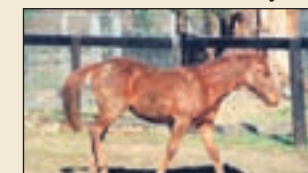
MAX - Max is a super 2 year old chocolate lab mix who was found in a ditch, skin and bones and hit by a car. He has fully recovered and doing great! Max does



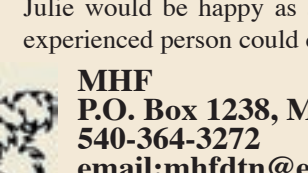
EVAN & RACHAEL - Abandoned in our front yard, these two 6 month old lab mix pups are very sweet and yearn for a loving family to call their own.



FRANKLIN - A very special 3-4 year old Chihuahua mix recently rescued. He is super sweet & cuddly!



BELLE – An adorable, very sweet, flashy 3 year old medium sized chestnut pony mare with a big future. Belle is currently being worked with and has good ground manners.. She needs a home with an experienced horse person so she can continue to grow and blossom.



JULIE – Julie is a 4 year old medium pony mare who was rescued from a severe cruelty case. Julie is a clown- she has a big personality and gets into everything! She has been under saddle a handful of times and is doing great. Julie would be happy as a companion pony only or an experienced person could continue her training.



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ALBERT'S CORNER

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



I always love the holidays because they involve lots of food. Sure, I enjoy the cheer and goodwill during this time of year, but to be honest, my heart is where my bowl is. That's why for this holiday column, I've decided to share our family's tradition of morning muffins for dogs! Every year on the day after Christmas, my people bake these treats just for me. It's the best day of the year as far as I'm concerned. The recipe is one of many great ones from The Three Dog Bakery Cookbook.

If you like this recipe, do a little exploring – there are lots of wonderful dog treat cookbooks and lots of terrific recipes. Just be sure to avoid chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts and onions. To be on the safe side, use recipes that have been published in a cookbook rather than just posted on the internet. There are lots of human foods that aren't recommended for dogs. And, as always, make sure you know if your pet has any food-specific allergies before baking this or any other recipe for him or her.

With those words of caution behind me, let's get to the business at hand: making four-legged friends very, very merry!

Fleas Navidad Nibblers

Prep Time: 5 mins
Cook Time: 35 mins
Temperature: 350 F
Ingredients:
2 tablespoons honey
2 3/4 cups water
1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/8 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
1/2 cup chopped peanuts
4 cups whole-wheat flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon nutmeg

Cooking Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
In a bowl, mix together honey, water, applesauce, vanilla and egg.
In a separate bowl, mix peanuts, flour, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg.
Add wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir, mixing well.
Spoon into a greased muffin tin, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake 35 minutes.
Store in a sealed container.
Makes 16 festive "holidog" muffins.



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Pam Hook, R.N. turned 51 this year.



She's in very good company.

When Pam Hook came to our hospital, it was 1976 and she was fresh out of nursing school. Today, Pam brings more than two decades of knowledge and experience to caring for patients at Inova Loudoun Hospital. And she isn't the only one. Five members of her department have celebrated their fiftieth birthdays this year—with more to come. "I've known many of the people I work with for a long time," says Pam. "We really work as a team."



Inova Loudoun Hospital values the significant contributions that older employees bring to our family of health services. And with competitive salaries, flexible work schedules, and excellent benefits, we're proud to have been recognized this year by AARP as one of the Best Employers for Workers Over 50. So come join some excellent company; we'll order the extra candles.

To find out more about career opportunities at Inova Loudoun Hospital, contact W. Mason Preddy, CHCR, Professional Clinical Recruiter at (703) 421-9924. Resumes can be faxed to (703) 421-1929, or e-mailed to mpreddy@lh.org.

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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 **\$2,995,000**

SHELBURNE GLEBE



190 acres ♦ Bordered by North Fork Goose Creek and Crooked Run ♦ Spring fed pond with dock ♦ 4 bedroom Cape with wrap-around porch ♦ Gazebo ♦ 8 stall barn ♦ Board fenced paddocks ♦ Spectacular views **\$2,990,000**



*Wishing everyone a joyous
Holiday Season*

MIDDLEBURG DOWNS



Quality new construction ♦ Brick & Hardiplank siding ♦ Convenient location close to village ♦ 4.12 acres ♦ 4 BR, 3.5 BA ♦ Gourmet kitchen ♦ Great room w/FP ♦ HW floors ♦ Finished room over garage ♦ Premium finishes & designer touches throughout **\$1,375,000**

MARIAH MOUNTAIN



Round Hill ♦ 4 BR, 4 BA Contemporary ♦ 10 open acres ♦ One of the best views in Loudoun ♦ Lower level expansion w/new BR, BA, & Library ♦ Open flowing floor plan ♦ Mexican Tile floors & wooden spiral staircase ♦ 2 car Garage ♦ Pool **\$965,000**

WEATHERLY



Round Hill ♦ 4 BR ♦ 3.5 BA ♦ Custom Colonial on 6+ gorgeous acs. ♦ Fabulous views of pond & mtns ♦ Superior quality & design ♦ High ceilings ♦ Gleaming HW floors ♦ Spacious sun filled rooms ♦ Deck ♦ Covered porches ♦ Walk-out lower level **\$829,000**

LINCOLN



Renovated 1870 frame Victorian ♦ 3 BR, 2 BA ♦ Blend of old & new w/quality updates ♦ Soapstone Counters ♦ Custom Cabinets ♦ Central Air ♦ Large det. Frame Building ♦ 0.62 acs. provides garden space w/privacy **\$585,000**

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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