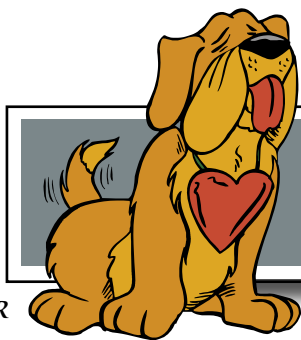




DEVELOPMENTS THREATEN UPPERVILLE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PAGE 3

MARTIN LUTHER KING, SALAMANDER INN & WINDY HILL ARE TOP ON COUNCIL AGENDA

Atribute to Martin Luther King by students from the Windy Hill After School Program drew rapt attention, a breath-holding silence, and then cheers (and some tears) from all those attending this Thursday's Middleburg Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Tim Dimos formally accepted art work and affirmations on the theme, "I have a dream" from six (Jazzmen Huff, Brendan Martyn, Ann Charity Daly, Anthony McNeil, Javier Ramos, Brieona Huff) Windy Hill students, who had worked on the project and presentation with AmeriCorps volunteers Sara Foughner and Chirstina Chun, and Middleburg Town Council Member Eura Lewis. (See picture on page 25)

Salamander Relocation

In a short January 12 session, the Council also unanimously adopted a resolution to endorse in principle a repositioning of the Salamander Resort and Spa on the 342-acre Salamander Development property and to assign town staff to work out details with the developer.

The proposed change of plans, outlined in detail by Salamander last December 7 and 8, would require less grading and land disturbance than the original plan, would save nearly 16 acres of forest from destruction, accommodate continued use of the property by the Middleburg Hunt, shift the main entrance to the Spa away from its neighbors to the north, and create a buffer zone along that northern boundary.

Elections

Town Administrator

Mike Casey noted that Town Council Elections will be held on May 2, 2006, to fill the expiring terms of Mayor Tim Dimos, Vice-mayor Betsy Davis, Darlene Kirk, Margaret New, and Mark Snyder.

Those interested in running for office must be residents of the Town and file registration forms by Tuesday, March 7, at the Registrar's Office in Leesburg. Monday, April 3, is the deadline for voter registration.

Parking

The Council unanimously adopted new parking policies, designed to increase turnover in the parking spaces in the main business district. Increased meter rates (50-cents-per-hour) and shorter times (a two-hour limit) are projected for downtown spaces, along with intensified efforts to

Continued Page 6

GEORGE L. OHRSTROM JR. PHILANTHROPIST AND GREAT VIRGINIA SPORTSMAN

PATRICIA BARRAZA VOS

George L. Ohrstrom Jr., financier, scion of the Ohrstrom family, philanthropist and great Virginia sportsman, died October 6 at his home in The Plains.

Mr. Ohrstrom was often referred to in the mainstream press as a "private" man, reclusive, not having sought the limelight for any of his deeds, worthy as they were of positive notice.

But even if he tried to keep his contributions and actions to himself, here in Middleburg and around the Virginia Piedmont his efforts on behalf of horsemen and sportsmen in general were so great that we knew him, if nothing else, but by that generosity.

Outside of Middleburg, beyond the foxhunting and steeplechase circles that he

was so a part of, Mr. Ohrstrom was acknowledged for his successes and interests in the worlds of business and finance. He was the chairman of G.L. Ohrstrom & Co., a New York private equity firm started by his father, George Ohrstrom, known in his successful youth as "the kid." The firm owned and grew many companies including, most famously, Dover Corp., the Carlisle Companies and Roper Industries.

Perhaps less famously, but no less important to the man himself, was ownership of the venerable Chronicle of the Horse, based here in Middleburg. The weekly journal of English equestrian sports (foxhunting, steeplechase, hunters and jumpers, eventing and dressage) is to this day a must-read for the horsey set.

It would seem a strange asset except to those who un-

derstood the family's love of horses. Mr. Ohrstrom owned Whitewood Farm in The Plains and from this stable sprang champions. Take for instance Ohrstrom's Mossflower. Mossflower was a graded stakes winner who won her first six races including the 1998 Hempstead Handicap (gr. 1). The filly went on to run turf, doing well for herself at Belmont and Saratoga.

Further back Ohrstrom successfully campaigned Comtesse de Loir in France where she was that nation's champion 3-year old filly in 1974. He brought her to the United States the following year and she ran and placed well (though never winning) in several graded stakes.

According to those close to him though, Ohrstrom's true equine passions were the more pastoral pleasures of foxhunting and the excite-

Continued Page 6

MIDDLEBURG HUNT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

PAGE 4

A SHADE GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS

PAGE 18

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"After his victory at the Battle of Antietam in September, 1862, General McClellan was ordered by President Abraham Lincoln to cross the Potomac and give battle to Confederate commander Robert E. Lee. To counter McClellan's thrust, Lee dispatched Jeb Stuart to slow the Northern Advance. The fighting peaked at the beautiful town of Unison where the outnumbered and outgunned Confederates fought a delaying action for three days until General Longstreet could get into position to defend Fredricksburg and Richmond. Stuart's successes convinced Lincoln that McClellan would never be the man to lead the Army of the Potomac. At a crucial point in America's greatest conflict, Lincoln would fire his commander."

*Patrick Brennan
Historian*

"Based on careful review of documentation on the significance and integrity of the battlefield in and around the village of Unison by our staff evaluation team and careful field inspection of the battlefield by our regional staff archaeologist and architectural historian, I am able confidently to report the professional finding of this Department that the known battlefield in and around Unison appears to meet the criteria for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places."

*Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
State Historic Preservation Officer, Virginia Department of Historic Resources*

"At this moment, the roads, stone walls, and many structures in and around Unison remain as they were in 1862 and have served me and others as a magnificent laboratory for interpreting our nation's past."

*Edwin C. Beares
Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service*

"As a result of extensive research conducted on cavalry warfare, it is my compelling belief there is scarcely a more pristine and important field of mounted combat in the country left more unprotected and unrecognized than the vital, significant, and marvelous Unison Battlefield."

Clark B. Hall, Historian

"If not for the Battle of Unison, the Southern army could have been cut in two and destroyed. That is how important this land is to America's story."

Robert Lee Hodge, Historian

"As an avid history buff and member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I am writing to express my support for the grant application to be submitted by the Unison Preservation Society to the National Park Service."

Joe T. May, 33rd District

Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and deeply committed to preserving the historical features of Loudoun County, I feel this application to be of great importance in defining and preserving Loudoun's Civil War heritage."

*Scott K. York, Chairman,
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors*

"Your grant application for assistance in mapping those battle sites is the first step in defining the hallowed ground around Unison, and I strongly support it."

*Jim Burton, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Blue Ridge District*

"Without significant help from the community, the state, and the Federal Government, all this historical area could soon be given over to housing subdivisions and shopping malls. There is no time to be wasted. I strongly support this funding request."

*Linda D. Newton, President
The Atoka Preservation Society*

"The National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program will give a high degree of authority to the boundaries of this battlefield and will enhance preservation efforts now and into the future."

*O. James Lighthizer, President
Civil War Preservation Trust*

Land Trust of Virginia

"The Loudoun County Historical Society encourages the understanding and appreciation of the history of Loudoun County and how it is reflected in both Virginia and U. S. history. I strongly support this funding request."

Anna E. H. Dees

"We greatly appreciate the remarkable work, past and present, of the Unison Preservation Society in helping to preserve this wonderful countryside in which we live. Thank you for being a forceful leader for battlefield preservation in our community."

*Paul G. Ziluca
Chairman, Citizens Committee for the Unison Cavalry
Battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville*

"Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club has been engaged in preserving the Historic Four Arch Stone Bridge over Goose Creek, located near Atoka, for many years. I strongly support this funding request."

*Linda D. Newton, President
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club*

"As Goose Creek Association works to coalesce many conservation and preservation efforts to provide a unified voice for conservation/preservation citizens in this area, we sincerely appreciate the work of the Unison Preservation Society in making this grant request. Thank you for leading this effort."

*Nancy West
Loudoun Chair
Goose Creek Association
Katherine "Butter" Strother
Fauquier Chair
Goose Creek Association*

"The Commonwealth of Virginia is in danger of losing too many of its most precious historic features and that is a loss not only for Virginia but also for the Nation as well. We applaud your efforts in Unison."

Land Trust of Virginia

"The Loudoun County Historical Society encourages the understanding and appreciation of the history of Loudoun County and how it is reflected in both Virginia and U. S. history. I strongly support this funding request."

*Childs F. Burden, Immediate Past President
Loudoun County Historical Society*

"Welbourne has been in my family for 8 generations. Welbourne was visited by Jeb Stuart and John Pelham in late October, 1862. We have 'Oct 28, '62' scratched into one of our windowpanes by a lieutenant in Pelham's battery. I am writing to support this grant application."

*Nat Morison
Welbourne*

"This work is crucial to the Unison Preservation Society's overall efforts to secure easements to protect battlefields and other pristine farmland in the area."

*Chris Needels
President, Mosby Heritage Area*

"I am writing on behalf of the Piedmont Environmental Council Board of Directors to express my support for the grant application to be submitted by the Unison Preservation Society to the National Park Service. PEC strongly supports this funding request for mapping assistance."

*Christopher G. Miller
President, Piedmont Environmental Council*

"Our hunt is the oldest organized pack of foxhounds in the United States, having been in existence since 1840. We realize this is sacred ground for a number of reasons. This landscape is virtually unchanged, except for agriculture, since George Washington enjoyed following his own hounds across it as a younger man. We strongly support this funding request for mapping assistance."

*Tad Zimmerman
Joint Master, The Piedmont Fox Hounds*

"On behalf of the Snickersville Turnpike Association I am writing to express our support for this grant application. Relating to the Battle of Unison, General Jeb Stuart on 31 October 1862, with the 3rd and 9th Virginia Cavalry, ranged east from Snickersville along the Turnpike to Mountville, surprising a 100-man detachment of the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry and capturing many."

*Henry G. Plaster
Chairman of the Board, Snickersville Turnpike Association*

"The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for the proposal of the Unison Preservation Society. This work is critical in the Society's overall efforts to secure easements to protect the battlefields in the area."

*Leslie H. Grayson
Director, N. Va. Office, Virginia Outdoors Foundation*

MIDDLEBURG ENVIRONS

News of Note	3
It's Your Business	8
Editors's Desk	10
Pastimes	12
Parents & Progeny	20
Faces & Places	24
Things to Do	26
Friends for Life	28

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Cover Photo By Jay Hubbard

The bronze sculpture of the war-weary Civil War horse in the courtyard of the National Sporting Library by sculptor Tessa Pullan of Rutland, England. Commissioned by Paul Mellon in 1994

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NEWS OF NOTE

NEW RECOGNITION OF THE UNISON BATTLEFIELD MAY SLOW PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Although many local residents don't know it, the lovely countryside around Unison, Virginia, includes an important battlefield of the American Civil War. Growing recognition of this fact is likely to make it more difficult for a recently proposed development to go forward there.

During the first three days of November, 1862, after the battle of Antietam, Jeb Stuart, John Pelham, and 1000 Confederate cavalry held up General McClellan and his large Union Army around Unison long enough for General Lee to cross over from the Shenandoah Valley in time to defend Fredricksburg and the Confederate capital at Richmond. President Lincoln had personally directed McClellan's advance and hoped cutting off Lee and possibly capturing Richmond,

might soon end the war. He was so angry with McClellan's slow action that he relieved him of command of the Union Army at Rectortown four days later.

The importance of the Unison battle, although recognized by some historians, has been generally underappreciated until recent efforts by the nonprofit Unison Preservation Society in reviewing period documents, histories, archival materials and newspaper reports of the battles around Unison.

After historians from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Park Service visited Unison for two days of discussion and field inspections in December, Kathleen Kilpatrick, head of VDHR, issued a letter stating, "I am able confidently to report the professional finding of

this Department that the known battlefield in and around Unison appears to meet the criteria for listing on the Virginia Landmark Register and the National Register of Historic Places."

Armed with this significant state finding, the Unison Preservation Society has just submitted a grant request to the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service for its assistance in studying and mapping the battlefield. The grant would be similar to that given by NPS to study and map the 1863 cavalry battles of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. Trappe resident Paul Ziluca led that effort and has helped Unison in its application. Unison residents Mitch Diamond, Kim Hart and Paul Hodge organized the research into the Battle of Unison and the grant applica-

tion.

From initial studies of the battlefield area, it now appears likely that the high ground north of the village was part of the Battle of Unison, including the 95-acre site recently purchased by developer Jeff Gould. Gould is attempting to subdivide the hillside into 3-acre parcels under current, but temporary, county zoning regulations.

Because of the state's action, it is now virtually certain that Loudoun subdivision regulations will require the developer to conduct a full archaeological and historical analysis of the site. To meet the high professional standards required of such a study will likely take months. Further research by historians under a National Park Service study and mapping grant, may also help influence the outcome.

Continued Page 4

DEVELOPMENTS THREATEN UPPERVILLE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD

MIKE DEHART

In late June, 1863, just days before Gettysburg, the Civil War raged in western Loudoun, culminating in the Battle of Upperville. As Robert E. Lee's Confederate army moved north through the Shenandoah Valley, JEB Stuart's cavalry fought to shield Lee from probing Union forces. Stuart succeeded and Lee made his way to Gettysburg where the War's ultimate outcome and the course of our nation's history changed forever.

The fields and pastures along Welbourne Road, where a portion of the Battle of Upperville was fought, look much the same today as they did in 1863. But that could all change as a new battle rages over this historic landscape.

A core portion of the Upperville battlefield is now littered with the wooden stakes and the bright orange flagging of surveyors. The landowner, Hewitt-Beer Trust, seeks to build 60-90 houses on the property. Ironically, the land was originally protected from develop-

ment by Adrienne Deere Hewitt, a descendant of the founder of John Deere Company. Adrienne, who tragically lost her battle against cancer nearly 18 months ago, was a committed conservationist. In 1999 she had a Trust placed on this land to protect its agricultural and historic values. The Trust is now seeking to undo her legacy and to despoil this hallowed ground with sprawl development. For the moment, the County has held against it.

Interestingly, the Trust is represented in this fight by Randy Minchew, Loudoun Republican Party Chairman and recently announced candidate for the Virginia Senate. It's hard to fathom how one makes a compelling Senate electioneering-platform out of destroying Loudoun's heritage while saddling our roads with more traffic and our citizens with more taxes.

The Trust and Minchew are threatening to sue, presumably to bully the County into negotiating and surrender. They are not unopposed, however. Over 30 neigh-

boring landowners have joined the battle, calling on the County to uphold the law and protect their land. This group stands ready to join in the legal wrangling, if that becomes necessary.

Besides the Hewitt-Beer Trust property, another citizen group is forming in response to a development threat. Interhorse Farm, a 50-acre property adjacent to the village of St. Louis is now slated for 15 sprawling lots. Like the Hewitt-Beer property, Interhorse contains a portion of the Upperville battlefield. Fortunately, the property is governed by the County's Village Conservation Overlay District whose purpose is to protect "the pattern, character and visual identity" of Loudoun's rural villages. Hopefully, good sense will prevail and in this instance, a compromise might be worked out to protect the open space and heritage values of that property.

We're often led to believe that battles over land-conservation pit outside environmentalists against local landowners. The truth is that in western Loudoun, the cavalries

that are riding to the defense of rural lands are made up of local citizens and those who depend on a vibrant rural economy. Indeed, the vast majority of locals favor land-conservation and they are not alone. The majority of Loudoun's citizens as well, including new residents, want to see open space, farmland and historic sites protected.

The Board of Supervisors is currently working to clean up the mess created by the Virginia Supreme Court by re-instating strong zoning in western Loudoun. But, at the behest of developers, the majority of the Board is dragging its feet. To stem the land rush, Loudoun citizens should call their Supervisors and tell them to hurry the process along. They should enact the new zoning without grandfathering. If the Board listens, traffic and taxes will become more manageable and we will have saved our agricultural and historic heritage for generations to come.

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NEWS OF NOTE

INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL HONORS GLENWOOD PARK TRUSTEES



BARNEY BRITTLE, JANELLE HOFFMAN, BETSY DAVIS, DAVID GOLDBERG, VICTOR DUPONT, CHUCK HOOVLER, CRICKET WHITNER

The Inova Loudoun Hospital Board of Directors honored Glenwood Park Trustees Clay "Barney" Brittle, Jr., recently retired Trustee Charles "Chuck" Hoovler, and newly appointed Trustee Victor DuPont for years of service in securing Glenwood Park's legacy in the Loudoun Community.

In a ceremony at Glenwood Park where trees have been planted honoring each distinguished recipient of the commendation of service, the daughter of the late Mr. Erskine Bedford, former Glen-

wood Park Trustee, Mrs. Cricket Whitner, accepted the commendation on behalf of her father. "My father thoroughly enjoyed his work at Glenwood Park and what it meant for the community. He would be proud of how the Park has developed since his tenure," observed Mrs. Whitner, "and it is with deep gratitude that I accept this commendation on his behalf. He loved this park. He believed in the mission of support Glenwood Park played in assuring community health care for the Loudoun community. We are so very proud

of his work and the legacy we all enjoy today."

Daniel C. Sands, Master of the Middleburg Hunt for nearly forty years, left Glenwood Park in trust as a means of financial support for Inova Loudoun Hospital, our community-based, not-for-profit hospital. Thanks to the foresight of Glenwood Park Trustees' Chuck Hoovler and Barney Brittle and assistance of attorney David Moyes, Glenwood Park's legacy has been secured in permanent conservation easement for perpetuity.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) the directors elected a new president, J. Bradley "Brad" Davis (photo), to succeed outgoing president, C. L. "Tim" Dimos (photo).

Tim Dimos is the Mayor of Middleburg and an estate and tax attorney. As a one of the founders of the Piedmont Community Foundation, "Hiz Honor" served as president since inception in June of 1999 through October 2005 and remains as legal counsel to the Foundation. Tim was presented with a gift clock/plaque inscribed with his service dates in tribute of recognition for his leadership steadfastly provided as a pioneer and visionary in leading the Foundation over the first six years. A spontaneous round of applause for Tim broke out following

words of thanks expressed by fellow founder and director, Joseph L. Boling (Chairman, President and CEO of Middleburg Financial Corporation) on behalf of Tim's fellow directors and staff of the Foundation.

Newly elected president, Brad Davis, is the managing partner and founder of Ridge Capital Partners, L.L.C. in Middleburg, VA. With 22 years experience in private equity investing his skill in financial matters and creating successful partnerships will be key assets as he steps into the top leadership role with PCF. His PCF colleagues welcome his knowledge and spirit which complements the goals and vision of the 1999 PCF founders. Brad chose involvement with PCF because, "Although there are many worthy organizations with a long history and great service record, I felt that the PCF was

J. BRADLEY DAVIS
New President
Piedmont Community Foundation



the one organization that could broadly address the escalating social, educational, environmental, and philanthropic necessities of the area and, at the same time, not compete with other organizations. In fact, to the contrary, be collaborative and complementary.

MIDDLEBURG HUNT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The sound of hounds in chase and the cry of the huntsman's horn have long echoed across Virginia, starting with the settlement of the area by the English in the mid-1600s and the formation of the first foxhound club in 1840, until there are now more recognized hunts in Virginia than in any other state.

The town of Middleburg has long been thought of as the Hunt Capital of not only Virginia, but also all of America, with more than five hunts located just 15 minutes away from town. However, the focal point of the area is the Middleburg Hunt, which traces its origins to the great international foxhunting match between A. Henry Higginson's Middlesex and Harry Worcester Smith's Grafton hounds in 1905. The match was arranged to settle a dispute between the gentlemen concerning the superiority of their respective English and American packs of hounds. Mr. Smith's American hounds decisively won the match. Those two weeks of the match, as well as the resulting newspaper publicity, established Middleburg as the axis of Hunt Country, since the hunting took place largely in the area near the village.

The foxhunters in the area officially established the Middleburg Hunt in 1906, and the Masters of Foxhounds Association recognized it in 1908. Since 1906, the hunt has gained a reputation for beautiful territory, outstanding hound work by their 40 couple of American foxhounds, and excellent hospitality. Several famous Virginians have also served as Masters, including Daniel Cox Sands, founder of Glenwood Park and the Virginia Spring Races, and

Charlotte Noland, founder and headmistress of Foxcroft School. This year, the Middleburg Hunt is celebrating its centennial year of hunting, proud of having retained their heritage and the continuation of their reputation as one of the top hunts in America.

In honor of reaching the hundred-year mark, the hunt is planning a variety of activities this year. On February 4th, Peter Winants, former editor of the Chronicle of the Horse magazine, will give a free lecture on the history of the Middleburg Hunt at the National Sporting Library. In April, not only will they continue their popular Hunter Pace event, but also, after an absence of many years, there will be a black-tie Hunt Ball at the Middleburg Community Center to celebrate.

On Sunday, April 30, Middleburg will host its annual Point-to-Point races at Glenwood Park. The races, part of the Virginia Point-to-Point circuit, have been part of the Washingtonian "must-do" list for many years, and this year is expected to be even more exciting, with additional races and the continuation of the competitive tailgate contest.

The first Saturday of November, Middleburg will host its Opening Meet at Groveton Farm, one of their best fixtures, and finally culminate the year with the incredibly popular, annual "Christmas in Middleburg" parade, when the hounds and over a hundred riders parade down main street in Middleburg prior to hunting.

For more information on joining in on any of Middleburg Hunt's centennial events, please contact Mrs. John Denege at 540-687-6069, or check the hunt website at www.middleburghunt.com.

UNISON BATTLEFIELD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Patrick Brennan, an historian who has written about the Battle of Unison for Blue and Gray magazine, wrote in a letter to the Unison Preservation Society: "History lives here, as it does wherever great moments occur. The land around Unison holds resources as priceless as any in the great muse-

ums and dusty archives, and I enthusiastically endorse the efforts of the Unison Preservation Society to protect the important and endangered battlefield that surrounds the village. It is our duty to help protect our nation's historical resources. We are bound to do no less."

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Bruce Tulloch, Vice-Chairman, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

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Lori Waters, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

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NEWS OF NOTE

GEORGE L. OHRSTROM JR.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



ment and challenges presented by steeplechase. His contributions to steeplechase arena were great and yet perhaps also frustrating. Apparently his longest unfulfilled goal, one might guess one of few such unfulfilled ambitions, was to win the Maryland Hunt Cup. Five times his horses came close – with his Appolinox given a few shots – but the prize proved elusive. Ohrstrom was a long-time president of the Orange County Hunt and then founder of the Bath County Hounds, a private pack based at his farm near Hot Springs, VA. Ohrstrom brought the celebrated huntsman Melvin Poe out of retirement to work with the pack. Hunting with them

is now considered the thing to do amongst foxhunters around the world, an honor and a privilege afforded to a lucky few. What perhaps will be amongst his longest lasting legacies, Ohrstrom is, along with his father, responsible for creating, and growing, and ensuring at least the near future of the National Sporting Library, also based here in Middleburg. The NSL was started by Ohrstrom’s father, but George Sr. passed away in 1955, not quite a year into the project. George Jr., along with his father’s original partner in the venture, Alexander Mackay-Smith, took over the project and steadily grew it into the impressive collection it represents today. What would it take for the young 28-year old to assume such a task and carry it forward with such dedication and vision for so many years ahead? The original Library essentially consisted of a few pieces of historical significance and a notion that there should be a place to one day gather more. Until 1999 the collection grew but remained in the basement of the little red brick building that housed (and still does) the Chronicle of the Horse. At this point a large private collection was donated to the Li-

TOWN COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

let people know about alternative parking. Rates will remain unchanged at other meters. New meters and landscaping are also due for installation at the new Liberty Street Parking lot before the end of January. **Vultures** The town continues to try to address the problem of roosting buzzards in the Ridgeview area and at the town water tower. A combination of carbide cannon fire and air-burst ammunition appear to be having little noticeable effect on the birds. **Police Activity** Police Chief Steven Webber reported a quiet December in Middleburg, with only 91 calls for service. A new full-time officer will be added to the force in February. A twelve-year Florida-trained veteran, the new officer will bring Chief Webber’s full-time force to four. **Waiver of Fees for Elderly Housing** A request from the Windy Hill Foundation for the waiver of \$9,900 in development fees drew an objection from Council Member Margaret New and an admonishment of New by Mayor Dimos. The non-profit Windy Hill Foundation requested that the town waive its fees for three reasons, over and above the obvious one of promoting lost cost hous-

ing for the elderly: 1) The Foundation is in competition for over \$2,000,000 in Federal funding, and a sign of support from the Town would improve it’s application; 2) The County would be more inclined to waive its fees, (possibly as much as \$40,000) if the Town of Middleburg did so; and 3) The Foundation is a Tax Exempt organization and it’s status is up for renewal, this time by County instead of State authorities. A vote of support by the Town, Windy Hill argued, would help. Only Town Council member Margaret New objected to the waiver, arguing that the Council had no business taking money out of Town Taxpayers’ pockets and, further, that the Town had already “given” the Foundation some \$4,000. She termed the motion to waive the fees “ a poor precedent.” Betsy Davis noted that a waiver of fees, strictly speaking, did not “give away” taxpayer money. Mayor Dimos noted that it was “highly inappropriate” to compare the waiver to funds contributed to Windy Hill by the Health Center Trust. The motion to waive the fees passed with Council Member Helen Hyre abstaining (because her husband did business with the Foundation) and Margaret New voting against it.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS JOIN FORCES

The move includes purchase by the 100-year-old award winning Fauquier Times-Democrat of the Fauquier Citizen in Warrenton and the Culpeper Citizen county newspapers. Combined paid circulation of the two weekly Fauquier County newspapers is 23,000, the largest of any county in Virginia. Peter W. Arundel, President of Times Community Newspapers, the purchasing company based near Dulles Airport, and Lawrence K. (Lou) and Ellen F. Emerson, principal owners of the Citizens, said in a joint statement “no changes are planned. Our common goal is balanced expansion of these newspapers to become even more compelling for readers.” They added that the Emersons will stay involved as regular advisers to the Times papers for at least five years while pursuing new interests outside of journalism. The Fauquier Citizen or Fauquier Times-Democrat have been voted Virginia’s Best Large Weekly Newspaper 13 times in annual competitions of the Virginia Press Association. Publisher and owner with his family of the Times-Democrat is Arthur W. (Nick) Arundel who lives with his family at The Plains in Fauquier County. John Toler, will continue as the newspapers General Manager and Executive Editor. The Times-Democrat, a paid broadsheet newspaper with a circulation of 14,400, is celebrating its 100th Birthday this year. The Emersons founded the Fauquier Citizen, with a paid circulation now of 8,600, in 1989, and the Culpeper Citizen with

Charles Bowles in 2003. Both are weekly tabloids. The Culpeper Citizen is delivered now to 19,300 households, larger than the two other Culpeper County daily and weekly newspapers combined. The sale also includes the Citizen’s real estate and Online digital publications. Times Community Newspapers, which bought the Times-Democrat in 1974 will now publish 20 newspapers in adjoining readership counties in the Northern Virginia region with a total circulation of 300,000. They include the Loudoun Times-Mirror, Gainesville Times, Clarke Times-Courier, Rappahannock News, and newspapers in Fairfax County. It employs about 300 people. Terms of the entire transaction, to be effective Jan. 1, 2006, were not disclosed.

UPCOMING MIDDLEBURG ELECTIONS

Candidates for Mayor or a position on the Middleburg Town Council in May must file candidacy papers by Tuesday, the 7th day of March 2006 at 7:00 P.M. Candidacy papers themselves became available this past Monday, January 3rd from the Loudoun County General Registrar in the Office of the Board of Elections, located at 26 C, Fairfax Street in Leesburg. The Office telephone number is 703-777-0548. The election itself will take place on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Positions to be filled in the election are

currently held by:

C.L. (Tim) Dimos)	Mayor
Betsy Davis	Council Member
Darlene Kirk	Council Member
Margaret A. New	Council Member
Mark T. Snyder	Council Member

For Voters, the last day to register to vote in the upcoming Town Election is Monday, April 3, 2006.

MIDDLEBURG ZIP CODE SURVEY

Tripp Muldrow, AICP and Aaron Arnett of Arnett Muldrow & Associates presented Middleburg Zip Code Survey Findings on Friday, January 13th at 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers at the Middleburg Town Office. Tripp summarized findings from the zip code studies conducted by Town merchants and restaurants through the Main Street Middleburg Committee in April 2005. He identified primary, secondary and tertiary markets for the Town and its retailers. The Zip Code Surveys are intended to help existing retailers fine tune marketing, help the Town

to recruit and sustain new retailers, and provide the community with a thorough understanding of the market forces at work in the Town. The information gleaned from the survey will allow the Town and individual retailers/restaurants to target advertising and marketing efforts. The Main Street Middleburg Committee is planning to complete another zip code survey the week of January 29th and will be asking town businesses to lend their support. Businesses should contact Claudia Dornin, Economic Development Coordinator, for more information.

LOUDOUN COUNTY SELECTED AS WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE

The announcement of Loudoun County as one of the newest sites for construction of a World Trade Center will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006. It will be held at Carradoc Hall, 1500 Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Presentations will be given from 8:00-9:00 am. There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentations. Local, regional, and international dignitaries will be present for this announcement. The Presidents from the World Trade Centers from Afghanistan and Okinawa will be in attendance as well

as Guy Tozzoli, President of the World Trade Center Association. In addition, the Governor of the State of Vera Cruz, Mexico will be present. Members of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors will also be at the announcement. The World Trade Center Dulles Airport at One Loudoun will offer many opportunities for economic growth in Loudoun County. One Loudoun, a project of Miller and Smith, and Meridian Group, is the only project in Loudoun County to receive the Smart Growth Award from the Washington Smart Growth Alliance.

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IT’S YOUR BUSINESS

RETIREMENT’S EXTREME MAKEOVER

Seven years ago, when my husband, John and I decided to create a lifestyle that allowed for flexibility, location choice, and creativity we actually changed careers that we otherwise enjoyed very much. What we didn’t realize at the time was that we were on the leading edge of an evolving trend – we were “Boomers” stepping out of traditional patterns to create a more customized mature life.

Then, last year, as I was seeking to enhance the Life Change and Transition part of my six year coaching practice, I discovered a great Retirement Coach Training Program. I took the courses and the training experience not only confirmed our transition steps of past years but also offered a wonderful view of the exciting aspects of this advanced life phase which was beginning to touch so many of my friends and clients. What a delightful opportunity, I thought, to blend a deep interest in life change with my coaching expertise.

As the 21st Century evolves, retirement as we knew it in the 20th Century is undergoing a much-needed makeover. The average age of the first retirement in the United States today is 57. Thus, we can expect to live active and productive lives for 20 or more years beyond that milestone. Researchers have concluded that the 50 to 70 age range is a distinct developmental stage with specific characteristics:

- Mastery level of development – the age of wisdom
- Reduced level of external expectations and life structures or constraints
- Capacity for more expansive consideration of wider possibilities
- Period of inner reflection and “taking stock” of priorities
- Desire for rediscovery of long held dreams and passions

• Stage of greatest potential for personal integration of values, purpose and actions

• Heightened interest in spiritual connection

• Expanded creativity reflected in arts, nature, service, relationships and spirituality

The following sample case studies demonstrate how retirement is changing.

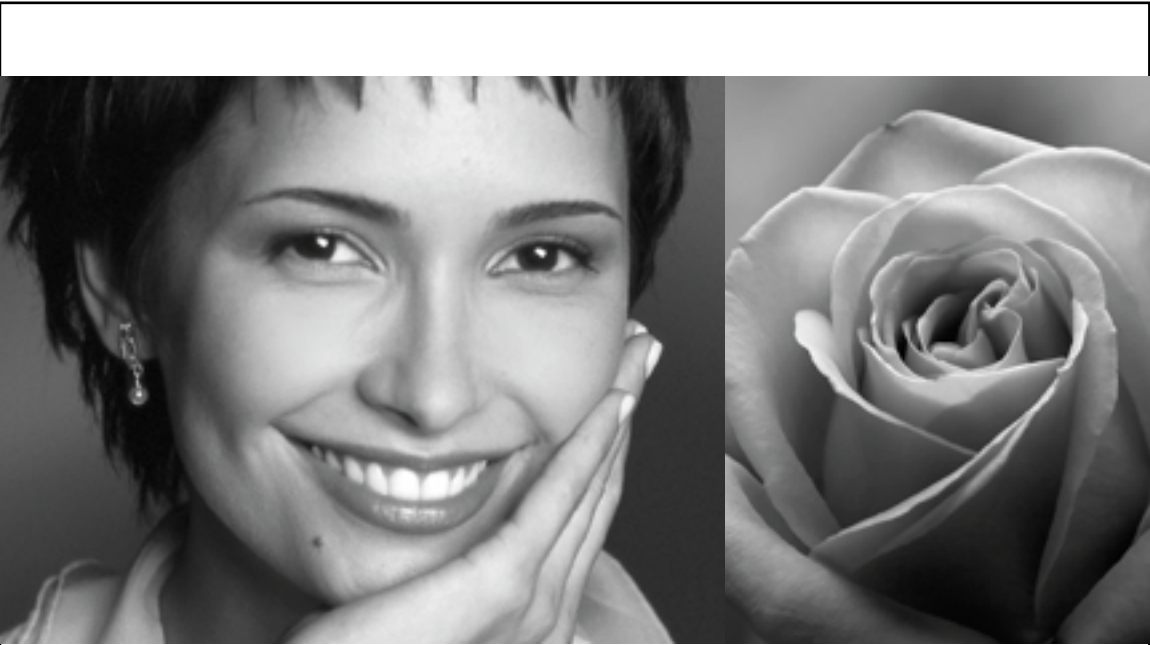
In the traditional retirement picture someone like Roy who is reasonably comfortable financially, retires at age 62 and is relieved to leave behind the stresses of sales forecasts, airline travel and budget deadlines. He takes to the golf course for his leisure retirement. But, six months out he is not only feeling every pain and ache (because he has so much time to think about them) he is also engaging in routine spats with his wife and feeling overall quite empty inside.

The “New” Retirement looks a bit different.

Alan, on the other hand, plans ahead and works with a professional coach who asks a variety of questions and introduces exercises to prepare for the coming changes. His coach helps him identify the parts of his job he is passionate about and they learn what Alan likes is the chance to create new programs and to collaborate with colleagues. What Alan does not like are budget deadlines and weekly travel to the west coast.

The coach also helps him recognize that his life has been on the fast track for so many years that he has missed doing things he really wants to do – things like playing the trumpet, an activity he loved while in college. He also wants to spend time doing more with Arlene, his wife of 28 years.

So, after much introspection, Alan began intentionally filling his life with those things he wants to include – some consulting with his old firm on project development, joining an informal band that often jams together and occasionally performs at community events. He pursues a mutual interest with Arlene by signing up as mentors at the local Girls and Boys Club.



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And, for leisure and balance, he plays a round of golf each week. Alan creates a balanced and fulfilling retirement.

As you can see, “retirement remade” no longer reflects the limiting traditional picture of relief or resignation but instead offers an expansive view of possibilities and choices. Recent findings have influenced the “makeover” and highlight our need to acquire new lenses when looking at “what’s next” for this life stage.

Our society offers a variety of resources to help us in the later decades of our life journey. We have financial planners to guide our material resources, spiritual advisors to address our spiritual quests, personal trainers to help keep our bodies fit and now, we find, there are life renewal coaches to help us re-discover ourselves and identify, plan and create a rewarding retirement life.

Isn’t it great to live in a time when, psychologists say, we have the greatest potential for becoming the most integrated as individuals after age 50. Most of us will want to enjoy the wider possibilities and deeper fulfillments that the New Retirement promises. With that in mind, who will we choose for our Retirement team?

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ARMFIELD, MILLER & RIPLEY FINE PROPERTIES WELCOMES WALTER WOODSON

Senior trade association executive Walter Nelson Woodson recently joined Armfield, Miller & Ripley Fine Properties, LLC in Middleburg. Woodson moved to the Middleburg area in 2004 after a successful 25-year career in the Washington, DC area. An expert in public and government affairs, marketing and management, Woodson managed a multi-million dollar trade association based in Arlington. Prior to that, Woodson was senior vice president of The Tobacco Institute, a trade association representing major U. S. corporations. Woodson began his Washington career as legislative director for a senior North Carolina congressman.

As she welcomed him to the firm, Gloria Armfield said, “We are delighted Walter has chosen to share this new direction in his professional life with us. He brings a wealth of talent to our clients and to our firm.”

~Thank You! Thank You!~

Middleburg Elementary School is very grateful to all of the following donors who made our “Breakfast with Santa Silent Auction” such a huge success. Your generosity has helped to raise much needed funds for student enrichment programs. Thank you for being such good neighbors and supporting our local school.

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The Corner Garden
The Corner Store
Country Way
Crème de la Crème
Cuppa Giddy Up
Curves of Middleburg
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Food Lion
Foxcroft School
The Fun Shop
Goodstone Inn
Great Meadow July 4th Celebration
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Hunt Country Yarns
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THE EDITOR’S DESK

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

How could a thoughtful essay assignment for bright high school students endanger soldiers and citizens in Iraq?

By motivating a student to board a flight to Baghdad skirt the visa authorities and arrive unsupervised and unprepared for a war zone, thereby putting himself, and possibly many others in great danger.

Rather than focusing on his exploit, the media should be questioning his parents. Parents who provided him with credit cards and a passport and assumed he would behave responsibly.

Sadly, he did not.

Fortunately, when he realized what a frightening situation he was in, he went through the right door and found people who could and would help him return home.

If he had gone through the wrong door and our troops had been faced with extricating him from a hostage situation or, worse, he might not have returned home at all, and those who went to his rescue might have been added to the much-too-high casualty numbers we hear every day.

War is tough enough without children making a game of getting to the battlefield. Parents take note: this may be a one-in-a-million situation, but it’s worth it to take a minute to discuss with your kids how many people can be put at risk by a stupid decision like this.

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:

Your criticism of Supervisor Jim Burton (Middleburg Eccentric, December 15, 2005) was unwarranted and without merit. Jim has consistently led the struggle for responsible land use policies and their implementation in Loudoun County. To suggest he doesn’t know what is happening on Route 50 is ludicrous – he has been a member of and attended virtually every meeting of the Route 50 Traffic Calming Task Force since its inception and has worked tirelessly in opposition to the CPAM proposals which would allow as many as 28,000 houses in the Route 50 corridor.

Regarding his criticism of the town council, my understanding is that he was referring to the failure of the majority of council to examine and understand all the impacts of the Salamander project. His im-

pression, I believe (and one with which I do not disagree), is that the majority has chosen to focus solely on the opportunity to obtain a new sewer plant in exchange for annexing 252 acres of land and allowing construction of a 120 room resort with spa, in addition to 49 houses and other “amenities”, to the exclusion of thoroughly examining the negative aspects of the development or the opportunity for alternate means of solving the utility problems in the town.

I quote from Jim’s December newsletter:

Salamander Inn
At the December 6th Board meeting an 8-person majority approved the Inn’s Special Request to allow for traffic heavier than 600 average vehicle trips per day. I was the lone vote against the application. I voted No for the same reasons I have expressed over and over again.

• The size of the facility in relation to the Town is out of proportion. In my opinion the facility will overwhelm the Town

• The continuous mutation of the project – it began as a 40-room inn, then became a 58-room rural retreat and now is a 120-room resort hotel. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the applicant, the Town of Middleburg, and the County, still further mutations could occur. The open-ended nature of the MOU concerns me greatly

• The lack of any study specifically addressing public safety and pedestrian issues

• The lack of precision in the traffic study, and the unwillingness of the applicant to live within its own traffic projections

• The potential economic damage to existing merchants in the town caused by what may become traffic gridlock

The applicant, Prem Devadas, has indicated that consideration is being given to shift the inn’s location closer to the Town. I certainly hope that is true as it indicates that the applicant has finally listened to some of the concerns raised by citizens outside the Town. I hope that a fruitful conversation between the two groups ensues.

It appears to me that Supervisor Burton has been attentive to detail, objective and forthright in his examination and criticism of the Salamander project. I appreciate and applaud his efforts.

That said, I am encouraged by the latest Salamander proposal to move most of the buildings within the current town limits and I look forward to working, as a town council member, with Salamander to preserve the natural resources outside the town limits through implementation of a thorough conservation easement. There is an opportunity for us to reach an agreement that will benefit us both and I will work for what I perceive to be the best interests of the town, as I have since joining the town council.

Margaret New
Middleburg, VA

To the Editor:

A Bishop’s Subjective Reflections on The Book of Daniel

The best thing that can be said about NBC’s new Friday night show, The Book of Daniel, is that it is so bad it cannot possibly last more than a couple of weeks. The

show purports to be about an Episcopal (NBC says “Episcopalian”) priest, his family, parish and bishop. The show is spiteful towards all its characters and downright libelous towards the Episcopal Church. The depiction of every major character as being either drug involved, sadistic, or sexually illicit was capped by the revelation that Daniel’s bishop is having an affair with Daniel’s father, who just happens to be the retired bishop of the same diocese. Nice, huh? The lay members of the congregation are portrayed as smug racists. The only character identifiable as a non-Episcopalian in the entire show is the Roman Catholic priest in a neighboring parish. He is Italian-American and is revealed to have strong Mafia ties that he does not mind using. At least the show is ecumenical in its offensiveness.

The Book of Daniel is ludicrous in its effort to pack way too many issues into one rectory. The talents of Aidan Quinn as the priest, Daniel, and of Ellen Burstyn as his bishop are pitifully wasted. This is a nasty little piece of work that deserves the widespread condemnation it has received. Tom Shales’ review in the Washington Post had it just about right: “I cannot recall a series in which a greater number of characters seemed so desperately detestable – a series with a larger population of loathsome dolts. There ought to be a worse punishment than cancellation for a show that tries so hard to be offensive...

The Episcopal Church’s motto is “The Episcopal Church welcomes you.” Episcopal congregations tend to be inclusive of a wide spectrum of people with a range of theological and ethical convictions. However, if “Daniel” is intended as satire, it fails, mostly because it is so mean-spirited. Other satirical shows – “Desperate Housewives” comes to mind – get away with extreme behaviors because the writers demonstrate an empathetic affection for their characters. No such empathy is evident from this show. For anyone who cares at all about the Episcopal Church, “Daniel” might feel like a back alley mugging. Anyone who wonders if the show depicts what Episcopalians are really like is encouraged to visit any Episcopal church. See for yourself.

The Right Rev’d Martin G. Townsend
Interim Rector
Trinity Episcopal Church
Upperville, VA

RANT & RAVES

RED VS BLUE

THIS PAST WEEK...

MARK TATE - (R)

This past week the US Senate started hearings on President Bush’s newest Supreme Court nominee Judge Sam Alito. A man by most counts extremely qualified and highly recommended by American Bar Association.

Of course this all did not matter to the democrats on the Senate Judiciary committee.

Lead by Senator Ted Kennedy the democrats desperately tried to destroy Judge Alito’s character and embarrass President Bush. The attacks were so absurd they are not worth mentioning. They were vicious enough to make Judge Alito’s wife leave the hearing room crying. The irony of Senator Kennedy leading the attacks about character and ethics says a lot about the democrat’s leadership in the US Senate. Judge Alito came out of the hearing largely untouched by the attacks. He will almost surely be

confirmed by the Senate and become the Courts newest Justice. With the appointment of Chief Justice and the probable appointment of Judge Alito one of President Bush’s lasting legacies will be shape of the Supreme Court for decades to come. Hopefully a Court a little more Conservative that closely follows the Constitution rather than reinterpreting it.

This past week the Virginia General Assembly convened for the 2006 session.

After what seemed to be a very long political session we have a new Governor.

In the last campaigns the voters were very clear about the need for solutions to Northern Virginia’s transportation crisis. Our new Governor has promised he would fix the crisis, without raising taxes but we have heard that before. More impressively he has said he will seek to link land use and transportation decisions. An

admirable idea but he will need a lot of help to get this accomplished. But lets hope the GA and the Governor will also focus on fixing the already existing road problems. I believe one of the messages from the voters was that we have to start making our roads work. It is unacceptable for us to spend hours in traffic to travel a distance that should take a fraction of the time. And the voters are not going to stand for it anymore. And they will not let the Governor forget his promise not to raise taxes to solve the problem. The state has a surplus of over 1 Billion dollars, rather than spending money on new programs transportation should be a priority.

Unless of course the Governor would like to refund that last tax increase that was going to save us from impending doom.

GEORGE CROSSES HIS FINGERS

DAN MORROW - (D)

... a little.

The President has been crossing his fingers a lot during the new year, and it seems to be working for him . . . whether he crosses them in front or behind his back.

He crosses ‘em in front, of course, for luck.

The New Orleans disaster turned out to be a lucky indeed for the Bush-ites, with no winter hurricanes . . . and long-term projections reducing the city to half its pre-Katrina size or less, its pro-Democratic black population scattered to the winds, and hopes for an all-white, Carmel-by-the-Gulf-style restoration, moving forward apace. Score one (or is that two) for the GOP.

Osama is still missing and opium production is up in Afghanistan, but all that’s been eclipsed in Afghanistan coverage by the latest earthquake’s rising winter casualties.

Fidel’s cozy with some of South of America’s largest oil producers, but, lucky for us, gas prices have dropped

Bill Frist’s insider-trading troubles have been totally eclipsed by the Abramoff scandal. (Well, there’s Tom Delay’s resignation, and the sound of Republican knees knocking from K Street to the Congress to the Naval Observatory grounds . . . but even a President’s crossed fingers can’t save EVERYONE.)

No one’s thinking much about Valerie Plame, because we’re investigating who blew the whistle on secret prisons and even more secret warrantless wiretaps. Avian flu hasn’t killed anyone HERE . . . yet . . . and if we’re lucky, a tree won’t fall on the GW Parkway if we have to evacuate the capitol . . . or bring in relief supplies.

Cross your fingers for good luck! And cross ‘em when you’re not exactly telling the truth.

Observe, for example, George’s fingers-crossed-behind-his back “signing statement.” He didn’t really mean it when he signed the law containing

McCain’s anti-torture amendment. His betrayal of John McCain, John Warner, and roughly 90% of the U.S. Senate doesn’t really “count.”

He also didn’t really mean it when swore to God to uphold the law . . . even those requiring a court order before (or soon after) the government could tap your phones, or check your library records, or monitor your emails, or track your work on line.

How does a President get away with that? How can he insult the courts, insult the congress and escape with less than a slap on the wrist?

To paraphrase one of the defendants at Nuremberg: ‘Easy! Tell ‘em they’re under attack! Then denounce your opponents as unpatriotic, or worse, guilty of exposing the country and its troops to danger. Works every time.’

Martin Luther King weeps.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

Hypocrisy by definition “two faced, deceptive, duplicitous and insincere”. Is there a more egregious noun?

In the coming months I will be writing articles pointing out hypocrisy in governments, corporations, politicians, media, organized religion, war on terror and other hot button items. Hopefully by exposing hypocrisy we can attempt to put an end to some of it.

The articles will be short, to the point and topical. I would be pleased with reader response in the form of disagreement, agreement and suggestions for future related articles.

The first in the series concerns Latin America and United States relations - Venezuela and President Hugo Chavez in particular.

January 18. Condeleeza Rice addressing Senate foreign relations committee. “We are very concerned about a democratically elected leader who governs in an illiberal way” (referring to President Hugo Chavez)

Hypocrisy

What she really is saying is that an elected leader attempting to redistribute wealth and political power to 80% of Venezuelans living in poverty and urging other Latin American countries to follow this example and also attempting to unite the continent in fighting off U. S. exploitation and dominance is a threat to U.S. interests. *That does not sound “illiberal” to me.*

Washington Post’s Fred Hiatt (5/30/05) “Chavez is eroding the institutions on which democracies depend because of his close ties to Fidel Castro. Wall Street Journal (4/1/05) labeled Chavez a “Castroite” and claimed Venezuela is now a “Cuban province”

Hypocrisy

If guilt by association is to be used as the criteria for criticism of President Chavez then surely the United States is in danger of becoming a monarchy because of the close ties that not only the Bush administration but also the Bush family has with the government of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Royal Family.

Miami Herald (6/5/05) Chavez “single-handedly” packed the Supreme Court with loyalists.

Hypocrisy

In contrast to the United States system where the President makes Supreme Court nominations, Venezuela’s elected National Assembly selects the magistrates from a list of candidates pre-selected by a committee of representatives of the offices of the human rights ombudsman, the attorney general and the comptroller general. Seems a more fair system than that of the U. S. And as an aside; the Venezuelan Supreme Court has refused to this day to prosecute the military officers who temporarily overthrew the elected Chavez government in the 2002 coup. *Can you imagine if a coup was attempted in this country and the Supreme Court refused to prosecute those involved? I am sure they would all be up for impeachment by Congress.*

When totalitarian nations such as Saudi Arabia and China “play ball” with U. S. corporations we embrace them.

Hypocrisy

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Continued Page 23

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PASTIMES

THE REAL KIELBASA DEAL

FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

What we buy around here in Safeway™ and most grocery chains is not Kielbasa. Authentic Polish Kielbasa is a delicious delicacy that can only come from age-old recipes and careful production by master butchers and chefs. Hillshire Farms does not qualify. It's some type of meat that is flavored to taste something like the real deal. I am always uninspired when cooking with it because when you cook with the real thing it's hard to go back to an imitation. Like so many things epicurean I guess.

Definition: [kihl-BAH-sah; keel-BAH-sah] Also called kielbasy or Polish sausage, this smoked sausage is usually made of pork, though beef can also be added. It comes in chunky (about 2 inches in diameter) links and is usually sold precooked, though an occasional butcher will sell it fresh. Kielbasa can be served whole or cut into pieces as part of a dish.

There are many types of Kielbasa that can be purchased including Dried, Kiska, Big Party and Wedding. The Wedding Kielbasa is my favorite. The cuts of fresh meat inside the already lean pork sausage are bigger and chunkier than all the others, smoked to perfection and contains a bit more garlic than the usual suspect. As a kid, we'd do weddings and banquets where we served over 300+ lbs of Kielbasa in a couple hours! Tons of the stuff. The neighborhood (and me) would smell for a week.

Hapanowicz Brothers Market in upstate NY is a place where the Kielbasa runs like the salmon of Capistrano (a line from one of my favorite movies). Like me, if you've tried different Kielbasas and experienced the best, you'll understand what makes Hapanowicz Kielbasa something special.

In 1916, Anna and Walter Hapanowicz bought a grocery business on Nichols Street in East Utica, NY. In 1924, after eight successful years, the couple opened a second market in West Utica and the two stores continue to flourish today producing its 100 year old recipe famous Kielbasa and homemade cold cuts.

Knowing my wife and I were spending Christmas in Florida with my Mom, and knowing that we wanted her to make "her" Borsch soup like she does every year (sour cream based soup with potatoes, Wedding Kielbasa, dill, chopped egg, etc), I called Leonard Hapanowicz, one of the

sons running the business, and asked him to ship a surprise gift box of the best mix of Kielbasa. Leonard wouldn't stop laughing. So, for \$142.00, including shipping, I received 50lbs (yes 50!) of all types of fresh Polish sausage. That's under \$2.50 a pound. I also sent a box to each to my brothers, whom I know considered this the best present under the tree - stinkiest, but the best! I guess we need help.

Feel free to call or go online <http://www.hapskielbasa.com> and drop my name. Tell Leonard you want the "Lichorowicz gift pack". He'll treat you right. After he stops laughing. Good people.

Here are two of the easiest and beloved dishes to try if you're lucky enough to have a nice Kielbasa in your fridge. They're passable with Hillshire but the point is the right flavor seep from the Kielbasa is what truly makes the dish.

Hoppin' Joshu
Joshu is Polish for John, so this is my take on the classic Hoppin' John which alternatively contains ham. It's been said that eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day brings one good luck for the New Year.

1 tbs	Olive Oil
1 Cup	Kielbasa, sliced into medallions
1 Med	Onion, sliced
2 whole	Garlic cloves, crushed
1 cup	Black-eyed peas, soaked & rinsed
1/2 cup	Brown Rice
1/2 cup	Wild rice
2 tbs	Parsley, fresh & chopped
1 tsp	Tabasco or other hot sauce (feel free to get religion here)

1/4 tsp	Cayenne (red) pepper, ground
1/2 tbs	Sea salt
4 cups	Water

Heat the oil in a heavy 2 qt ovenproof casserole over medium heat. Add the Kielbasa, onion, garlic and sauté until the onions are golden.

Add to the casserole the Black Eye Peas, brown and wild rice, parsley, Tabasco, cayenne, sea salt, water and mix.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bring all ingredients to boil on stovetop.

Cover and bake in the oven for 50 -60 minutes or until all the liquid has been absorbed by the peas and rice and

is tender to your liking. Taste and adjust seasoning as necessary.

Note: You can cook this on a stovetop over medium heat for the same amount of time.

Kielbasa with Polskim Sosie (Kielbasa in Polish Sauce)

1 cup	Water
1 cup	Beer (lager or ale)
1 whole	Kielbasa Ring, Wedding if you can find
2 Med	Onion, sliced
2 whole	Garlic cloves, crushed
1 tbs	Butter
1 tsp	Flour (more or less and needed)
2 tbs	White Vinegar
1/2 tsp	Beef flavored base
2 tbs	Sugar

In a large cast iron pan, add the water and beer and bring to a boil. Add the Kielbasa, onion and garlic and simmer for 20 minutes. Strain the onions and set aside while retaining the liquid.

In a separate saucepan, brown the butter and blend in the flour. Slowly add 1 strained cup of the liquid from the Kielbasa pan. Stir toughly. Stir in the vinegar and the beef base and sugar and add the strained onions. Add liquid until desired thickness is achieved. Serve the Kielbasa with boiled potatoes and smother everything with the sauce.

What's Good In Town This Month:

The Middleburger at Mello Out on Federal Street is a noble lunch treat. Fresh Panini made of Roast Beef, Gorgonzola, Red Peppers and red onion sandwiched with my bread of choice, of which there are several varieties, tomato rosemary. Hungarian Mushroom Soup is also a winner. Just the right amount of fresh (not canned) mushrooms in a white wine, onion, sour cream and milk base. Check out the Soup of the Day as they do them from scratch. You can't go wrong.

*Comment or catastrophes? fbts@mbecc.com
More recipes - mbecc.com/fbts*



ARTIST OR ILLUSTRATOR?

THE ART OF ART

TOM NEEL

What do you think of when you hear the name Norman Rockwell? How about N.C. Wyeth or Charles Schulz? Do you think of a painting style, the work they produced, their influence on thousands of people or do you even think of them as artists at all? All of these names are very famous artists. "Artists? I never thought of them that way", you may be saying and it's fair that you think of them as illustrators. But, is an illustrator an artist? You bet and many are among the best.

Let's start with looking at what an illustrator does, (not "is", but does). An illustrator's primary function is to produce art that is narrative by nature, tells a story, picture is worth a thousand words. The very nature of these paintings or this art's purpose, (all art has a purpose right?), is to influence the masses and the best way to do that is through reproduction. Reproduction of an image in advertising, magazines covers, books, comics, greeting cards, product labels, billboards and a whole host of licensed or branded objects that we all buy by the millions, has been going on for years. Its heyday really began before photography grew in this area and now the computer has its part too, but is any of it art? Well, yes, it all is. Is it fine art, well, not all, but much of it is and some of it is the best.

Norman Rockwell could be considered a great portrait

painter (and he is), but his paintings really portrayed everyday life. They really did give us a slice of life, perfect Americana. Rockwell was considered an illustrator and his art made it to the masses. Saturday Evening Post covers were seen by just about every American and these images still charm us today. Think of visiting a doctor's office and there on the wall seeing Rockwell's "Doctor and Doll", with the doctor's stethoscope held to a young girl's doll. It's there because his paintings give us comfort. Visit the Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA. and you will without question, see great art.

The same could certainly be said for Charles Schulz, whose Peanuts characters are still part of our everyday life. It's very easy to not even think of Schulz as an artist at all. Well, he was an illustrator too, but trust me, he was a great artist. He was so good, he brought his subject matter, "characters", to life. We don't think of Snoopy as a marker drawing, we barely can even see him as a dog, he's almost human! Schulz was certainly a storyteller too, but his art simply made him. Was it art, well, let's think about this. If you had a nicely framed, original sketch of Charlie Brown with Snoopy by his side, would you hang it or toss it in the closet as just a goofy comic character? Would its value make a difference to you? Yes, I think it would and by the way, the Schulz Museum is in Santa Rosa, CA.

Are you thinking N.C. Wyeth, I've heard that name, who's he? Hum, let's see there's Andrew Wyeth, I've heard



of him. If you've just done this, you wouldn't be alone, but N.C. Wyeth, as perhaps one of the greatest illustrators of all time, has touched all of you who have ever had your nose buried in great books such as Robinson Crusoe, The Last of the Mohicans, Robin Hood, The Mysterious Stranger, The Scottish Chiefs or Treasure Island, just to name a few. If the words to all of these books written years ago, brought us great stories, N.C. Wyeth's paintings brought them to life and affected how many of these characters would be seen and portrayed in the movies, plays and even cartoons that followed for years to come. Many of these powerful paintings, grand in scale, can be seen at the nearby Brandywine Museum in Pa. It's worth the trip and N.C. Wyeth's art is among the best I have ever seen. Narrative yes, but so great.

These three names are but a few of the many great illustrators and yes, great artists that have touched us through their art. Their art is, in my opinion, as important as many of the most famous artists you know. A different purpose maybe, but their images are every bit as influential, interesting and are certainly art. Interesting too, they all seem to have museums!

Tom Neel 540-364-4401 or www.tomneelstudio.com and now also at Trowbridge-Lewis Galleries, Middleburg.

CRACKING THE TOP 10

ALEX CUDABACK

Only months after joining the ranks of Ted Leonsis and Abe Pollin as a major league owner, Sheila Johnson is already making her presence felt.

Johnson found herself second only to Maria Sharapova, the 18-year-old, 6-foot-2-inch, blond tennis prodigy from Russia, in a recently released ranking of the 10 most powerful women in sports.

Dan Weil, a 23-year veteran of the sports beat and the ranking's author, admits that while, "there was no formula," to the ranking, including Johnson was, "really a no-brainer."

Bob Dorfman, Executive Creative Director at Pickett Advertising in San Francisco, was quoted by Weil as saying, "in some sense Johnson is more powerful than the athletes on this list."

In addition to Sharapova, those athletes include Annika Sorrenstam and Michelle Wie of the LPGA, the Williams sisters of the WTA, and Danica Patrick, this past year's Indy Racing League rookie of the year whose fourth-place finish at the Indy 500 provided the biggest media swell the IRL has seen in years.

While Johnson was not the only female exec to make the list, she was the only one to crack the top 6. Other sincluded Donna Orender, Commissioner of the WNBA, Amy Trask, CEO of the Oakland Raiders, Lesa France Kennedy, President of International Speedway Corp., and Donna Lopiano, Executive Director of the Women's Sports Foundation.

Unlike those others, however, Johnson is the only member of this particular sports sorority with an active roll in three professional sports teams. With her first full WNBA season behind her, and a team that some thought would have advanced further last season, it's a safe bet that Johnson will be even more involved this season.

"It's time to roll up my sleeves and get into it a little bit," says Johnson. "I want to help the team perform better on the court, and off it. We need to strengthen our bench. We need to do a better job of marketing the team. And we need to figure out how to make the team profitable."

As for the ranking, "it was a very nice Christmas present," Johnson said. "I was very pleasantly surprised and very grateful. I take very seriously my obligation to carry on not only in the tradition of the other women on this list, but also in the tradition of all those who paved the road we have been fortunate enough to travel."

GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Give the Redskins credit: after stumbling and bumbling their way to a 5-6 start, the Burgundy and Gold somehow found it deep within themselves to reel off six straight, magical victories.

They won at home. They won on the road. They won pretty and they won ugly. They won by playing as well as they could realistically be expected to play in each and every situation. Over the last two months these Redskins dug as deep as any Redskins team has ever dug.

So for that, each and every bit of it, all of Washington should be proud. The 'Skins of old may not be back, but their heart is back, and that is itself a giant leap for any team.

The problem with all that, in simplest terms, is that the Redskins, in their current configuration, are maxed out. 10-6, a Wildcard berth and the second round of the playoffs are pretty much all this team can realistically expect.

If Dan Snyder, Joe Gibbs and Gregg Williams are serious about taking this team to the next level, if they are serious about being in this for the long haul, if they are serious about putting another Lombardi Trophy in the trophy-case at Redskins Park, then these men need to sit down, take a long, hard look at the team they have put together, and accept the fact that this team, in its current iteration, is NOT capable of winning a Super Bowl. Period.

Every football team that has any realistic expectation of finishing the murderous slog that makes up the regular



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LOCAL AUTHORS BRUNCH

During the celebration of Books & Crannies' first anniversary, the bookstore hosted a brunch for local authors. Owners Pat Daly and Genie Ford wished to express their appreciation to the authors for their overwhelming support of the bookstore during its first year in business. The event gave customers an opportunity to visit with their favorite local authors who personalized copies of their books for holiday gifts. To commemorate the occasion, each author was given a copy of Maya Angelou's book, Amazing Peace, A Christmas Poem, which was read by the poet at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on December 1st.



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PASTIMES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
WHAT'S NEW IN BOOKS

GENIE FORD

If you're like Jefferson, you're in luck—the New Year has brought with it some exciting new books. There's something for the reader in all of us.

Doris May Lessing, over the span of more than five decades, has perfected the art of the essay. In Time Bites, we get the best of Lessing. This is a book about all kinds of writers and Lessing travels the literary spectrum with ease.

Lillian Hellman was a hugely

talented, unflinching and courageous writer—and also a nasty piece of work—but she was never boring. In A Life with Foxes and Scoundrels by Deborah Martin-

son, we get a new look at this legendary literary figure of the 20th century who faced down social taboos to write Truth, with a capital T. You'll love her and you'll hate her, but you won't be bored.

The Elements of Style, by William Strunk and E.B. White, is a classic about the proper use of

Small Eternities by Michael Lawrence is a fantasy for young adult readers that uses magical realism (the idea of alternate universes) to confront death, grief, choice and other real world issues.

Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog by John Grogan is a charmer, even if you don't love dogs (is that even humanly possible?). Get the hanky ready, because you'll need it for tears of laughter and of sorrow.

WINTERIZING YOUR SKIN

EDEE TUDOR,
BOARD CERTIFIED ESTHETICIAN

During the winter months, most people experience dry, tight feeling skin, and blame that discomfort on the cold weather. It is, however, the excessive dryness in the air that is so irritating to the skin. The various heat sources and wind are the main culprits in reducing the humidity in the air.

On of the key elements to remedy the problem is to exfoliate!

Exfoliation removes the dry, dead cells on the skin's surface, and exposes the healthy, hydrated skin cells underneath. Particular care should be taken to use a cream that contains glycolic acid on a daily basis. This continuously exfoliates the skin on a microscopic level. You cannot moisturize dead skin cells, they simply block any moisturizer from reaching the cells that can be influenced by hydrating agents.

Regular microdermabrasions or glycolic acid peels go a long way in keeping your skin, fresh, healthy, and luminous looking throughout the year.

It is essential that a sunblock

be used daily even if you spend most of the day indoors. Sunblock will also protect your skin against wind and harsh temperatures. Care should be taken to select a sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB rays. The lips are most vulnerable area of the face and require sun protection. Alip balm with an SPF of 20 or higher is essential. Many of the lipsticks on the market now contain SPF protection; choose one of those rather than a designer label. Your lips will thank you.

It is equally important to apply a night cream suited to your particular skin type, to allow the skin to regenerate during the night. A humidifier in the bedroom would be most beneficial to keep your skin from becoming excessively dry.

Drinking plenty of fluids is very important as well. But you don't have to stick to the proverbial eight glasses of water. Tea, especially green tea, has many healthy, anti-oxidant benefits, and is way more soothing to drink on a cold winter day.

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PASTIMES

A SHADE GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

I spent many years with a shade garden filled with hostas, astilbes and a few ferns. The transformation from lush summer growth to little more than an undulating bed of mulch in winter left me disappointed. I experimented with heuchera (coralbells) and tiarella (foamflower). There was a little more winter color, a smattering of semi-evergreen foliage, but not enough. Over the years I've made it a point of observing gardens in the winter and have learned that there is no shortage of interest from foliage and flowering plants, especially in our zone 7. Now I design a shady garden for interest in all seasons and winter is just as important as the other months. Filled with semi-evergreen and evergreen perennials, the study in greens alone is of great interest with olive greens to blue-greens and black-greens. The world around will turn drab and brown but a well designed shade garden can still serve as a focal point in the landscape.

A planting of Vinca minor 'Miss Jekyll' does a great job as an evergreen groundcover. Dainty foliage with small white flowers carpet the ground in March and freely exhibit a few open flowers in various growing seasons of the year. Underplant with snowdrop bulbs or galanthus for late winter blooms

of pure white that look their best against the lush green backdrop. February is usually the month that snowdrops begin to bloom. Arum

bulbs can be interspersed, the highly variegated foliage types are preferred, sending up their leaves in the fall and remaining handsome all winter long. Arums exhibit one of the most unique forms of variegation, technically referred to as bubble variegation. The leaf surface contains pockets of air and these areas appear more silver or white. Taller plants for mid-border or back would be helleborus, I prefer Hel-

leborus foetidus which has been in bloom for me since late October. Upright stalks hold medium green

leaves that are topped by pale green flowers. The flowers are not true flowers. What appear to be petals are actually sepals and they



remain on the plant through April. For contrast plant a number of euphorbias, the three most handsome

are Euphorbia wulfenii, E. amygdaloides 'Purpurea' and Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae. Flowers on all three

are acid green and will arrive in April. For winter you will be pleased with their foliage, a rich gray-green to dark purple and black-green respectively.

Reserve a spot for epimedium or barrenwort with evergreen foliage and flowers in March and April. Enjoy the foliage of epimedium until late February and then cut it off at ground level. The flowering shoots uncoil at ground level and rise with flowers that precede spring foliage.

This drought tolerant perennial is one of my favorites for all year interest and is undergo-

ing much hybridization. I suspect that in the next 5 years epimedium will be as common a perennial as astilbe. This is a good thing since they grow so well for us.

Include lots of hardy cyclamen, Cyclamen coum flowers in the dead of winter, often January and February! Their foliage is gone by June, summer dormant, returning in September and remaining all winter. The hardy cyclamen display handsome leaves all winter long and I would have them even if they never flowered. Small plants that grow from underground tubers, they are slow to establish. In time they will seed and colonize. Add a half a dozen rohdeas or Sacred Lilies for their long, evergreen, rigid leaves, they require a protected site, away from winter wind. Iris reticulata bulbs must be planted in fall but don't hesitate to include them in your shady garden for they will flower in February with flowers that precede foliage. With multiple varieties of Iris reticulata the show will continue well into March. In March the primroses begin and I consider this one of the finest harbingers of spring! With the arrival of March, the dreary days will have come to an end. Sounds of spring peepers will fill the evenings and the rest of the garden will begin to green up. The passing of winter days may even be missed, the garden was lovely.



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.



Greenfields

White Post, Virginia

Finely crafted 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath house built in 2003. 3,800+ square feet. Top of the line windows, doors, and appliances; custom cabinets, granite counters, kitchen fireplace, great room with vaulted ceilings and fireplace. Oversized 2 car garage. 2.73 mostly open acres. Southern exposure opens to views of land in conservation easement and the Blue Ridge and Massanutten. \$885,000.



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. \$4,200,000.



23650 Grasty Place

Middleburg, Virginia

Wonderful location, minutes to town but very private lot. Country colonial built in 1997, large front porch, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, fireplace in living room, open floor plan with tons of light, rec. room in basement, 3 car garage. House is in excellent condition. \$1,250,000.



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. \$990,000.



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. 3 bedrooms upstairs. Spacious kitchen, large family room, sunroom and formal dining and living rooms. Lots of light and great views of surrounding farms. Additional living space and fourth bedroom on lower level. 3 bay garage, 5 stall center aisle barn, 2 paddocks and a bluestone arena on 3.5 acres. \$895,000.

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TEA ANYONE?
What more civilized way to spend the day but with a pot of tea? Join Market Salamander every third Wednesday of the month on the second floor for a lovely tea buffet! We will offer two seatings at 1:00 pm or 3:00 pm as well as a lovely selection of savory items and sweets. \$25 per person, advanced reservations required.

BRUSH UP ON YOUR WINE SKILLS
Join us on Wednesday, January 25th for the first of many wine seminars in the Market. Join Chef Vaughn and wine expert Jason Bise from the Country Vintner as they taste their way through regions of France, Oregon, California and Virginia with paired delights from the Markets kitchen. Please call to make a reservation and receive more information.

WHAT'S NEW
Stop in the Market and let our knowledgeable team cheer you up and send you home with some tasty new recipes we have whipped up just for this time of year. Pick up a cooking class schedule and get out and meet some new friends! Remember to ask about our freshly prepared sandwiches. We have some new selections for you to try! Don't miss them!

BREAKING NEWS - DATE CHANGE
Bring your sweetie to our Chocolate Chocolate Everywhere cooking class on February 21st. Todd Gray will be here! We will teach you how to make German Chocolate Mousse, Coconut Macaroons with Bittersweet Chocolate and Hot Chocolate with Pistachio and Espresso Biscotti. We'll have some of the Market's special Antipasto as well as assorted Artisanal cheese and Crostini while we are cooking. Call now for reservations!

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PARENTS & PROGENY

PATRICIA A JOHNSON TO READ AT FOXCROFT SCHOOL POETRY FESTIVAL

Patricia A. Johnson, winner of the 1999 Sonia Sanchez Award and the 2001 Catalyst Prize, kicks off Foxcroft School's 2006 Poetry Festival Friday, Jan. 20 with a reading at the school's Audrey Bruce Currier Library. Visiting poet Sharon Deal will read from her work Saturday morning. The festival also includes a student "Poetry Slam," and readings by Foxcroft community members.

Johnson, who lives in Elk Creek, Va., is the author of Spirit Rising and Stain My Days Blue as well as the 1996 National Poetry Slam Champion. Her work, which draws on her collection of oral histories from Grayson County communities, is noted for its "jazzy style and hard-hitting words" and has been published widely in literary journals. A graduate of Ferrum College and Virginia Commonwealth University, Johnson is executive director of SPARKS Writers Workshop and a Virginia Commission for the Arts touring artist. She will read at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Deal, who teaches English at Tandem Friends School in Char-

lottesville, graduated from Virginia Tech and Brown University, where she earned a Master's in Creative Writing. A former Foxcroft teacher, Deal has had a number of poems published in literary magazines. The public is welcome to hear her read at 9:00 a.m. Saturday in the Library.

At 10:30 a.m., the annual Foxcroft "Poetry Slam" will be held in the Library. A "Slam" is an informal approach to sharing poetry -- the let-your-hair-down and get-the-audience-involved kind of reading that has become popular in college towns and coffee houses across the nation. Inspired by the festival's first few Slams, Foxcroft students founded an on-campus Coffee House, which meets periodically throughout the school year to provide an open forum for the performance of original works.

On Saturday afternoon, formal poetry readings will be held in FoxHound. Competitive student readings, which culminate a two-week selection process, will feature students from each grade who have been nominated by their peers and qualified by faculty



judges. Non-competitive readings -- by students and faculty -- of original poetry, poetry written in a language other than English and favorite published poems follows.

For more information on the visiting poets, visit the Foxcroft website at www.foxcroft.org.

If you are interested in attending Foxcroft School's 2006 Poetry Festival, please call 540-687-5555 by January 18. Space is limited and will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE FOXCROFT SCHOOL DAY STUDENTS SPONSOR BLOOD DRIVE

After you've given and received all the presents the holiday season brings with it, perhaps you can gift one more, truly crucial gift: Blood. Foxcroft School's Day Students, led by student prefects Amy Lucas of Leesburg and Emily Wheelwright of The Plains, invite you to help replenish depleted supplies at a Blood Drive on Monday, Jan. 30.

The drive, one of three held

annually at the Middleburg school, will be held from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the FoxHound Auditorium, located in Foxcroft's main schoolhouse. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 540-687-4322 or emailing blamond@foxcroft.org. Lucas, Wheelwright and local students will welcome donors and assist the Red Cross in this crucial community service.

MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY NEWS

At the Open House scheduled for the evening of January 26, 2006, we would like to publicize a recent change to the Middleburg Elementary attendance policy passed by the School Board last year. In the past, Loudoun County students who lived outside the Middleburg attendance boundary could only receive a special exception to attend Middleburg Elementary in a "hardship" circumstance. That rule has now been relaxed to allow Loudoun County students

who reside outside the attendance boundary to attend Middleburg Elementary by special request.

Middleburg Elementary, an excellent school and one of the smallest in the county, will benefit by possibly adding students who would have attended more crowded schools elsewhere in the county. Even with the change, the student/teacher ratios are lower than most other schools in the region.

Please contact the school at 703-771-6680 or me at 540-687-3033 if you have any questions.

KIDZART COMES TO MIDDLEBURG

A new art experience is spreading through Loudoun County. KidzArt, a creative arts program for children, is now being offered at schools, community centers, libraries and other nearby locations.

The energetic, dedicated teaching staff is headed by Wendy Green, owner of KidzArt and resident of Loudoun County. She was looking for a program that gave her the chance to contribute to the community and KidzArt met her criteria. "KidzArt is an enriching experience for any child. I watch my student's excitement when presented with each week's curriculum and really enjoy the resulting brainstorming sessions. Kids flourish in the relaxed, non-competitive environment we create."

KidzArt challenges the artistic student and reaches kids who never thought they could create works of art. A certified instructor guides the class through an easy to follow, weekly curriculum. Although primarily a drawing-based program, students are given the experience of working in 2- and 3-dimensional art media using professional grade materials. From vivid markers to watercolors and

oil-based pastels the KidzArt portfolio is filled with imaginary creatures, ceremonial clay masks and banana splits.

The KidzArt program meets or exceeds the National Standards for Art Education.

With recent studies emphasizing the critical role of the arts in a child's development more and more parents are offering this experience to their children.

The Middleburg Community Center, KidzArt newest site, will be offering programs for both preschool and elementary age kids starting in January. "We're excited about offering our KidzArt Program at the Middleburg Community Center" says Wendy Green, "The Middleburg Community has a rich art tradition and I think the parents will appreciate the importance of exposing their children to a variety of art experiences."

Kids discover the satisfaction of creation. Parents appreciate their children's increasing problem-solving and brainstorming skills in addition to the array of artwork they proudly display at home.

For more information on KidzArt, or for a class near you, please call 703-727-4277 or 703-669-3772.

MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE

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Please contact Butter Strother: (540) 687-6321

CLEARVIEW FARM Clarke County, VA
In Blue Ridge Hunt territory, Clearview is a charming, spacious frame colonial on 25 acres set on a knoll overlooking a small spring-fed pond. Two story addition provides house w/ gracious living room, den, five bedrooms and 4 baths. Old, one-story section dates to 18th century. Five working fireplaces, kitchen & baths completely renovated. Full working 6 stall barn with state of the art tack room. \$1,600,000
Please contact Anne McIntosh (703) 509-4499

LAND Boyce, VA
54.9 acres - half wooded, half pasture. Land has been maintained very nicely. Perfect building site w/ 360 degree views of the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. Land is in scenic easement and surrounded by property in easement. \$725,000
Please contact Anne McIntosh (703) 509-4499

DETAILS ON THESE AND OTHER LISTINGS CAN BE FOUND AT

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PARENTS & PROGENY

BYRNE GALLERY TO HOST 9TH ANNUAL NOTRE DAME ACADEMY STUDENT ART EXHIBITION: "ARTIST-TREE"

Notre Dame Academy students will showcase their artwork February 8th through February 12th at The Byrne Gallery in Middleburg. The Ninth Annual Exhibition, entitled "Artist-tree", continues to celebrate the creative



spirit of Notre Dame Academy art students and the generous support of The Byrne Gallery which recently celebrated it's 10th Anniversary. Within the past eight years, over 400 students have had an opportunity to exhibit their artwork. Enriched by the experience, many former students/graduates are studying art in college or pursuing an art related career. Sev-

eral students have interned at the gallery and have included their experiences as a worthwhile addition in their college application process. The main focus however, is giving as many students as possible opportunities to display their art in a professional art gallery. Each participating student artist has their work displayed in an optimum gallery environment and for some; the art show may be the only time their work is professionally exhibited.

"Artist-tree" is an exhibition of inspired and imaginative works of art created by NDA art students.

Notre Dame instructors and contemporary visual artists Wayne Paige and Matthew Plumb work with the students in educating them on the process of how artists exhibit their work. This includes a review of the artwork, selection, presentation, determining the price of the work, and promotion: invitations, press releases, openings/receptions, and critiques/reviews.

The Exhibition is a juried show, and a local artist is lending her talent to the juror process: Linda Hughes from Middleburg (sixth year as juror) will be on hand to review the displayed works. Ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, and mixed-medium will be presented with awards and prizes

given in each category. Each year, merchants and local businesses applaud the students' progress by donating prizes to the award recipients. The community's enthusiastic support of the arts has helped to make the exhibition an annual celebration of young artist.

The Sixth Annual Mrs. Susan Byrne Purchase Prize Award will be awarded to the best work in the show. This award is dedicated to Mrs. Susan Byrne, mother of the gallery owner and lifelong art teacher who did so much in inspiring young artists. Last year's recipient was Kelsey Struder whose three dimensional work was added to Notre Dame Academy's permanent collection of award recipients.



HILL SCHOOL THIRD GRADE PLAY



ents.

The "Artist-tree" exhibit will be on display February 8th through February 12th and is open to the public. A reception and awards presentation will be held on Saturday,

February 11th from 2:00 to 5:30. Most of the work is for sale and is affordably priced. Regular Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday 10am -5 pm, Sunday Noon -5:00 pm. For additional information, please call (540) 687 6986. The location of The Byrne Gallery is 7 West Washington Street, Middleburg, Virginia 20118-1478.



FOX CHASE HORSE SHOW SERIES THE KICK-OFF WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

Mother Nature's wrath could not deter over 100 entries from competing in the kick-off of the TCH Fox Chase Farm Horse Show Series on January 14th. Despite fierce winds, sleet, freezing rain, heavy snow and mud, the competition was hot inside the indoor arena.

"We were thrilled to see so many people show despite the terrible weather conditions," says Maureen Hanley, Director of Fox Chase Farm. "From the feedback we've received from our entrants and sponsors, the show series is ramping up to be fun and a huge success for everyone, and we're happy to provide such a much-needed schooling show series in the northern Virginia area."

The TCH Fox Chase Horse Show Series 2006 is 14 schooling horse shows that will culminate with a \$10,000 High-Point Prize List. The large cash giveaway for "schooling" horse shows is the first of its kind in northern VA. In order to qualify, exhibitors and/or their horses must compete in 11 out of 14 Fox Chase Farm school-

ing shows between January and September, 2006. Prize money will be awarded to overall highest point winners from first to sixth place, plus a special award to the top three coaches/horse trainers.

In addition, The Virginia Horse Journal has teamed up with Fox Chase Farm to be the official newspaper of the TCH Fox Chase Horse Show Series 2006, and will print the entire show results weekly on their Website, www.virginiahorse.com, as well as in the monthly print edition.

The second show is scheduled for Saturday, January 28 starting at 9:00 AM, the judge is Andrea Gilman.

Fox Chase Farm is an equestrian events center in Middleburg, VA that specializes in horse shows, children's and adult summer camps and educational outreach programs. Fox Chase Farm is located on Route 50 (John Mosby Highway) two miles east of the town of Middleburg VA. For more information, visit www.foxchasefarm.net or call (540) 687-5255.

HYPOCRISY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Chavez has continually brought marginalized people into the political process, has sought to provide education (illiteracy has been virtually eliminated in Venezuela), health care and subsidized food programs for the underprivileged of his country, even selling heating oil to needy citizens of THIS country at a 45% discount.

Hypocrisy

In sharp contrast to Venezuela this country has just slashed social programs such as student loans and food stamps and has made Medicaid and Medicare more expensive to it's recipients, while continuing to cut taxes to the wealthiest and spending untold amounts of money in Iraq.

Bolivia has just elected Evo Morales by a margin of 54%, the largest in Bolivian history, and is the first indigenous president of that country. President Morales has vowed to not support U. S. business interests and is committed to return the major share of Bolivia's assets to it's citizens. Natural gas abounds in Bolivia. I urge you to start watching U. S. media reports on Bolivia and be aware of phrases such as "troubling" and "close ties to Chavez and Castro". I am quite sure the majority of the media in this coun-

try will not look upon President Morales favorably.

The next article will be on corporate hypocrisy.

Sources for Venezuela: FAIR, The Media Watch Group, The Venezuelan Constitution and Venezuelanalysis.com



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GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

worse. Brunell was the epitome of the stoic quarterback all last year, playing hurt, taking the blame, keeping his head down and his mouth shut. Which is all great, except for the fact that all that stoicism got him was his worst season ever as a starter, a 6-10 team record, and a whole league wondering who had sold Joe Gibbs the magic beans.

Brunell needs to be even better next season, though, and that's when the tack hammer of reality hits you right in the melon; this past season was arguably the best season Brunell has had since

somewhere around '96, '97, '98 when the Jaguars were as good as they've ever been. His passer rating was right in the same neighborhood, and his touchdown to interception ratio was comparable. I promise you, Brunell is not getting any better than he is right now in this lifetime!

So anyone, Joe Gibbs included, who tells you that Mark Brunell IS going get just that little bit better enough to push the 'Skins over the hump is selling you a bum steer, and you need to think real hard about whether or not you're buyin'.

Brunell showed the heart of a lion this season, battling back from a season that would've landed most other guys on the trash heap. He battled through old injuries and new injuries this year, leading by example, as any great quarterback must do. To expect him to attain some new level of proficiency next year, at 37, is nuts. Even worse, it is unfair. Let him go home on a positive note, but don't expect him to be the guy. That time, is gone.

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FACES & PLACES

MIDDLEBURG-ORANGE COUNTY BEAGLES

GLENWOOD PARK ~ NOVEMBER 27, 2005

PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON



The Middleburg-Orange County Beagles (MOC), founded by Eve Fout almost 46 years ago, is going stronger than ever. With Mrs. Fout as Master, and Shelly O'Higgins as Huntsman,

MOC continues to teach stewardship of the land, animals and each other. The children are involved in the care and feeding of the beagles, as well as showing them at hound shows,

exercising them on foot and on horseback, and performing the roles of junior whips and filed master when out hunting. All children and adults with a child are welcomed.



VALLI ARADER & DAVIS CARTER WEDDING

MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH, UPPERVILLE ~ DECEMBER 31, 2005

PHOTO BY JIM POSTON



VALLI ARADER, REVEREND LEWIS, DAVID CARTER

WINDY HILL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM PRESENTATION

IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY, MAYOR TIM DIMOS FORMALLY ACCEPTED ART WORK AND AFFIRMATIONS ON THE THEME. "I HAVE A DREAM" FROM EIGHT WINDY HILL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STUDENTS.

TOWN HALL, MIDDLEBURG ~ JANUARY 12, 2005

PHOTO BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



MIDDLEBURG'S PINK BOX DOCENTS HONORED

MAYOR DIMOS HONORED THE DOCENTS FOR 16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWNS WELCOME CENTER

TOWN HALL, MIDDLEBURG ~ JANUARY 3, 2006

PHOTO BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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THINGS TO DO

William Zinsser to Speak at The Hill School
William Zinsser will be speaking at The Hill School on January 23 at 7:00 PM. A writer, editor, teacher, and musician, Zinsser is the author of 17 books on many subjects, including baseball, jazz, and musicals. Zinsser's best known work, *On Writing Well*, grew from a writing course he taught at Yale, and has been in print for more than 25 years, selling over a million copies. At Hill School, he will be reading from and discussing his recent book *Writing About Your Life*, which is both a memoir and a handbook about writing memoirs. He will be available for book signing, and copies of his books will be available after the talk, provided by Books and Crannies. Admission is free.

Middleburg Library February Events 2006
Saturday February 4 2pm
Natural Attractions series funded by Loudoun Library Foundation. Carrie Selzer presents *Bats in your garden slide/lecture* for adults. Set up a bat house for these beneficial creatures.

Monday February 6, 7pm
Passing the Book discussion. Share your thoughts on a book you've read, why should other read it?

Monday February 13 7pm
Middleburg Book Discussion series *Cities: Real and Imagined* funded by Middleburg Library Advisory Board. Pompeii by Robert Harris. Check out a copy of the book from the library.

Friday February 17 2pm
Art in the Afternoon series funded by Loudoun Library Foundation. Dr. Audrey Davis of Alexandria Black History Resource Museum (courtesy of VMFA) *The African American Image in Advertising slide/lecture* program for adults. Follow the changing pattern of marketing to this important segment of our American culture.

Friday February 24 11am
Susan Wall and Carousel Puppets presents *African Folktales* for preschool children

14th annual Hunt Country Winter Antiques Show
Dordy Fontinel Show Management, Inc. will host the 14th Hunt Country Winter Antiques Show on January 28-29, 2006 at the Virginia National Guard Armory in Leesburg, Virginia.
This year's event will showcase an exceptional selection of 18th -20th century American and Continental, formal and

country furniture and accessories including paintings, silver, porcelains, textiles, jewelry and much more. 37 selected antiques dealers in room settings will transform the armory into a winter antiques wonderland! All merchandise is guaranteed at Dordy Fontinel Show Management, Inc. events.
Admission is \$8 per person and tickets are good for both days. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Refreshments, free parking and delivery are available.
The armory is located across from the Leesburg Airport on Sycolin Rd., off the Rt. 7/15 bypass. For more information and detailed directions please visit www.dfshows.com or call 703-779-2800.

Banshee Reeks
The preserve is open to the public on the third Saturday and Sunday of each month January 21 and January 22 from 8:00A to 4:00P and to organized groups that secure a permit for access from the manager.
The monthly bird walks will take place from the visitors center at 8 a.m. January 14 and February 11, 2006

THE MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION PRESENTS FOUR SUNDAY AFTERNOONS WITH PIEDMONT AUTHORS
What do the following have in common: The history of the American flag, the growth of Tyson's Corner, the history of Jefferson County, West Virginia, and the fictional Civil War story of Annie Sinclair? The answer is that they are all topics being presented at the Mosby Heritage Area Association's eleventh annual Winter Lecture Series, which will be held at 3:00 p.m. on the four Sundays in February. This well-received event this year features four celebrated authors who live in the Piedmont of Virginia and West Virginia and who will speak on a diverse range of topics.

The first lecture will be held on Sunday, February 5 at 3:00 pm at the Carriage House at historic Otlands Plantation south of Leesburg. Marc Leepson will give a lively talk on the history of the American flag, the subject of his most recent book *Flag: An American Biography*.

Mr. Leepson, who lives in Middleburg, is a full-time free-lance writer who specializes in writing about American history, the Vietnam War and Vietnam veterans. He has written five books and scores of newspaper and magazine articles. His work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Washington Post Magazine*, *New York Times*, *New York Times Review*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Chicago Tribune* and *USA Today* to name a few. His

previous book, *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built*, captures the extraordinary efforts of one family to preserve an important piece of American history.
From the American flag, the lecture series moves to a thought-provoking talk on changes that are taking place in the Piedmont of Virginia that parallel development in other parts of the country. This second lecture will be held on Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 pm at Wakefield School in The Plains. Joel Garreau, who lives in Fauquier County, will speak on "The Santa Fe-ing of the Piedmont."

Mr. Garreau, a reporter and editor of *The Washington Post*, is the author of several provocative books that have propelled him into the national limelight. These include *The Nine Nations of North America*, and his highly praised and best known work, *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*, which shows how this country is undergoing the biggest changes in 150 years in how we live, work, pray, shop, and die.

Author and independent scholar William Howard Adams will be the speaker for the third lecture on Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 pm at the newly restored Buchanan Hall in Upperville. Mr. Adams has written several books on the early Republic and Thomas Jefferson, including the prize-winning *Thomas Jefferson's Monticello* and *Gouverneur Morris: An Independent Life*, which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Mr. Adams will speak about the settlement of the Lower Shenandoah Valley and the role that "Virginians" from his native Jefferson County, West Virginia, had in the American Revolution. He has titled the talk "Virginia's Lost Colony." He will describe Jefferson County's pre-Civil War history, concentrating on the "coonskin cavaliers" who moved to the Virginia frontier in the eighteenth-century from Tidewater Virginia, a group that included Revolutionary War generals---Horatio Gates, Charles Lee, and Adam Stephens.

All lectures are free to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the authors.

For more than ten years the Mosby Heritage Area Association has been working to bring an awareness of and advocate for the preservation of the historic, cultural, and natural resources in the Mosby Heritage Area through educational projects such as the Winter Lecture Series. To learn more about the series and the organization go on line at www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

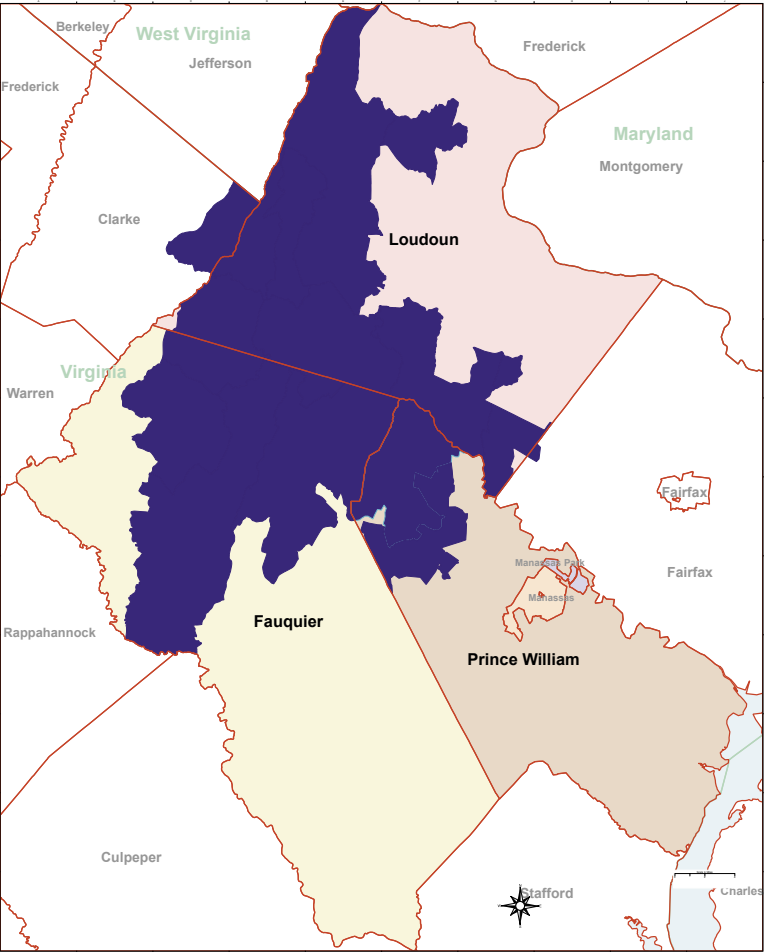
Loudoun Therapeutic Riding to present "Equitarian Award" to Eve Fout

Eve Fout of Middleburg will be the recipient of the third Annual Equitarian Award from Loudoun Therapeutic Riding at their Gala XIII to be held at Lansdowne Resort on Saturday, March 25, 2006.

The Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation, an organization that has for over 30 years taught horseback riding lessons to individuals, mainly children 5- 15 years of age, as a means of therapy, began awarding the Equitarian Award in 2003. The Award is presented to an individual that through their life and work demonstrates extraordinary personal courage, passion and commitment to the advancement of equine sport. Previous winners of the award are Bay Cockburn and Betty Oare. Eve Fout will be presented the 2006 award. Eve Fout is best known in the equestrian community as an outstanding teacher of horsemanship and as a supporter of foxhunting and steeplechasing. Throughout her life Mrs. Fout has dedicated herself to excellence in all of her equestrian endeavors and has been most instrumental in the introduction of sport to many young people through her founding of the Middleburg - Orange County Pony Club in 1959. To encourage children to learn the joys of fox-hunting, Mrs. Fout began the Middleburg-Orange County Beagles in 1961, the beagle pack hunts fox, just like their larger fox-hound cousins, but at a slower pace - more "kid friendly". To this day Mrs. Fout is actively involved with the M.O.C Beagles, acting as Master of the Hunt.

Two other awards will be presented at the event, an evening that includes a Host Bar, Butler Passed Hors d'oeuvres, Silent & Live Auctions, Dinner & Music. The Spirit of Sport Award will be presented to NBC News 4 Sports Director George Michael. This award is presented to a selected individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the world of sport & embodies the essence of sportsmanship. George is a horseman and avid supporter of ethics & integrity in both sport & life pursuits. The Mellon-Coming Award will be presented to the Dulles Area Association of Realtors for their direct sponsorship of LTRF, enabling the program to pursue their mission to serve the community through therapeutic riding.

More information about LTRF and the event may be found on www.ltrf.org or by calling 703-771-2345 x 214 Gail Williams



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BRAMLEY – Bramley is a special young gal who we rescued from New Orleans. Bramley gets along well with other dogs and is a great watch dog. She is the perfect barn friend!



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. He is terrific with other dogs and cats too-RC has a big personality who would bring lots of love into your home.



LORANNA– Loranna is a funny girl! She was rescued from a devastated home in New Orleans. Loranna is a super sweetie, she actually smiles when you greet her!



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 make friends with everyone he meets!make friends with everyone he meets!



MAX- Max is a bubbly 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 is doing great! Max does well with other dogs, he is very playful and would be happy as a clam as an outdoor dog.



EVE- Kittens go quickly but adult cats like Eve can sit for months. Please, if you have room in your heart, home or barn – give us a call. Eve is a friendly young girl who is a joy to be around!



HOLLY– This is a very special dog. She is a 2 year old black & white Lab mix who is extremely sweet. Holly is bombproof with kids of all ages and is everyone's best friend. Housebroken and is very affectionate.



OLIVIA – The love of your life little Beagle girl. Olivia was rescued from a neglectful owner and she is now the most appreciative little thing in the world! Not a mean bone in her body - very gentle & kind.medium sized dog. He is a super funny kid



HOWARD & ROBIN – 6 month old Beagle mix siblings who had a very bad start to life. They are still quite shy but are doing beautifully and are very happy to be in a fun place with lots of friends! They need a home with a fenced yard and no small kids.



HAYBALE – A spectacular cat! Haybale was hit by a car and has recovered from a broken pelvis. He is very healthy and quite affectionate. Want a gorgeous hunk to hang out with? This is your man!



THE COOP-The Coop needs a place to hang his hat. He is a lovely young adult kitty with a big fun personality. Indoor or outdoors, he would bring fun into your home.



SHORTY- Shorty is an old fashioned short legged Beagle. He looks like he has Dachshund in him, his legs are super squatty- very cute little guy! Shorty has a fun personality- he loves kitties, kids and all other dogs. A great guy all around!



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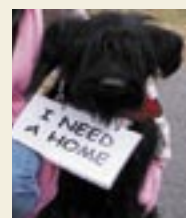
MOJO & RALPH- Katrina Survivors-These extremely affectionate kittens need you. They are growing up here at our shelter and really want to go home and be some ones favorite cat- please come meet these two- they truly are special little souls.



JENNY'S KITTENS –Katrina Survivor - We still have two adorable little kids still looking for homes. They are now 4 months old and very healthy. Adopt these two munchkins and bring lots of laughter

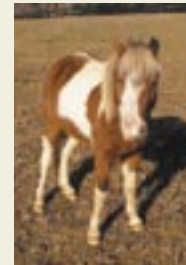


JESSEE-Jessie is a super cuddly, snugly, 4-month old DMH grey tiger kitten who would be the love of your life!



JACKIE O -Jackie O is an absolutely adorable Bouvier cross pup who was found roaming the streets of downtown Baltimore. She was skin & bones, had been recently spayed & her front teeth are worn. She was very frantic when she first arrived but is now a very happy young lady who loves everyone! A big fuzzy goofball who will bring laughter & lots of love into your home.

ROSIE- Rosie is a sweet and playful 5-month old lab/shepherd pup. If you're looking to bring a little love and excitement into your home, Rosie says "I'm your gal!"



CODY – A 5 year old miniature horse. Cody was rescued from a livestock sale. He was in poor condition and very scared. He is now very happy and healthy. Cody really loves kids and since he is on the big side for a mini, he is suitable for leadline but needs to be worked with to continue to grow and learn.

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.

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ALBERT'S CORNER

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



As you may know, I'm a Jack Russell. That means I'm an entirely different ball of fur than a lot of breeds. We're exceptionally hearty souls and make it pretty clear that we can stand on our own four paws with very little help from anyone. I'm proud of my breed, but not

everyone is crazy about my kind. A lot of us are a bit of a handful for the average person. There's a reason we're sometimes lovingly called Jack Russell Terrors.

Which brings me to the subject of this month's column: the importance of selecting a well-suited breed from a responsible resource. There are so many breeds from which to choose (the American Kennel Club recognizes more than 150), and each breed has specific traits. Very often, mixed breeds are the best dogs in the world, taking on positive traits of multiple breeds. The bottom line, however, is that breed or breed mix absolutely matters when choosing a dog. Personality, grooming requirements, activity level, exercise needs, size, health concerns and the ability to get along with cats and small children are just a few things a prospective dog owner should consider.

I cannot emphasize enough how critically important it is to find the right dog once you have decided on dog ownership. You will have this pet with you for many, many years to come. The right breed can make your house a home. A mismatched owner and dog, however, can destroy the well-being of both. The American Kennel Club's website, www.akc.org is a good starting point for information about breeds.

Once you've decided on a breed or breed mix, you'll need to determine where you are going to get your new family member. I always recommend adoption first, as there

are SO many wonderful animals waiting for homes all over the country. You can find loving new friends in shelters like the Middleburg Humane Foundation (www.middleburghumane.com) and Friends of Homeless Animals (www.foha.org). You can also find pets waiting for a home in breed rescues. Just go online and do a search for the name of the breed you want and type in the word rescue after the breed name.

If you have absolutely decided to buy your dog from a breeder, make sure your breeder has an excellent reputation. He or she should have lots of information for you regarding the dog's lineage, and the breeder should ask many questions of you regarding how you will care for the dog. Warning signs are breeders that have many litters every year, have many different breeds from which to choose, or will not let you see where the puppies are living.

As for buying a dog from a pet shop: please don't. Most pet shops buy dogs from puppy mills or reckless breeders. When you support their business, you support an industry that ruins the lives of countless animals. You also run the risk of taking on an unhealthy animal. No responsible breeder would ever sell puppies to a pet shop. Period.

Which brings me to my final words of advice: consider welcoming an adult or senior dog into your home. Puppies are wonderful and undoubtedly cute, but older dogs can be much easier to assimilate into your life. Adopting an older dog can mean skipping housebreaking completely, introducing minimal disruption to your daily routine, and giving a great soul a new lease on life while you're at it.

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

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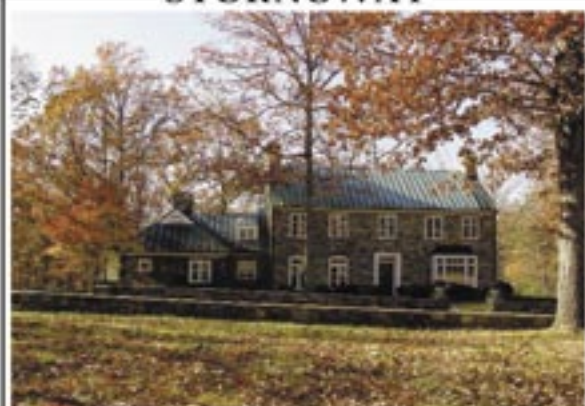
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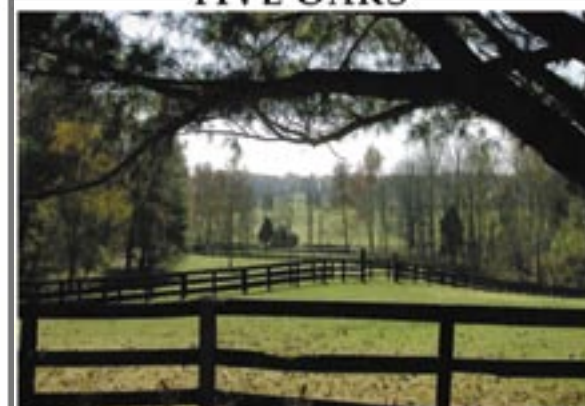
Beautiful 4 BR, 3 BA home on 70 acres • Near Delaplane • Stone • Random-width heart of pine floors • Trompe-l'oeil • 4 marble fireplaces • 10' ceilings on 1st floor • Vaulted ceilings off kitchen • Many elegant details throughout **\$2,875,000**

CREEKHILL FARM



Custom home • Approx 6,000 square feet • Beamed cathedral ceilings • Hard wood floors • Gourmet kitchen • Heated pool • Sited on 25 private acres with mountain views • Creek frontage • Ideal for horses • Terrific ride out **\$1,880,000**

FIVE OAKS



Immaculate horse property • Very protected acreage w/except'l. views • Warrenton Hunt Territory • 6 stall barn • Fenced paddocks, streams • Pool & deck • 4 BR chalet w/bright rms • HW flrs. & high ceilings • Main flr. master ste • Nr. Old Town **\$1,500,000**

THE SALISBURY



Quality new construction • Convenient, quiet location close to village in Middleburg Downs • 3.27 wooded acres • 4BR, 3.5 BA • Gourmet kit. • Great rm w/FP • HW flrs. & BR on 1st flr • Premium finishes & designer touches throughout **\$1,360,000**

26 CHINN LANE



Charming brick Colonial in town • 1st floor Master Bedroom Suite w/FP • 2 Guest Bedrooms upstairs • Living room • Formal Dining Room • Open Kitchen with Breakfast area with FP • Fenced yard with creek • 2 car garage • Pool and gardens **\$1,150,000**

MONTGOMERY FIELDS



Upperville • Piedmont Hunt • Stone & Cedar 3BR, 2BA Contemporary on 10 acres • Gourmet kitchen with stone floor, granite counters • Floor to ceiling fieldstone wall in Great Room • 3 car garage • 2 fenced paddocks • Run-in shed **\$899,000**

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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