



LAND RUSH DEVELOPMENT THREATENS PUBLIC HEALTH

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MIDDLEBURG PHILANTHROPIST FINDS A PUPPY TO TREASURE

When Pam Dickson's young partner in philanthropy, the handsome and brilliant young German Shepherd, Rocky II, whom she had trained lovingly, dashed after a squirrel and hurt himself so badly he had to give up his performing career, she almost decided to conclude her charitable work for children and those less fortunate in the Northern Virginia area.

"It was a devastating moment when he fell," she said. I hand walked him to avoid surgery, and got him completely well, but I just thought performing might be too much for him. I decided not to take a chance, to let him live a relaxed country life and

to look for a new puppy."

"I looked everywhere," she said sadly. "There were many long drives in wet, windy weather only to find a dog that simply didn't have the character I needed in a partner."

She wasn't looking for much.

Her new puppy had to have a marvelous temperament. He had to be beautiful, charming, kind, calm and patient. He had to have a great personality and he had to love children. He had to love to be patted and hugged. And, he had to be completely, 100% trustworthy.

Prized characteristics by almost anyone looking for a partner.

"They have to be big boned," Pam continued. "They must have good hips and stand squarely on all four feet. It's very difficult to find a puppy with these characteristics, but when one also demands all the others and the temperament to really enjoy what they will be trained to do, it's almost impossible."

Had Pam not found a new puppy, it would have been an enormous loss for the citizens of the Middleburg area, hundreds of homeless, ill and orphaned children, and patients under care in hospitals and other facilities in every corner of the region.

The children who relish visiting Dickson's Fursman

Kennels near Middleburg, Virginia for parties and charming performances by her trained canine partners would enjoy the fun no more, and Pam's arrival in hospital rooms with an exceptionally charming, intelligent furry guest would, sadly, cease.

Over the past 33 years, Dickson has raised tens of thousands of dollars for charities by organizing and participating in benefits and activities of all kinds. Her German Shepherds are known and recognized far and wide for their skills, patience and trusting natures. They've starred in feature films as well as in visits to homes for mentally and emotionally challenged children.

So, one wintry day, Pam called a friend who lives on the other side of Winchester to ask if she knew of any litters of German shepherd puppies in the area. Her friend did know of just such a litter being raised by a young family on the other side of Woodstock.

"I telephoned the breeder and she said she had only one puppy left. He was three and a half months old. It was right after Christmas so I asked why he hadn't been sold during the holidays. Something must be wrong with him, or he would certainly not have been left."

Assured that the puppy was sound and worth seeing, Pam had trouble deciding to make another drive. Once again, it was pouring with rain and the promise of an unsuccessful trip with a sad drive home was not encouraging.

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HAPPY TRAILS TO VISIT HORSEING AROUND LOUDOUN

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BRING SPRING BRANCHES INDOORS

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COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD WITH SALAMANDER PROJECT

Middleburg Town Council met twice in February, moving forward quietly and unanimously on legislation critical to the completion of the Salamander Inn and Spa on a 342-acre site, 88 of which lie within the town limits.

In July, 2005, after more than a year of contentious debate, the Town agreed to a "memorandum of understanding" with Salamander by a narrow, one-vote margin. That agreement, among other things, committed

Salamander Development to build a badly needed new water treatment plant for the town, and to work closely with the town and county in the design and planning of the Spa.

In January, the Council passed a resolution approving in principal a major design change and moving the

resort and spa closer to the town, saving a large stand of trees from the bulldozers, and moving the main entrance of the Spa away from unhappy neighbors to its north.

The changes required further extensive amendments to the Town's comprehensive plan and zoning

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FOXBRIDGE, DELAPLANE, VA

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Jud & Page Glascock 540-592-3238



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Carole D. Miller 703-705-9110



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LITTLE HUNGRY RUN, FLINT HILL, VA

Secluded 68+ acres of woodland and fields and bordering on two streams, Hungry Run, and Little Hungry Run. Access to this rolling woodland parcel is through a deeded private right-of-way. Winter views of mountains and surrounding farms and forest. Very private in desirable area north of Flint Hill. \$685,500.

Alan Zuschlag 540-937-6124
Howie Swaim 540-522-3921

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Middleburg Eccentric
P.O. Box 1768
Middleburg, VA 20118
540-687-3200
fax 540-687-8035
www.middleburgeccentric.com
news@mbec.com

Cover Photo By Jay Hubbard

Publisher
Dan Morrow

Editor In Chief
Dee Dee Hubbard ~ editor@mbec.com

Chief Production Editor
Jay Hubbard

Contributing Editors
Lisa H. Patterson

Contributing Writers
Patricia Barraza Vos, Alex Cudaback,
Tom Neel, Megan Hubbard, Karen Rexrode,
Bonnie Deahl, Peter Deahl,
Brian & Debi Lichorowicz, Mark Tate,
Katie Leach-Kennon, Wanda K. Crossley,
Steven Schwartz

Contributing Photographers
Jim Poston, Janet Hitchen

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NEWS OF NOTE

HOWARD KAYE REMEMBERED

Howard Kaye, 87, of Middleburg, VA on February 4, 2006 of complications from pneumonia. Born in Belmont, Massachusetts on October 3, 1918 Mr. Kaye attended the Faye School and St. Marks School in Southboro, Massachusetts, and Yale University where he played on the varsity football and baseball teams, and was a member of the Fence Club and Scroll and Key. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on a submarine chaser, an aircraft carrier, and a destroyer-escort, the Francis M. Robinson, when it sank the first Japanese submarine caught in

the Atlantic Ocean. He worked for a time for the Mead Paper Corporation, and after a bout with tuberculosis, managed the Middleburg Training Track which was then owned by Paul Mellon. He is survived by his wife, Nathalie Hazard Kaye, and three sons, Howard Kaye, Jr., of Boston, Massachusetts, Woodward Livingston Kaye of Laurel Hollow, New York, and William Evans Kaye, of Washington, D.C. and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Middleburg Rescue Squad or the Piedmont Environmental Council.

LOUDOUN MUSEUM RECEIVES \$50,000 EDUCATION ENDOWMENT GRANT FROM THE CLAUDE MOORE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation has granted a \$50,000 endowment to the Loudoun Museum in Leesburg, Virginia to support its educational programs for children. This endowment will allow the museum to continue and extend its outreach programs in school classrooms, host student field trips to the museum, and provide special educational events for youth groups and families.

"We are thrilled that with its generous grant, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation acknowledges the value of the Museum's educational programs for children," stated Janis Golden, Director of Education for the Loudoun Museum. She added, "Since 2004, we have provided our programs in the public schools at no cost to the Loudoun County Public Schools, and in 2005, present-

ed education programs to more than 1,900 children."

As the County's history museum, one of the Loudoun Museum's missions is to educate the public about Loudoun's history through programs, interpretative exhibits and special events. The Museum designs its programs to be adapted to a range of ages, from elementary to high school students. Every museum program for school children fulfills Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) requirements.

Dr. Claude Moore established the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation (Fairfax, VA) in 1987 to enhance educational opportunities for young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere. The CMCF joins the Loudoun Education Foundation in supporting the Museum's educational programs. In 2005, the Mu-

LEVIS HILL HOUSE TO HONOR LONG-TIME FRIEND

The Board of Directors of the Windy Hill Foundation is pleased to announce that their next project in Middleburg, a 20-unit apartment for elderly residents, will be named in honor of long-time friend and community leader John Levis, Jr.

"John was one of the earliest board members recruited by Rene Llewellyn," said Charter Board member Ed Wright. "Rene wouldn't take 'no' for an answer," said Wright, "but John was eager to say 'yes.'"

"John provided time, moral support, and financial support throughout the last 25 years," said Windy Hill Past President, Kim Hart. "John was the first, with the Washburns, to sponsor one of the new duplexes at Virginia Lane and the first to sponsor a unit at the new elderly project," said Hart.



The Windy Hill Board was unanimous in voting to name the new project after John Levis. "We are thrilled that we can put John's name on the main street of Middleburg forever," said Board President Joe Boling. "It is a fitting tribute to a friend who gave so much to Middleburg and did is so quietly that hardly anyone ever



ELIZABETH WHITING, PRESIDENT, LOUDOUN MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES; JANIS GOLDEN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, LOUDOUN MUSEUM; KAREN QUANBECK MACLEOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOUDOUN MUSEUM AND JOHN ROCCA, REPRESENTATIVE, CLAUDE MOORE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

seum received a grant from the LEF to deliver an educational program about life in Loudoun County during the French and Indian War to LCPS middle-school students throughout the county.

Over the past year, for Loudoun's children the museum also presented four Family Fun Days, hosted 62 Girl Scout troops for badge programs, and held three summer camps.

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NEWS OF NOTE

LAND RUSH DEVELOPMENT THREATENS PUBLIC HEALTH

There is no doubt that the “land rush” in western Loudoun County is now in full swing. As illustrated in the accompanying chart, prior to March, 2005 (when the Virginia Supreme Court reinstated 3-acre zoning), Loudoun County was approving about 11 lots per month that needed septic systems. As of December, 2006, lot approvals requiring on-site waste disposal have increased to 350 per month! That is a geometric progression with no end in sight.

Unfortunately, recent work by the Unison Preservation Society has uncovered a dark side to this land rush not previously considered: a growing risk to public health. Of the 350 lots per month approved by the Public Health Department, over half are being approved for so called “alternative septic systems.” Problem is, they have a very high failure rate.

When developers discovered that they were running out of building sites that could perc, they went to Richmond and got the State Department of Health to approve new, high-tech wastewater disposal systems that could be used on poor soil that didn’t perc well. The technology, when run by licensed engineers, works great. The problem is that most homeowners aren’t engineers and they don’t like spending a lot of time worrying about miniature treatment plants in their back yard. As a result, these systems fail.

West Virginia University and the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health made site visits to inspect 419 alternative septic systems that had been in use for more than a

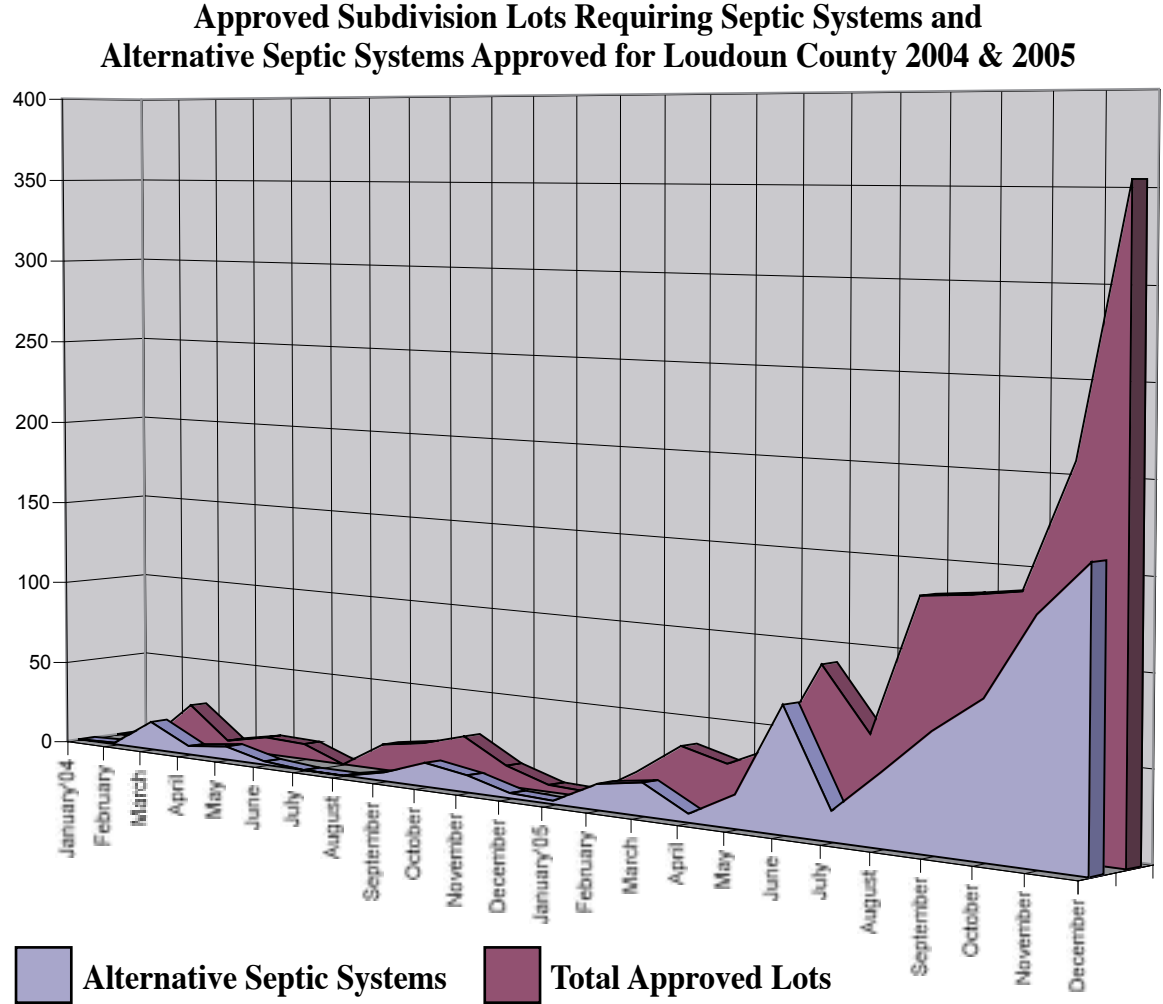
year. They discovered a failure rate of 92%. In 81% of the failures, fecal coliform being released from these systems exceeded West Virginia Public Health standards.

Old-fashioned septic tanks work pretty well. They have a 100-year track record. They have no moving parts and require no electricity to operate. They are low cost and virtually maintenance free. A pump-out every three or four years is about it.

High tech “alternative systems” require a more sophisticated tank, electricity to run motors and pumps, more frequent pump-out, and, in many cases, very “fussy” wastewater distribution in either drip systems or mounds. They come with a control panel and an alarm system to call for maintenance when they breakdown. Too much water usage by the household or a flush of strong chemicals can kill the treatment system altogether.

In July, 2005, the Washington Post sounded the alarm in Loudoun County when they reported a series of failing alternative septic systems in Beacon Hill subdivision and elsewhere throughout the county. Since then, failures continue to be reported to the Loudoun County Public Health office.

The citizens of Unison are concerned because the development proposed at Bloomfield Heights, just outside of the Village, is seeking approval for 22 or the 28 proposed lots to have alternative septic systems. Failed systems putting only partially treated sewage onto open ground is an invitation to spread water-borne illnesses—both to the property



Alternative Septic Systems Total Approved Lots

owner and to nearby neighbors.

And, by the way, who bears responsibility for the failed systems? Is it only the homeowner? Isn’t it also the system designer and installer? What about the developer? And, most importantly, what about the County that approved the system in the first place? This could be a huge unfunded liability for Loudoun County for decades to come.

On February 14, six members of the Unison Preservation Society petitioned the Board of Supervisors to consider adopting an emergency ordinance to restrict any further use of alternative septic systems in Loudoun County except to replace failed conventional systems and with approval of the Board of Supervisors. The matter has been referred to the Board’s Public Safety Committee of the Board for further review and action.

DEBORAH WILSON AND JOHN RUST ELECTED DIRECTORS OF THE PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) board of directors is pleased to announce the addition of two new directors; Mrs. Deborah A. Wilson, CPA, and Mr. John M. Rust.

Mrs. Wilson is a partner at the accounting firm of Updegrave, Combs, McDaniel & Wilson, P.L.C. (UCMW), where she has worked for the past 15 years. She says, “I believe in creating a sound financial resource for the community’s important nonprofit

work. I plan to contribute my professional knowledge to assist the Board in the oversight of good financial practices, a key element in the integrity of a community trust. My partners at UCMW agree, and encourage my tenure as a PCF Director.” UCMW serves clients in Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, and Fairfax counties predominantly. Her office is located in Leesburg, Virginia, the firm maintains a second office in Middleburg, Virginia. Mrs. Wilson has resided in northern Virginia since 1970. She is a member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Virginia Society of Public Accountants. Other current civic affiliations include service on the Board of Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers and, when time allows, she volunteers for the Parkinsons Foundation of the National Capital Area. Mr. Rust is a Managing Director for Dominick & Dominick, an investment services and wealth management firm based in New York City, New York. He

and his family reside in Leesburg, Virginia. Mr. Rust studied finance at Lehigh University and began his career with Dean Witter & Co. in Charlotte, N.C. in 1972. In 1979 the family moved to Long Island to pursue his career with Mitchell, Hutchins, Inc. in New York City. Prior to joining his present firm Mr. Rust built his business as an Account Executive in Private Client Services, since 1981, at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette.

PCF President, J. Bradley Davis and the other directors expressed their appreciation to Deborah Wilson and John Rust for their commitment to serve. The organization looks forward to this additional talent to help build charitable funds in our community that are pooled, invested, and managed to produce income made available annually for grants and distributions to local non-profit organizations. PCF is a publicly supported 501(c)(3) organization.

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NEWS OF NOTE

MORE HELP FOR MIDDLEBURG’S ELDERLY RESIDENTS

The Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Atlanta has just announced that it will accept the grant request submitted by Reggie Dawson of the Middleburg Bank and will provide \$400,000 towards the construction of a new 20-unit apartment building for low-income elderly residents in Middleburg, sponsored by the Windy Hill Foundation.

“The Middleburg Bank is a member of the Atlanta Region of the FHLB,” explained Reggie Dawson. “It is wonderful that our participation in the bank can help bring home some resources to meet our local housing needs.”

The Federal Home Loan Bank has an Affordable Housing Program (AHB) that provides millions of dollars every year to support the construction of affordable housing in the hometowns of member banks. The program is highly competitive. This was the Bank’s second application to the program but the first time they have won.

The Windy Hill Foundation is in the midst of a major capital campaign to fund construction of the new elderly housing project. If sufficient funding can be raised, the project is scheduled to begin construction in the fall of this year.

ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED FOR THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sarah M. Phillips of Round Hill, VA, a former board member of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital and longtime Girl Scout volunteer, and her husband, Lawrence, have established an endowment to fund the Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship program that was established in 1989 by Mrs. Phillips. The Phillips’ generosity will directly benefit Senior Girl Scouts from the metropolitan area who have earned the coveted Gold Award, Girl Scouting’s highest achievement that is attained each year by about one percent of Girl Scouts nationwide. The 10 girls selected for Gold Award scholarships go through a competitive written application and in-person interview process in the spring of the year, and each receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship for the college or university of her choice.



LAWRENCE AND SARAH MAE PHILLIPS HAVE ESTABLISHED AN ENDOWMENT TO FUND THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. PICTURED HERE (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE JAN VERHAGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GSCNC; RICHARD PHILLIPS, DONOR REPRESENTATIVE; SARAH MAE PHILLIPS; LAWRENCE PHILLIPS, AND SHARON GLEASON, GSCNC’S DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT.

PUPPY TO TREASURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“But I knew that, if I didn’t go, I would always wonder if I’d missed the perfect puppy,” she said.

When she arrived in the Woodstock area, a young mother of five greeted her at the door and Pam could see the puppy’s parents on the other side of an indoor gate.

“Not one bark greeted me,” Pam said with obvious pleasure.

Even though the puppy had eight brothers and sisters who had already gone to good homes, he was waiting for Pam. She named him Young Treasure and she is absolutely confident that he will follow successfully in the footsteps of her previous philanthropic partners.

Young Treasure is the puppy you see pictured on the cover of this month’s Eccentric. As Pam says proudly, he has all the markings of a brilliant dog. Coming from someone what was the first person to bring canine agility courses to the Middleburg area, and who has trained dozens of puppies and dogs on these courses as part of her Fursman Kennel services, this is high praise indeed.

Please note that a German shepherd’s ears do not stand up as a young puppy. It is not unusual for one ear to stand up while the other is flopped over to the side, or, both ears may flop over. Young Treasure is only five and a half months old. His ears will not be fully erect until he is at least six months old and he won’t be fully trained for performances until he’s approximately two year old.

Treasure III may be the luckiest puppy on the planet. He follows the path set by Pam’s first German shepherd, Rocky, and the four German shepherds who followed him, Treasure Chest, Treasure Junior and Rocky II.

He shares a beautiful, bucolic country home with many rescued animals who look so well tended and happy in their pastures and on the rolling hills that its hard to imagine them as sad, unloved donkeys and horses who had no future at all.

Working with Pam, its certain he’ll be trained lovingly. Agility training takes months of persistence, rewards and lots of patience and love.

“In order to be trained properly, he must be well relaxed and cared for in both mind and body,” Pam says. “And, most importantly, he must have fun while he’s learning.”

“He’ll learn to work on the lead and play nicely for hours every day. He’ll learn to save someone who’s drowning and to find someone who is lost. He won’t be expected to perform for some time, but he will demonstrate what he’s learned in his training at a party we’ve planned for local children in September.

“I’m so glad I found him,” Pam says. “I couldn’t do anything without my dogs and my generous Middleburg friends.”

If you would like to help Pam Dickson raise funds for her many charitable activities, you may send your contribution to Pam Dickson, P.O. Box 625, Middleburg, VA 20118.

OUTDOOR FIRES UNLAWFUL BEFORE 4 P.M.

The Commonwealth’s 4 p.m. Burning Law goes into effect Feb. 15, 2006. This law prohibits the burning of open air fires before 4 p.m. each day (Feb. 15 – April 30) if the fire is in, or within 300 feet of, woodland, brushland or fields containing dry grass or other flammable materials. In Loudoun, the towns of Leesburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill prohibit burning at all times.

“The 4 p.m. burning law is one of the most effective tools we have in the prevention of wildfires,” said Kelley Wagner, Loudoun County forester. “Each late winter and early spring, downed trees, branches and leaves become ‘forest fuel’ that increase the danger of a forest fire. By adhering to the law and not burning before 4 p.m., people are less likely to start a fire that threatens them, their property and the forests of Loudoun County.”

Last year, there were 773 wildfires in Virginia, according to the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). These fires destroyed 4,859 acres of forest land.

Fred Turck, VDOF forest protection coordinator, said, “The leading cause of forest fires in Virginia is carelessness. An unintended fire, a discarded cigarette or a single match can ignite the dry fuels that are so prevalent in the early spring. Add a few days of dry, windy conditions and an escaped wildfire can quickly turn into a raging blaze.”

Of the 773 wildfires last year, 255 were caused by people burning debris or yard waste; 132 were arson; 92 were equipment use; 37 were due to smoking; 35 were started by children; 16 were caused by lightning; 11 were related to the railroads; nine were campfires, and the rest were classified as miscellaneous causes.

Areas affected by hurricanes, tornadoes or strong thunderstorms are of particular concern to the Department of Forestry. In addition to creating more forest fuel, large numbers of downed trees make firefighting more difficult and dangerous.

“People living in or near these areas are especially at risk,” said Turck. “To take a quote from Smokey Bear, ‘Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.’”

For more information on what you can do to protect yourself and your property, how to become “firewise,” or to pick up a complete copy of the Forest Fire Laws, contact Kelley Wagner, 703.777.0457, at the local office of the Virginia Department of Forestry. You can also log on to www.dof.virginia.gov and click “Can I burn...?”



Rokeby Road, Upperville – Situated on 5.5 wooded acres between Middleburg and Upperville, this 4 bedroom, 4 bath custom home is being built for the commuter wanting easy access and country living Private, with pond, mountain and creek views. Spring ’06 delivery. **\$1,645,000**



Beacon Hill Golf & Equestrian Community, Leesburg – Renaissance Homes Grand Michaelangelo model loaded with upgrades. Just completed, stately all stone and brick provincial home with 3 finished levels, 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths, 2 half baths, sunroom, Trex deck, 4 fireplaces. Newly landscaped premium lot backing to pond and golf course. **\$1,599,000**

MIDDLEBURG

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Chattins Run Country Estates, Delaplane* – Hunt country estate parcels up to 100 acres each with uninterrupted vistas of the Blue Ridge foothills. These magnificent properties are now available for viewing and reservations. **Prices upon request**



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Middleburg Rental – 4 bedroom 3 full bath house on gated horse farm in Middleburg. \$2400.00+ utilities. 4 stall barn also available for additional fee.

TOWN COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ordinances, and highly detailed technical co-ordination with similar County rules and regulations.

On February 9, at its regular Thursday meeting, the Council, had little choice but to table the issue until those critical complexities had been discussed, reviewed and resolved. Without objection, the Council put the problem into the hands of the Town’s Land Use Committee, chaired by Mark Snyder, with instructions to report back at a special full meeting of the Council, called for one week later, February 9.

During the week that followed Snyder’s committee and the town’s professional staff, Town Attorney, Elizabeth Whiting, Town Administrator, Mike Casey, Town Planner Marchand Schneider, and Milt Herd, a planning consultant continued an ongoing series of work sessions with Prem Devadas and the staff of Salamander Hospitality to draft new language, including elimination of “golf course” as “a use permitted anywhere in the town.”

Given recent litigation that, among other things, led the Virginia Supreme Court to sweep away key county zoning ordinances, Snyder expressed his particular concern to “make sure the thing was done right” and that the interests of all parties were fully protected both now and in the future.

A week later, at a special meeting of on Thursday, February 16, the Town Council unanimously approved a resolution endorsing the work of Land Use Committee and directing the town’s professional staff “to develop amendments to the Town Plan and Zoning Ordinance” and referring “same to the Planning Commission for their recommendation to Town Council.”

The updated drafts are expected to be presented to the Planning Commission by February 27.

Mark Snyder reiterated his fear that weakly worded regulations could well make it “too easy to upgrade the scale of the project” at some point in the future, though, he noted that it would be both inappropriate, if not impossible, “to tie the hands of any future Town Council.”

Prem Devadas, the President of Salamander Hospitality expressed his appreciation for everyone’s hard work, and reiterated his personal conviction that any and all outstanding issues could be addressed in a “communal spirit” for the “common good.”

Barring heretofore unseen impediments grading on the site could begin, according to Devadas, “before next winter hits.”

In other Council business, the Council approved, on February 2, amendments to the Town’s parking regulations, including rate increases designed to promote parking space turnover in the Main Street shopping area. The changes, along with granting of permits facilitating the opening of the new Middleburg Bank parking lot at 105 West Federal Street, attracted little comment until Town Attorney Elizabeth Whiting, noted that she had taken advantage of the opportunity to rationalize, simplify and update the parking rules. When asked why she had dropped certain rules governing taxi stands and bus stops, she noted that there hadn’t been a need for either in the town of Middleburg for well over a decade. Council Member Margaret New’s question about a provision for free parking in any metered space for cars bearing handicapped license plates was responded to by Chief of Police Webber with the assurance that the provision was also a matter of State law.

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MIDDLEBURG BANK CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN LEESBURG WITH OVER \$500 MILLION IN DEPOSITS

Today Middleburg Bank celebrated breaking the banking milestone of \$500 million in deposits. The celebration also marked the bank's 10th year in the Leesburg market. The bank's board of directors, executive staff and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce convened at the bank's Fort Evans location to celebrate.

Alice Frazier, Chief Operating Officer addressed the gathering. "I'd like to thank our staff, our board of directors and our executive team. Without the quality people who make Middleburg Bank what it is today, we'd be just another bank."

Frazier also thanked the bank's clients, "Most of all, I'd like to thank our clients. With-

out clients that appreciate our brand of banking, we would not have been able to make such dramatic strides over the last ten years. As we experience future growth, we will always remember why clients choose to bank with us and will continue to cultivate a culture that emphasizes personal service, community involvement and highly competitive products."

In 1996, Middleburg Bank had \$150 million in deposits and only two locations, Middleburg and Purcellville. Today, with deposits at more than \$550 million and seven locations, Middleburg Bank is well on its way to the \$600 million mark.

Much of the bank's growth over the last ten years can be attributed to its Leesburg pres-

ence. Since opening its first Leesburg location in a trailer in January 1996, the bank's presence in the Leesburg market has accounted for more than \$200 million in deposit growth. Today, Middleburg Bank has three Leesburg locations and an 18,000 square foot operations center.

ARMFIELD, MILLER & RIPLEY FINE PROPERTIES WELCOMES KAREN KAFFKE HARRELL

Long-time, US Trust Company senior officer Kathryn Kaffke Harrell has joined Armfield, Miller & Ripley Fine Properties, LLC in Middleburg. While with US Trust, Harrell was a senior vice president specializing in Private Banking in New York City and later in Washington DC and Tysons Corner. Her career was primarily spent advising and serving the financial needs of high net-worth clients with a specialty in real estate mortgage lending.

"I am delighted to have moved into the world of real estate in the Middleburg area," Harrell said. "The transition from Private Banking to real estate feels natural and the client base is similar. Living in Middleburg and my prior banking activities fostered my interest in local properties. I look forward to blending my business with the equestrian community."

Kathryn Harrell was born in Mendham, New Jersey and was raised in New Jersey, Connecticut and Ohio. She received a B.A. in French and English from Mount Holyoke. Her hus-



band Edward "Bert" Harrell is an executive in commercial real estate with CB Richard Ellis. Kathryn moved to Northern Virginia in 2001 and to Middleburg full time in 2004. Kathryn enjoys competing in the hunter/jumper divisions in horse shows in the region.

"We are so pleased to have Kathryn Harrell with us for the benefit of our clients and our agents," Gloria Armfield said. "Kathryn's in-depth experience in finance and her knowledge about the properties in our area will be invaluable to all who work with her."

AH&T INSURANCE CELEBRATES ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 85th Anniversary of Armfield, Harrison & Thomas, Inc. (AH&T), an employee-owned, independent insurance brokerage and consultancy founded in 1921. Reflecting on its achievements and rich history, AH&T enthusiastically embraces this special anniversary and looks forward to more great years ahead.

During the last eight and a half decades, AH&T has experienced constant growth, demonstrated eager community leadership, pioneered valuable client services and stayed true to its core values, even through world wars, failing national economies and dynamic market trends. The secret to AH&T's success, according to its President, Howard M. Armfield, is in its hiring and culture. "We have always sought dedicated, intelligent and ethical individuals who demonstrate great initiative, creative problem solving, and determination. We have also maintained a collaborative, supportive culture focused on delivering heroic customer service and quality. This is the winning combination that is behind our steady stream of achievement and our unwavering strength as an organization," said Armfield.

AH&T counts its support of Leesburg, Virginia and Loudoun County among its accomplishments. For the last 85 years AH&T has had its headquarters located within the two blocks that mark the heart of downtown Leesburg. It opened an office in Seattle, Washington, in 1999, and adds new employees to both offices monthly, but AH&T remains loyal to Leesburg. As Armfield puts it, "Our roots are in Leesburg and we take our role as a corporate citizen seriously. We support local schools and events, conduct an annual scholarship award, and host an annual charity event. In addition, many of our employees have held significant volunteer leadership positions in Loudoun County in areas ranging from helping the homeless to building new highways."

Planned activities this year include a monthly exhibit in AH&T's lobby displaying fun and interesting artifacts from its archives, monthly AH&T trivia contests for its employees, and a celebration later in the year. For more information about AH&T's 85th anniversary year or AH&T's rich history, please contact Shelley McGonnigal at (703) 669-4803 or smcgonnigal@ahnts.com or visit www.ahnts.com.

LOUDOUN COUNTY CHAMBER "MEMBER OF THE YEAR"



JK Moving & Storage, was officially named Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's 2006 'Member of the Year.'

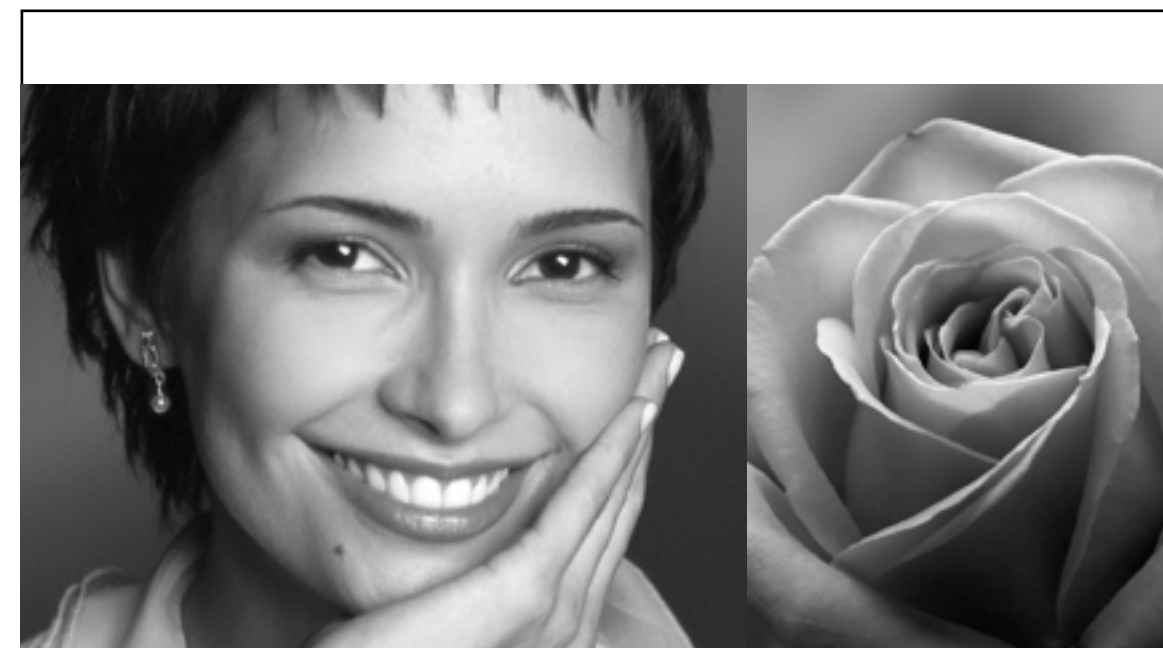
"It is an honor to receive this award for JK Moving & Storage and for being recognized for all our community involvement," said Steve Kuhn, Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of JK Moving & Storage. To be considered for this prestigious award, JK Moving & Storage has maintained an outstanding track record with the community. They also contribute their time and services in a way that is beneficial to everyone in the community.

"Giving back is one of the greatest achievements a company can provide, and here at JK, we take great pride in that accomplishment," Kuhn said. During the 2005 holiday season, JK Moving & Storage implemented a new program that helps transitional families from shelters get back on their feet by donating their ser-

vices to families moving into new homes. JK also provided storage and transport services for "Horsing Around Loudoun," an arts initiative that results in the placement of more than two dozen painted fiberglass horses in prominent locations throughout the country.

Throughout the years, JK Moving & Storage has donated their service and expertise to a number of other organizations, including Toys for Tots, March of Dimes, Katrina Relief, Women's & Girls Tech Foundation, Boy Scout Troop 982, Hamilton Fire Department, COPE (Western Loudoun Teen Center), and Junior League of Washington.

Last month, Loudoun County attained worldwide recognition, when President Bush selected JK Moving & Storage as a venue from which to address the public on his economic policy. In his speech, President Bush praised JK for its contributions to the community and throughout the world.



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THE EDITOR’S DESK

QUIET COMMUNITY HEROISM

Middleburg enjoys steady, often critical support from many heroic, generous citizens.

So, it came as no surprise, but as a well deserved honor, when Windy Hill Foundation recently announced they would name their new 20-unit apartment complex for elderly residents for John Levis.

John Levis was a long-time friend of our community who quietly provided support for many important projects and people in need. He set standards for citizenship from which we all benefited, and he departed so quietly that without the graciousness of the Windy Hill Foundation future beneficiaries of his goodwill might never know his name.

We should never forget the individuals who step forward when important initiatives need the sustenance of caring citizens.

John Levis deserves this fitting memorial, and the gratitude of citizens everywhere in our area. He understood citizenship and took his responsibility to community seriously.

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:

I would like to respond to your article “Developments Threaten Upperville Civil war Battlefield” By Mike DeHart January 2006. The intent of land preservation is an obvious and thoughtful one however the malicious behavior, which has been displayed should have died with the civil war. I feel that the article has placed an unjust light upon the trust company of my mother, which consists of a bunch of people whom she had utmost respect and love for. Also I find it vulgar that you would use my mother’s memory as a device against my father, and that people should realize that my family is trying to the best that we can with the unflattering opportunities given. The reason I must even use words like my mother and my father in a public newspaper is due to the fact that this publication thinks it is O.K. to talk about someone in a detrimental manner, if you don’t actually mention their name, I want to draw attention to the fact that my father went around to people in the community and offered them the land to

buy and conserve, and no one made a move, though there are equipped to do so. The beauty of this town is that the inhabitants know care and respect one another, and form close bonds due to constant contact in life. I am however horrified at how fast the tables can turn with the prospect of gossip and rumors. Gossip and rumors will not benefit anyone no matter how entertaining they are over lunch or in the grocery store. This struggle of land conservation has boiled up into ugliness; I want to remind you to separate your business from your work, and your work from your friends. Before we as a community can address the idea of future generation we must deal with how the present one is acting. Also think about who you may be effecting before desperation reduces you to savage like instincts this should be a town not a reality T.V. show, Be respectful, be fair, and in my mother’s memory I ask you to be kind.

Adrianna Beer
Middleburg, VA

RANT & RAVES

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.

HYPOCRISY

The Recent Super Bowl brings back memories of a famous mammary gland that suddenly slips out of its container at half time Super Bowl 2004 . Not only does the event make national and international news, the press is obsessed for weeks, congress is convened to hold hearings, the FCC is called to testify and the network is censured and fined. *More important than a document that proves prewar intelligence was not only cherry picked but falsified?*

Al Jazeera, the Arabic news network is praised by the US government for its tough reporting on totalitarian governments in the Middle East. It is called democratic and fair in its reporting before 9/11

HYPOCRISY

Comes 9/11, the invasion of Afghanistan and later Iraq. Al Jazeera is not embedded with U.S. or coalition forces does not check with the military or State Department on what it should or should not report and is the only news agency on the ground during the siege of Fallujah. They are now highly criticized by the Bush Administration as aiding the enemy. Their offices in Kabul and Baghdad are “accidentally” bombed an Al Jazeera reporter is killed. Al Jazeera claims to have given the U.S. and coalition forces their coordinates so they would not be in danger of accidental bombing. Another Downing Street Document is leaked and published in an English newspaper that reveals

Bush suggested to Blair they bomb Al Jazeera’s headquarters in Doha Qatar. Blair reportedly tells Bush that would not be a good idea. Bush press secretary says it was said in jest. The memo, not denied ,is prevented from further publication by the British Secrets Act.

The invasion of Iraq, sold mainly on the emotion of Sept.11, has caused the deaths of almost as many American troops as died on that tragic day in New York. It has also caused the deaths of 35,000 to 100,000 innocent Iraqi civilians, depending on which survey you choose to believe, (even president Bush has finally acknowledged the lesser figure), severely injured and made orphans of untold numbers of Iraqi children. The country has been named by many international organizations as the most dangerous on the planet.

If you can stomach seeing the real horrors of war seek out one or all of the three recently released documentaries on the siege of Fallujah. An American film, “Fallujah the Guernica of The 21st Century” ,Italian “Fallujah the Hidden Massacre” and an Iraqi independent film titled “Fallujah the Real Story”, and then ask yourself if it has all been worth it.

HYPOCRISY

As horrific as September 11 was to all Americans and most of the world I believe it must be put into some kind of rational perspective. Other countries have suffered similar or worse tragedies without the ongoing consequences that 9/11 evokes each and every day here in America. You can not go through a complete news day in America without hearing the numbers *nine eleven*. That tragic day has been a scapegoat for the executive branch of this government to put itself above the law.

The same number of children die daily around the world from hunger and disease as were killed on that historic day in September. Just think a 9/11 every day that goes virtually unnoticed.

We must honor all human life in order to achieve peace in the world.

RED VS BLUE

ARTICLE 48

DAN MORROW - (D)

When Germany lost the First World a new republic was proclaimed, much to the surprise of most Germans, not least among them, the Kaiser.

The men and women who gathered in Weimar to write a new German constitution approved Article 48, a provision that allowed the new, elected President of Germany (still called the Reich) to rule without the consent of the German Parliament, to rule “by decree,” in times of national emergency.

Minor “emergencies,” such as the inability of Parliament to pass a budget, were used to justify “rule by decree” from the spring of 1930 (less than a year into the Great Depression) until January, 1933, when Hitler was appointed Chancellor. At the time his party, though large, still did not hold a majority of the seats in parliament.

In February, 1933, a mysterious fire destroyed the German capitol

building, less than a week before an election. Hitler claimed this act of terrorism, “The Reichstag Fire,” marked the beginning of a Communist revolution. Given the “emergency,” President Hindenburg used Article 48 to enact a new law, a “Presidential Decree for the Protection of the People and State.”

As part of Hitler’s war against terrorism the new decree allowed sweeping curtailment of German constitutional rights such as freedom of the press, free speech and assembly. It also lifted all restrictions guaranteeing the privacy of mail and electronic communications, and all protection against unwarranted searches and seizure of property.

Hitler used the law against his political opponents, and eventually succeeded in, quite legally, establishing his right to rule as both President AND Chancellor of the Reich, a new position he called, “Reichsfuehrer.”

The Germans who passed Article 48, more than a decade before Hitler

took power, had no idea what a terrible idea it was. Americans who believe the President should be able to “rule by decree” in time of war or other national emergency have so such excuse.

The Republicans and Democrats, jurists and historians, libertarians and liberals, men and women of the left, right and center, who have spoken out against the President’s claim of unlimited “inherent Presidential authority” in time of war are right.

As for the rest, the cry “Forgive them, for they know not what they do,” will be hard to justify. Claims of unlimited Presidential power are bad enough from the likes of the current administration . . . but there are worse men in the world than Bush . . . and there will be crises much graver than 9/11.

An all-powerful executive unchecked by Court or Congress, is no cure for crisis. It is, instead, a dagger at the heart of our democracy.

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISES VS REAL ISSUES

MARK TATE - (R)

This month the leaders of the Democratic Party have presented us with another Constitutional Crisis. Apparently Vice President Richard Cheney went quail hunting with a friend in Texas and had a hunting accident. Cheney shot at a covey of quail and his friend was hit with some of the bird shot. The crisis happened when The Vice President did not immediately call the New York Times and all the network news agencies. Apparently the local media were told immediately and the rest of the media the next morning. How dare the Vice President not inform the national media right away so they could get a news crew there and get it on the 5 o’clock news? I think I would have been more concerned about my friend than the nightly news reporter’s deadlines. Doesn’t it seem that the Democratic Party declares a Constitutional Crisis

every other week? You would think Harry Reid and Howard Dean would have something else to talk about. But maybe that’s the point. The national Democratic Party has nothing positive to say. No agenda, no issues that concern the voters. When the strength of a party’s message is simply “I don’t like the other guy” something is wrong.

Meanwhile back in the commonwealth of Virginia the respective parties are debating in the General Assembly what the best way to solve our transportation problems is.

The Democrat Governor, Tim Kaine, has produced a huge tax increase to fund more road projects in NOVA and the rest of the state. It took Kaine about 4 days to break his promise not to raise taxes. And the Republican Caucus in the House of Delegates has offered a 2.5 Billion dollar transportation improvement package. WITHOUT RAISING TAXES. All the money comes from existing revenues.

Apparently the House of Delegates thinks the huge 2 billion dollar surplus belongs to the taxpayers and will be fixing our roads with this cash. In addition the Republican caucus will issue about \$1.2 billion in bonds to establish a revolving loan fund to further fix our road problems. It does not stop there. The Republicans have also noticed you can not fix the transportation crisis in Virginia without reforming VDOT and that is what they intend to do. And to finish it all off they will begin to give local governments tools to link transportation to growth.

I think I will opt for the Republican plan without any tax increases. Hopefully we will get a plan out of the General Assembly that starts to fix these problems and get traffic moving again.

It is great to be in a state that has politicians that can focus what needs to be done rather than another made up Constitutional Crisis

ADVENTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

putting down on the page.

On Writing Well and Writing About Your Life, both by William Zinsser, should be required reading before the first strike at the keyboard. These are classics that will endure because the advice in them is sensible and attainable. If you want to write, read these first

The hero of Small Steps, Louis Sachar’s sequel to his Newberry Award-winning Holes, has a lot to overcome. He’s got that blot on his record that landed him at the Camp Green Lake Juvenile Correctional facility, although he is now free and two years older. However, with a name like Arm-pit, life is always a struggle for this engaging and brave young man.

This novel (for grades five and up) is more grounded in realism than Holes, but it carries the same theme of redemption and the powerful impact of lessons learned the hard way.

Criss Cross, another Newberry winner, is a story told in anecdotes, set in the context of crossing over from childhood to adolescence. This is not a fast-paced, action-filled book, but it gets inside the minds of its characters, and in the process explores the painful

and occasionally inspiring process of growing up.

Lynne Rae Perkins presents the story from the point of view of three fourteen-year-olds—Debbie, Lenny and Hector—as they struggle with feelings of early love, longing and, as Debbie says, a wish “something different would happen Something good. To me.” As in life, things do happen in Criss Cross, and Debbie learns that eternal lesson—be careful what you wish for.

Heads up, fans of Miss Murphy! The latest collaboration between Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown will be hitting the shelves at the end of the month. This time, in Sour Puss, Rita and Sneaky Pie have at last reunited those two beautiful people, Harry (Mary) Hairsteen and Fair, and they are poised to live happily ever after.

In this 13th book featuring Miss Murphy and Pewter (the cats), and Tee Tucker (the corgi) all the familiar elements are present, this time intertwined in a plot involving grape growing for Virginia’s wine industry and the rivalry between vintners that leads, of course, to murder.

TWO THINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

previous agreements and raises a number of questions.”

The Mayor’s spokesman, Vince Morris, in response to the letter, was quoted by the Associated Press last week as saying, “It’s a good sign. It shows MLB is just as keen to press ahead with the ballpark as we are. So far as we can tell, the late-night revisions made by the council do not jeopardize the deal and

mostly reaffirm our existing plans.”

All I know is, I’d hate to see what Vince would call a bad sign, but I have an idea.

I see the Mayor and the D.C. Council, temporarily floating, motionless, above the Grand Canyon as their Acme Rocket-Sleds runs out of gas, holding up little signs that read, simply, “Uh-oh.”

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FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

I'm told it rises up first, through snow if necessary, defiant and dignified. Like as to say "You call that a winter?" Kale. Brassica oleracea. A non-hearting type of cabbage, meaning it doesn't curl into a ball. Most commonly rolled into the "greens" category. Rich in calcium, heavy in C & B vitamins, I eat kale because local, regional food is tastiest and the best for our bodies, as well as abundantly available seasonally. I believe that eating organic local produce, particularly in the spring, helps relieve my environmental allergies, as does local honey.

It's an important winter vegetable in Britain cuisine and at the heart of soul cooking.

My first impression was not, however, prudent. Our family restaurant used kale as a decorative garnish on one of our most popular banquet entrees, the Roast Turkey Dinner, which was a favorite of the ladies on the tour busses stopping over for a quick bite before hitting the Oneida Silver-Smiths Factory Store en masse. Food is fuel, right?

One leaf, trimmed with an orange slice and half of a maraschino cherry in the middle on the afore mentioned dish accompanied with homemade sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes and two (2!) hot vegetables with a choice of soup or salad and bread; \$4.99.

If we ran out, we'd run kale through our commercial dishwasher, then dunk it in iced salt water for an hour only to be topped again with an orange slice and cherry and returned to the masses (a vicious circle...but good Karma, right?). None of the blue hairs on the busses knew or cared. Equivalent to the wedding favors strategically placed at the hostess stand for them to pilfer as they exited. 300 small plastic top hats filled with small almonds and mints. Left over from the Mentzer wedding. We left them out for a reason. Not one would remain and no one would care that the little plastic hat read, "Susan & Mark- Love Lasts Forever- July 9, 1977".

As a garnish, it was indestructible. We never gave any thought to eating it. It wasn't until a few years later, my freshman year at Boston University, when I dined at Perce Alston's, my roommate's parent's home, did I realize that my family had treated it unfairly.

The Farmer's Market is opening soon and kale will be there. First in line in fact. Simplicity is key I've found with kale. Try it with another dominant flavor or spice. Its nutrients are undeniable.

Mrs. A's Kale

Perce's mom in Brookline, MA made this for us. I eat it to this day. But on that day, it was particularly tasty to a

couple of starving college kids. I offered to show her a trick with the kale and her Kenmore dishwasher, but she wasn't interested.

4 cups	white beans, Navy or Great Northern, cooked
1 tbs to taste	lemon juice
1 lg	salt, pepper
4	red pepper flakes
1 lb	onion, chopped
	garlic cloves, crushed
	kale -- stems removed, leaves only
Dash	nutmeg- important!

Mix beans, lemon juice, salt and pepper flakes together. Heat gently and mash slightly.

Chop onions and garlic. Saut  until translucent. Slice the greens into shreds and add to garlic onion mix with the nutmeg. Saut  until greens are wilted.

Suggested serving is mound beans on top of greens and put it next to a great big old 2" thick grilled pork chop like Mrs. A did!

Spicy Kale And Chickpea Stew

Over the years, I tend to eat kale when it was the last thing in the fridge. I've boiled and faked a few things but few good recipes were common public knowledge. With the Internet you can get a few ideas but still, you had to ask around.

A few people I know have very, very severe food allergies. They're strict vegans not by choice but by doctor's orders. This dish seems to be a pretty big staple in their diets. Using your favorite "designer" hot sauce can really take this dish through any flavor spectrum. Add cream and butter for French, or some Dragon Oil for Cantonese or Tabasco for Cajun.

2 cups	chickpeas, dried soaked over night in water
10 cups	onions, chopped coarse
2 lg	garlic cloves, minced
3	olive oil
1/4 cup	green bell peppers, chopped coarse
2	kale, stems removed, leaves only
1 1/2 lb	plum tomatoes, chopped, undrained
2 14.5 oz cans	tomato paste
6 oz	chile powder
3 tbs	

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1 tsp	fresh thyme
1 tsp	fresh oregano
1 tbs	favorite designer hot sauce
1 tsp	ground cumin
1 tsp	sugar
1	bay leaf

Steamed couscous or rice as an accompaniment

In a large saucepan simmer the chickpeas in the water, covered partially, for 1 1/2 hours, or until they are tender. In a heavy kettle cook the onions and the garlic in the oil over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are golden, add the bell peppers, and cook the mixture, stirring, for 10 minutes. Add the chick-peas with the cooking liquid, the kale, the tomatoes with the juice, the tomato paste, the chili powder, the thyme, the oregano, the hot sauce, the cumin, the sugar, and the bay leaf, bring the liquid to a boil, and simmer the stew, stirring occasionally, for 1 hour. Discard the bay leaf, season the stew with salt, more hot sauce if necessary and serve the stew on couscous or rice.

Juice it!!
WifeYoo juices the stuff regularly, so that's why I have it around. I should learn from her. I've read in several places that when raw kale juice is added to raw carrot juice a "super" Vitamin C cocktail ensues. Amongst other things tremendous for the human body.

In your juicer:

1	apple, tart, organic unpeeled, quartered and chopped
3-5	carrots scrubbed, unpeeled organic, chopped
2	kale clean organic stalks included

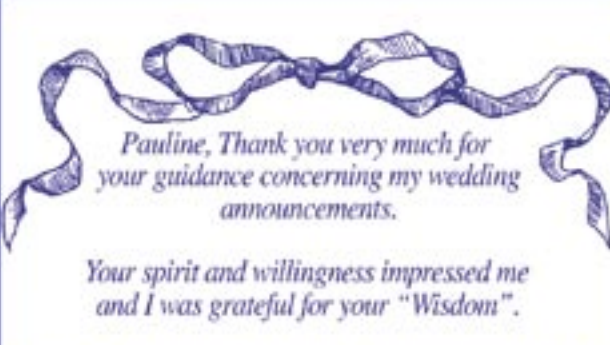
What's Good In Town This Month:
The Macaroni and Cheese at the Home Farm Store located at 1 East Washington Street is a classic lunch indulgence and nice to have made from scratch for a change. Plus, they give you enough to have some at dinner too! Also, the Brussel Sprout Au Gratin was inventive and satisfying and the best lunch repast I've had in a while. No breading just cream, cheese and herbs. Really good !

Comment or catastrophes? fbts@mbecc.com
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THE ARTIST'S MIND

THE ART OF ART

TOM NEEL

Has a piece of art ever made you say to yourself "I wonder what this artist was thinking?" or "How did they come up with this idea?" You could ask the same of writers or anyone in a creative field, but I believe the truth is, artists in most cases are artists, because of how they think and how they look at things around them in general. In other words, it's not about being able to paint, it's about being able to imagine, to visualize, to be influenced, to be inspired and then wanting to create something from all of that. The painting part, or the writing, acting, dancing or whatever creative outlet they might choose, is really just a tool to express that which they see or feel in their mind.

To most, an artist's canvas is just something an artist paints on. To the creative mind, in the artist mind, there is an endless supply of canvas being painted on everyday, with ideas con-

stantly being supplied by things around them and what you see on canvas is just the part that makes it out.

Sometimes what makes it out is dark, sometimes it's peaceful. This is a highly imaginative mind and often even an emotional one. Sometimes there is a direction of thoughts an artist feels best with or comfortable with, but it may not be the only thing they would like to create in their lifetime and the direction changes. Often artists find a style and this can be good because they can become well known for this style. But it can be bad also if they become publicly locked to this style, making it hard for them to ever do anything else. This can happen to any of the creative fields mentioned above.

Artist's minds, like all minds, vary greatly, but in the case of artists, these variations can generate a creative body of work wildly different from each other. From bold colors to soft colors, big work or small things, realism or fantasy, landscape or abstract and if the

artist or creative mind is lucky, it will find the right tool to express itself. Then hopefully, it will feel comfortable enough and become good enough technically with that chosen tool to truly express the ideas it has. It's more of a challenge than one might think.

So, when you see someone dance or act, think of their mind first and the dance or roll as their form of their creative expression. If you stand before an artist's work, think of the artist's mind first and then realize they chose oil on canvas or photography, or sculpting a piece of marble, or forming clay into pottery, or dying silk, or carving a piece of wood, as their form of creative expression...just a tool, just a funnel from their mind to pour themselves into.



TWO THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND

SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

The Lindsey Jacobellis Affair, aka, Snowboardgate Rick Morrissey, a columnist for the Chicago Tribune, recently climbed on the bash-Lindsey-bandwagon.

"It probably would be a good thing if somebody explained to the snowboarders that once they decided to sit at the adults' table, they made the tacit agreement to play to win," he wrote in a recent column. "They made the decision to act like Olympians, which now means to act professional. It means trying your hardest to finish first. And part of trying your hardest means doing whatever is necessary to win."

Doing whatever is necessary to win, huh? What is this, Sherman's March to the Sea?

I'd remind Mr. Morrissey and any other win-at-all-costs folks who then bemoan athletes who get caught up in things like, oh, say, STEROID SCANDALS, that the Olympic are NOT all about winning. As a matter of fact, the Olympic creed reads, "[the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

Lindsey Jacobellis personifies that creed. She took part and she fought well, and in losing herself in the excitement and joy of her success, she made a mistake. For those of you not paying attention to the Games, and judging by the ratings that's most of you, Seth Westcott, the winner of the gold medal in Men's Snowboard Cross, pulled the same move that cost Jacobellis her gold. Only difference? He didn't fall over.

So I'd make the case that what certain people are getting so snitty about is that an American fell down and "lost us" or "cost us" a gold medal, not that she tried to pull a

trick. And as for the "us?" I know I didn't do any training for these Olympics. Get over it.

• The Baseball Situation in D.C.

This is a real head-scratcher. To recap: D.C. gets baseball. D.C. loses baseball. D.C. kicks itself in the head and pursues baseball, on and off, for forty some years. D.C. woos baseball, and remarkably, baseball finally climbs back into bed. D.C. then goes Wife E. Coyote and tries to drop an anvil right on baseball's head.

Unfortunately for all of us who like baseball and are sick of slogging our way up 95 to see a real, live Major League Baseball game, baseball doesn't seem to have the sense of humor that the Road Runner does. Baseball won't keep coming back for more, and even if these two malcontents can somehow make this work, there is no way humanly possible that Major League Baseball, led by Bud Selig and his favorite enforcer, Bob DuPuy, will ever forget the sleight of hand put on by the D.C. Council.

The Council, in its infinite wisdom, has turned this debate from something that bordered on the sensible (do we REALLY want to put ourselves in hock to get a baseball team?) to something that belongs in Bizarro world (how can I best position myself in this \$611 million debacle to win the upcoming mayoral election?)

DuPuy's latest response to the Council's latest skull-duggery was a letter to Mayor Williams's office in which he wrote that the new legislation, "clearly contains conditions, restrictions and new provisions which go well beyond our

Continued Page 11

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PASTIMES

MID WINTER DREAM

WELCOME HOME

WANDA K. CROSSLEY

A ‘bed and breakfast’ in the English countryside is about as close to heaven as I can imagine. Beautiful landscapes, quaint villages, majestic manor houses, and of course glorious gardens are the makings of fairy tales and dreams. For one brief shining moment I was delighted to live my dream at a little bed and breakfast manor in the English Cotswolds.

Entering the front door I was immediately drawn to my heart’s desire, a cathedral of glass toward the back of the house, a real English conservatory, where house and garden meet in the best of both worlds. Here is a place to read, have a cup of tea, take an afternoon nap, dine alfresco and otherwise make-believe you actually live in a garden.

Conservatories were originally called “orangeries” as they were designed to nurture non-indigenous fruits in harsh climates. Appearing in the 17th century they were situated at the end of the garden and also served as a place of rest after a summer’s garden walk. Over time orangeries migrated closer to the home to become conservatories and eventually became a stylish addition to the fine English home. In our world, today’s sunroom is but a descendent of the early English conservatory.

I’m not lucky enough to have a conservatory like those in the Cotswolds, but I am fortunate to have a nice sunroom. Here I am over-wintering my tender lime and gardenia trees from the cold outside, forcing potted bulbs of paper-whites, hyacinths, and amaryllis. I still have enough light and sunshine to grow topiaries and herbs.

As the winter months prolong, my little conservatory has also become my retreat, now used for sitting, studying, looking at garden magazines, and day-dreaming. No other room in the house has such a strong sense of season.

Furnishing and decorating a sunroom can be a particular challenge. Lighter color tones are more successful for garden rooms. White may be obvious, but it should be a warm white so it doesn’t feel excessively cold and stark in the winter. Green also works well. Darker colors are not usually used, but when they are, they can offer a very dramatic look.

Garden room interiors should reflect the materials and textures from outdoors. First and foremost, a sunroom demands an abundance of plant life around which the furnishings can be added. For soft furnishings the most typical is wicker, either as an occasional piece or a full set of sofas, ottomans, tables and chairs. Other choices could be unvarnished wood or wrought-iron frames with stone tabletops.



When it comes to fabric and upholstery bright sunlight will fade almost anything. The most desired sunroom fabrics are linen and cotton, used for their durability and informal style. Another good solution to use is “Sunbrella” fabrics made of a solution-dyed acrylic with a fluorocarbon finish. Today Sunbrella fabrics come in many different stripes, solids and florals.

Due to the lack of solid walls and ceilings, supplemental lighting can be tricky. As a sunroom is designed to let outside light in, it also lets much inside light out. The solution is to use fixed-roof and side lighting as well as plug-in side and table lamps, hanging lamps and chandeliers. Small accessories that don’t compete with the natural plant life are acceptable, and a nice little garden fountain of soft trickling water always completes the mood.

Alas, for most of us an authentic English conservatory is still only fairy tale. But in my little sunroom I can imagine paradise and momentarily escape to a simpler day.

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

ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR, A PARADE OF CELEBRATIONS

CITRONELLE AND THE MANOR HOUSE PROVIDE DELICIOUS MEMORIES

ED MCGUSHIN

For most of us, wedding anniversaries are very special occasions, although some of my friends tell me their most memorable anniversary is the one they forgot. I have managed to avoid that pitfall by planning events that take time and concentration.

Two years ago, I wrote in Middleburg Life about the maiden Caribbean voyage of the Queen Mary 2, where Sandy and I celebrated anniversary # 38. Last year I described in the Middleburg Eccentric a memorable stealth dinner prepared and served by the young chefs of Market Salamander at a romantic table for two after the market had closed for the day.

This year, as the fortieth anniversary approached, I encountered something of a dilemma. Our favorite theatrical piece, Les Miserable, was playing at the National Theater in January and I had an opportunity to acquire two front row seats. Unfortunately, the performance was two weeks before our anniversary date. The obvious choice was to celebrate two weeks early, so I bought the tickets, made early dinner reservations at Citronelle with celebrated chef Michel Richard, and reserved a suite at Georgetown’s boutique Latham Hotel, which is home to Citronelle. Of course, a wonderful celebration two weeks early still leaves a void on the actual anniversary date, January 29.

The Dilemma

My plan to solve this dilemma called for a second celebration with Chef Howard Foer at the Poplar Springs Inn and Spa in Casanova, VA, near Warrenton. The Manor House restaurant at Poplar Springs serves Sunday brunch, which fit perfectly with the timing of this year’s anniversary. This would also permit us to sample the fare of a culinary rock star, Michel Richard at Citronelle, and also that of a talented local chef, Howard Foer.

Chef Richard is a widely acknowledged master of his trade. Born, raised, and trained in France, he built his reputation and a series of legendary eateries in California before moving to Washington in 1998. Since then, the chef and his restaurant have received every conceivable culinary honor.

Chef Foer is a Maryland native and self-taught chef who trained under James Papovich at Alexandria’s Morrison House Hotel. In 1987 he and his wife Lauren started Festive Foods Catering, which continues today as one of the metropolitan area’s premier catering enterprises.

In 1999, Howard and Lauren acquired Poplar Springs, a 200 acre farm in Casanova, Virginia, outside of Warrenton. After a significant investment in renovation and new construction, they opened Poplar Springs Inn and Spa, where Howard now presides over the Manor House restaurant.

The evening at Citronelle was everything we had hoped for, big city ambience, a panoramic window showcasing the Chef Richard’s kitchen, and a front house staff that simply would not permit us to have less than a memorable evening. Because of our 8 o’clock curtain call, we dined from the three course dinner menu (\$85) rather than the seven course

alternative (\$150). Maitre de Jean-Jacque also arranged for us to have desert in Citronelle’s lounge after the theater so that we would not rush through the evening.

The evening was truly enjoyable and a grand gastronomic experience befitting the occasion

When reserving our table at Poplar Springs, I asked Chef-owner Foer to take care of the details. We had dined with him previously and I knew we would be in good hands.

Poplar Springs’ bucolic setting contrasts sharply with Georgetown’s Citronelle.

The Manor House is a grand stone edifice of baronial proportions nestled among the trees for which it is named and surrounded by 200 acres of verdant pastures. Adjacent to the Manor House is the full service spa added by Howard and Lauren.

We arrived at 1:00 in the afternoon and were led to a table by manager Pierre Monyard. Following a celebratory libation, a parade of dishes began appearing at our table. It was a very long and delicious parade.

Rather than describe all of the wonderful items served at both establishments, the following are the ones that I would order for a special dinner for two, regardless of chef of origin.

I Recommend

I would begin with the demitasse of saffron-lobster bisque infused with garlic and the lightly battered duo of fried oyster bedded down on a caramelized dice of rutabaga, both from Poplar Springs.

Next would be Citronelle’s Parmesan and Gruyere soufflé with black truffles and the melt-in-your-mouth braised veal cheek with chestnut fettuccini from Poplar Springs.

The entrée would be a difficult decision. I think I’d settle for Chef Richard’s squab three-ways, with sliced roasted breast meat, spicy fried legs, and a warm pate of delicious force meat. I would also order the filet of wild rockfish garnished with salmon caviar and served on a seafood medley sautéed in butter with mussels, lobster, and fresh fennel prepared by Chef Foer.

Desert is another tough choice. Poplar Springs Executive Pastry Chef Jennifer Hannan is as competent as she is creative. Her offerings never fail to please. But Chef Richard began his culinary life as a baker and pastry maker. With talented new pastry chef Heather Chitum on board, Chef Richard’s first love shines through. The array of sweets placed before us at Citronelle rivaled a cruise ship’s mid-night buffet in quantity, but exceeded its quality a thousand times over.

So, would I pick one restaurant over the other?

No, I’d strongly recommend both.

Citronelle is a haute cuisine hoot, where you are always likely to see someone you’ll recognize from the pages of the Washington Post. But you need not drive into the big city for every special occasion. Reward yourself and someone special with a short drive to the elegant Poplar Springs Inn and Spa, where all of your senses will be treated royally.



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News of Note



IRISES Artist: Conor Backman Sponsor: Rehau Location: Oatlands Plantation 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane Leesburg, VA 20175	MR. LUCKY Artist: Anne DeSantis Sponsor: Carter Braxton Real Estate Location: 16 Loudoun Street, SW Leesburg, VA 20175	SEA HORSE Artist: Leanne Fink Sponsor: Vaaler Real Estate Location: 19 North King Street Leesburg, VA 20176	POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST-URE Artist: Catherine Hillis Sponsor: Middleburg Bank Location: 102 Catoctin Circle, SE Leesburg, VA 20175	EAGLE'S VIEW Artist: Loudoun Country Day School Sponsor: Vollmer Associates Location: 101 Loudoun Street, SE Leesburg, VA 20175
A PLACE IN TIME Artist: Christina Sanders Sponsor: James Monroe Bank Toth Financial Location: 606 South King Street Leesburg, VA 20175	HARLEQUIN HORSE Artist: King Street Studio Sponsor: Home Depot Location: 280 Fort Evans Road Leesburg, VA 20176	HORACE MANN Artist: Elaine Nunnally Sponsor: Moseley Architects Location: 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148	MIRO HORSE Artist: Silvia Souza Sponsor: JK Moving & Storage Location: 44112 Mercure Circle Sterling, VA 20166	OLD HOME Artist: Sarah Gayle Strickland Sponsor: BOWA Builders Location: 2 West Washington Street Middleburg, VA 20118
GREEN PASTURE Artist: Rachel Garcia Palmer Sponsor: United Airlines Location: Dulles Washington International Airport United Terminal	PEGASUS Artist: Anne K. Rule-Thompson Sponsor: Talk of the Town Location: 6 E. Pennsylvania Avenue Lovettsville, VA 20180	SILK QUILT Artist: Suzanne DeSaix Sponsor: Thomas Simmons Agency Location: Moore Cadillac Hummer 25440 Pleasant Valley Road Chantilly, VA 20152	CHEVAL ROUGE Artist: Miles Carter Sponsor: Hinge Location: Washington Dulles Marriott 45020 Aviation Drive Dulles, VA 20166	HORSE DOCTOR Artist: Mary Hope Worley Sponsor: Loudoun Medical Group Location: Dulles Town Center 21100 Dulles Town Circle Sterling, VA 20166
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HIDDEN MAIDEN Artist: Carmen Barros Howell Sponsor: Available Location: 101 Blue Seal Drive Leesburg, VA 20175	PEARL OF LIFE Artist: Shirley A. Brown Sponsor: Available Location: Old Dominion University 21335 Signal Hill Plaza Sterling, VA 20164	JUBILEE Artist: Amy Kinshella Sponsor: Available Location: NOVA, Loudoun Campus Waddell Art Gallery, 1000 Harry Byrd Hwy Sterling, VA 20164	HORSEFLY Artist: Anne Lukas Sponsor: Available Location: Telos Corporation 19886 Ashburn Road Ashburn, VA 20147	HORSE AND BOGEY Artist: Constance Pullella Sponsor: Available Location: Stoneleigh Country Club 35271 Prestwick Court Round Hill, VA 20141

Happy Trails to Visit Horsing Around Loudoun
Your Guide to Places of the Herd

Caroline Henze

No one quite herd the call for Horsing Around Loudoun, as clearly as did Barb Nussmann and her significant other, Kent Farrell. After finding the event online, the team traveled from their hometown of Rochester, New York to Loudoun to see the local installation for themselves.

Armed with a GPS system and the wonders of mapquest, Nussmann and Farrell set out to see all of the fiberglass horses decorated by local artists.

Nussmann and Farrell, are obsessed with outdoor public art installations and –Horsing Around Loudoun was their ninetieth installation viewing. Their obsession does not end with a photograph collection. The couple owns three fiberglass horses (one resides in their living room, the other two outside or in the garage) and a fiberglass pig.

Planned by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, “Horsing Around Loudoun” is part of a growing national trend to mount outdoor public art installations. Plaster pandas, cows and other critters have graced the streets of Chicago, Boston and Washington, D.C.

Co-chair of the Chamber’s Horsing Around Loudoun committee, Tom Simmons, said that the principle of these projects is that the art itself will build community in the dialogue about the project and create business partnerships to execute such a grand scheme. “They become talking pieces for everybody,” Simmons said. Simmons said that the committee always knew that we were going to use the word-of-mouth medium to market the project because in a community- oriented place like Loudoun, the word would get around pretty quickly.

Simmons said that the committee intended the project to be inviting and fun for Loudoun, instead of a “terribly serious” endeavor. “Our feeling was that it would appeal to everybody re-

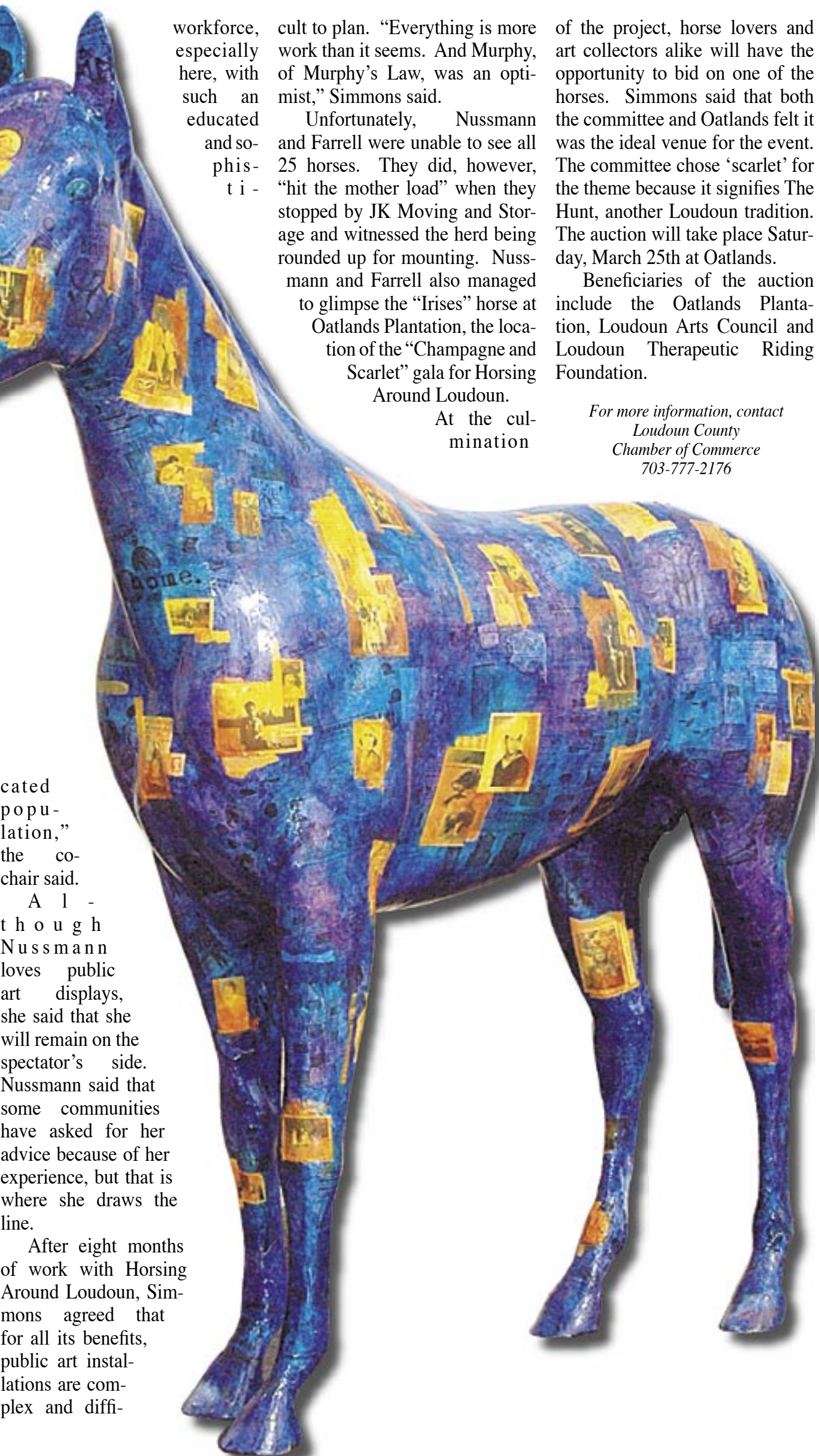
gardless of age or any other demographic factors,” Simmons said. Witty and whimsical were the key words for the judges, said Simmons.

After visiting 90 displays, Nussmann said that she noticed certain themes were often repeated. However, her favorite horse, dubbed “Mr. Lucky” for his diced-out adornments, managed to break from the mold. “We’ve seen other things like horse doctors, such as a bear or a pelican dressed as doctors, but we’ve never seen someone use dice before,” Nussmann said.

Nussmann said that they were unaware of Loudoun’s “horse country” roots at the time of their visit. “I didn’t know why they were doing horses, but horses happened to be our favorite animals to see. It makes for a very good palette,” Nussmann said. In order to connect with the community, it is important to pick an animal that has significance and meaning for their region, she added.

Even to residents, in the county still known as one of the fastest-growing counties in the country, the horses could appear as a mere ephemeral symbol in the mcmansion desert reality. Yet, Simmons argued that the horse is more than just a symbol of the past. “Loudoun is and always will be a strongly equestrian community. Yet, as Loudoun becomes more suburban, the idea that we are bringing horses into a public arts display connects emerging Loudoun with its traditions,” Simmons said.

“I don’t think that there’s any question that the development of Loudoun made this project feasible. You have to provide appropriate cultural outlets to attract a



workforce, especially here, with such an educated and sophisticated workforce, cult to plan. “Everything is more work than it seems. And Murphy, of Murphy’s Law, was an optimist,” Simmons said.

Unfortunately, Nussmann and Farrell were unable to see all 25 horses. They did, however, “hit the mother load” when they stopped by JK Moving and Storage and witnessed the herd being rounded up for mounting. Nussmann and Farrell also managed to glimpse the “Irises” horse at Oatlands Plantation, the location of the “Champagne and Scarlet” gala for Horsing Around Loudoun.

At the culmination

For more information, contact Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce 703-777-2176

of the project, horse lovers and art collectors alike will have the opportunity to bid on one of the horses. Simmons said that both the committee and Oatlands felt it was the ideal venue for the event. The committee chose ‘scarlet’ for the theme because it signifies The Hunt, another Loudoun tradition. The auction will take place Saturday, March 25th at Oatlands. Beneficiaries of the auction include the Oatlands Plantation, Loudoun Arts Council and Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation.

PASTIMES

BRING SPRING BRANCHES INDOORS TO ENJOY NOW

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

It doesn't take much time and very little horticultural knowledge to force branches of flowering shrubs into flower at this time of year. Soon the floral shops will have them for sale and you'll be sorely tempted to purchase a few for indoors, but there's no need, you can do this yourself. There are many flowering shrubs and trees that respond to forcing, the purpose may motivate you to do a little necessary pruning. That in itself may be the best part of all, prune now, enjoy the benefits indoors. Quince and forsythia may already show signs of flowering. The ease of coaxing them into full bloom and having their bright colors in the house will really help when outdoor temperatures still register below freezing. The simplicity of this exercise is so darn logical that you will find yourself doing it every February. Look for potential promise with existing flower buds as you walk through your garden. Great candidates include Lonicera fragrantissima, forsythia, Spirea thunbergii 'Fujino Pink', Salix discolor or pussy willow, and Prunus mume. Stems can be cut just above the node where they meet a main branch or extend from the trunk. Look for crossed branches, those that form an x as they cross over others. These crossed branches are

best removed before they develop leaves in spring, it's the perfect time to do a little editing. On forsythia, cut just above a leaf scar, preferably at an angle to camouflage the cut. Cutting low, close to the ground will also appear more natural in the scheme of pruning. Bring the stems in and soak in cold water, submerged from top to bottom overnight. If necessary, use a bathtub for a night. Soaking them is helpful in re-hydrating the stem, I'm sure it also helps signal spring, like those soaking cool days we get in March. The next day set up your vases with room temperature water and re-cut the stems before placing them in the vase. Misting them may be helpful as the indoor environment will still be heated and humidity will be low. Other shrubs and trees can be forced that require longer periods to bring into flower. Consider the following list of easy woody plants to force. The weeks to flowering are noted with each one:

Flowering Almond - 3 weeks
Cherry Tree - 3 weeks
Crab Apple - 4 weeks
Horse Chestnut - 5 weeks
Lilac - 4 weeks
Magnolia - 3 weeks
Red Bud - 2 weeks
Serviceberry - 4 weeks
Spireas - assorted typed will require different forcing times Usually 4-5 weeks.

A few shrubs can be forced for their catkins most notably Corylus avellina 'Contorta' or Harry Lauder's walking stick. Since this contorted shrub regularly produces straight stems, they need to be removed to keep Harry contorted. The stems can also be forced, producing long, showy catkins indoors. In the process the value of the shrub is renewed. As you wander in the garden



ADVENTURE, CATASTROPHE, MEMORIES AND MORE

IN THE LAND OF BOOKS

GENIE FORD

From swordplay to talking animals to lost civilizations, winter is the time to read away the house bound blues and lose yourself in the midst of a story well told. These books will amuse, intrigue, educate and ignite the imagination of readers who love nothing better than to curl up with a good book. The adventure begins. The hero, Captain Alatrisme by Arturo Pérez-Reverte is both a mercenary and a man of honor. He is a 17th century swordsman-for-hire and he will, it seems, kill for money. When he chooses not to murder two travelers, he sets in motion an exciting, colorful and thoroughly entertaining plot that includes plenty of swordplay, some romance and lots of intrigue and surprises. Add a dash of historical perspective, and you've got a terrific first book in what is clearly intended to be a series. At the other end of the literary spectrum, but equally fascinating and utterly important, is Collapse, by Jared Diamond. This New York Times bestseller has just been released in paperback. Diamond deftly provides answers to why some of the world's greatest civilizations collapsed—

and what the implications are for our own time. Among the lost civilizations he examines are Angkor Wat, the Mayans, the Vikings in Greenland and the Anasazi of North America, as well as modern events that may be signals of our own possible downfall. As we come closer each day to environmental catastrophe on a global scale, Diamond's book offers clear warnings—and some hope—to those of us who fear for the future. Oprah's latest book club choice, Night by Elie Wiesel, is a powerful, devastating and horrifying account of the author's years in Nazi death camps. He was only a teenager, but he was forced to watch in horror while his family and friends were degraded, abused and then killed. How anyone, especially someone so young, can survive the unbearable and retain his humanity is both a testament to the human spirit and an indictment of those who downplay the Holocaust. In the end, Elie Wiesel's greatest gift to us may not be his passionate and riveting prose, but his refusal to let us forget. Everyone has a story to tell, but not everyone can write as beautifully as Elie Wiesel. Nevertheless, there are those among us whose lives are worth

Continued Page 11



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• May 13.....	DeDe Schumate
• June 3.....	Phyllis Farland
• July 8.....	Skip Reese
• August 5.....	Nina Fout
• August 26.....	E. Sue Bopp
• September 30th.....	Betty Oare

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PARENTS & PROGENY

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY SENIORS, NOMINATED FOR UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY ADMISSION



Matt Greenwood of Fairfax, VA and Lamont Johnson of Oak Hill, VA, both seniors at Notre Dame Academy, have received nominations from Congressman Frank R. Wolf to apply to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

The nomination process begins in the Fall of each school year. Each member of Congress is allowed five appointees in each service academy at any one time.

Nominations are based on the students' academic records, extracurricular and community activities, test scores, as well as letters of recommendation from individuals in and out of the school community. Each service academy selects their incoming freshman class from the outstanding students who have received nominations from Members of Congress and/or the Vice President of the United States.

FOXCROFT'S JESSI COIL COMMITS TO KENT STATE



Foxcroft School senior stand-out Jessi Coil of Middleburg has been awarded an athletic scholarship to play field hockey next year at Kent State University in Ohio, the Middleburg, Va., school announced Friday.

Coil, who was named Loudoun/Fauquier Player of the Year by the Washington Post, helped Foxcroft to its best record in recent years (10-4-1), and a fifth-place ranking among Virginia independent schools. The senior co-captain has been named to

the Post's All-Extra team – as well as to the All-Independent School League team – in each of her four years of high school.

A strong and vocal leader, Coil moved from defense to center mid this past season and added some scoring punch to her tenacious defense, finishing with four goals and five assists. She is a three-sport athlete, having earned All-ISL mention in basketball last winter.

Jessi is the daughter of Bruce and Nan Coil of Middleburg.

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER PRESCHOOL VISITS THE POST OFFICE



PHOTOS BY SALLY HERNLEY

Middleburg Postmaster, Norris Beavers teaches the Middleburg Community Center Preschool children how to mail their Valentine greetings home.

WAKEFIELD STUDENT TEAM NAMED NATIONAL FINALIST IN "CHALLENGE 20/20" PROGRAM

Wakefield's team that has participated this year in the National Association of Independent Schools' "Challenge 20/20" program was named a finalist in the inaugural 2005 competition.

"Challenge 20/20" is an international collaboration which NAIS has based on Jean Francois Rischard's book *High Noon: Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them*. Through conference calls and other exchanges with students at each participating U.S. school's international "partner school," the teams worked together on the problems they had chosen to tackle from Rischard's book, and sought solutions that grew out of both cultures' ethical climates.

Written reports on the groups' discussions, and on the solutions they proposed, were due to the NAIS in December.

Wakefield's "Challenge 20/20" team was composed of the 12 students in the sophomore Action Ethics class. Along with Wakefield's partner school, Farington Community College in Oxfordshire, England, the Action Ethics class has been involved throughout the academic year in discussing the issues of peace-keeping, conflict prevention, and combating terrorism.

According to the NAIS, "a panel of experts in global issues and education reviewed the reports and selected...partner school teams that had shown particular skill in problem solving, team work, critical thinking, curriculum innovation, creativity, and written presentation of a solution." A total of 50 teams from 32 countries took part in the program this year, of which 15 were chosen as finalists.

NEWEST CUM LAUDE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

Ten Foxcroft School students and one teacher have been elected to the School's chapter of the Cum Laude Society, chapter chair Susan Erba announced today.

The Cum Laude Society is a national high school scholastic honor society modeled on the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa. There are more than 335 chapters across the United States; the Foxcroft chapter was established in 1958. Students who evidence a genuine interest in the pursuit of knowledge by their superior academic record as reflected in their course load, grade point average and other factors, are selected to the group.

Foxcroft's newly-elected students are: Nicole Baudouin (Mexico City, Mexico), Jillian Cairns (Chantilly, Va.), Adela Griswold (Middleburg, Va.), Caroline Haerberle (Ashland, Ky.), Sarah Hinton (Reston, Va.), Lindsay Jennings (Ashburn, Va.), Amber Ogbolu (Ashland, Ky.), Betsy Reid (Woodberry Forest, Va.), My Tran (Annandale, Va. And Viet Nam) and Shannon Walker (Purcellville, Va.). All the students are seniors at Foxcroft, except for Cairns and Walker, who have the special distinction of being selected as juniors.

Second-year teacher Glenn Kantz became the newest faculty member of the Foxcroft chapter to the society. Kantz, a native of Nashville, Tenn., and graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, teaches English and Latin at Foxcroft. He earned Cum Laude membership in high school.

The electees will be officially inducted into the Cum Laude Society at Foxcroft's Commencement in May. Clara Bertozzi-Villa, who was elected last year as a junior, and faculty members Mary Louise Leipheimer (Head of School), Stacey Morse Ahner (Director of Development), Celeste Bergan (Science Dept. Chair), Susan Erba (Math Dept.), Steve Matthews (English; Library) and Alex Northrup (History, Foreign Languages, Library) will do the honors.

WAKEFIELD'S SECOND "CLASS DAY" CELEBRATES MAKING A DIFFERENCE, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

On Friday, February 10, Wakefield School in The Plains held its second Class Day of the 2005-2006 school year.

Wakefield holds three "Class Days" each academic year, the second of which pairs classes from different Divisions in activities to help them know and understand one another better, while exploring a theme central to Wakefield's beliefs and mission.

The theme of this school year at Wakefield is "Making a Difference," and on this Class Day, students will be working together on projects that prompt thinking about the many ways to make a difference to others, especially those who are different from us.

Activities will include a service project for a Mexican orphanage, exploring games and art from around the world, writing to international pen pals, exploring our connection to those in need in Africa, understanding physical challenges, and stacking wood for neighbors in need in The Plains.

In several activities, one can see the imprint of History Department Chair Carolyn Wyrsh's recent experiences as part of the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) teacher exchange program.

This program allows distinguished primary and secondary school educators in the U.S. to travel to Japan for three weeks in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations. Upon their return, program participants share what they have learned about Japan with their students and communities through a variety of outreach projects.

Students in grades 4 and 10 were paired for the making of origami Peace Cranes to be sent to the Peace Park at Hiroshima. They also learned some Japanese script and were able to write brief messages to a Japanese pen pal, through a connection Mrs. Wyrsh has to a Japanese school.

Grades 3 and 9 worked on creating and decorating ceramic tiles to complement the "Peace Pole" that is to be created at the school as part of Mrs. Wyrsh's follow-up projects.

"Peace Poles" are simple obelisks, only about 4 feet in height, that exist all over the world at spots dedicated to commemorating the idea of peace. The closest Peace Pole to our area is in Manassas at the corner of Lee and Grant Streets, commemorating the occasion of a meeting and handshake at that spot between the two former enemies of the Civil War.

Mrs. Wyrsh plans to engage Wakefield students in the creation of a Peace Pole at the school. On each of its six sides will appear the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth," written in English, French, Spanish, Japanese, Latin, and Ara-

bic.

The inclusion of these six languages on the pole will remind students both of the sobering realities of our past and current conflicts around the world, and the hopeful future embodied by programs like the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund.

BANNEKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOSTING ITS SECOND REUNION

Banneker Elementary School is hosting its second reunion. This reunion is for students and staff who were at Banneker between 1968-1978. Last year, the reunion was held to celebrate the first twenty years of Banneker's history. Banneker Elementary is the only existing original African American school still operating in Loudoun County as an elementary school. Integra-

tion took place in 1968. A third reunion is planned in 2008 to bring together all students and staff from the past sixty years.

The Banneker Reunion Committee is asking for your help in locating students and staff who were at Banneker during these years. A day to celebrate the rich heritage of the school and the "coming together" of the community has been set for Saturday May 6,

2006, 5-7pm at the school. If you know of someone who attended or worked at Banneker during these years, please help us as we seek to find alumni and staff to join us in the celebration.

If you need more information, or would like to provide contact information for someone you know, please email the Reunion Committee at bes@loudoun.k12.va.us or call 703-771-6780.

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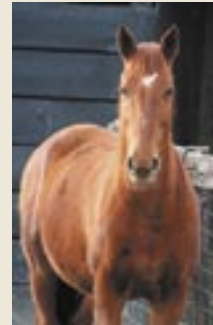
KEY:
LTR – Long term relationship
GBD – Gorgeous but difficult
SC – Single cat
SD – Single dog
SFD – Single female dog
SCPC – Single couch potato cat
ISO – In search of
SCPD – Single couch potato dog
SBC – Single black cat
SMD – Single male dog
SHMD – Single handsome male dog
SAAP – Single absolutely adorable puppy
SAAK – Single absolutely adorable kitten
SDMD – Single Divorced Mom Dog



BRAMLEY – SFD ISO free-wheeling farm life. GBD, energetic, enjoys outdoor activities.



HOLLY – Tall, pretty & slender SFD. Enjoys kids, cats, dogs & cuddling. ISO a family who appreciates the same.



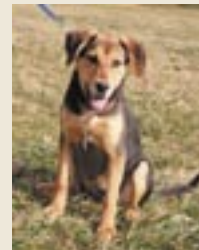
SUMMER – Good natured, charming bachelor looking for love. I enjoy being sprayed with a hose, baths and lots of love. I'm an honest gentleman of integrity.



RC – SHMD, ISO devoted friend. Fun, loving, energetic & affectionate. Tired of the singles scene.



OLIVIA – SCPD seeking a LTR. Pleasantly plump old-fashioned romantic who loves to be treated like a lady.



ROSIE – I am fun-loving, energetic and affectionate. Looking for laughter, fun and a real connection SAAP seeking a warm & compassionate family



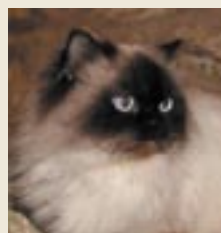
LORANNA – SFD looking for my one & only. Smart & cute with a great smile!



LEVI – Fun loving, energetic SD ISO an energetic family or farm life. I enjoy outdoor activities, upbeat people and lots of love.



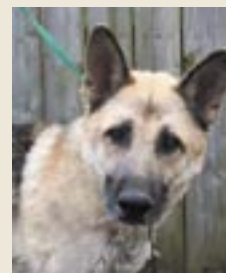
BUDDY JOE BLACK – SHMD looking for a life-long friend to get belly rubs from. Race unimportant.



BLUEY – Exotic SC with long hair and crystal blue eyes ISO quiet gentle home. My motto is "Keep it Simple". I like good dinners, fishing and cuddling.



BUNNY LOVE – Bring lots of love & laughter into your family! Let us hop into your home!



CEASAR – Adventurous, confident SHMD looking for a LTR. Blessed with good looks, intelligence & humor.



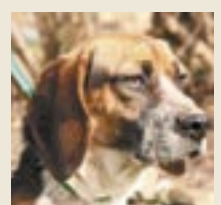
MAX – Attractive, desperate SHMD seeking a family to call my own. I like the outdoors, long walks and playing with my friends



THE COOP – GBD SC seeking a SC home. I like mousing, bird watching and indoor/outdoor activities.



ETNIE – SDMD seeks nice family with a warm bed to share. I am a fun-loving, devoted, affectionate



BIG BIRD – Shy SMD ISO great unpretentious devoted friend with a secure fenced yard. I enjoy fine dining, furry friends and quiet times at home.



SHORTY – Shy SHMD looking for that special person. I love cats & dogs and quiet times at home. (Good things come in small packages.)



MARTY MO – SAAK seeking indoor home with lots of brushes & toys. I like kisses, playtime & eating



DOC – New on the singles scene, me and my siblings are Sagittarius and ISO life-long meaningful relationships. We are all in good

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My people have had a few challenges with me and the rest of my pack. We've not always been perfect canine citizens, although we're all good at heart. There was the time we got a little curious about what was behind the drywall. And there was the other time when we thought it would be a good idea to see how the sofa tasted. There's only one of us, however, who is truly a champion mischief-maker. The tales of Riley are the stuff of legends. He was a rescue who was separated from his dog mom way too soon, plus he's a Weimaraner ... you get the picture (and it's not pretty). My people have hired trainers, read lots of books and tried everything imaginable, but Riley still has a long way to go. (It's a good thing he's cute.)

Recently, however, my people stumbled upon something so obvious and easy that they should have tried it years ago. It's working, and I want to share the results. It's something all dog owners should be doing each and every day. It's also something most people know, but it never hurts to offer a reminder. Lots of times, people start out with the best of intentions for their new puppy, only to see those intentions slide by the time the puppy is an adult.

You see, we live in the

country, and a lot of country dogs don't necessarily go on regular walks with their people. There's lots of room to find a suitable spot, so when Mother Nature calls, it's hardly necessary to grab the leash. The problem is, however, that dogs need to be walked for lots of reasons other than the most practical one. Walking stimulates all of our senses and gives us an escape from the routine. It gives us a chance to feel useful, active, and close to our people. In other words, it keeps us from getting bored and creating things to do around the house. Walking also helps our people in countless ways: it's great exercise, it provides quality time to think and it gives them a chance to bond with us. It's a win-win for everyone.

You cannot imagine the difference a daily walk has made in Riley's behavior. Seeing how well Riley responded, my people decided to walk all of us. We're like new dogs! Of course, I'm not talking about short jaunts. I'm talking about a commitment – at least 30 minutes daily.

If you share your life with a dog and aren't walking together at all, or aren't walking for very long, please give this walking thing a try! Even if your dog is already perfect, you'll see the benefits. February is a great time to start down this path (bad pun intended). You can begin with brief strolls in the cold air. By spring, you'll both be in good enough condition to enjoy

long, energetic walks in warm breezes.

Getting into a routine now also gives you a chance to quickly address any leash issues your dog may have. Some dogs who haven't been used to walking a lot have a tendency to pull or resist the leash. There are great tools to help with these problems, and results are fast.

Consult a good pet supply shop and find out if products like a Gentle Leader, Halti, Easy Walk Harness or martingale could do the trick. Long before spring, you'll have a perfect exercise companion.

So put on comfortable shoes, watch your dog's eyes light up, and explore the great outdoors. It might be a little

cold now, but there's nothing better for cabin fever or winter blues. And there's definitely nothing better for your four-legged friend!

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



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FRIENDS FOR LIFE

MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION GET A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS

ALEX CUDABACK

The Iams Friends for Life Fund, through The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, recently made a \$5,000 grant to the Middleburg Humane Foundation for their efforts to aid and rescue animals separated from their families and injured in the aftermath of this past fall's Hurricane Katrina.

The Fund was started by the Iams Company, a division of Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble, "to give pet lovers worldwide the opportunity to assist with relief efforts for our four-footed family members." It was designed to support the efforts of qualified, not-for-profit organizations assisting pets separated from their families by the disasters.

"Our deepest, heart-felt sympathies go out to all affected," by the hurricanes, said Kelly Vanasse of the Iams Company. "We've established the Iams Friends for Life Fund as a way

for our employees and pet-passionate people worldwide to contribute to the cause."

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Hilleary Bogley, a dedicated and life-long proponent of animals and animal rights, gathered a team of MHF staff and local volunteers, and headed south to Mississippi with three horse trailers filled with animal food and supplies that had been donated throughout the local area. Tri-County Feeds, located just down the road from the Middleburg Humane Foundation, acted as a drop-off point for supplies.

Hilleary organized a second trip to the effected region, this time to New Orleans; this time, she and her team were accompanied by three members of the Middleburg Animal Hospital.

All in all they managed to rescue 58 animals and bring them back to their headquarters in Marshall to continue the long process of rehabilitation and reunion or adoption.

Word of MHF's heroic efforts spread throughout our local area and another good Samaritan, Kate Bland of Wrapped in Kindness, got in touch to see if she could help in any way.

"The work Hilleary and her team were doing, and continue doing to this day, is remarkable. I just wanted to help them help," said Bland.

Kate had lost two pets of her own, labs Sammy and Maddie, in 2003, both to cancer. The Iams Imaging Center in Vienna, Virginia, was instrumental in the diagnosis of Sammy's spinal cancer.

Since then Wrapped in Kindness, has worked to raise money, through the sale of handmade scarves and wraps, pet beds and flip-flops, for, "animal-related charities to support their efforts to provide pets and their families the funds necessary to pay for their veterinary care."

As Bland puts it, "Iams always puts pets first, and given the re-

markable work being done at Middleburg Humane, it only made sense to put the two organizations together. I'm just glad I was able to contribute in my own, small way."

The rest, as they say, is history. The \$5,000 recently received by Middleburg Humane will go to defraying the costs of supplies and transportation during their Katrina operations.

Of the 58 animals rescued from the Gulf Coast region, approximately half have been adopted to date, and 5 have been reunited with their owners.

Rescue and rehabilitation work continues today, as every day, at MHF. Volunteers and donations are always in demand, and much appreciated.

"It's great to support large, national organizations, but it's important not to forget your local groups," reminds Bogley. "Please remember how important it is to support your local, grassroots organizations."

With two groups like the

Middleburg Humane Foundation and Wrapped in Kindness, it would be difficult to forget.

For more information, please visit:

www.middleburghumane.com
www.greatercincinnati.org
www.wrappedinkindness.com

DOGS ORPHANED BY HURRICANES ARRIVE IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

A Loudoun County Animal Care & Control team has returned to the County with 11 dogs & puppies made homeless by Hurricanes Katrina & Rita.

The 11 dogs and puppies are currently in foster homes in order to allow them time to adjust from some very stressful and disruptive circumstances, including their long journey to Virginia. These foster care providers will have the first opportunity to adopt their foster pets, and some have already expressed an interest in making their "hurricane orphan" a permanent member of the family.

Dogs that are not being adopted by their foster families will be made available for adoption from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter beginning on Saturday, February 18.

The Loudoun County Animal Care & Control team joined Fairfax County Animal Care & Control, Prince William County Animal Care & Control, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Manassas Animal Control Services & Adoption Center and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, in traveling to Gulfport, Mississippi last week to bring homeless animals to Northern Virginia for adoption.

Fifty dogs and three cats that were displaced as a result of the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region were brought to the area through this coordinated regional effort.

For more information on pet adoption from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, visit www.loudoun.gov/animals or call 703-777-0406.

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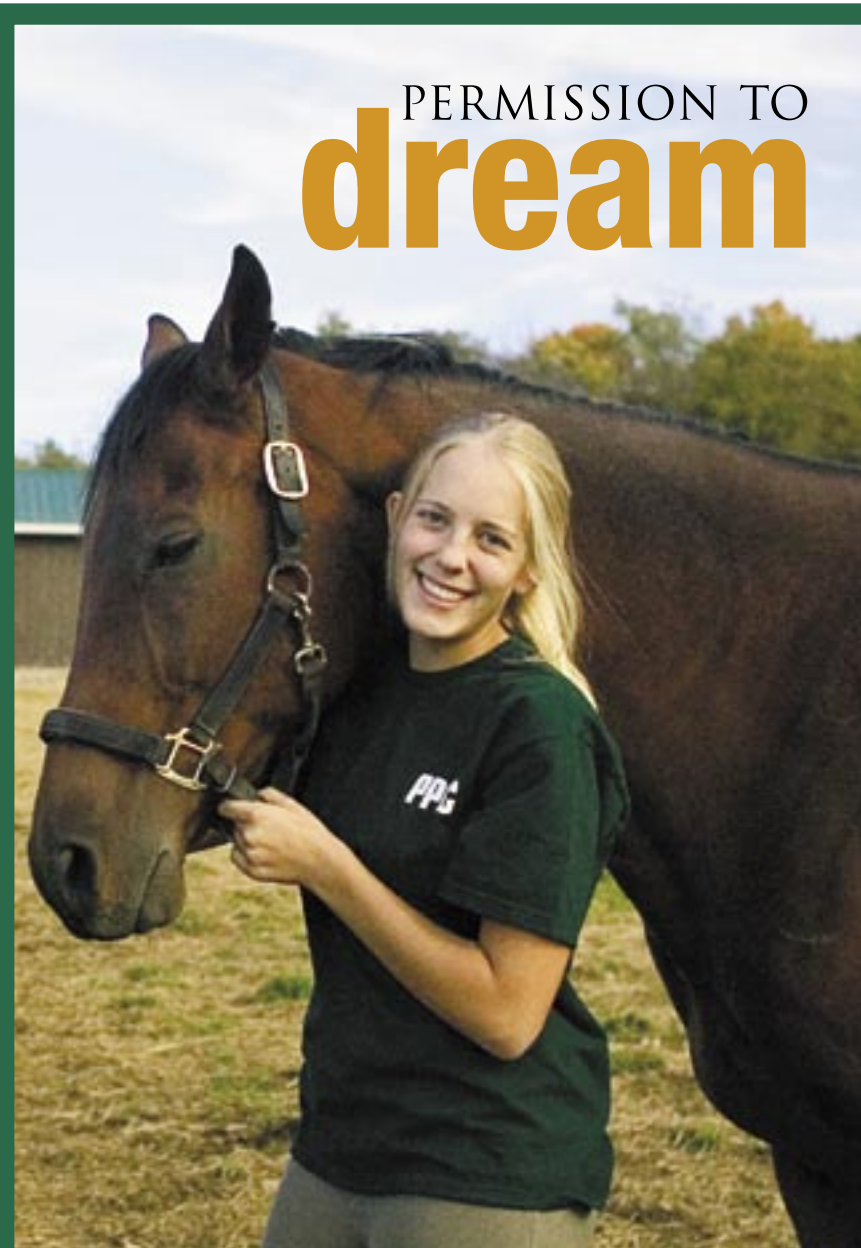
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Morven
Markham, Virginia

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.



John Mosby Highway
Upperville, Virginia

Cute bungalow in the village of Upperville across from the Hunter's Head Restaurant. Large fenced back yard, new 3 bedroom puriflow septic, wood burning fireplace, hardwood floors, and built-in china cupboards. Extensive gardens surrounding the property—very charming and ready to move in. \$450,000.

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Putnams Mill
Orlean, Virginia

Traditional home surrounded by 2 acres of mature landscaping located on a quiet gravel road in Orlean. A charming and immaculate home, tastefully decorated throughout—light-filled rooms, front porch, large rear deck, finished basement, garage and gardener's shed. Perfect setting. Total privacy. \$695,000.



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.

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Longfield
Middleburg, Virginia

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



Foxleigh
Middleburg, Virginia

Minutes from town in a very protected Fauquier County location, very private. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 5 fireplaces, 2-car attached garage, brick home in excellent condition, great main level master suite with fireplace, walk-in closet, exercise room and marble bath with heated floor and jacuzzi. Improvements include 4-car garage with 2nd floor, 3-stall barn, lovely pool, gardens and landscaping on 26.54 acres. \$2,850,000.



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.

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BROOK HOLLOW



63 acres • 4 BR • Family room with FP • First floor Master BR • 2nd family room on lower level • 3 car garage • Views of 5 acre lake & pool • New 7 stall barn • Board fenced paddocks • Great location between Middleburg & Leesburg **\$2,995,000**

SHELBURNE GLEBE



Beautiful property on 190 acres of rolling countryside • Bordered by North Fork, Goose Creek, & Crooked Run • Spring fed pond w/dock • 4 bedroom Cape with wrap-around porch • 8 stall barn • Board fenced paddocks • Ideal for horses • Spect. Views **\$2,990,000**

LEITRIM



Exquisite Georgian Colonial • Approx 7000 square foot with high ceilings, wood floors and gorgeous millwork • 4 Fireplaces • Gourmet kitchen • Banquet sized dining room • Sun-filled Great Room • Wine Cellar • 17+/- acres **\$2,390,000**

MIDDLEBURG DOWNS



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

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**

HARMONY HALL



6.6 acs. on E. Col. Hwy in Hamilton • Stone res. • High ceilings, HW floors, 7FP • Guest cottage • Stone office • Sm. farm bldg w/paddock • Stone Spring House • Great potential as B&B or restored historic home • Sold "AS IS" **\$879,000**

700 WASHINGTON



Charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath stone colonial in the village • Hardwood floors • Spacious rooms • Fireplace with antique mantel • Study • Formal living & dining rooms • Covered porch • Garage with workshop and lots of storage **\$699,000**

LINCOLN



Renovated 1870 frame Victorian • 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath • Blend of old and new with quality updates • Soapstone Counters • Custom Cabinets • Central Air • Large detached Frame Building • 0.62 acres provides garden space with privacy **\$585,000**

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