Middleburg Eccentric™

Middleburg's Only Locally Owned and Operated Newspaper

Volume 3 Issue 8 www.mbecc.com November 23, 2006 ~ December 13, 2006

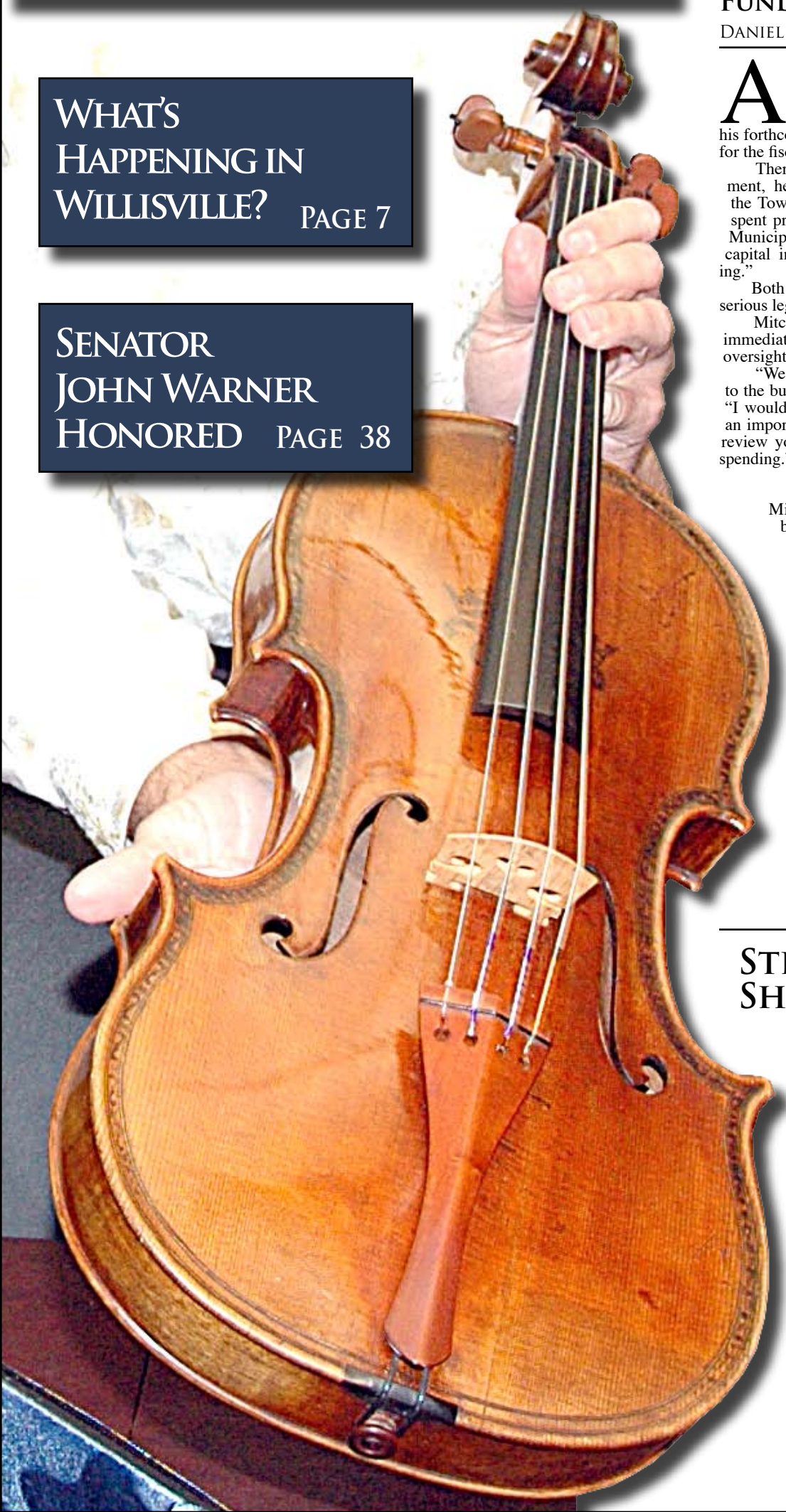
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Middleburg Sees Red

Preliminary Audit Warns of Deficits, Misspent Funds, Inadequate Budget Oversight & Control

Daniel Morrow

At the Thursday, November 9, Middleburg Town Council meeting, Town Auditor and Leesburg CPA Jeff Mitchell delivered what he termed "a little bit sobering" preview of his forthcoming audit of the town's financial records for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2006.

There was no evidence of fraud or embezzlement, he noted, but, on the other hand, in one year, the Town had spent itself deeply into the red and spent proceeds from bonds issued by the Virginia Municipal League for "operations" rather than for capital investment, "the purpose of the borrowing."

Both missteps, Mitchell suggested, could have serious legal as well as financial consequences.

Mitchell also called on Town Council to take immediate steps to establish more effective budget oversight and control.

"We simply weren't monitoring our spending to the budget that had passed," he warned Council. "I would just like to emphasize that that is SUCH an important function for local governments . . . to review your budget in relationship to what you're spending."

The Good News

Mitchell began his "preliminary" audit report by noting, "We found, generally speaking, your books and records to be in order; funds accounted for."

"If there were issues we felt were irregular, or some sort of defalcation [embezzlement, theft or misappropriation of funds] we would immediately communicate to your Mayor," he continued. "There were no instances; there were no issues."

On the other hand, Mitchell's audit brought to light other significant "issues," he described as "not easy" and requiring immediate action by the Council.

Issue I: Middleburg's General Fund Deep in the Red

The Town Auditor's first concern was Middleburg's "negative general fund balance." Mitchell made clear that the Council should focus on both the legal and financial implications of such a deficit.

"Ms. Whiting is here, your legal council, is here," he noted, "and she will advise you at the appropriate time what the issues are with that. But that's a HUGE issue . . . to have your general fund have absolutely no surplus and be in a deficit position."

A cash shortage had already forced the Town to float and emergency loan from Middleburg Bank to pay its bills. A balanced town budget is required by law in Virginia.

A Budget Primer - The Three Funds

Generally speaking, Middleburg's Town Government pays its bills from three different "pools" of money, three "funds," each roughly similar to a checking account. They are:

1. The "General Revenue Fund" (where tax money is deposited and most operating expenses are paid.)
2. The Health and Special Revenue Fund (a restricted, mostly charitable-use fund, which receives revenues from the Town-owned "Health Center Building" (which houses, among other things, police headquarters), and from "Pink Box" proceeds (funds raised by and for the town's visitor center)
3. The Water/Sewer fund (where proceeds from water and sewer bills are deposited, and related operating expenses are paid.)

The Cash "Issue"

On June 30, 2005, the Town of Middleburg had $624,000 "in the bank" in fund number 1, its tax-based "General Revenue Fund."

By June 30, 2006, that fund was $94,000 in the red, a negative change, in the course of one year, of some $718,000.

Fund 2, the "Health and Special Revenue Fund" (with a surplus of just under $20,000) and Fund 3, the "Water/Sewer Fund" fund (showing a surplus of just over $76, 000) helped offset the "General Fund" shortfall . . . but only a little.

Bottom line: The Town's cash and readily accessible investment assets, in total, declined more than $623,000 in the course of a year..

Mitchell described the problem, with an accountant's understated precision, as "a substantial drop in your cash position."

The Equity "Issue"

Similarly, the Town's total "equity" (that is, what's left over after subtracting debts owed by the Town from the total value of its cash and other assets)

Continued Page 4

Stradivarius Takes Flight With Sheila Johnson and Smithsonian

Antonio Stradivari could not have imagined that the decorated and matched string instruments he crafted so carefully would require a private jet to be moved to a leading university for an exhibition and a concert in the early 21st Century.

Stradivari, who lived from 1644 to 1737, created his string instruments in Cremona, Italy. Of the 1,000 instruments he created in his lifetime, the Smithsonian Institution owns what are believed to be the only surviving set of his decorated string instruments.

The Smithsonian was pleased to lend the instruments to the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana for an important musical celebration. The curators were not, however, pleased to entrust the instruments to a commercial airline for the trip.

When Sheila Johnson, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), and an accomplished violinist who studied at the University of Illinois as a music education major volunteered her private jet for the trip to and from Illinois, the Smithsonian, the University of Illinois and the music curators whoa responsible for the well-being of the collection were all delighted.

Johnson, who taught violin to hundreds of children in the Washington, D.C. area, invited Susan Starrett, her music teacher, to accompany her and the Strad collection on the trip.

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News of Note

Mo Dana's Legacy Will Be Her Love of Horses, Her Students, Her Family, Her Friends and Fun



Photo by Teresa Ramsay

Foxhunting with OCH 1983-Lizanne White Driskill on Summer Cruise. Lisa Hubbard Patterson on Masquerade. Lexie Hall. Elizabeth Wiley. Natalie Washburn Longwell on Tramp. Serena Washburn Gost on Father's Physcal Folly. Virginia Fout Whetstone on Hush Puppy. Mo Dana On TL owned by Kate Armfield Fannon.

When Mo Dana lost her battle with breast cancer at 52, the world lost a remarkable individual who never understood that some things were impossible and others simply not appropriate for a young woman who couldn't do anything half way.

"There are no words to describe her," said Michelle Grubb, a close friend who met Mo 36 years ago when both rode ponies for Jimmy Lee. "She was my very special friend, and her spirit lives on in so many of us who knew and loved her."

Grubb was a key supporter when Mo realized how ill she was. She created a place for Mo in her home, and with friends in Florida created a job working with horses for so she could stay busy. Sadly, by the time she arrived in Florida, she was too weak to manage the responsibility, and, eventually had to return to Des Moines for hospice care.

Mo's mother, Christiane Laroque Dana, is French and she named her daughter, Monique. It didn't take long, however, for family and friends to shorten her formal name to the diminutive "Mo." The 5'2" dark haired rider was very fit and hard working, and she left a trail of loyalty, love and respect everywhere she went.

In Des Moines, everyone referred to her as "The Dynamo," so the knick name stuck through all the amazing stages of her life.

Mo's Middleburg: "Good Morning, Mr. Matheson"

Mo was a familiar face at the Middleburg Training Center where she galloped racehorses in the mornings.

Teresa Ramsay met Mo when her husband Greg began shoeing horses for Mo when she was riding SillySal,. Later, when Teresa kept her horse with Mo, she helped her gallop the race horses in the mornings and helped her train pony classes in the afternoons.

"I believe Mo's horse career began at Jane Dillon's in Great Falls," Teresa said. "When her parents moved to Fox Ridge, she settled into Northern Virginia with delight."

As a girl who loved racing, she broke nearly every bone in her body.

Later, she turned her passion for riding into a career, training horses for Jackie Onassis, Paul Mellon and members of leading horse community families like the Wyeth-Duponts, Bloombergs, Firestones and Johnsons.

She worked Yearling Sales at Saratoga and Keenland for well-known horseman Clay Camp, and she rode ninth in the Point-to-Points where she had a very successful career. She once went hunting with Prince Charles and she showed, bought and trained horses for nearly 25 years. But, Mo may best be remembered by the many young riders she trained in Middleburg.

Mo's pony classes evoke startlingly crisp memories among the children she taught to ride and hunt.

"We trailed three days a week and worked in the ring three days a week," remembered Lisa Hubbard Patterson, who, with her brother, Jay, were regular riders in Mo's classes.

"During hunting season, we had to be ready at the crack of dawn in full regalia with our ponies groomed and braided impeccably," Lisa explained.

Mo is remembered as a stickler for civility, and insisted that her young students extend a clear "Good Morning" and a tip of the hat to all adults, at all times. Ten or more children from ten to 16 years hunted with her regularly with Mo in the lead and Teresa bringing up the rear.

"We always followed the adults, " Lisa remembered, "…and one morning, when we had not yet greeted Charlie Matheson before the Hunt began, we rode past him as we approached a jump. Although he had been thrown and was sitting in the grass, every one of Mo's pony class students tipped their hat and said, 'Good Morning, Mr. Matheson,' as we went over the jump he had missed."

"We had so much fun riding with her," Lisa said. "I'm certain the boys wouldn't have worked so hard or enjoyed riding so much with any other teacher."

When Mo left Middlebug, she trained and worked with Allison Firestone, Katie Prudent and Michelle Grubb.

"She was simply an amazing person and an unforgettable friend," said Denise Perry, who remembers galloping over the hills with Mo with her Pony Club riders following closely behind.

"She will be dearly missed," Perry said sadly.

"Horses were her world until she moved to Des Moines where her brother Greg lived," said Teresa. "We saw Mo occasionally after she moved West, but she never talked about how successful she was at the Art Festival or on her radio show. My husband, Greg and I really had no idea about her accomplishments until all the articles and the NBC segment aired after Mo's death."

But no one in Middleburg who knew Mo was at all surprised when they learned how successful she'd been in Iowa. Everyone agreed that, once she put her mind to it, Mo could do anything with the highest level of enthusiasm and accomplishment.

She was tough, but fair-minded, patient but demanding. She was kind and lighthearted and she respected her young students as much as she respected every horse she ever rode.

Mo's Des Moines A gravely voice & legendary chutzpah

Until her last days in Des Moines, Mo "zipped around the streets in her beloved 2005 Mercedes Benz convertible." A horse of a somewhat different stripe, but a horse none the less.

Mo arrived in Des Moines in 1996, after she had spent time in New

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News of Note

Middleburg Sees Red

From Page 1

fell more than $913,000 in a single year . . . from $693, 409 in the black to $219, 726 in the red.

Income vs. Expenses

According to Mitchell & Company, the Town appears to have spent $913,186 more than it took in last year.

The "Pink Box" and the Town's Water and Sewer System at first glance, made money.

The "Pink Box," raising money through contributions and sales at the visitor center, contributed nearly $1,750 to the town.

The Water and Sewer System took in more than $936,000 and spent just over $879,000 . . . netting a paper "profit" of almost $60,000.

The "Health Center" fund, which "spends" most if not all its "profits" each year on charitable contributions, "lost" only $3, 631.

If Middleburg had spent no money at all on "public improvements" in fiscal year 2006, its General Fund would have found itself only a little more than $60,000 in the red. Revenues amounted to $1,309,349. Operating expenses totaled $1,368,968. The resulting deficit, though serious, would have been only around 4.5% of revenues.

"Public Improvements", however, added another $853,567 in expenses to be paid out of the already-in-deficit general fund.

Despite the Virginia requirement that budgets be balanced, the Town recorded "General Fund" expenses that were nearly 70% higher than revenues, and "Total" expenses that were nearly 35% out of line.

How Did This Happen?

The town's auditors began their answer to "What did they know and when did they know it?" by first looking at the budget approved by the Town Council that served under Mayor Tim Dimos and Assistant Mayor Betsy Davis for fiscal year 2006, comparing the amounts budgeted to the amounts actually spent.

Middleburg's expense budget is divided into 12 major categories, roughly, though not precisely, corresponding to the Town's administrative "departments."

According to Mitchell's preliminary report, black ink appeared in only two of those twelve categories: "Insurance" ($526 under budget) and a catch-all "Miscellaneous" category (assigned a precise $48,338 "budget," but showing NO expenditures assigned to it during fiscal year 2006.)

"Tourism/Marketing" expenses were, for all practical purposes, on target for the year . . . with $50, 334 budgeted, $50,353 in expenses, and only a $19 deficit.

Five of the of the remaining nine budget categories, however, were significantly in the red:

The "Capital Outlay, Improvements and Contingent" budget was worst: $768,567 in the red. With an approved budget of only $85,000, the Town spent ten times more than that: $853, 567.

The town overspent its $108,947 "Public Works" budget by $87,608.

"Public Safety", budgeted at $267,118, was more than $46,000 in the red. (Though $20,000 of that amount, spent on equipment, will be returned to the town in the form of grant monies, promised, but not yet collected.)

The Town spent $298,220 on "Administrative Salaries", some 40,000 over its $257,569 budget.

"Planning and Zoning" activities, budgeted at $54,000, actually totaled more than $93,000, more than $39,000, roughly 72% over budget.

"Administrative Services" contributed more than $34,000 to the deficit, with expenditures of $151,187 and a budget of only $117,000.

"Building Expense", "Administrative Supplies", and "Employee Benefits" contributed significant, but lesser amounts to the deficit.

Issue II: A Water/Sewer System That Leaks Cash (and Water)

From a cash-flow perspective even the $56, 978 in black ink contributed by the Town's "Water and Sewer Fund" was described as something of an illusion.

The town earned $87, 953 last year from rental of space on its water tower to cell phone companies, and $300, 434 in one-time "availability" or "hook up" fees. Clearly, Town Auditor Mitchell noted, these amounts did not did not represent income directly generated by ongoing "operations" of the water and sewer system.

After adding back "depreciation" of $216, 359 (which had been charged as an "expense" but did not really represent an outflow of cash) water and sewer system operating losses, in cash terms, came to $115,050.

Mitchell also pointed out, with some dismay, that the town continues to bill water system customers for only about 55% of the water that it is pumping from its wells.

"We highlight that every year, " Mitchell said. "You're treating and pumping a lot of water that you're not billing for, for whatever reason."

Issue III: Unauthorized Spending of Funds from Virginia Municipal League Bonds

In 2005, the Town of Middleburg borrowed $1, 305,000 to finance "capital improvements" to the Towns decrepit water and sewer systems. The money was borrowed from the proceeds of a Virginia Municipal League bond issue,

After paying $55,000 in "issuance" costs for the loan, the town was left with $1,250,000 to spend on capital improvements.

Audited records show that the Town actually spent only $1,017,657 of that amount on expenses that fit, in the auditor's words, "the purpose of the borrowing."

Ostensibly, that left $232, 343 still available to be spent on capital improvements. Good news, it would seem at first glance.

But an audit of the town's Water/Sewer Fund showed only $75,646 in cash on hand at the end of fiscal year 2006 . . . NOT the $232,434 that should have been left in the fund.

Where was the missing $156,697? Spent, and worse, spent , apparently, on the wrong things.

"What we've done," Mitchell told the Council, "was take these bond proceeds, and spent them for operations."

"We have not spent the money for the purpose of the borrowing." he continued. "I just wanted to point that out."

Mitchell concluded his report by reiterating that " . . . Ms Whiting is here. She's legal counsel. At the appropriate time she will be communicating with Council on these issues."

Whiting noted that she has been actively engaged for the past month "doing research in response to Jeff Mitchell's findings" . . . research as to "what options are available for mid-year correction in terms of trying to find sources of income that can start to retire some of the red ink from last year's budget."

Council Reaction

Even Council Members who had been well briefed during the preceding months appeared shocked at the scope of the problem, revealed officially by Mitchell, unusually, at a full Council meeting rather than at a preliminary meeting of the Town's Finance and Personnel Committee.

"When will we get the full report?," several members asked.

"Very soon." Mitchell replied. "Certainly this month, November."

Veteran Council Member Mark Snyder, noted that Council was already aware of "some" of the issues but "not the severity of all of them." He asked if Mitchell's final report would include any "specific recommendations." "Obviously," Snyder said, "We're all very concerned about this."

Mitchell volunteered to attend a work session to discuss the audit in more detail. As for policy, Mitchell said he did not intend to make "specific recommendations" but, he said " . . . there's lots of issues here."

"We need to get back on track. Obviously we've gone way off track," Snyder concluded. "It's the worst financial report I can ever recall."

Mayor Davis "State of the Town" Message Promised for December

Mayor Betsy Davis noted that the Town Staff and Council has been hard at work trying to address many of the issues raised by Mitchell for some time.

She, like most members of her Council, was hesitant to make detailed comments before reviewing Mitchell's final audit report, due later this month.

"I don't really want to comment too much on specifics at this time," she noted, "as we are still processing all of the facts and figures. It would be unfair to make specific comments until we have reviewed everything thoroughly."

"Once we make our final report," Davis said, "we can move forward and make ourselves stronger than before. We need the support of our town and it's citizens and hope that they will help us to continue to move forward."



Middleburg Elementary 4th Grade Presentation
Phoebe Bains, Alexius Simms, Cole Smith, Jose Iberra-Mendoza, James MacLeod, Taylor Saunders

New Town Manager

Mayor Davis also noted that the Town had just voted unanimously to hire Jerry Schiro of Luray as Middleburg's new Town Administrator. Schiro is scheduled to start work in Middleburg on January 2.

"We are thrilled," she told the Eccentric. "He comes to us with over 30 years of municipal experience and will be a great asset to our town."

Davis also expressed her thanks to Acting Town Administrator, Claudia Dornin. "She has done an outstanding job under extremely hard circumstances, " Davis said, "and we are grateful for her dedication and perseverance."

Indeed, she continued, "All of our employees have worked very hard to make sure everything continued to run smoothly. We are very proud of all of them."

Town Businesses (and Smokers) to Pay?

Significant debated on revenue enhancements had, indeed, already taken place.

As early as August 29, the Town's Finance and Personnel Committee indicated that "revenue increases" in the form of tax and utility rate hikes "would likely be necessary in FY2007" to offset deficits.

After meeting with the Town Auditor and the Town Staff on November 1, and with her full Council later the same day, Mayor Davis proposed convening a public hearing in December to discuss, among other things:

- a 10% increase in water and waste-water treatment fees
- a 33% increase (from 3% to 4%) in the Town's "Meal Tax"
- a 67% increase (from 3% to 5%) in the "Occupancy Tax"
- a $0.35 tax per pack on cigarette sales.

Town Attorney Liz Whiting pointed out that these fees and taxes were roughly equivalent to those charged in neighboring communities.

She also noted that a real-estate-tax increase had been considered, but rejected because of the high costs of implementing such a mid-course correction.

On November 9 Council voted unanimously to convene a Public Hearing on December 14, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, to consider the increases. Seven days earlier, on November 2, 2006, the long awaited proceeds from a TEA-21 grant to build the Town's new Liberty Street parking lot were finally deposited, adding $157, 998.85 to the Town's coffers.

Tax Revenue Down; Tax Bills Delayed

With the town already operating on borrowed money, Town Treasurer Debbie Jewel reported a $5,000 decrease in receipts from the Town's "Meal and Occupancy" tax, some 20% less than receipts "from last year's revenue at this time.

She also reported that tax bills had not gone out on time, because critical data from Loudoun County had not been forthcoming in a computer format that she could use. "Other towns are experiencing the same problem," she noted, speculating that once she received properly formatted data, things "should go smoothly."

Fee Waivers for Windy Hill

Despite concerns over costs, and the relatively high concentration of "affordable housing" projects in and around Middleburg, Council voted unanimously to approve a request by Kim Hart on behalf of the Windy Hill Foundation to waive development fees totaling $8, 385 for the Windy Hill Elderly Housing Project.

The Middleburg decision improves Windy Hill's chances of gaining reductions in similar fees at the County level of some $40,000.

Such signs of "community approval" and "engagement" at the town and county level also significantly enhance the Foundation's standing in the eyes of other potential partners and sources of funding.

Christmas Gifts for Board Members and Town Employees

Council also passed, unanimously, a proposal to fund Christmas gifts for Town Employees and people who had served on the Town's Boards during the past year. Town employees receive $50 gift certificates, redeemable at Middleburg merchants and restaurants. Members of the Town's Planning Commission, Historic District Review Committee, and the Board of Zoning Appeals receive $25 certificates.

No Right on Red

Eura Lewis's Public Safety Committee reported that a new, no-right-on-red, policy for Middleburg's only traffic light would be soon be implemented for a six-month trial.

Stradivarius Takes Flight

From Page 1



Sheila Johnson with her violin teacher. Susan Starrett

She said she was honored to provide transport for the instruments that are the core of the Smithsonian's Chamber Music program to the Champaign-Urbana campus of the University of Illinois.

The Strads, renowned for their extraordinary craftsmanship and tonal beauty, are on loan for over a month, and will be played to kick off the university's 2006 American Music Month.

Johnson, Gary Strum, Smithsonian curator of music, Starrett and the Strads enjoyed a peaceful and uneventful flight.

Describing the instruments before the flight, Starrett said, "You don't play a Stradivarius, a Stradivarius plays itself."

Recognized for her philanthropy, Johnson is known for her contributions to the arts. She was recently recognized by Americans for the Arts at their annual award ceremony in New York City with the Freerick R. Weisman Award for Philanthropy in the Arts.

Johnson, who's passion for art education is well known, speaks nationally on the need to bring art back to the classroom, is also the founder of Salamander Enterprises headquartered in Middleburg, Virginia.

Antonio Stradivari, who was recognized for the quality of his string instruments during his lifetime, is believed to have perfected the violin in his workshop. Both his sons continued his work after his death.

Stradivari would, undoubtedly, have been pleased to know how vigilant the Smithsonian's curatorial staff was with his beautiful instruments, and honored by Johnson's generosity and commitment.

SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Middleburg area advocacy group seeks dynamic individual to serve as Executive Director and Office Administrator.

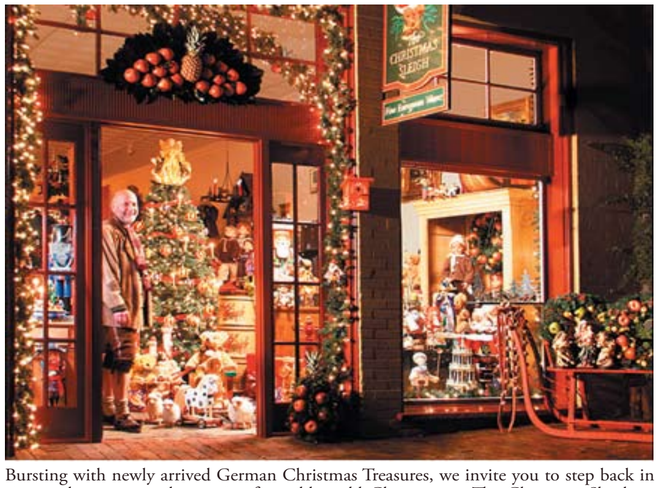
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News of Note

Colson Portrait Unveiled at Prison Fellowship Celebration

The much-anticipated portrait of Chuck Colson was unveiled at his 75th birthday celebration by Virginia artist Timothy Chambers at the world headquarters of Prison Fellowship.

Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship and former advisor to President Nixon, was moved by the portrait, stating that he was very pleased with Mr. Chambers work. The life-size painting departs from typical portrait compositions that represent the subject in a dark suit, at a desk, in a library setting, instead showing Colson outdoors reading without a jacket in a relaxed yet distinguished pose.

Many in attendance remarked how "warm and full of personality" the portrait is, saying that Mr. Chambers accurately captured Mr. Colson in a colorful and approachable painting.

The celebration of Colson's 75th birthday coincided with the Prison Fellowship's 30th anniversary. Over 250 people attended the by-invitation-only dinner to honor Colson's service and his Prison Fellowship ministry that serves prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families in more than 112 countries to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families.

Guests included former Attorney General and State Senator of Virginia Mark Earley, who is also the current President and CEO of Prison Fellowship, former professional football player Senator Jack Kemp, former Governor of Minnesota, the Honorable Albert H. Quie, five-time Grammy award-winning music artist Steven Curtis Chapman, and video appearances from President Bush, Franklin Graham and others.

Chambers is the first and only artist granted the honor of portraying Mr. Colson, who has declined previous invitations.

"Chuck has always resisted drawing any attention to himself," said Alan Terwilliger, senior vice-president, ministry relations and Wilberforce Forum at Prison Fellowship.



Tim recalls that Chuck was approachable from the start.

"His humble and kind demeanor was a real contrast to his reputation as Nixon's 'hatchet man," Chambers said.

"Chuck truly is a servant first and foremost, yet he is a man steeped in wisdom and knowledge. Our conversations during the sittings were candid

Continued Page 14

Piedmont Community Foundation Accepts Donation from HCA for Two Endowment Funds

The directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) are pleased to announce a $60,000 donation from Hospital Corporation of America (HCA Virginia), Broadlands Regional Medical Center (BRMC), to establish two new endowment funds at the community foundation. Loudoun Interfaith Relief, Inc.(LIR) and Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers (LVC) each received a $30,000 deposit for their funds.

Executive director, Bonnie Inman, of Loudoun Interfaith Relief (LIR) expressed deep appreciation to BRMC and HCA for establishing the endowment and the addition of significant seed money.

"As the fund grows it will enable us to perpetuate our mission and ensure that we can help the children and families who need us," Inman said. "Everyday the hungry reach out to us and we are very grateful for those who help us help those less fortunate."

Nancy A. Sutton, executive director of Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers added, "With the establishment of this fund, BRMC has once again proven their commitment to the Loudoun community and the non-profits that serve the residents."

"One of my dreams, for the past five years, has been to have an endowment fund for Caregivers. I believe that having guaranteed income and unlimited potential for growth is a major stepping stone in financial security for Caregivers," Sutton said.

She concluded by saying, "When a working collaborative relationship exists among businesses and non-profits, everyone benefits."

Megan Descutner, Director of Community and Government Relations for Broadlands Regional Medical Center (BRMC), an HCA Virginia facility, said, "We are pleased to help the Piedmont Community Foundation secure financial base for charitable work in our community."

BRMC, in addition to these two endowments, has also placed a previous fund with PCF benefiting the Windy Hill Senior Scholarship Fund to subsidize low rents for seniors.

"Above all else, HCA Virginia and BRMC are committed to the care and improvement of human life. We are thrilled to be helping some of Loudoun County's most effective community organizations further their good work," Descutner added.

Karen Krei, executive director of the Piedmont Community Foundation, praised HCA for the generous gifts the organization has made for the betterment of the community. The endowments demonstrate the important role a community foundation fills to build new philanthropic capital for our local area.

For information on how the community can contribute to the new endowment funds, contact Karen Krei at the Piedmont Community Foundation, 540-687-5223.

Candidates Needed for Town Council & Committees

The Middleburg Town Council is considering candidates for appointment to vacancies on Town Council and two town Committees. The following bodies have appointment terms beginning on appointment and ranging from one-to-five-year terms.

Town Council: The Town of Middleburg operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The eight-member town Council includes seven Council Members and a Mayor, who votes only in case of a tie. All are elected at-large, with Council Members serving four-year terms and the Mayor serving a two year term. The Town council represents the citizens of Middleburg in the governing process and acts on their behalf with regard to regional and local issues as well as State and Federal matters. Vacancies on Council are filled for the unexpired term from among the qualified voters of the town by a majority vote of the remaining members of Council. The Town Council convenes Regular Meetings on the second Thursday of each month and holds Special Meetings on an occasional basis, as deemed necessary. The Town Council generally meets in Work Session on the Monday before its regular meeting. The Town Council appoints the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and Chief of Police, as well as members of various Boards and Commissions. This appointment runs through June 30, 2008.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA): Local zoning regulations provide controls for specific land uses in designated areas of Town. Citizens who seek exceptions to those regulations or disagree with the Town's enforcement ask the BZA to hear their cases. Membership is open to Town residents and appointments are made by the Circuit Court upon recommendation of the Town Council. Meetings are scheduled as needed. This appointment runs through January 9, 2007.

Historic District Review Committee (HDRC): The HDRC acts on applications for certificates of appropriateness in accordance with the Middleburg Zoning Ordinance. The members assist and advise the Town Council and Planning Commission in matters involving historically significant sites and buildings, and conduct studies deemed necessary by the Town Council and Planning Commission concerning means of preservation and utilization of historic assets in the town. The Committee consists of eight members who are appointed by the Town Council. Professional training or equivalent experience in architecture, landscape architecture, history, architectural history, archaeology or planning is preferred for this appointment. Monthly meetings are 1st Thursday of each month. This appointment runs through December 31, 2008.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest or resume' to the Town Council via Dianne L. MacMillan, Town Clerk by mail, fax or email.

Community Responds to Renovate Fauquier Free Clinic

Compassionate Donor and NPCF Combine Forces to Make An Important Difference

The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation (NPCF) facilitated gifts of over $106,000 for the Fauquier Free Clinic's building renovation and new program costs.

The community responded overwhelmingly to NPCF's appeal which enabled the Foundation to make a direct contribution of $11,925 to the Fauquier Free Clinic. The money raised was used to support improvements and mechanical upgrades to the Clinic's new building. Simple but critically important items such as waiting room chairs, exam stools and thermometers were also purchased with the gift.

In addition to NPCF's donation, a compassionate anonymous donor was inspired to contribute $95,000 directly to the Fauquier Free Clinic for medicinal tracking software, start-up costs for the new pharmacy and an additional clinician to care for the clinic's patients. This anonymous donation allowed the Fauquier Free Clinic to greatly enhance its services.

At the July 30 Grand Opening Celebration, Rob Marino, Executive Director of the Fauquier Free Clinic expressed his gratitude to everyone involved. "This building represents a ton of work by a lot of nice people and I'd like to thank all of those who made this happen."

"Thank you to all the generous individuals and businesses who contributed to NPCF's appeal for the Fauquier Free Clinic. Together we can make a difference. Your donations will be remembered by NPCF's listing on the Free Clinic's donor wall," said Elizabeth Henrickson, Executive Director of the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation

The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation is a public charity established in 2001 serving Culpeper, Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Henrickson at 540-349-0631 or P.O. Box 182, Warrenton, VA 20188.

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What's Happening in Willisville?

An Interview with Kim Hart



Breaking ground together are, from left to right: Jennifer Grant, Kim Hart, Supervisor, Steve Snow, representing LCSA, Angela King, Earl Hampton, Supervisor Jim Burton, representing the Board of Supervisors, Ann Lee, Lottie Payne, Ethel Smith, Bernice Smith, and Emma Howard.

Eccentric: What is happening in Willisville?

Hart: Believe it or not, in the richest County in America, there are still over 100 homes that have an outhouse as their only bathroom.

About 8 years ago, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Loudoun Public Health Department agreed that it was a health hazard to have both active outhouses and shallow wells in the small village of Willisville—about eight miles northwest of Middleburg. It was proposed that all existing houses in the core of the village be upgraded to have working bathrooms and that an on-site wastewater collection and treatment system be installed for the village.

Unfortunately, the bureaucratic hurdles for the project turned out to be substantial and the project stalled until last spring when, at the insistence of Jim Burton, the County put the project into high gear. Subsequent stories in Leesburg Today and The Washington Post added momentum to the project.

Eccentric: How did Windy Hill get involved?

Hart: In June, the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA) put the project out for bid but they didn't get any bidders. In short, there are lots of risks in this project: it is a small project with no economies of scale; people are living all over the construction site; it is a long way from town; rock isn't very deep; and the required drain field is really complicated. And, there isn't much potential profit to offset those risks. The private sector just wasn't willing to take on this job. So, the residents of Willisville asked the Windy Hill Foundation to help. Based on our good relationships with Loudoun County, the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA), and the Health Department, we were able to negotiate a contract that we think can address the risks but at a fair price to the County.

Eccentric: How much will the project cost and who is paying for it?

Hart: The project has two parts. On the house side, our subcontractors will build five new bathrooms (generally as additions to existing houses), drill two new wells, and de-commission six outhouses, failing septic systems, and shallow wells. That part of the job will cost $305,000 and will be paid for in three ways: the Loudoun Co. Housing Trust Fund will contribute $250,000; the Loudoun Community Action Agency will contribute $25,000; and Trinity Church in Upperville and its members are pledged to cover the remaining $30,000. Franny Kansteiner is leading that effort.

The other part of the project is the wastewater collection and treatment system. That involves several thousand feet of buried pipe, an on-site treatment facility, and a very sophisticated on-site drain field. All designed to be owned and operated by LCSA, the combined cost of this system will be about $850,000. By unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors, supplemental funding was approved to complete this project.

Eccentric: Why does this project cost so much?

Hart: In short, because the ground in Willisville doesn't perk.

If a developer were applying to the County to build a subdivision in Willisville today, it wouldn't be approved. But that isn't how Willisville got there. About 140 years ago, in 1867 when the community was founded, the former slaves who bought ground there paid what they could afford. It is no surprise that they weren't given the best ground in the County.

But the community put down its roots and they stuck. The beautiful stone church in the center of the village is a pretty good symbol of the community: solid and not moving someplace else. But, the ground still doesn't perk.

Nearly half of the cost of the Willisville wastewater treatment system will be for one of the most sophisticated drain fields in Loudoun County. The effluent from up to 11 lots will be completely disposed of on about one acre that doesn't perk. Willisville is taking one giant step from recycling its waste--on-site--with 18th century technology to some of the most sophisticated recycling technology of the 21st century. That isn't cheap.

Eccentric: Wait a minute, I thought you were the guy who hated alternative septic systems?

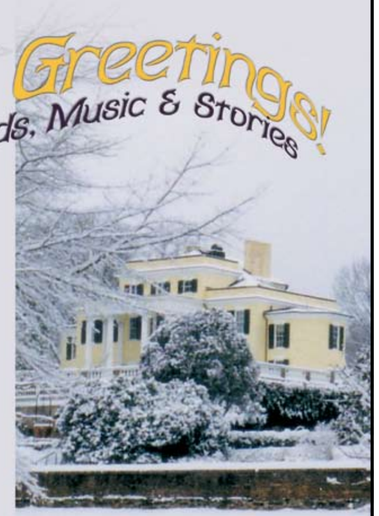
Hart: I still do! Howard Lewis and I spent most of last spring explaining to anyone in Loudoun County who would listen that alternative septic systems are a bad idea as a tool for allowing development of individual lots that don't perk. They are a "fussy" high-tech solution that can fail all too easily in the hands of unsophisticated homeowners.

We also said, however, that they are really the only tool for helping homeowners who have existing homes on lots where conventional systems have failed, like Willisville.

And, we proposed that in subdivisions where there are multiple lots that don't perk, there should be a community system—owned and operated by LCSA-- instead of individual alternative systems. Willisville is actually a model of how we might use community systems as a way to reduce the potential negative

Continued Page 17

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- Adults $10; Seniors $9; Students $7; children 5 and younger free.
- House tours on the hour and half hour; last tour at 4 pm.

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- **Teddy Bear Tea** Dec. 17; $24.95 (+ tax)
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News of Note

S. Murry Rust Family & PCF Fund Student Philanthropy Project

The Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce "The S. Murray Rust and Mary H. C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project." The project honors the principle of encouraging youth philanthropy, an aspect of giving that was of high importance to Mr. and Mrs. S. Murray Rust during their lifetimes.

The youth philanthropy project is established as a permanent charitable endowment and is seeded by the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Sterling Murray Rust and Mary Hilton Coburn Rust. S. Murray Rust was the youngest and 16th child of Ida Lee Rust and Colonel Armistead Thomas Mason Rust of Leesburg, Virginia.

The project encourages student volunteerism and philanthropy by engaging young people in decision making about the distribution of grant dollars while developing skill sets of philanthropic leadership and stewardship in each generation of students. The goal is to promote permanent strategic student philanthropy through an on-going annual grant-making program, advised and self-perpetuated by upper school students in Fauquier and Loudoun counties.

The Rusts, a large and diverse family, are one of Virginia's earliest pioneer families who have figured prominently in the affairs of the commonwealth since 1654. Many philanthropic projects in our area have the Rust name involved as benefactors. The Piedmont Community Foundation is pleased to have the support of the S. Murray Rust family descendants to help launch this significant community outreach program.

A steering committee of students will advise the PCF directors on a minimum of $5,000 in grants annually for local youth driven service projects that must involve young people in planning, implementing and evaluating the project. Responsibilities for the students include assessing the needs of their communities as perceived by their age group; determining how and where to advertise the project to attract proposals; act as spokespersons; review grant proposals submitted by school clubs, youth groups and nonprofits; conduct site visits and interview applicant organizations; and make the appropriate funding decisions to submit to the PCF directors who must have final approval of all funding.

Students will have the requests for proposals out in the community in December 2006 with a grant application due date of February 1, 2007.

Youth philanthropy promotes positive youth development, builds diverse interpersonal connections, enhances community by engaging youth voice, strengthens community resources and provides a positive view of young people. Participation increases students' chances for community roles in the future and has a lasting effect on young people and the adults involved with them.

Those interested in helping support the new project should contact PCF executive director, Karen Krei at 540 687 5223.

TH

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An Individual Statement

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The challenge for me is to constantly be able to find wonderful new pieces. Not only must they be beautifully designed, they must be timeless so the pieces may be worn by two or three generations. The classic styles that I sell are similar to the jewelry that Tiffany & Co. has built their reputation on. The difference between Thos. Hays and Son and Tiffany & Co. is that they are in unattractive Tyson's Corner, while I am in lovely Middleburg. They also must charge you for their extremely high overhead, while I give you a 20% discount on each purchase. We are both, however, extremely knowledgeable about our jewelry, and we both sell only the highest quality.

I always look forward to seeing you, especially as the holiday season draws near.

Tom Hays

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Mo Dana's Legacy

From Page 3



Photo by Teresa Ramsay

York City where she was married and divorced.

"I love New York City," she once told the Des Moines Register, "…But I tell my friends that New York is the greatest spectator sport in the world. If you want to participate in life, you've got to come to Iowa."

"Of course, to say Dana merely participated in life is like saying P.T. Barnum organized a few talent shows," according the Register.

When she moved to Iowa, she took a job with Von Maur selling shoes because, she said, she couldn't stand to go a day without working. A year later, she applied to the Des Moines Arts Festival in response to an advertisement for an assistant director of the Des Moines Arts Festival.

The Register article notes that Mo was not a perfect fit for the job, but she wanted it so badly that, in her interview, she "blurted out that she would work for free."

She remembered that she couldn't keep her opinions to herself.

"I said, 'you want to have this arts festival in nine months? With $20,000 in the bank, no name and no site picked out for it yet? Who do you think would move here for this job? Let me have a shot."

The Board decided to give her the top job.

According to the Register, she hit the bulls-eye. The Arts Festival had originated in the late '50's in a parking lot with student organizers. Professional artists joined the event in the 1980's and it grew into space in Greenwood Park before it moved to the State Fairgrounds.

When Mo took over in 1997, the festival moved to the downtown bridges and she "invited" local companies for donations, routinely building a fund of a million dollars for the event each year.

How did she do it? By being Mo.

She created exciting new ideas, commanded a small army of volunteers, and suddenly, replicas of English gardens were growing on the riverbanks, elaborate fountains danced from the middle of the bridges, twenty-foot paintbrushes towered above the festival entrances and she moved earth to install new sidewalks.

Mo listened carefully to the artists. She searched for problems and fixed every one of them. She encouraged shy Iowans to chat up the artists and, by doing so, built understanding and appreciation that created an unshakable foundation of trust and appreciation for the festival.

When Greg Lawler, editor of the Art Fair Source Book created an award for the country's best art fair directors in 2005, the first award went to Mo Dana.

"I wanted to recognize her for the incredible contribution she made to this whole business nationwide," Lawler said. "She helped artists and her community."

Now, to memorialize Dana, Lawler intends to name the annual award for her.

"Mo was a spark plug for us all," said Martha Willits, president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. "She always asked, 'Can we pull ourselves together in big ways for fun?'

Although Mo had accepted an offer to be the first executive director of the Des Moines Downtown Community Alliance, she was being lured back to New York for a fund raising job.

Des Moines leaders were devastated to lose her, and she was sad to leave, but the opportunity excited her and she made plans to move east;

Unfortunately, doctors discovered cancer in her breast, lungs and lower spine.

She declined the job and returned to Iowa to be with friends and family and for treatment.

When her health deteriorated during a visit with Michelle Grubb and friends in Palm Beach, Florida she returned to Des Moines and entered Mercy Hospice November 2nd.

Mo Dana died at Mercy Hospice November 9th after an eight-month battle with cancer.

Best Actress Award

There have been celebrations in her memory, and many tributes in the press and on the NBC affiliate. But what Mo may like best will be the tribute to her at the National Horse Show. November 30th in Wellington, Florida.

"We're going to roast Mo during the service for her," said her good friend Michelle Grubb. "We're going to place her ashes in an Oscar statuette, like the ones that are awarded at the Academy Awards."

"That's precisely what she said she wanted, and we're going to engrave the Oscar with these words: 'Awarded to the best actress in a medical drama,' just as she asked before she died."

As so many said as this story was being researched,

"We have all lost a great friend, and an exceptional human being."

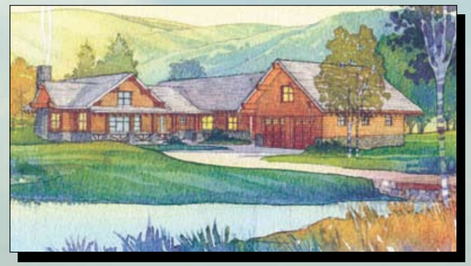
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Editor's Desk

Nice Try. But, No Cigar!

Now that Dominion Virginia Power has excluded most of Loudoun County from their plan for a towering power line, the perpetrators of this monstrosity masquerading as a homeland security necessity may assume we'll all roll over and play dead.

Think again.

We can be almost certain that these 15-story, high-voltage-bearing, steel grid and lattice-work edifices will be near enough for our neighbors to feel and suffer from their presence whether they are planted in Fauquier, Frederick, Prince William or Warren Counties. And one substation on the 240-mile long line, planted in a 150-foot-wide, tree-cleared lane, will reside in southern Loudoun.

Dominion Power intends to announce the precise location later this month, and the word is already out that, should we contest or delay the project, "power-hungry communities could face rolling blackouts."

We know from earlier announcements that the power traveling over these lines is destined, primarily, to serve New York, DC, and other metropolises in the Northeast, not Northern Virginia citizens. We can also assume with some degree of confidence that the real beneficiary will be the bottom line of Dominion Virginia Power.

Let's not let this happen. This is the 21st Century. Greedy electric companies cannot be allowed to throw their weight around in Congress, and, thereby in our corner of the world. This is too reminiscent of the recent oil-and-gas-price fiasco that we watched, and paid for, as the profit reports rolled in to the oil companies, and made us hang our heads in shame for not standing up to them.

If these lines are so badly needed, bury them. Or prepare to hear from already enlightened citizens, who have had enough, and aren't going to take it anymore.

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:

Jim Duszynski, chief executive officer for Greenvest LC issued the following statement today:

On behalf of my executive team, the employees of Greenvest, and the planning professionals on our team, we thank the many residents of the community who have so steadfastly supported our Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) application for planned communities in the Dulles South area of Loudoun County.

Our original CPAM proposal is the culmination of our collective knowledge and effort to provide the best possible community development proposals and long range planning to Loudoun County.

We regret that the proposal is apparently not acceptable to the majority of the Board of Supervisors, but remain committed to building quality communities in Loudoun County. We look forward to working with George Mason University, the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the County staff to work out a successful resolution that could bring, among other things, a world-class university campus, road improvements at no cost to the taxpayers and more affordably-priced housing to Loudoun County.

To the Editor:

The people have spoken and a majority of our elected representatives on the Loudoun BOS have listened. For that I thank you.

I am gratified with the result and with the civic involvement it has generated. Some will think I am crazy saying this, but I feel that in some ways this situation has actually brought Loudoun County closer together. Many, maybe most, of us who live here were born somewhere else. The events of the past year or so have brought us out of our cul-de-sacs and SUV's to frankly and openly discuss local issues of concern to all of us. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the many ordinary residents, on both sides, who have made their voices heard thru BOS testimony, correspondence, handing out fliers and writing letters to the editor of the many local newspapers. Now that we have taken ownership of the problem we must take ownership of the solution.

Those of us who fought this CPAM look forward to the beginning of a true dialogue amongst County residents that will bring balanced, sustainable growth (quality jobs, services, infrastructure, housing) to Dulles South. Just as ordinary residents have risen up against uncontrolled overdevelopment, so must we work against those who naively support keeping a strict status quo. Loudoun must surely change in order to grow and prosper; but we must do so in a way that preserves some of wonderful things that brought us here. Loudoun residents have learned we need to continue working together to control our own destiny, not surrendering our fates to outside parties such as Greenvest LC and PEC.

Another point that needs to be reemphasized over and over again is the need to increase the pressure on Richmond so that they will finally begin to return to Loudoun County a fair share of the taxes paid by its residents. Loudoun County is part of a Northern Virginia region which is a vital economic engine for not only Virginia but the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Our economic leadership needs to expand into political and civic leadership for the entire Commonwealth.

Many of us have said all along that our opposition to the CPAMs is not a Democratic or Republican position, it a common sense position. Supporting balanced growth, diversity, quality of life, and fiscal responsibility is something we all can agree on.

Tom Conway
Aldie, Virginia

To the Editor:

Thanksgiving is a time for sharing and caring. The Thanksgiving Store, sponsored by the Community Holiday Coalition, provided food for traditional Thanksgiving celebrations and warm coats to more than 890 Loudoun County families. The "Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program" along with hundreds of individuals who volunteered their time and effort to collect and donate food, stock the store, assemble food boxes, personal care baskets, and sort coats made the Eleventh Annual Thanksgiving Store a success.

We wish to thank all the individuals, schools, community groups, churches, scouts, restaurants, small and large businesses, and everyone else who helped to make this effort such a great success. This effort to coordinate services for those in need is a true community effort that brings people of all circumstances together, to help "brighten up" the holidays for thousands of Loudoun County citizens.

To everyone who left a bag out for the Boy Scouts to pick up, to everyone that dropped off holiday to everyone that personally brought in trucks, vans and cars filled with holiday food, personal and household basket and warm winter coats we express our gratitude for caring and sharing. There will be more opportunities to help during the upcoming holiday season. The December Holiday Store, which was generously donated by Buchanan Partners, will be held at the Dulles Trade Center I - 23430 Rock Haven Way, Suite 160 in Dulles from December 6 through December 19. We look forward to seeing many of our old friends and meeting new ones as we reach out once again to "brighten up the holidays" for our friends and neighbors. For more information visit our website at www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday or call us at 703.771.5718. Once again, many thanks to all who helped make the Thanksgiving "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program a success. We wish you all

The brightest of holidays!

Karen Velez
Program Coordinator,
Community Holiday Coalition

Rant & Raves

Red vs Blue

How to Win

Mark Tate - (R)

So Election day has passed and the National Democratic party has finally figured out how to win.

And win they have. The Democrats have taken control of both houses of congress and picked up many Governors' mansions. How did they do this? Well, they used a new sort of voter fraud. You see they recruited former Republicans to run as Democrats. Their messages were basically soft Republican messages, and then attack the incumbent Republican by throwing everything at him but the kitchen sink. It does not matter if the attack in true or not... just attack.

Now the democrats, with their ever so slight majority, need to govern.

The new democrat leadership now has to produce results with a very divided caucus.

More importantly for me, the republican leadership needs to show the voters they deserve to be put back in the majority. They have two years to return to fiscally conservative principles. And to show the voters we are the party of less government, lower taxes and more Freedom. And the Republican leadership needs to clean their own house of the corruption and problems of the past so the voters can trust them again.

Locally we have much bigger happenings politically. Some of which are not separated by party lines. As almost every reader knows Dominion power would like to condemn a 40-mile corridor of land in Loudoun, Fauquier and Clarke to build an Electrical Power Transmission line. It is fairly clear that Dominion's reason for condemning and taking this land to build these transmission lines is to make more money. Now, I am not against anyone making more money, but when a private company wants to use the power of eminent domain to condemn a citizen's property simply to make more money, this is immoral, and they must be stopped.

Dominion Power will be having a set of public meetings to explain why they need to condemn this land, destroy the VOF open space easements, and scar the landscape to build these transmission lines. These meeting are in Middleburg at the Middleburg Community Center on the 28th of November from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. And in Marshall at the Marshall Ruritan on the 29th of November from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If you are at all concerned about these issues you must show up and express your concern or Dominion will assume the community supports their project. Please attend these meetings to help stop these transmission towers. There are many community groups opposing these towers and working to offer alternatives to the Dominion power projects. These groups will be attending the meetings and will need your help.

The Glass Half Full!

Dan Morrow - (D)

Dr. Judy Feder gave Republican Frank Wolf a good run for his money (and yours) in November, but came up short, despite Jim Webb's stunning victory. Nevertheless, the good guys gained control of both the House and, mirabile dictu, the Senate!

Praise and thanks to all the Democrats, Independents and Republicans who came out on a wet and miserable election day to do the right thing. And special thanks to Judy Feder for a great fight against a tough opponent. Round two begins . . . now.

Witnesses for the Lord in Loudoun

I worked for six hours at my polling place in Loudoun on Election Day. The parking lot was packed at 6:00 AM, and stayed that way much of the day.

The good news was the outcome.

The bad news, at least in my precinct, was a particularly distressing display of gay-bashing in the name of Truth and an assortment of convergent opinions about the Mind of the Deity.

The Children's Crusade

The saddest example took the form of a gaggle of children, ranging in age from 6 to 16, chanting "One Guy! One Gal!" as they passed out literature in favor of legislation to prohibit not only gay "marriage", but anything that confers even the semblance of "marriage-like" rights on same-sex partners engaged in practically any human endeavor. (Read "buying a house with your maiden aunt" if you're her niece instead of her nephew.)

This particular group of children had been mustered at the polls as part of their "home schooling" curriculum. Their deployment as noisy-but-cute proponents of a point of view they clearly didn't understand was described as part of their "education in democracy."

A slightly older pamphleteer for the patently absurd, a child in her teens, assured me that her views were also Biblically inspired. She, too, had no idea what, if anything the Bible had to say on the matter, and was clearly parroting the musings of some other equally confused-but-dedicated vessel of revealed truth.

The Bishop

The most adamant of the day's Republicans was old enough to know better. Wearing a gold Maltese cross-on-a-chain, and claiming place-by-virtue-of-title in an unbroken chain of episcopal ordination to the Apostles themselves, he was hard-pressed to tell me just where Jesus was born. (I confess, it was a trick question. The four best-known Gospels vary, or are silent on the matter.)

When I pointed out that the Old Testament Biblical penalty for same-sex sex was the same as the penalty for sassing one's parents, or eating pork barbecue . . . and that there were many apocryphal "gospels" . . . he immediately accused me of reading, of all things, The DaVinci Code.

Sic transit Gloria Allen

The Washington Post reports that our former Senator and would-be President, George Allen, is preparing to leave Washington gracefully, but with one hand still firmly in our pockets.

According to the Post , Allen has hired the failed chief of the Republican Party in Virginia as his own, new, "Chief of Staff." She, and several other new "hires" will serve out the rest of Allen's term on Capitol Hill.

What will they be doing, you ask? Not much, say our sources.

But, speaking of YOUR dime, they WILL be eligible for a government paycheck not only through the end of Allen's term, in January, but for some time thereafter, while they, ostensibly, "look for work."

Aren't you glad we brought integrity back to Washington?

Speaking Frankly

Finally, and, at last, Congressman Frank Wolf's out of the closet and hiding behind Condi Rice. Seems he's not a Hawk after all. He's now a Demi-Dove Revealed, and truly sad about having to fake his "stay the course" credentials until the elections were over.

Now, we hear he has been working quietly behind the scenes all along, with Condi and others, doing his dead level best to talk W into letting Daddy send James Baker to make sure bad things don't go bump in the night in Baghdad anymore.

Next, I'm sure, we'll hear that Frank has turned neo-ethicon . . . that he will be the first Republican on his block to put his name on every earmark he's ever slipped by the budgeting process . . . that he's ALWAYS favored stem-cell research by companies that move to Virginia . . . eschewed contributions from big-energy . . . and that he now believes that women should be allowed to drive cars, be in control of their own bodies, and do all that other compassionate-conservative sissy stuff.

From my gridlocked car on Route 7 . . . Ah Bartleby, ah humanity

Winners and Losers

From Beyond the Beltway

Ken Rietz

There is no way around it. The Republican Party and President Bush took a real "thumping", as the President called it, in the November elections.

Now there is a lot of talk in Washington about "cooperation" and "pragmatism". But will that work after a campaign that many have called "ugly" and "sleazy" ?

Fortunately, there is good reason to think that it can. That is, after all, our history. After Ben Franklin was defeated in his campaign for the Pennsylvania Assembly by a scurrilous pamphlet campaign, he went on to become one of our greatest statesmen. During the 1800 campaign for President, the rumor mill churned furiously against Thomas Jefferson. It went so far, that it even included a last minute declaration that he was in fact "DEAD". Jefferson found a way to work with his opponents.

So, the first step is to put the campaign behind us. Here are some ruminations on winners and losers.

WINNERS:

- Change.
- Senator Joe Lieberman who will become the swing vote and most powerful member of the Senate after losing his Democrat Primary and winning as an Independent.
- Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, the first female speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Congressman Rahm Emanuel, who led the Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee.
- Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney emerges as the alternative to Senator John McCain in the Republican campaign for President after the self destruction of George Allen, while Newt Gingrich becomes the dark horse.
- The path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, supported by the President and the Democrats in the House but killed by House Republicans.
- The Democrats touch football team with former Redskins quarterback, Pete Shuler, now a Democrat member of the House of Representatives, although he didn't help the Redskins much.
- Political consultants with another big payday. ($2.5 billion spent on the election).
- 'K' St. lobbyists, where gridlock is good for business.
- TV viewers who will no longer have to endure nonstop political commercials.
- and yes, U-TUBE.

LOSERS:

- Stay The Course.
- Congressional corruption.
- The extension of the Bush tax cuts.
- All of us who thought Bush bashing, without concrete proposals for change, would fail.
- Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld.
- The Presidential aspirations of Senators John Kerry and George Allen, destroyed by campaign bloopers.
- UN Ambassador John Bolton, whose confirmation will be blocked during the lame duck session. (Ironically by liberal Republican Senator Lincoln Chafee, who lost his re-election bid after substantial support from the Republican party.
- The election official in Montana who failed to press the "save" button after the absentee ballots were counted, necessitating a recount.
- Election Law attorneys waiting for recounts, hanging chads and challenges.
- The 60% of eligible voters who did not take the time to vote and thereby lost their opportunity to have their voices heard.
- Social Security reform
- A number of good people who lost re-election bids as they were caught up in the anti-Bush, anti-war wave.

TOO EARLY TO TELL:

- Civility
- Bi-partisanship in Washington.
- Congressional Fiscal Discipline.
- Continued economic growth.
- Impact on the 2008 election.

Can our leaders, like our forefathers, come together after a nasty election and work toward the common good ? Only time will tell.

But if history repeats itself, we should be optimistic indeed.

Note: Ken Rietz, a resident of Delaplane, is a former Deputy Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

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It's Your Business

Brent D'Agostino Promoted to Principal

AH&T Insurance is pleased to announce that Brent D'Agostino was recently named a principal and owner in the firm. Along with his promotion comes the new corporate title of Assistant Vice President.

AH&T's President, Howard Armfield, has been overseeing their Employee Benefits Practice for the headquarters office and works closely with D'Agostino. "Brent has helped shape and grow our Benefits division. In addition to producing the most new business for the last two years, he has fostered new programs and recruited top-notch professionals. Brent is deeply committed to AH&T and inviting him to become a Principal was an easy decision," commented Armfield.

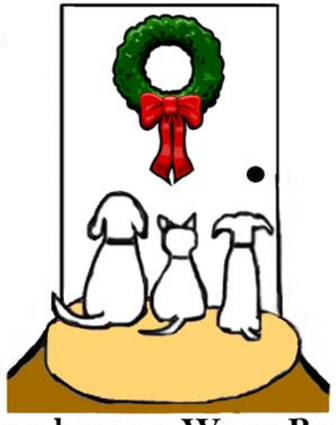
Brent D'Agostino joined AH&T in 2000 as an employee benefits specialist. His core expertise include employee and executive benefit programs, benefit communications, human resource systems, and business process outsourcing for associations and corporations of all sizes. D'Agostino oversees AH&T's employee benefits affinity program with the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC). Under his leadership the program has tripled in size as a result of the unique products, special services and dedicated support he has provided to NVTC and its members. He is a member of the Virginia Association of Health Underwriters and the Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia's Young Agents Group. Prior to AH&T, D'Agostino worked for a human resource outsourcing firm and offered services in employee benefits, human resources, payroll, 401k and risk management. He earned a B.S. from Pennsylvania State University and holds licenses for Life and Health Insurance and Property and Casualty Insurance.

AH&T Named a Top 100 Independent Insurance Agency

AH&T Insurance, one of the nation's largest privately-held, independent insurance agencies, was named this year to Insurance Journal's third annual Top 100 Property Casualty Independent Agencies List. Rankings were based on 2005 property & casualty premium volume and data was collected by Insurance Journal, a widely-read national property and casualty publication for independent insurance agents and brokers.

"We are very supportive of Insurance Journal's efforts to recognize agencies that remain independent and achieve great success despite a business environment where many insurance agencies feel pressure to merge or be acquired," said AH&T's President, Howard Armfield. "We are honored to be named as one of the largest agencies nationwide and to be one of the very oldest agencies among the Top 100. This year is AH&T's 85th anniversary and we are extremely proud of our heritage and independence."

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Middleburg Dentist Named to Best Dentist List



Dr. Ronald Jackson of Middleburg, Virginia was named in the October issue of "Washingtonian" magazine as one of the metropolitan areas "BEST DENTISTS". To compile the best dentists list, "Washingtonian" mailed surveys to 2400 dentists in DC and the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia. Dentists were asked "Who would you trust with your own family's teeth?" Dentists were not allowed to write in their own names but could nominate a general dentist to a special category such as cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Jackson was listed as "A top vote getter for cosmetic work."

Dr. Jackson has published many articles on esthetic adhesive dentistry and lectures extensively at dental conferences across the United States and abroad. He is also the director of two multi-day hands-on courses at the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. LVI is a state-of-the-art post-graduate learning center where dentists go to keep up to date in the latest dental materials and techniques.

Dr. Jackson began his practice in Middleburg in 1976. Although ownership transferred to Dr. Robert Gallegos in 2001, Dr. Jackson continues to practice as an associate emphasizing comprehensive restorative and cosmetic dentistry.

540-687-6363
www.middleburgsmiles.com

Virginia Equine Imaging Announces Seminar

Virginia Equine Imaging, in honor of their 10 year anniversary, will be hosting a client reception and educational seminar on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the Middleburg Community Center. RSVP by December 1st (space is limited). A $25.00 registration fee wil be donated to: The Equine Rescue League, Inc. and Maryland Therapeutic Riding. Please contact VEI at 540-687-4663 to register for the seminar.

AH&T Insurance Promotes Mark Ganley to Principal

AH&T Insurance is pleased to announce that Mark A. Ganley was recently named a principal and owner in the firm. Along with his promotion comes the new corporate title of Assistant Vice President. He will continue his active roles as the firm's national director of the life science practice and as the Seattle office's director of the venture capital practice and co-director of the technology practice.

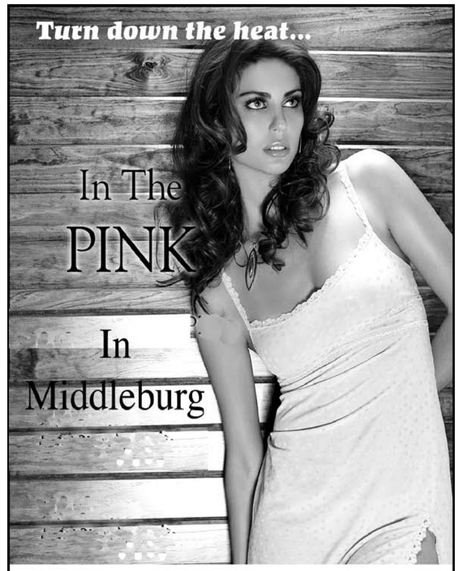
"Mark has been a tremendous asset to AH&T; and he is dedicated to the success of our Seattle office," said Howard Armfield, AH&T's president. "His contributions to generating new business for the firm goes over and above his own success in this area. Mark has taken initiative in developing new areas of specializations firm wide and in Seattle. We believe Mark will have great impact as a Principal."

Mark Ganley joined AH&T's Seattle office shortly after it opened in 1999. Ganley specializes in commercial property and casualty insurance and risk management with a focus on directors' & officers' liability, professional liability, products and clinical trials liability, and intellectual property insurance for technology and life science companies. He is responsible for establishing, growing and leading AH&T's life sciences practice firm wide. And for the Seattle office, Ganley leads the venture capital/private equity practice and co-leads the technology practice. Under his sales leadership and management the Seattle office has grown exponentially since its inception. Ganley is a frequent speaker on directors & officers' liability and other insurance topics for emerging companies. He is an active member in TechAssure, the first nonprofit organization for risk management professionals specializing in technology products and services. Prior to AH&T, Ganley was an insurance and risk management professional for an agency in British Columbia, Canada, giving him experience that well serves AH&T's clients with international operations. He earned a B.B.A. from James Madison University and holds the professional designation of Registered Professional Liability Underwriter (RPLU).

Sorrentino Named CFO

AH&T Insurance, announces the hiring of S. Lynne Sorrentino, CPA, as their Chief Financial Officer. Sorrentino joined the agency on October 2, 2006 and her responsibilities will encompass accounting and reporting, strategic planning and analysis, treasury, tax, audit, and employee benefits programs.

Sorrentino comes to AH&T with over 20 years of experience in the finance and accounting field. AH&T's President, Howard Armfield, led the search and selection process for a new Chief Financial Officer. Armfield expresses AH&T's enthusiasm about Sorrentino's arrival. "As AH&T continues to expand its staff, service offerings and specializations we need someone who will provide us with a strong, internal financial system that will scale to our significant growth. We believe Lynne is the right person for the job. Her background, talents and skills will greatly contribute to our finance operations and business strategies."



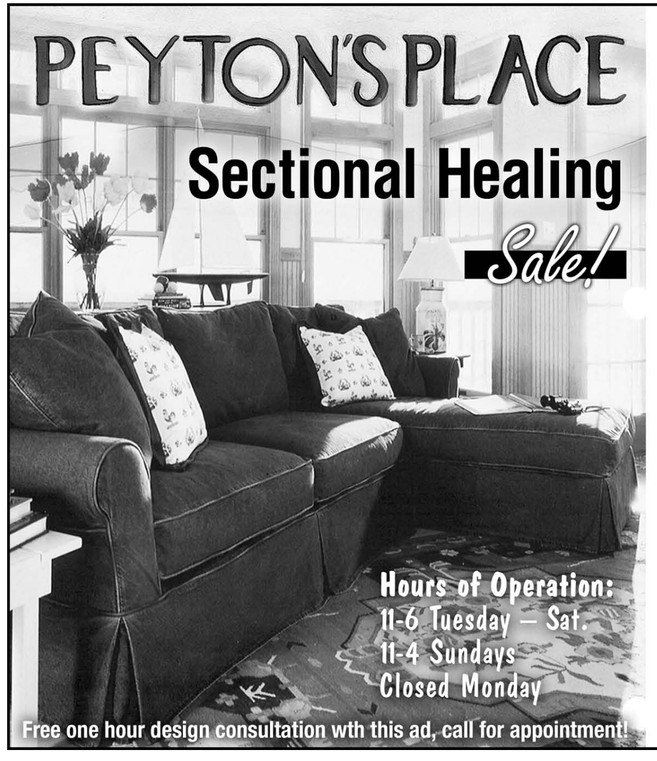
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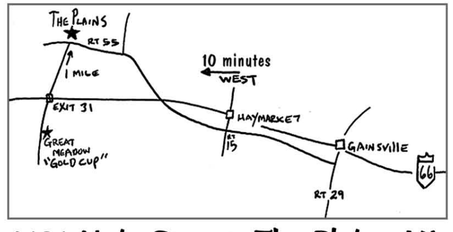
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Pastimes

The Art of Photography

The Art of Art

Tom Neel



Do you think of photography as art? It's actually easy not to because, while everyone does not paint paintings, just about everyone takes photographs. Just think, with our relatively new digital world alone, a whole new crop of photographers has been born with their very first camera also having a ring tone and fitting easily into their pocket!

So, again I ask, do you think of photography as art? Well, if not, you should. It may be difficult in our new gadget filled world, to think of the easy "process" of taking photos as not being anymore like creating art than that of using a toaster to toast bread, but easy processes aside, true photography is as much a form of art as one might hope to find. The world takes snap shots, photographers capture moments. Moments of true personality and life, moments of true love, moments of true beauty and reflections of the best and worst of our world. Snap shots are fun, often cute and almost always taken in abundance to be eaten later like a bag of chips. True photographs are powerful, passionate images that fill you up like a meal.

Most of us use occasions as a reason for snapping a shot and we look for little more in our composition than a birthday cake with lit candles, party hats and puckered lips in blow mode to deem it a great one. It's okay, it's fun and certainly has a purpose. Great photographers I feel though, are constantly looking at three things; narrative, light and composition.

Great photographs have a story to tell. It's often not the first thing you see, but it is the story. You could take a picture of a forest or one tree and much could be said of it, but lean an ax up against the tree and now you have a story. The artful photographer makes you think. You can take many snap shots of your child and they will be priceless to you, but just a snap shot of your child to others. An artistic photographer can take one shot that captures true innocence and that a thousand people would respond to or be moved by. Perhaps a lofty view, but it's true of the best.

The Use of Light is a Very Powerful Tool

Light to most of us is simply an issue of do I have enough to take my picture or not. If yes, click, shot done. If not, turn on the flash, wait, click, shot done. For photographers though, light is their world. It's importance to photographs deemed to be art, is more important than you could possibly imagine and even with less artful photographs, but those professional by nature, more focus can be placed on light than anything else. Why? Think black and white here for a moment. White is light and black is the absence of light. For light to be important it must be in contrast with something. Powerful light is far more perceived with the presence of a strong shadow. With life, these contrasting things are most often experienced with variation or what is known as value. In other words, black may be dark gray and light may be very light gray. Through a view finder and past the story, these lights and darks appear as shapes and how these shapes are positioned can draw the viewer's eye right to the story or a focal point. A lit face for instance, might become more dramatic if framed by a bent arm in a dark suit, with wrinkles at the elbow and positioned in such a way as to draw your eye to the face. Where most of us simply say cheese to get the best shot, the true pros are looking with so much more skill, seeing things we wouldn't while taking the shot. They see light in ways most do not. Actually, that is a really big part of being an artist.

The view finder is really the canvas. You may think of the print as the artistic photographer's canvas, but the view finder comes first. With most forms of two dimensional art, everything happens on the canvas or what is being painted on, but with photography the layout, the composition itself must start with what the photographer sees through the view finder. In other words, what you see is all you get. They must ask themselves a little more left, or more right, up, down, wider angle, closer, tilted, do I kneel or stand on a ladder ? It all has to happen in that little view finder first. A great photo has had a million decisions made and the best make the results look easy.

Today, even the best photographers are dealing with the fast changing digital age. Without question the best still like film and if now are using digital, they got there being dragged kicking and screaming. That's a whole other story, but the same rules apply to their core principles. It's just that the equipment and such, as with artistic brushes and paint, to them is no more than a tool of creativity. Many dark rooms have been replaced with computers and Adobe Photoshop and the purists miss the old days.

For many, the most common experience with hiring a professional usually happens first with a wedding or for portraits and I would say, you get what you pay for in this area. The digital age has brought on a whole new crop of inexperienced photographers. Experience and you loving their portfolio is key to your happiness. Anyone can buy a camera and charge for their services. Be careful. As for purely artistic photographs, many galleries are specializing in photography or representing photographers. As always, educate yourself and ask questions. Buying these pieces is a bit more like purchasing prints, as there is usually a limited edition, but there may be several editions in more than one size of the same image. That is one edition in 8"X10" and yet another 30"X40".

In properly answering the question, "is photography art?", I was speaking with local artist/photographer, Sarah Huntington. Those that know her work, know she is an artist. Sarah has much to say about her love of photography, but I would like to end with a statement from her website which I think not only answers the question, but shows the passion of a true artist.

"I believe photography is both an art form and the most powerful medium of historical documentation. My vision as a photographer embodies both of these disciplines. Whether it is a bride on her wedding day, the birth of a child, the evolution of a family or a corporate leader receiving recognition, it is my desire to capture the moment with an image that will last".

www.tomneelstudio.com
540-364-4401

Colson Portrait

From Page 6

and insightful, and each time I came away with a greater respect for the man and his vision."

The ministry of Prison Fellowship left an important impression on Chambers who is seeking opportunities to lead painting workshops for those in prison. More information on Prison Fellowship can be found at www.prisonfellowship.org.

Chambers is known primarily for his portraits, with specific respect for his outdoor portraits. Viewers often comment that the subjects in his portraits look "ready to walk right off the canvas," explained Middleburg decorator Caroline Memery, who introduced Tim to Alan Terwilliger.

"Tim is truly an artist who paints with his whole being, and captures not only the beauty an dignity of the subject, but also the spirit of the individual."

_Growing up amidst the aroma of turpentine, gesso, and oil paints, Chanbers began painting at a young age, learning from his father, Chicago portrait painter William T. Chambers.

He also studied with others across the U.S., influenced by American Impressionist Henry Hensche of New England and Cedric Egeli of Annapolis, MD. His portraits and landscapes are in collections across the country, and have fared well in competitions.

More information may be found at his website www.timothychambers.com or by calling his studio at 800-680-0958.



The members and friends of Middleburg Baptist Church wish you a very Merry Christmas

We invite you to celebrate the holiday season with us

Saturday, December 2, Middleburg Town Parade- Ride on church float. Call the church office for more info.

Sunday, December 3, at 11:00 a.m.-An Old Fashion Christmas Worship Service of music and reflection

Sunday, December 10, at 11:00 a.m.-Christmas Music, Bethlehem Joy, presented by the Middleburg Baptist Choir, directed by John Herndon

Friday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.-Old Fashion Christmas Caroling and Hayride. Begin at church, dessert party will follow. *(Call to sign up space is limited)*

Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m.-Children's Christmas Pageant Presentation. All children welcome to participate. *(Call to sign up)*

Sunday, December 24, worship at 11:00 a.m. and Candlelight Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Opportunities for Helping Others Call the Church Office for details

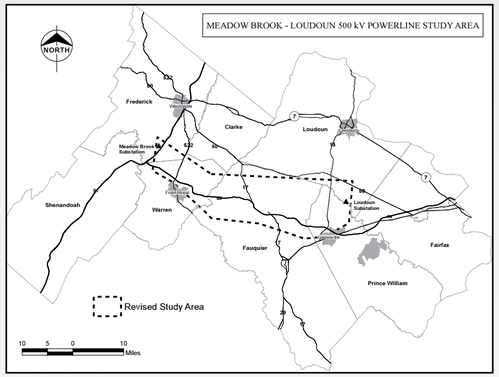
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Serving Northern Virginia's Power Needs or Serving Dominion Power's Profits?

WHAT DOMINION WANTS

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WHAT WE WANT

RELIABLE, SECURE, EFFICIENT, AND COMPETITIVE ENERGY CHOICES AND DECISIONS, TO INCLUDE A BALANCED, INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NEED FOR THE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT.

What Dominion will NOT tell you:

- The Transmission Lines are being constructed to primarily serve the **highly lucrative** markets of New York, New Jersey and Northeast Corridor.
- Dominion is strategically repositioning itself: selling its risky, less profitable assets to **aggressively** pursue the low-risk, high-profit Transmission business.
- Dominion is **guaranteed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** to earn a minimum 12.5% return on every dollar spent on the Transmission Line project **from rate payers**. Additional financial incentives are also provided through the EPACT.
- Reliable, efficient peak period power can be provided to Northern Virginia and the Northeast Corridor via alternatives to these Transmission Lines, but these **alternatives are less profitable** to Dominion.
- An Environmental Impact Study, as provided by the National Environmental Policy Act, has **not** been performed, circumventing local, state and federal protections for citizens, the environment and historically significant locales.
- Rather than investing in conservation, demand management and clean-burning plants, Dominion's Transmission Line investment will deliver power from antiquated coal-fired generation plants in the Ohio Valley, among the most polluting in the Nation.
- Dominion will ask the government to take land rights for this project via eminent domain: **Private land for corporate profit.**
- Except for the 150-foot wide transmission line condemnation, **you will not be compensated for the loss of value to your property or other damages you may incur.**
- Dominion will not bear the real cost associated with its Transmission Line project. The total cost to local counties and the Commonwealth of Virginia in the form of lost property taxes as a result of a devaluation in property values, loss of use of lands, loss of tourism revenues, and damages to historic districts, national trails and scenic designations **will not be compensated.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

ATTEND THE UPCOMING DOMINION TOWN MEETINGS AND VOICE YOUR OPINION.

Tuesday, November 28th, 5-8 pm, at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington Street, Middleburg, VA 20118

Wednesday, November 29th, 5-8 pm, at the Marshall Ruritan Club, 8400 Salem Avenue, Marshall, VA 20116

Thursday, December 7th, 5-8 pm, at the Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center Gymnasium, George Mason University, 10900 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110

CONTACT YOUR STATE AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES:

The Honorable Samuel Bodman
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Senator John Warner
senator@warner.senate.gov
202-224-2023

Congressman Frank Wolf
202-225-5136 or 540-667-0990
e-mail via the Web site:
www.house.gov/wolf

Governor Tim Kaine
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218
804-786-2211
e-mail via the Web site:
www.governor.virginia.gov

**Dominion has Proposed to Construct a high voltage transmission line through a Study Area which Includes: 7 Civil War Battlefields, 17 National Historic Register sites, one of which is a National Historic Landmark, 6 Existing Historic Districts and 11 Proposed Historic Districts, 48,000 Acres of Conservation Easements, 13 Miles of Appalachian Trail and 83 Miles of Scenic Byway, 16 Miles of Rivers, including Goose Creek and the Shenandoah River, and Thousands of Homes, Farms and Communities.*

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Pastimes

Put These On Your Gift List

Exploring Books

Genie Ford



Books make perfect gifts because there is something for every age, taste and interest. Books & Crannies will also wrap your gifts, so holiday shopping couldn't be easier. Here, then, are some suggestions (but remember, there are hundreds of great books in our store just waiting for the right reader):

For the woman in your life: *I Feel Bad about My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* by Nora Ephron; *French Women for All Seasons* by Mireille Guiliano; *Home to Big Stone Gap* by Adriana Trigiani; *Inés of My Soul* by Isabel Allende; *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson; *Nature Girl* by Carl Hiaasen.

For the man in your life: *Nature Girl*; *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham; *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* by Michael Lewis; *The Collectors* by David Baldacci; *Cross* by James Patterson; *God Rest Ye Merry, Soldiers: A True Civil War Christmas Story* by James McIvor; .

For young adult readers: *Miracle on 49th Street* by Mike Lupica; *Pirateology: The Pirate Hunter's Companion* by William Captain Lubber; *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak; *Eragon* and *Eldest* by Christopher Paolini; *Incantation* by Alice Hoffman; *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen; *On Christmas Eve* by Ann M. Martin.

For children: *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Connor; *Merry Christmas, Curious George* by Margret Rey; *The End* by Lemony Snicket; *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* by Laura Numeroff; *The Mitten* by Jan Brett; *But Not the Hippopotamus* by Sandra Boynton.

For good friends: *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote; *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks; *The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog* by Dave Barry; *The View from Castle Rock* by Alice Munro; *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* by Barack Obama; *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards; *From Baghdad, With Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava* by Jay Kopelman; *Thirteen Moons* by Charles Frazier.

Important books for important people: *State of Denial* by Bob Woodward; *Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the American Navy* by Ian W. Toll; *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* by Lawrence Wright; *The Greatest Story Ever Sold: The Decline and Fall of Truth from 9 /11 to Katrina* by Frank Rich; *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore; *My Father, My President* by Doro Bush Koch.

For the cook: *Barefoot Contessa at Home* by Ina Garten; *My Life in France* by Julia Child; *The Silver Spoon* from Phaidon Press; *The Lady & Sons: Savannah Country Cookbook* by Paula Dean.

For everyone (some current bestsellers): *Marley & Me* by John Grogan; *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* by Charles Shields; *Lisey's Story* by Stephen King; *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield; *A Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon; *What Came Before He Shot Her* by Elizabeth George; *Letter to a Christian Nation* by Sam Harris; *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson; *Andrew Carnegie* by David Nasaw; *Making Globalization Work* by Joseph Stiglitz; *The Aeneid (Fagles Translation),* Virgil; *The Rising Tide: A Novel of the Second World War* by Jeff Shaara; *The Lay of the Land* by Richard Ford.

Interview with Kim Hart

From Page 7

impacts from all those non-perking lots that the County has already approved for development. In the professional hands of LCSA, such a plant can last indefinitely.

Eccentric: Why is the Windy Hill Foundation willing to do this project?

Hart: There are two short answers: 1)it is our mission to provide safe, decent, affordable housing, and 2)we don't have the same profit hurdles as the private sector.

But there is more to our answer than that. We have a team that has done similar projects before. This is the same team that put the town sewer system into Virginia Lane (west of Middleburg). Except for the on-site treatment facility, Willisville is easier than that project.

We have a great working relationship with Loudoun County: Paul Brown in the Administrators Office; Alan Brewer in the Public Health Department; and Tim Coughlin of LCSA. It may seem that this project is behind but, without the unprecedented cooperation of these County offices, this project still wouldn't exist.

And, finally, we took this job because we live here. These are our neighbors. In the end, we are a community coming together to solve a problem. Isn't that what community, and community government, should be all about.

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Pastimes

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Seventh Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

Every November, strange cosmic forces align in the sporting universe and a perfect storm begins to form, creeping up right behind the Thanksgiving turkey and right in front of jolly old Saint Nick and the rest of his cloven-hoofed buddies shimmying down your chimney.

Just take a look at what transpired this past weekend….

Jason Campbell finally got the start most of the DC area has been waiting for the better part of the season. It was the most nervous excitement Redskins fans had felt since the Burgundy and Gold's improbable playoff run last year. The week started with the type of gloom-and-doom that can only be brought on by a good, solid whupping administered by a divisional foe; by Thursday and Friday, though, even the most hardened nay-sayers out there had convinced themselves that the 6'4", 228-lb specimen from Auburn was the man to lead them to the promised land.

Then Brandon Lloyd 'gator armed the first throw of the game, possibly the most beautifully thrown ball by any Redskins quarterback this season, a ball that had touchdown written all over it, a ball that would have instantaneously sucked all of the air out Raymond James Stadium®, and you just knew that it was going to be that kind of afternoon.

Campbell, in this humble scribe's mind, is still the future of the franchise. Mark Brunell has given the Redskins everything he had left in the tank; it simply wasn't enough. That is no fault of his. The coaching staff, however, should, each and every one of them, have their heads examined for so badly hamstringing the offense this season. They are paid to make the tough decisions, like benching guys they really like as people; they didn't do it, and it may well have cost the 'Skins the season.

Alfonso Soriano, once the darling of the Washington Nationals, reportedly signed an eight-year, $136 million deal with the Chicago Cubs. Nats' fans may well cry in their beer over this one, but you heard it here first; the Cubs have lost their minds. The signing that really started this lunacy in Chicago was the deal to bring Sweet Lou Piniella in as the manager of the woebegone Cubbies next year. Yes, that Lou Piniella, the one who took his name out of managerial consideration for the Nats (as he had every right to) because, honestly, he's desperate to win one more World Series now and, frankly, the Nats just aren't.

But back to the Cubs…. The only way the Cubs could get Sweet Lou was to open their wallets for players and help him build the kind of veteran team he thinks is designed to grab the brass ring. They locked up third-baseman Aramis Ramirez, pitcher-turned- pincushion Kerry Wood, and started throwing Monopoly money at free agents. The first big acquisition is Soriano; it won't be the last. But the Cubs got jobbed on this one and just about everybody knows it. Alfonso Soriano is now the proud owner of the fifth-largest contract in Major League Baseball and nobody on this green Earth can make the case that's he's the fifth-best player out there. But he brings power and speed, you say. He's a member of the elusive 40-40 club, you add. Power and speed are great, but Soriano struck out 150 times last year, not good for any big-leaguer and truly horrifying for a lead-off hitter. The 40-40 club? It's total make-believe statistical nonsense, ginned up by stat-geeks and roto-heads with little else better to do with their time. Pay it no mind. He's a defensive liability, still, and teamed up with Cliff "What Can I Injure Next" Floyd in left and Jacques Jones in right, the Cubs seem to be trying, intentionally, to put together a Friday night blooper-reel in their outfield.

Soriano will be an old man by the time this bloated contract is played out, and the Nats simply couldn't afford that kind of ball and chain. The Cubbies can, sadly enough for their fans, and I see a sad, ignominious end to Soriano's career in Chicago at some point down the line. Does the name Sammy Sosa ring a bell?



And lastly, the greatest college football game ever took place over the weekend, with the dreaded Buckeyes of THE Ohio State University holding on for a 42-39 win over the mourning Wolverines of Michigan. We all woke up on Sunday to find the BCS standings …. UNCHANGED! OSU is still #1 and Michigan is still #2. USC, Florida and Notre Dame round out the top five. The only way we avoid an OSU / Michigan rematch for the national title is if USC wins out against Notre Dame and UCLA, neither of which is guaranteed. If USC does stumble in either of those games, get ready for Urban Meyer, head coach at Florida, to completely blow his top; even if Florida wins out, I don't see them sneaking into the second spot over Michigan. Which leaves us where right where started on Saturday afternoon.

My prediction? Michigan over OSU in the rematch for the national title, 34-28.

cuda24@yahoo.com

It takes a village………

to help support affordable and subsidized housing in Middleburg. The Windy Hill Foundation is most grateful to all its 2006 Benefit Fashion Show Luncheon and Silent Auction sponsors.

Without support from the village of Middleburg, the Foundation could not hold its annual benefit event to help fund Windy Hill tenant-focused programming. While all sponsors and volunteers made significant contributions of time and money, Ouattara Amadou donated from his Tirami Su Restorante Italiano all the food for the benefit luncheon. Needless to say, those in attendance enjoyed a wonderful repast.

A special thanks to all our supporters listed below. Please frequent these merchants when you are in Middleburg or Upperville and join the Foundation in thanking them for their community spirit and generosity.

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Loudoun Sketch Club Celebrates 60th



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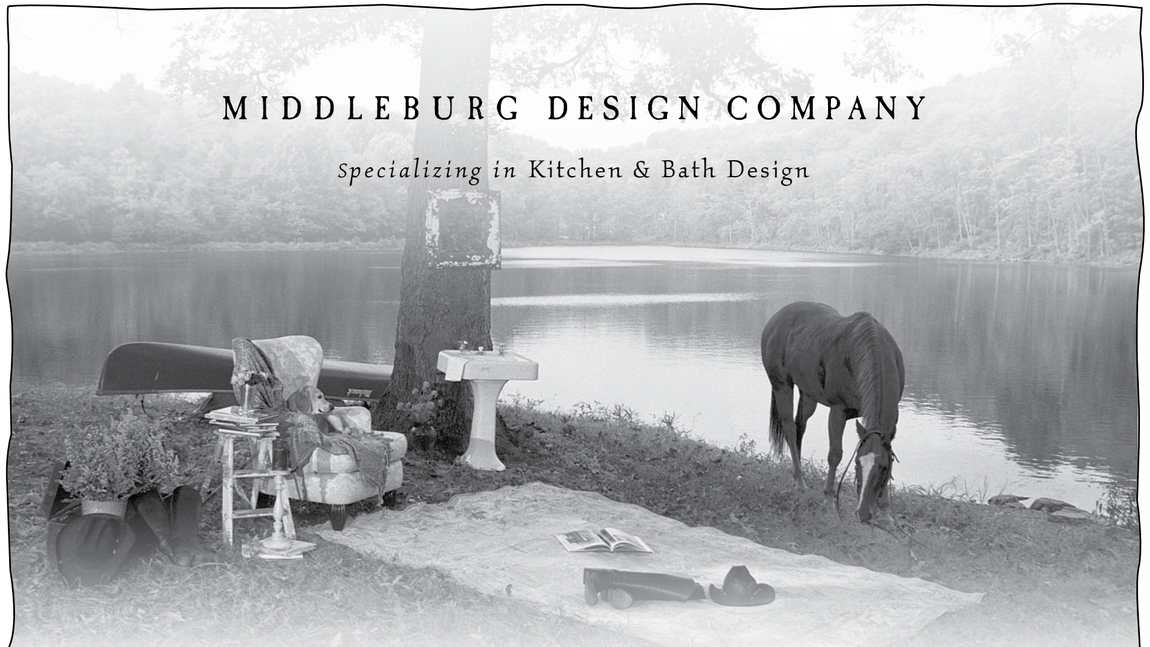
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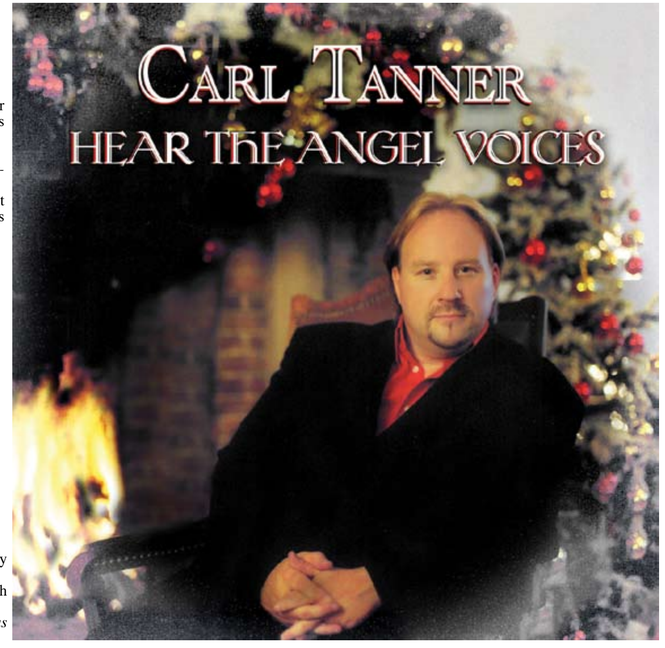
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December 21: Music Center at Stratmore, Bethesda, MD—*Music for Christmas* with the Washington Chorus

Christmas in Middleburg

Saturday, December 2nd



8am-10am
Breakfast with Santa and Silent Auction
The Middleburg Elementary School

11am
The Hunt rides through Middleburg.the sight is spectacular with approximately 100 riders and dozens of hounds

10am-4pm
Open Air Art Show & Sale on Madison Street

11:30am-2pm
Hayrides from the Pink Box

11:30am-12 noon
Wakefield School Handbell Choir on the porch

12 noon-2:30pm
Jethro-Vangogh Blue grass band on the porch live!

10am-4pm
Middleburg Garden Club's
Christmas Flower & Greens Show

10am-5pm
Craft Show at the CommunityCenter

3pm
The Christmas Parade
Santa will be on The Marshall Bank porch immediately following the parade.

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Christmas Shopping in Middleburg

The Most Wonderful Gifts of the Year

Beautiful, gracious, astounding, amusing gifts are available in abundance in Middleburg's charming boutiques and shops. No matter how few or how many presents are on your list, how little or how much you wish to spend, you need look no further than the charming streets of this hunt country village to find the perfect gift.



These traditional Christian Ulvicht nutcrackers from Seiffen, Germany will delight gift recipients of every age. Their witty attitude and impeccable style say the holidays in every language. From The Christmas Sleigh for $270 each.



Denim at its best in this darling jacket with Burberry plaid collar and cuffs and Swarkowski crystal buttons. Also available in black velvet for the holidays from In the Pink for $125.



The perfect leather purse in high fashion orange has distinctive side pockets and a circular handle motif reminiscent of the sixties. Pictured with a pitcher that will be perfect for a hot toddy by the fire, both are at Journeyman: the purse for $398 and the pitcher for $26.50.



Created by well-known local equestrian artist Jane Gaston, this beautiful scarf depicts Middleburg Hunt fox hounds on a window pane checked field bordered with the names of all the farms traversed by the Hunt. The stirrup, horn and crop design frames the faces of the brilliant hounds that lead the Hunt. Available from Santangelo & Sandridge for $350, a percentage will benefit the Middleburg Hunt.



Diamonds and sapphires are certain to please the most discriminating companion, especially this beautiful necklace from Tom Hays Jewelry. A stunning circle of the finest stones will dazzle her forever, and your kindness will never be forgotten.



A cup of stories from Books & Crannies is the perfect present for teachers. The lucky recipient will love a new mug filled with chocolates and a gift card to be used for precisely the volumes most desired. Price depends only on your generosity to the recipient.



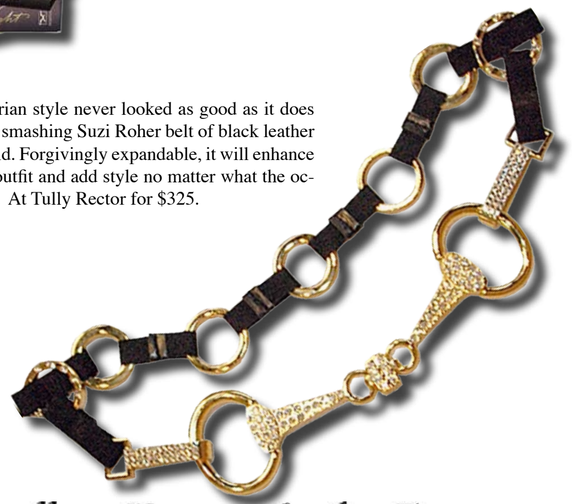
This elegant kimono-style cashmere wrap will be stunning with jeans, a little black dress or over your negligee when you dash out into the first snow of the season. Also available in black and charcoal for $138 at Clothes Minded.



Every owner will want a special ornament to honor the family pet for the Christmas Tree. Fortunately, Wylie Wagg offers 200 breeds in these beautiful hand painted, snowy show pieces. $19.95 each.



Slip this fabulously delicate pave diamond cuff into someone special's Christmas stocking and your holidays will definitely be jolly. Three-and-a-half carats of diamonds in 18-carat white gold look perfectly stunning in this antique style, filigree stocking stuffer. One of a kind at Mystique for $7,700.



Equestrian style never looked as good as it does on this smashing Suzi Roher belt of black leather and gold. Forgivingly expandable, it will enhance every outfit and add style no matter what the occasion. At Tully Rector for $325.

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Buttonwood Springs, Delaplane, VA
Located with a view of Goose Creek, this restored farm house with newer addition on 68.7 acres offers 4 bedrooms and three full baths. Land has woods, rolling fields, stream, waterfalls, beautiful setting. Two additional dwellings. In Conservation Easement. $2,100,000.

Gloria Armfield **540-687-6395**



La Terra, Purcellville, VA
Elegant stucco 4,650 square foot home on 5.6 acres on a private lane with hand laid stone walls, lovely stream and small pond. Light filled gourmet kitchen, first floor master suite, home theater, media library and 3 car garage. $1,950,000.

Rick Lowe 703-509-3962 **Anita Sisney 703-973-1987**



Buckhead, Linden, VA
Charming, newly renovated 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home situated on 62 rolling acres with panoramic views into three counties. Serenely private yet convenient to Route 66. Superb vineyard or horse property potential. Adjoins the Appalachian Trail Greenway. $1,495,000.

Howie Swaim **540-675-9999**



Little Paddocks, Middleburg, VA
Fantastic opportunity to own in Middleburg. 4 bedroom colonial on 6 acres in sought-after Dover Downs. Property has been meticulously cared for and features a three stall barn, four board fencing, slate roof and a very private pool and patio. 3 of the 6 acres are on an approved lot with a five bedroom perc and separate tax ID. $1,459,000.

Jim Thompson **540-687-3216**



Moor Green, Manassas, VA
Historical federal manor home on 10+ acres conveniently located to old town Manassas, Route 66 and the VRE. History is abundant as the home is listed on both Virginia and National Registers but now enjoys the comforts of modern living with a renovated kitchen and modern upgrades throughout. Very private setting. $1,275,000.

Jim Thompson **540-687-3216**



Cabin at Sunny Ridge, Loudoun Co., VA
Circa 1780 cabin with hand hewn logs on 2+ acres with views of Loudoun Valley and Bull Run Mountains. Completely renovated and additions added over the years. 3 bedrooms, large office suite, sunroom, large deck with Jacuzzi, screened-in porch. The kitchen has hand crafted cabinets and pulls, lovely cherry floors and top of the line appliances. Attached 2-car garage. $895,000.

Rick Lowe 703-509-3962 **Anita Sisney 703-973-1987**



Mountain Laurel, Castleton, VA
30 private wooded acres with custom log home. Not another house in sight of this 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. Great room with 2-story stone fireplace open to kitchen, dining room and loft. Master suite has its own porch. Flexible floor plan includes an office, den, basement and garage. $780,000.

Amy Sloane Timbers **540-987-8668**



Walnut Street, Middleburg, VA
Charming 2-3 bedroom village property all on one level, designed by the current owner for her retirement. Spacious, elegant living and dining rooms for entertaining with a lovely terrace framed by a wonderful rock outcrop and beautiful planting. Privacy with in-town convenience. Numerous features for the handicapped. $675,000.

Carole Miller **703-705-9110**



Land, Delaplane Area, VA
Hard to find small acreage. Two 5+ acre lots with Fauquier County perc certifications. Wooded parcel – $290,000. Open parcel, some woods and a stream, with lovely views - $349,000. Nice Hunt Box.

Carole Miller **703-705-9110**

Hickory Tree Farm, Middleburg, VA





Burrland Road Parcel
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Zulla Road Parcel
The western portion of Hickory Tree Farm comprising 143± acres with entrance from Zulla Road. The land is gently rolling, well fenced and offers a lovely building site. The improvements include two houses, two barns and run-in sheds. Protected by Conservation Easement. Well priced at $3,693,049.

For more information, call Gloria Armfield 540-687-6395.

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Pastimes

The No Beast Feast

From Behind the Stove

Brian Lichorowic

As I've gotten older, I'm finding that my table, holiday and otherwise, is becoming more and more frequented by true vegetarians – a brave circle of family and friends. I have always felt empathy for these individuals - serving them and also dining out with them - as they were relegated to order the menu's "only" obligatory vegetarian entrée.

Dining out, this entree would generally consist of steamed broccoli, cauliflower and carrots accompanied with the occasional green or red bell pepper with the usual carbohydrate mound of rice or pasta at the center of it all. The entire plate would be steamed until all of the robust colors were gone - including any nutrients- and the plate would take on a dull hue. Nary a hint, pinch or mention of spice, taste or imagination going into the dish or plating. Year after year this was the dining staple of the vegetarians brave enough to dine out in ours or other fine establishments. It just wasn't fair.

To comprehend the world of vegetarians you must first understand the groups they fall into. It can be easily broken down into simple categories or cliques. That way if you're at a holiday party and someone mentions they are a "lactose intolerant rawist vegan", you'll know enough not to ask them if they've tried the "venison chili with the raw goat cheese topper" yet…

1. Semi-Vegetarians

Semi-vegetarians eat no red or white meat (beef, pork, venison, etc). The only animals that semi-vegetarians eat are fowl, fish. (Purists would say that semi-vegetarians are not vegetarians at all, but in my world, if you don't eat any meat, you're a vegetarian.

2. Ovo-Lacto Vegetarians

The most common type, ovo-lacto vegetarians do not eat any animals, but do eat eggs and dairy products.

Subcategories:

- Ovo vegetarians (eat eggs but not dairy)
- Lacto vegetarians (eat dairy but not eggs)

3. Vegans

Vegans eat no animal products - no eggs, no dairy, no honey, etc.

4. Raw/Living Foodists

Raw or Living Foodists eat only raw food, because normal cooking processes destroy enzymes.

5. Fruitarians

Fruitarians eat only fruit, fruit-like vegetables (e.g., tomatoes, cucumbers), and sometimes seeds and nuts.

To the Vegans, Rawists and Fruitarians, I feel for you. After taking several complex vegetarian cooking classes, it has become very clear to me that many, if not most, of these strict type of vegans live this lifestyle not by choice. Most have health concerns/problems; strict dietary restrictions and some are more serious than others.

This summer I took a cooking class where the objective was to make a distinctive holiday meal for vegetarians. Our teacher, the honorable Chef Gloria Mann Craft, is a captivating, full of life, former actress turned CIA (Culinary Institute of America) trained chef who is currently finishing her first cookbook called "Conscious Cooking". The class was intimate in size and we explored a whole host of different recipes and various cooking styles. Many of my fellow students suffered from serious food allergies, forcing them to focus each and every thing they put into their bodies each day. I now understand how lucky I am. In the end, based on our studies, we would prepare and digest this extravagant meal.

So, from the heart, for this holiday season and with a little bit of modification from yours truly, I present an unprecedented SIX course "No Beast Feast" for my vegetarian brethren.

First Course

Vietnamese Smoked Tofu Salad Rolls
with Asian Dipping Sauce
Salad Rolls
8 rice paper rounds, 6" diameter

Filling

1/4 lb rice noodles
1/4 lb carrots, julienne
1 bunch leaf lettuce, chopped
1 bunch cilantro, chopped
1 lb smoked tofu, chopped

Asian Dipping Sauce

1/4-cup Ponzu sauce (seasoned soy sauce)
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tsp chili sauce
1/4-cup rice syrup
2 lemons, juiced
3 tbs rice vinegar
1/4 cup H20

Combine all dipping sauce ingredients & mix well. Make ahead of time and keep cold. Cook rice noodles for 3 minutes in boiling water.

Place rice paper in boiling water briefly to soften, remove rice paper, and blot off water. Lay flat. Liberally fill with filling ingredients. Carefully roll tucking ends into themselves. Cut the roll in half and place on a serving platter with sauce in dipping bowl.

Second Course

Akkra (Black Eye Fritters)
1-cup black-eyed peas
2 red bell peppers, seeded & chopped
1-bunch scallions, chopped
2 tsp salt
Canola oil

Soak the beans overnight in H2O. Rinse and drain, put in a food processor. Chop fine and put in mixing bowl. Add the red peppers, scallions and salt. Mix until they are light and fluffy and considerably increased in bulk.

Heat the oil in a heavy frying pan and fry the mixture by tablespoonfuls until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot with tomatillo sauce (see recipe below).

Third Course

Ayurvedic Salad Composed of Arugula, Avocado, Sunflower Seeds, Bulgarian Feta & Golden Beets

12 medium raw golden beets, grated
1/2 cup lightly roasted sunflower seeds
1 avocado, sliced
1 lb baby arugula
1 lemon, juiced
1/4 cup cold pressed olive oil
1/2 cup Bulgarian feta cheese
1/2 cup Annie's Goddess Dressing

Mix beets, seeds and dressing. Wisk together lemon and oil. Toss with arugula and feta. Place beet salad in center of plate, surround with arugula mix and top with sliced avocado. Serve.

Fourth Course

Fresh Green Chile Soup w/ Tumbleweed Greens
12 green Anaheim chiles
(Mild-also known as California green chilies)
2 red bell peppers
2 potatoes, cubed
2 1/2 tsp salt
6 cups vegetable stock
1 tsp black pepper
3 garlic cloves, chopped
2 bunches tumbleweed greens (spring mix)

Roast and clean the chilies and peppers. In a medium saucepan, parboil the potatoes with 1 teaspoon of the salt until tender.

Puree the green chilies and then the red peppers separately in a food processor until smooth. Mix the purees together, add the potatoes and stock and continue processing until smooth. Add the remaining salt, pepper and garlic and process again. Press the puree through a medium sieve. Heat the puree in a saucepan. Serve hot. Place a small handful of tumbleweed greens in the middle.



Fifth Course

Poached Fish (or Tofu) with Tomatillo Sauce, Frizzled Leeks, Wild Mushroom Quinoa & Fresh al dente Asparagus

1 lb fresh firm fish filets (Halibut, Snapper or Monk fish)
OR 1 lb firm tofu, 4 oz. cubes
1 cup vegetable stock
2 cups of olive oil
1 lb fresh asparagus
Salt and pepper to taste

Tomatillo Chipotle Sauce

25 large tomatillos (about 2 lbs)
1 white onion, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, chopped
3 tsb olive oil
4 cans chipotle chilies in Adobo sauce
2 tsb Adobo sauce (from above can)
1 bunch of cilantro leaves (1 cup)
1 tsp sea salt
2 limes, juiced

Wild Mushroom Quinoa

1 1/2 cups Quinoa, rinsed
1 pound of mixed mushrooms (shitake, crimini or button), sliced
1/4 cup of olive oil
1 shallot, chopped
1 bunch parsley
1 cup of good Parmesan Reggiano
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
Salt & pepper to taste

Frizzled Leeks

2 large bunches, julienne whites only

Place fish filets (or cubed tofu) and arrange them in a baking dish. Completely lather each one with tomatillo sauce and veggie stock. Bake on top rack for 7-15 minutes (15 –25 minutes for tofu) at 300 degrees until desired consistency.

Heat the olive oil in a small cast iron pan.

Husk and wash tomatillos under hot water. Using a large iron skillet, cook them for 20 minutes over high heat until soft and blackened all over (don't dry them out but "burn" them well). Sauté onion until soft. Place tomatillos, garlic, onion, and remaining ingredients (except of lime juice) into a food processor. Pulse until ingredients are combined and consistency is smooth. Add water if necessary. Add lime juice and pulse for a few more seconds. Add more cilantro to taste. Can be served warm or cold. This is wonderful stuff.

Drop Quinoa into 3 cups of boiled H20. Return to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Brown mushrooms in oil and set aside. Sauté chopped shallots with mushrooms. Add parsley, Parmesan and stir. Fluff Quinoa into a large flat bowl; add the mixture with the garlic and salt & pepper to taste.

In iron skillet, add oil and pan fry. Brown small amounts of the leeks at a time and let them dry on a paper towel and set aside.

Serve with lightly steamed asparagus.

Sixth Course

Vegan Vanilla Cake with a Duet of Organic Raspberry & Blueberry sauce accompanied by Vanilla Tofutti

Cake

2 cups spelt flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup pure maple syrup
2/3 cup H20
1/3 cup canola oil
2 tbs vanilla extract
9" baking pan

Berry Sauce

4 baskets fresh berries
(blueberries, raspberries and blackberries – no strawberries)
2/3 cup maple syrup
2/3 cup apple juice
2 cinnamon sticks, 3"
6 ground cloves
1 vanilla bean

Prepare the sauce first and set aside. Can be refrigerated.

In a saucepan combine all ingredients and bring to boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes. Uncover, raise heat and stir until sauce thickens. Preheat oven to 350

Grease and dust the pan with flour.

In a mixing bowl, sift flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl whisk together maple syrup, H2O, oil and vanilla. Combine two mixtures; gently fold into each other, don't stir. Pour batter in prepared pan and bake for 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the middle.

Remove cake from pan. Cut into wedges and serve with warm sauce. Serve with store bought tofutti.

So for the holidays, treat the vegetarians in your life to a true feast or at least some variety. Try putting a couple of these dishes out on the holiday buffet this year. And for the carnivores out there, all these dishes go great with turkey,

Comments or Catastrophes?
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Stephen Roszel, George Rowand, Bruce Smart,
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by signing copies of their books.

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Pastimes



A Review of your Summer Containers

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode

While taking inventory of my annual seed, I found myself mentally analyzing the performance of these seasonal plants. Indeed they are lovely fillers for container and garden, that is when they work well. And so begs the question - "How did your containers do this summer?". While all of this is still fresh in our minds, a review is in order which will only help when it comes time to begin anew in spring. With that I would encourage you to consider four questions to ask yourself.

(1) Did the plants I put together work well? If not, what would I change?

(2) Was I able to dead head and control the height enough, with the plants I chose?

(3) When did my containers look the worst? ahem.... answers may not include:

When everything died. (possibly a reference to #4)

When everything froze. (possibly a reference to # 1)

(4) Was I able to keep up with the watering?

In reviewing your answers I offer some helpful suggestions that might help with your container gardens for next year. Listed below are some things to consider, depending upon how much any one question spurred bad memories.

(1) Did the plants I put together work well? If not, what would I change?

It is very important to understand the various seasons in which different annuals thrive. We have cool season annuals and warm season, neither group will provide a full- spring to fall - show. One must remove pansies, ranunculus, calendulas, and various other cool season annuals to make room for heliotrope, lantana, evolvulous, and other warm season annuals. Cool season plants are used when threats of frost are still eminent. Our warm season changeover usually occurs during the month of May when the likelihood of a frost has passed. For fall the change over comes in September when night temperatures start to hit 50 degrees. On occasion I have been able to include both warm and cool season plants in 1 large container and by cutting back and managing the assorted annuals, I have been able to keep the container looking good. Albeit this involves at least a whiskey sized barrel and one might notice a reduction in overall flowers. When plants do prosper it is always good to use them again the following year or understand the need for more or less of one particular variety. I encourage gardeners to keep their plant tags in an envelope or garden journal to refer to, for just this reason.

(2) Was I able to dead head and control the height enough, with the plants I chose?

One can putz with a single container for an extraordinarily long



time. Some consider this quality time and are not bothered by the time spent preening. Others have limits and on a positive note, there are so many options for folks with little time. My advice would be more perennial plants such as hens and chicks, various sedums, and ornamental grasses. The shade gardener will find that hostas, ivy, and euphorbia will do well under less than ideal conditions. Granted these choices leave you with less color, but you may challenge yourself by including a few annuals. Simply analyze the results at the end of summer. If even that doesn't work, consider a water container. Use a pot that will hold lots of water and fill it with floating and potted water plants. The selections of plants are wonderful and your pot will only need water added once or twice a week. There will still be the removal of old foliage, but it's quick work that helps a lot!

(3) When did my containers look the worst?

There is nothing worse that finding a strategically placed container looking bad. Admittedly your pots don't understand your need to go on vacation, nor do they humor you after a particularly hot spell, when they're filled with cool season plants. In this case, it may be bad placement. All too often we challenge ourselves more than we should with pots stuck where it's hard to get water to them. I would either devise a watering system that comes on automatically or give up on plants in that pot. Likewise you may simply have the wrong plants in the wrong exposure. There are the heat loving annuals that need to face south or southwest. Then there are the shade loving annuals that must face north or east. Rework your mix until you come up with the best plants to suit your watering and your exposure. If all of that fails, you'd be surprised with what you could put in a pot, other than live plants. Consider a collection of unusual stones, a piece of statuary, or round glass balls.

(4) Was I able to keep up with the watering?

Watering adequately is where most of us fail. Yes, it's hard! Big containers make it easier. There is also the option of filling the bottom of the container with compost and the top with a soiless mix. As plants send down roots, they connect with the heavier compost and require slightly less water, that is until they become root bound. Containerized plants usually need watered every day.. yes, every single day. The only type of container that might be left to once or twice a week would be a container filled with water. I heartily encourage everyone to try a water container for summer. Beyond the ease of maintenance, there are the wonderful plant selections. Many water plants are tropicals and will suffer with cool temperatures of fall. But clearly the rewards of low maintenance from not having to water so much or weed them, is tremendous. To hamper mosquito larvae from taking up residence, put in a couple of small gold fish or mosquito dunks. In addition I usually have frogs move in, and folks - few things could be better!

A Lesson Well Learned

On a recent visit to Middleburg, Paula Attisani was babysitting her 6 year old grandson, Christian Lyman, . While putting clothes away, she accidentally closed the door to her room. That morning the doorknob had broken, and Mrs. Attisani immediately realized she was locked in her room, with her grandson outside.

She had few options. There was no telephone in the room, her daughter was exercising horses, and her son-in-law was in Washington running the Marine Corps Marathon. Fortunately, when she called to her grandson he replied, " Don't worry, Grandma, I know just what to do." Christian called 911 and explained that his grandmother was locked in her room. He was able to provide both his telephone number and street address, which he had memorized as a first grade school assignment at Middleburg Elementary School. When the rescue volunteers arrived, he went downstairs, quieted his barking



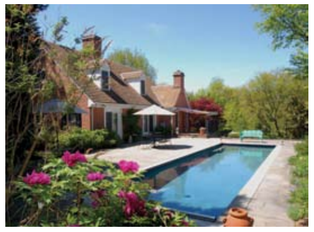
Labrador Retriever, and showed the men upstairs, where they soon freed Mrs. Attisani, who praised Christian as her "hero."

When the rescue squad left, Christian told them, "If this happens again, I will know what to do." His parents hope it doesn't, but they are grateful to his school for a very useful assignment.

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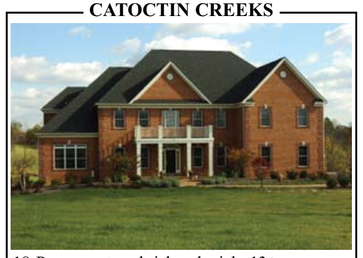
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Things to Do

November 30

Robards' foxhunting book educates, delights

The National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Va., will host a book signing with Hugh Robards, Master of the Rolling Rock Hunt, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30. Robards, author of Foxhunting: How to Watch and Listen (Derrydale Press, 2006), has packed his little volume with practical observations, explanations, and advice. His engaging writing style will inform all sorts of people, from those who have always wondered what a foxhunt is like to seasoned professionals who have been chasing foxes their entire lives. Practical know-how and anecdotes lead readers to a deeper awareness of hounds and foxhunting, offering a look at the problems, efforts, and triumphs experienced by the huntsman – the person who guides the foxhounds during the chase.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required: call 540-687-6542, ext 12. Books will be available for purchase during the evening. For information and directions, visit www.nsl.org.

December 2nd

Middleburg Elementary Presents Annual Silent Auction and Breakfast with Santa

Silent Auction

Start your Christmas shopping early by attending the fabulous Silent Auction at Middleburg Elementary School! The Silent Auction has become one of the many "Christmas in Middleburg" traditions, and the auction will be bigger and better than ever.

Start by attending the Preview Party on Friday, December 1, 2006 from 5 to 8 p.m. Take the time to peruse over 150 quality items and enjoy refreshments sponsored by the Middleburg Elementary PTO.

Return the next morning to enjoy Breakfast with Santa and start the bidding on your favorite items. The breakfast and Silent Auction will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 2.

The high quality items to be auctioned include overnight stays, sporting and spa packages, dinners for two, decorative and fine art, and much more. Many area businesses have generously contributed items, including cooking classes at Market Salamander, an overnight package at The Goodstone Inn, round-trip tickets from Southwest Airlines, a Silver Membership at the Middleburg Fitness Club, and equestrian items from Saddlery Liquidators.

All proceeds benefit Middleburg Elementary School academic programs and enrichment activities.

Breakfast with Santa

Middleburg Elementary School's annual Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2006 from 8 to 10 am.

The Middleburg Elementary Dads will be preparing a wonderful breakfast including Egg Strata, sausage, pancakes, fruit salad, Einstein's Bagels, and Starbucks Coffee.

Noted local photographer Janie Stockton will be on hand to take photos of the children with Santa.

The children are invited to many other activities, including cookie decorating at Mrs. Claus's kitchen, and The Santa Shop, where children can do their own Christmas shopping at affordable prices.

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December 3rd

The Middleburg Players Present The Ultimate Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec.3rd at Buchanan Hall, from 6-9:00 PM

Tickets are $40./PP or $75./Couple, and proceeds will benefit the permanent theater lighting at Buchanan Hall (8549 John Mosby Highway, Upperville, VA)

Get into the Holiday Spirit!!! Come to The Middleburg Player's First Winter Fund-Raiser to Benefit the permanent lighting at Buchanan Hall, in Upperville, VA. It is THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DANCE! You will be thrilled by who you will meet! Speak with George Bailey and find out just how Clarence got his wings (It's A Wonderful Life), meet the Christmas Angel and The Swedish Angel. Speak with Father Time, Santa and The Misses, Scrooge, Tiny Tim and more..... find out who they really are!

Guests will have the opportunity to be photographed with these legends by our own Middleburg Photographer Extraordinaire, at Buchanan Hall (8549 John Mosby Highway) on Sunday, December 3rd, from 7-9 PM.

Clara and The Nutcracker (from The Loudoun Ballet) will be making an appearance, and at 8, the Winter Wonderland will be transformed into a dance parlor and you can dance with your favorite character, or your own guest, to the Holiday music of Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, Perry Como..... all the greats, and there will be a prize for The Best Dancer!

In addition, the silent auction items will tempt you, as wonderful gifts or to keep for your own indulgences. Help to decorate the Christmas tree for Buchanan Hall, and listen to carolers as well!

Support your local theater, and your Christmas Spirit by making your reservations early! Call 703.327.4206. Tickets ($40/PP and $75/Couple include holiday fare and drinks.

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Things to Do

The Grace Church Choirs Organ and Brass

December 17, 2006 at 5 pm

Organ and brass lend a joyful tone to the Grace Church Choirs' presentation of this beloved holiday service of readings and music that originated at King's College, Cambridge, England. Performed in the serene and radiant beauty of candlelight, the program will feature music arranged by Rutter and Willcocks in addition to traditional Christmas carols for all to sing.

The service begins at 5 PM, Sunday, December 17th. Early seating is advised, and childcare is available. For further information please call Grace Church at 540-253-5177 or visit our website www.gracechurch.net

Directions to Grace Episcopal Church , The Plains, VA. From Interstate 66, take Exit 31, The Plains, to Route 245 North. At the T-Intersection, turn left on Main Street, Route 55 West. Grace Church is located in the first block on the left. A parking lot is located on the west side of the church.

Sky Meadows State Park

Holiday House and Country Christmas

November 25 through December 3 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate a traditional country Christmas with holiday music and stories. Pick out a live Christmas tree and unique made-in-Virginia gifts in the historic Mount Bleak House. Holiday decorations and gifts offered by Alpaca Full Moon Farms, Stribling Orchard, Three Fox Vineyards, and Middleburg Creamery and Country Store.

Special Musical Performances - Saturday, November 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Visitor Center. Timothy Seaman, a native of West Virginia, will be performing traditional and folk holiday tunes on dulcimer, flute, and guitar.

Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Visitor Center. Folk duo Kitchen Gorilla will entertain us with music of the holiday season on guitar and fiddle.

Mount Bleak House Tours

Join us for a tour of the historic Mount Bleak and get a glimpse into the life of a middle class farm family around 1860. The house will be open for guided tours between 1:00 and 4:00 PM weekends this November and December.

Special Candlelight Tours

Candlelight tours of the historic Mount Bleak House decorated in traditional holiday fashion will be offered each Saturday night from December 9 through December 23 at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 PM.

December 3rd

Community Invited to Foxcroft Pageant

Student Performance on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. Adults and children of all ages are invited to join Foxcroft School students in celebrating the holidays Sunday, Dec. 3, with a spectacular Christmas Pageant, followed by a visit from Santa Claus, on the Middleburg, Va., campus of the School.

The pageant, which begins at 2 p.m. in Englehard Gymnasium, is a. tradition that was started by Charlotte Haxall Noland, the founder of Foxcroft, shortly after the School opened in 1914. Each December, Foxcroft's new students and Chorale present the nativity story as a gift to the community. Miss Noland's script includes several characters you won't find in the Bible and provides a musical and visual treat, complete with live donkeys, bunnies and doves. Foxcroft music teacher Karin Thorndike directs the performance, assisted by Fine Arts Department Chair Robyn Yovanovich and other faculty members.

"It's a wonderful pageant," says Jane Lockhart, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Activities at Foxcroft, who has seen the Foxcroft Pageant 50 times. "I first saw it when I was a student at Middleburg Elementary school while growing up in Middleburg. My children, who were born and raised on campus, saw the pageant when they were young and now they bring their children."

Following the Pageant, Santa Claus will give all the children in the audience gifts that have been prepared by Foxcroft students. The pageant is the culmination of a weekend of community outreach and holiday activities on campus. Last, year, the girls made and decorated 145 mini Christmas trees for residents of Loudoun Hospital and Goodwin House. They also stuffed care baskets for needy families and boxes of supplies for Middleburg Humane, wrapped more than 250 gifts for local children, created a float for the Middleburg Christmas Parade, decorated a dozen trees on campus and went Christmas caroling on horseback.

The highlight of the weekend, however, is the Pageant and all are invited! Foxcroft is located on Foxcroft Road (Route 626), four miles north of the center of Middleburg. For more information, call 540.687.5555.

Christmas Through the Ages

The 8th annual Christmas Concert of the

Piedmont Christmas Choir

(an outreach activity of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, conducted by Wendy Oesterling, director of music)

will be presented

Saturday, December 2 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m.

at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 105 E. Washington St., Middleburg.

The program will include Christmas favorites for choir and congregation, as well as the exquisite *Christmas Canata* by Daniel Pinkham for choir, organ, and brass.

Join us for this special Advent observance!

The concert is open to the public.

A freewill offering will be taken.

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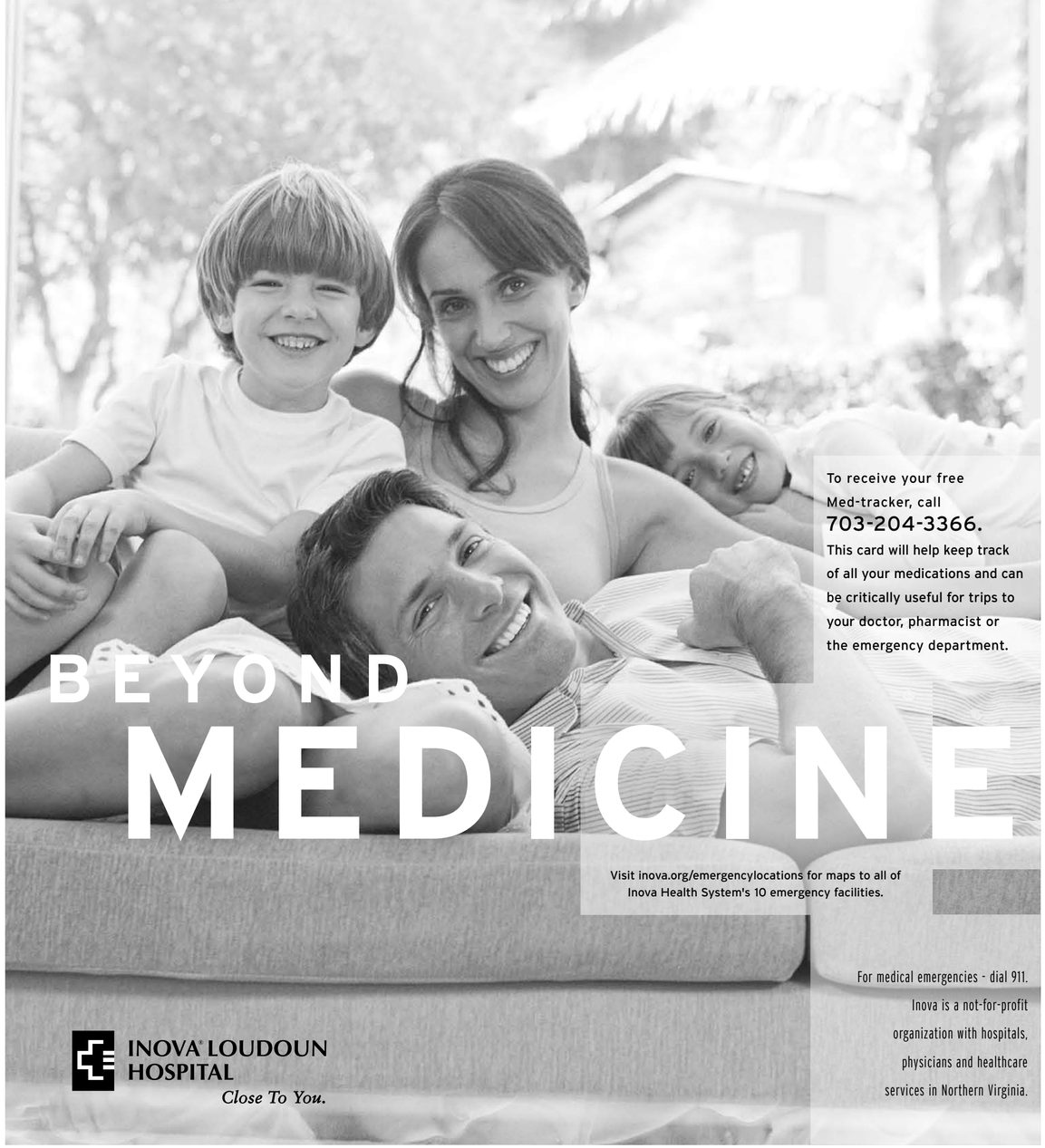
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Faces & Places

Halloween Fun and Fright

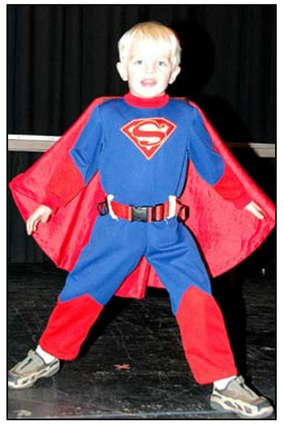
Middleburg Community Center ~ October 31st

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard and Jay Hubbard



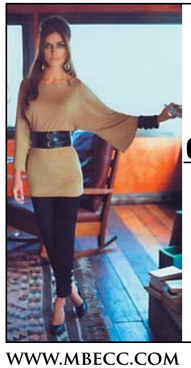












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Hats off to the Back Street Cafe

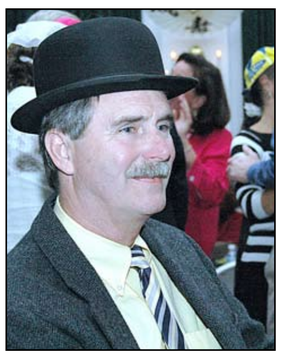
Middleburg Community Center ~ November 5th

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard

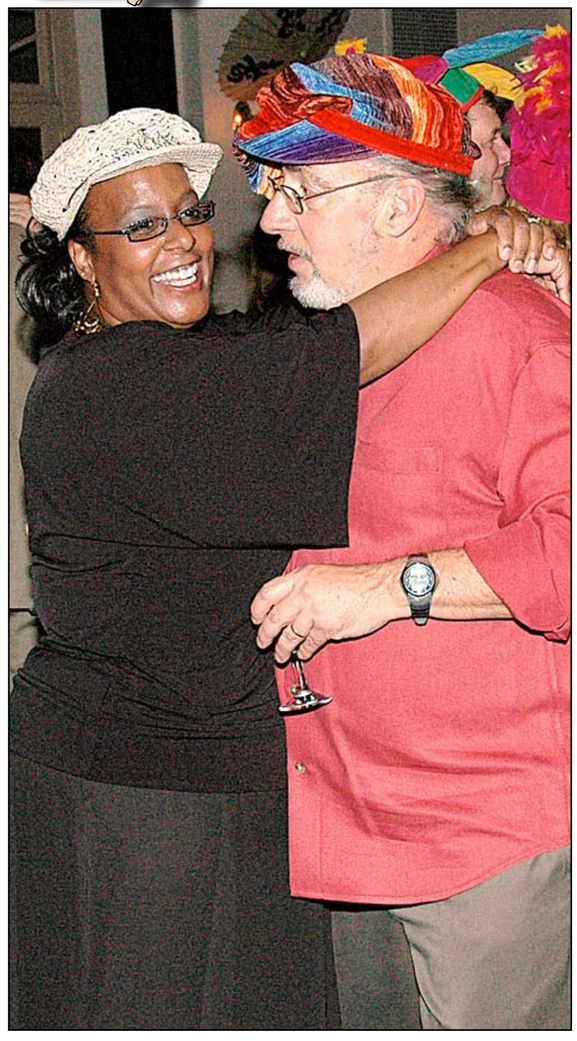












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Faces & Places

Chili Dinner Fund Raiser

Middleburg Community Center ~ November 16th
Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard and Jay Hubbard











Back Street Cafe & Catering

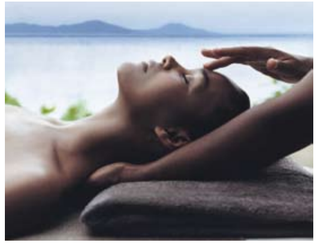
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The Mutt Strut

Middleburg Fitness Club ~ November 18th
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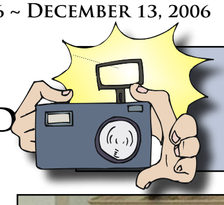
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Faces & Places

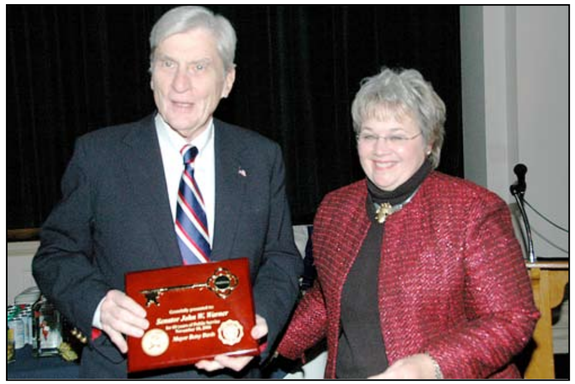
Senator John Warner Honored

Middleburg Community Center ~ November 18th

Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard



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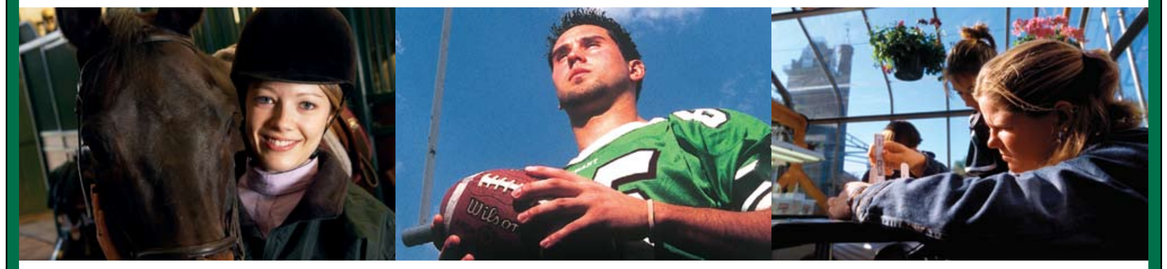
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Faces & Places

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National Horse Show

Verizon Center ~ October 28th

Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard and Jay Hubbard











David Baldacci Book Signing

Books and Crannies ~ November 1st

Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard

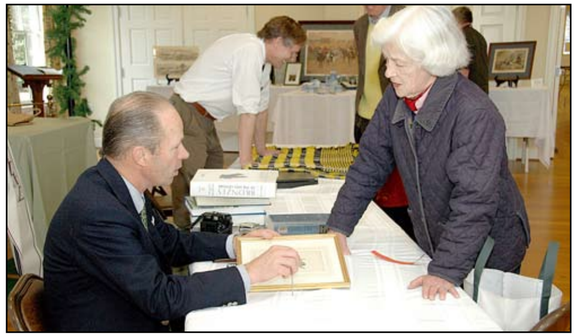




Antique Appraisal Day

Middleburg Emmanuel Church ~ October 28th

Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard



Congressman Frank Wolf Mellos Out in Middleburg During the recent campaign



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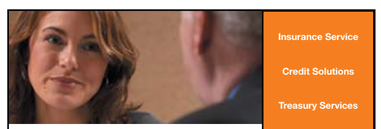
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SUMMER– A very special 10 year old, 16.2H TB cross. Summer cannot be ridden due to an underlying lameness but he travels soundly and does not require any meds etc. Summer has excellent ground manners, is an easy keeper and is extremely affectionate with people. He will follow you around like a dog and is everyones best friend! Summer is the perfect babysitter/ companion for weanlings.



BARNEY – An 11-12 year old Pomeranian who has lived outside all of his life. Luckily he came to us so he will be warm forever! This is one cute little kidlet, he is full of life and personality. leash walked only.



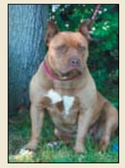
CHEYENNE– A beauty! Cheyenne was at a county shelter where her time was up so we took her to give her a second chance! Cheyenne is a doll, she is very affectionate and very sweet and would love a family of her own soon!



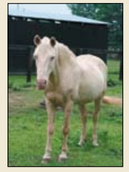
STEVIE- Stevie is a 3-4 year old Llasa Apso who is blind and deaf. She has been this way for a long time so gets around beautifully and loves life. She needs a very special home.



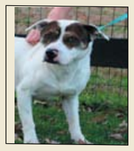
DO BRO–A super funny guy with super cute little short legs! He came from a county shelter where his time was up. DoBro is a great guy– super cute, very loving and he loves to play with the other dogs.



CYNTHIA –Pit Bull, _ hippopotamus! This is one cute dog! We have known Cynthia since she was a pup, she is a terrific dog. She is about 3 years old. She has grown up with tons of kids of all ages and truly adores them. Cynthia needs a home as an only dog.



MILTON– A lovely 20 year old bombproof horse who is perfect for a beginner rider for walk/ trot trails. Milton had foundered so needs restricted grass intake and front shoes. He is a great guy and would be a fun addition to any barn!
-



SPORT- Super cuteness! Sport is a 1 year old bull dog? mix, This is such a special guy, he just loves everyone!



DUDETTE – Poor Dudette- her mom didn't like her personality so she took her to the vet to be put down! Thankfully the vet refused and called us. Dudette is a big gorgeous cat who likes to keep to herself. She enjoys being petted and is very clean. She is looking for a nice person with good legs to rub up against! Please help poor Dudette, she has been in a cage for months.



DUKE– A big handsome purebred Rotweiller who is very affectionate and quite well mannered and gentle. We are still getting to know Duke, we will introduce him to other dog friends soon.



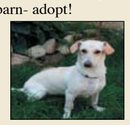
KING-A spectacular purebred German Shepherd. King suffers from a neurologic disorder that causes him to be weak in the hind end but he is not in discomfort. He is a lovely dog who deserves a lovely home.



WALLY– Wally was rescued from a horrible home. He is a very cute little guy who is very sweet and affectionate. Wally is learning manners and really appreciated attention and walks.
-



BENNY-and his kitty friends are sure hoping that they can find homes before the holidays. Life is OK here but living in a cage is getting old! Please help, if you have room in your heart, home, or barn- adopt!



NOODLES– 1 year old spayed female Corgi/ Dachshund? mix. Noodles is housebroken, loves kitties, dogs and older children.



DALLAS– 1 year old spayed female Corgi/ Dachshund? mix. Noodles is housebroken, loves kitties, dogs and older children.

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Albert's Corner

A monthly column for people who share their homes with four-legged friends.



Every now and then something wonderful happens. Sophie recently happened to me.

My person has a very kind aunt named Nancy who is a life-long dog lover with a huge heart. She lost her wonderful schnauzer more than a year ago. When he passed away, it was devastating for her and for everyone who loves her, because we all knew there was a void in her life that would be difficult, if not impossible, to fill.

When her sadness lifted enough to consider getting another dog, we all wondered what kind of dog she would bring into the family. (In our family, the arrival of a new dog is a really big event!) Since Nancy always brings her dog when she visits, I hoped she would get a nice dog who would want to play with me but not steal my food.

Nancy finally chose a dog from a shelter in North Carolina. She named her Sophie and brought her for her first visit to Middleburg two weeks ago. Sophie is a black Labradoodle who is about a year old. She is beautiful, loving, smart, energetic, well-behaved and lots of fun.

She also has three legs.

Nancy didn't go to the shelter looking for a three-legged energetic young dog. She had imagined getting a small dog and not one with special needs. But Sophie stole her heart (as she steals everyone's heart) and the rest was history.

When Nancy met her, Sophie had just lost her leg after being hit by a car and was healing. She was going to be put down, but she kept leaning into the vet and vet technicians and "pleading" with them using her gorgeous eyes. No one could put her to sleep. There's just something about Sophie. She's special.

I'm thrilled that Sophie is going to be a part of our extended family. I think she's one of the most exceptional dogs I've ever met, and the days she visits will be some of my favorite days of the year. Watching her with Nancy was nothing short of incredible. It is obvious that Sophie knows what Nancy did for her. They are already bonded and inseparable.

Some of the greatest dogs are the ones most people never really bother to see. They are the dogs who sit in shelters waiting for someone to love them. They are the dogs who lose out to perfect puppies and purebreds. Sometimes their only fault is their color: black dogs in shelters are euthanized at staggering rates compared to lighter colored dogs. It's known as "black dog syndrome" in shelter circles. Sophie is a black dog with three legs, so she was, for all intents and purposes, doomed.

This Thanksgiving, I'll be remembering people like Nancy and dogs like Sophie. I'll be giving thanks for all of the people who promote rescue and further the cause of pet adoption. And I'll hope that my words will inspire even one person to consider giving a home to a special needs pet.

And to the editor of this newspaper: thank you for adopting your incredible blind dog, Jose, who seems to "see" more than any dog with sight. He is an inspiration.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Albert P. Clark

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

Holiday Pet Pantry To Help Families in Need

The holidays are a time to remember those in our community who are less fortunate, and pets are no exception. So once again, Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is proud to announce that they are joining the Community Holiday Coalition by hosting a Pet Pantry to provide donated pet food and supplies to families in need during the holiday season.

Families who are picking up food, clothes, and toys at the Holiday Coalition Store will also be able to visit the Pet Pantry for pet food and supplies.

The Pet Pantry is part of Loudoun County Animal Care & Control's award-winning CARE program, which works year- round to assist low income citizens with pet care needs such as medical assistance, low cost spay/neuter surgery, and pet food. Information will be made available about the CARE program for those that need additional assistance throughout the year.

The Pet Pantry is stocked solely through donations from citizens and businesses. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is accepting donations of unopened pet food, treats, and new or gently used toys through December 18. Cat food is in especially high demand.

The Community Holiday Coalition's Christmas Store is happening December 14-19 at the Dulles Trade Center in Sterling.

For more information on the Community Holiday Coalition and the Pet Pantry, visit www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday or www.loudoun.gov/animals. You can also contact Animal Care & Control at 703-777-0406 or via email at animals@loudoun.gov.

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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 floors, and rear flagstone terraces, new heated pool and cabana, and 5-car garage. 96.73 gently rolling, mostly open acres with mountain views. $3,900,000.



Four Chimneys

Middleburg, Virginia

Well-built brick home, 10' ceilings, detailed molding, 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, large kitchen, sunroom, 2-car garage, 7.57 open, level acres. 3-stall barn with tack room, large tractor shed, fenced and cross fenced. $1,395,000.



Oakmeade

Upperville, Virginia

Williamsburg colonial, wooded setting, protected area in Piedmont Hunt. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, large bright kitchen with cherry floors, 300+ bottle wine safe, rear flagstone terrace, lovely gardens, on 10.10 acres. $1,380,000.



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. $1,350,000.



Meadow View

Middleburg, Virginia

Minutes to Middleburg, protected location, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 5 fireplaces, screened rear porch. 3-stall barn with tack room, 10 usable acres, 4 paddocks, new fencing, 200 x 150 riding ring. Lovely gardens, private setting. $1,200,000.



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.



2970 Rectortown Road

Rectortown, Virginia

Charming 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath house in the quaint village of Rectortown. Renovated 2 years ago, new kitchen with commercial oven, great room and master suite. Stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, 10 foot ceilings, wrap around porch, nice back yard with patio and arbor, great views. $850,000.

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Brookside

Millwood, Virginia

Beautifully restored Georgian style house built circa 1780. A substantial clapboard dwelling on 5 sheltered and quiet acres, Brookside is the oldest house in historic Millwood. 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 7 fireplaces, central A/C. Creek on property. Additional 1700 sq. ft. building can be used as office or shop. $799,900.

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Sweetwater

The Plains, Virginia

200+ year old riverfront cottage. Ultra charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath stucco-over-log cabin in sought after location between Middleburg and The Plains. Lovely stone terrace overlooks stunning 1.4 acres of lawn, remains of original stone mill and over 200' of frontage along Little River. Unique opportunity so close to Middleburg with complete privacy in a special setting. $650,000.

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GLENDALOUGH



Beautiful 3 BR, 2.5 BA stucco home ♦Gourmet kitchen, granite counters ♦Exposed beams, old oak floors, high ceilings ♦5 stall barn ♦Equipment shed ♦Pond ♦Cabin ♦Board fencing, stone fencing ♦Exceptional views ♦129 acres ♦VOF easement **$4,950,000**

FRIENDSHIP HILL



Brick manor house on 50 acres w/mtn. views ♦7BR ♦7BA ♦3 half BA ♦4FP ♦2 master suites ♦Hi-speed internet ♦Library ♦Finished basement ♦Elevator ♦Pool w/ pool house ♦Turnkey farm ♦Great location ♦Tenant houses ♦Barns **$4,300,000**

BROOK HOLLOW



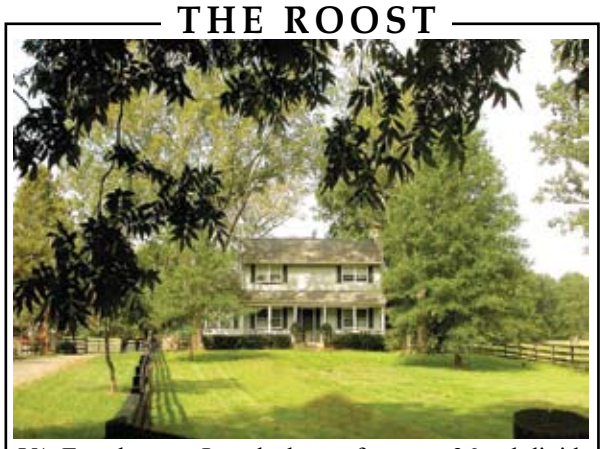
Beaut. open & wooded 63 priv. acs ♦4/5 BRS w/Master on 1st floor ♦Fam. Rm w/FPs ♦Large screened porch overlooking pool & lake ♦3 car gar. ♦Well designed, manageable 7 stall barn ♦Ring ♦Paddocks ♦Ideal commuter loc. between M'burg & Leesburg **$2,995,000**

LAUGHING DOG FARM



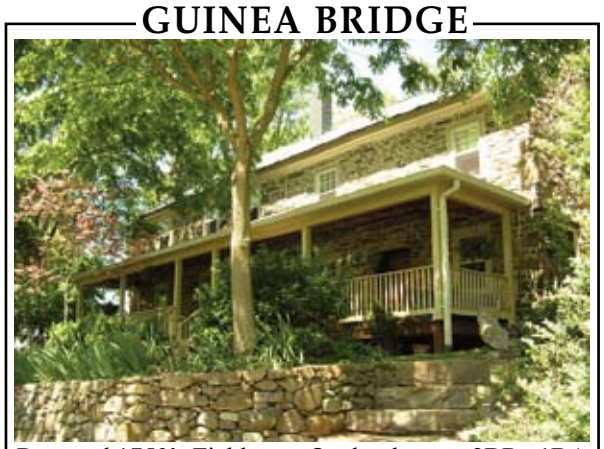
Near Delaplane ♦Excellent views all on 52+ acres ♦Lovely 3BR, 3.5BA Brick home ♦High ceilings ♦Gourmet kitchen ♦Granite countertops ♦2 car garage ♦Swimming pool ♦Board fencing ♦4 stall barn ♦2 sheds ♦Old log cabin **$2,450,000**

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GUINEA BRIDGE



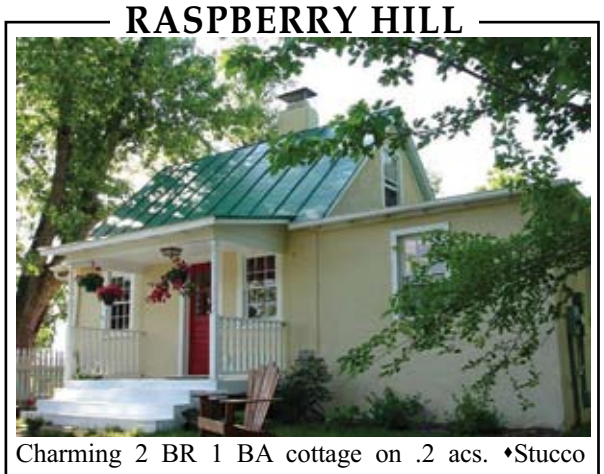
Restored 1750's Fieldstone Quaker house ♦2BR ♦1BA ♦Broad mahogany porch overlooking pond & gardens ♦Sm. det. office ♦Stone retaining walls ♦Old landscaping ♦4 stall barn ♦Fenced pasture ♦Riding trails ♦Enjoy the wildlife and tucked away privacy **$1,285,000**

BOLINGTON



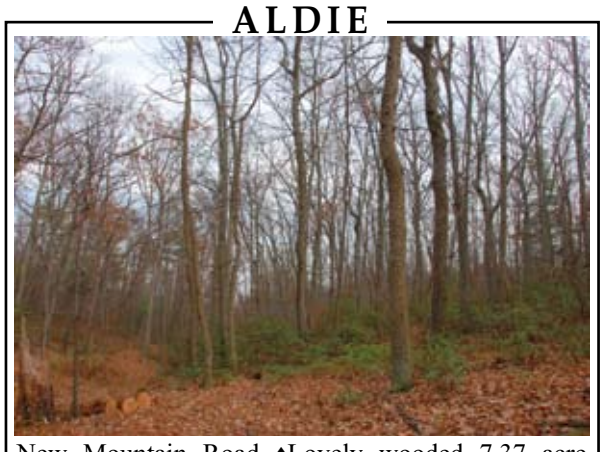
c.1740 on National Register ♦Beautiful renovation of 5 Bedroom, 4 Bath brick & log home on Milltown Creek ♦8 FPs ♦Tavern Room ♦Bank barn ♦9 Stalls ♦Fenced ♦Original Toll House ♦Great potential for B&B, antique shop, or home based business **$ 1,270,000**

RASPBERRY HILL



Charming 2 BR 1 BA cottage on .2 acs. ♦Stucco ♦Living Rm. ♦Dining Rm. ♦Oak flooring ♦Loft ♦Stone FP ♦Granite countertops ♦Laundry/mudroom ♦Central air conditioning ♦Covered porch ♦Perfect location for commuters **$449,000**

ALDIE



New Mountain Road ♦Lovely wooded 7.37 acre building lot ♦Variety of hardwoods, Laurel and Dogwood compliment the peaceful setting ♦Very private yet convenient location for commuters ♦Approved 4 bedroom perc **$425,000**

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