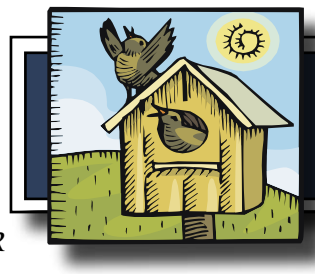
Middleburg Eccentric™

Middleburg's Only Locally Owned and Operated Newspaper

Volume 3 Issue 12 — www.mbecc.com — March 22, 2007 ~ April 25, 2007



Perfect Time for Lettuce Page 1

March Sadness, Year II Page 19

Salamander to Middleburg:

Deal or No Deal?

Daniel Morrow

Sheila Johnson's Salamander Hospitality issued what appeared to be a stark ultimatum at the March 8 regular meeting of the Town Council: add a minimum of 40 to 48 new rooms to the currently proposed 120-room Salamander Inn or risk bringing all movement on the development to a halt.

Citing cost increases of nearly 40%, "way above what reasonable estimates would have been two years ago," Salamander's Prem Devadas asserted that any rational financial analysis made the project "truly unfeasible in its current development state."

Salmander's new demands raised immediate concern about both the future of the 340-acre Salamander property, annexed to Middleburg as part of a 2005 "Memorandum of Understanding" and the $5 million sewer treatment plant Salamander promised to build as part of that agreement.

In a March 16 letter addressed to Mayor Betsy Davis and the Town Council (see page 5) Devadas promised that, in return for approval of the extra rooms, Salamander would provide a "binding commitment" to the Town that will "assure construction of the new [sewer] plant on the current schedule, regardless of when the Resort is begun or completed."

Five Council Members Briefed in Advance

Prior to his appearance before Council on March 8, Salamander's Devadas met privately, one-on-one, with at least five of the Town's council members.

"The reason I wanted to meet with everyone privately, before we spoke about it publicly" he said, "was because when I say under current conditions the project is not feasible, it means that we seriously have to think about not moving forward and building the resort."

"Even though it is unpleasant", he continued ". . . I'd rather have the discussion [now] than to show up one day and say we're not going to build it. And that's where we're at."

Profit Motive?

The project was never "conceived by Sheila Johnson as being a big money-making opportunity, " Devadas continued, "and we were very fortunate that she chose to look at it that way. . . . to allow us to do a true 5-star resort . . . something that would be very special and something befitting Middleburg.

Unfortunately, and to the distress of all concerned, Devadas told the Council, new analyses, completed within the last four weeks, have concluded that the project has "gone from being a marginal investment at best, to being something nobody in their right mind would do."

"While Sheila Johnson has the wherewithal to do what she wants to do, nobody can advise her that this would be a SMART thing to do," he said.

Efforts to Find Alternatives?

After receiving the bad news from her financial analysts, "Sheila challenged the entire team to find a way" to make it work, " Devadas told the Council, and after considering all the alternatives, the "only thing that I know can make this a feasible project is to be able to drive more income by increasing the number of rooms."

Happily, due to the projects original 5-star design, rooms could be added efficiently in 8-room increments, with no increase required in the size of other "grand" spaces, such as the lobby, ballroom, dining rooms, or meeting facilities.

Indeed, the only significant impact, according to Salamander, would be the traffic generated by the transient occupants of those 40 to 48 extra rooms. Even at 100% occupancy, Devadas said, he was convinced that a new traffic study would show the impact to be minimal

High Cost of Delay

Salamander and the Town have been working together to facilitate a late-spring, 2009 opening for the smaller inn envisioned in the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding . . . and that inn had already grown from 58 rooms to 120.

As of March 8, both Salamander and the Town

Continued Page 22

Middleburg Meander Winds Its Way Toward An Enlightened and Enjoyable Future

Patricia Barraza Vos

There, just beyond the old hedgerow that is Middleburg, lies suburbia. Faced with the pressures of suburbanization, locals seem to have gone with a variety of responses – denial, acceptance, fight, flight.

Missy Janes is going with education.

Her experience and her optimistic and energetic nature make it possible for her to believe that, were local citizens and visitors aware of the richness and diversity of the natural landscape, they would be more inclined to protect and preserve it.

As part of that large and hopeful aspiration she has created a plan for a walking trail around the town of Middleburg that she has come to refer to as the Middleburg Meander. Last month her plan to received a positive reception at the Town Council meeting, thus placing its future, to some degree, in the hands of the townspeople.

Her vision is one that borrows from other communities and builds, both literally and figuratively, upon Janes' past experience when she established the Wankopin Trail around the Hill School and the MARE Center. The new educational, interpretive nature trail would incorporate that existing trail and then carry on beyond it. The exact path is yet to be determined, but basically winds its way in a fairly comprehensive loop around the town's residential and commercial center.

The final route will depend upon variables like landowner acquiescence, participation of local developers, even such largely undecided matters such as whether or not the path could or should accommodate bicycles as well.

Treasures

What would the trail reveal to the walker and how would it perform its educational objective? Janes traces her finger along a circle marked on a map of Middleburg, listing the ecological and cultural treasures to be discovered along the route.

Starting at the Hill School one could start the Wankopin Trail with its arboretum, horse pastures, and quail habitat conservation area. Then, as one walked along, the experiences would include an introduction and education (via informational plaques) on riparian buffers, fence line hedgerows, dry-stacked stone walls of the Civil war era, pasture land, croplands, mature oak stands, nesting sites, wildlife corridors, old Indian trails, wetlands, historic farm buildings, migration flyways and more.

Whether the trail eventually takes this path or

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Memorabilia from "The Horseman of the Millennium" Page 4

Biddy Whyte Lennon & Other Irish Cooking Myths Page 16

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Noel Ryan *540.229.6635*



Lansdowne
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$649,000
Andy Stevens *703.568.0727*



Round Hill
Lovely 4 bedroom home in Old Town Round Hill. Bright rooms with 9' ceilings, wood floors, inviting front porch and fenced 1/2 acre yard. Fireplace in living room, fully finished lower level, 2 car garage.
$599,000
Leslye Edwards *540.454.1847*



Berryville
Stone & stucco front elevation home, 2-story family room, dual staircases, hardwood & carpet flooring, chair rail, crown molding. Mostly finished LL. Deck overlooking inground pool!
$579,000
Andy Stevens *703.568.0727*
Peter Acland *540.409.1156*



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News of Note

Susan Margaret Batiste Quanbeck

March 7, 1933—March 2, 2007



Susan Margaret Batiste Quanbeck, an Air Force wife and homemaker, who lived near Middleburg, Virginia, died on March 2, age 73, at the Winchester Medical Center from the complications of cancer.

She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 7, 1933, the youngest child of Wilford Norman Batiste and Mildred Erickson Batiste. The family moved to Madison, Wisconsin in her childhood where she graduated from West High School in 1950. She then attended the University of Wisconsin where she was a dance major and a member of the Alpha Phi Sorority. In 1952 she met and married then Captain Alton Quanbeck who was stationed as a fighter pilot at nearby Truax Air Force Base. Coverage of her marriage was the feature article in the bride's issue of McCall's magazine, June, 1953.

She gave birth to her sons, Alton and David, at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York and to her daughter, Karen, in Denver, Colorado during assignment to the newly established United States Air Force Academy. In 1958 the family moved to Los Altos Hills, California, where her husband studied at Stanford University. In 1960, they returned to the site of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs for a four year tour. In 1964 with her husband's orders to the Pentagon the family moved to a farm near Middleburg where she lived until her death.

With her move to Virginia, she hunted with the Middleburg Hunt and rode in combined training events on her favorite horse, Red Rock Reuben, which she had purchased in Colorado. She later became an active tennis player and recreational skier.

She had a close bond with Emmanuel Church in Middleburg where she has served as Junior Warden, as Lay Eucharistic Minister, and on the Altar Guild. She was especially gratified by her completion of the Education For Ministry curriculum under the tutelage of now Bishop Mark Andrus. She held offices as President of the Stanford Officer's Wives Club and on the Board of Directors of the Middleburg Tennis Club and was a long time member of the Middleburg Garden Club.

Susan is survived by her husband of 54 years, Alton Harold Quanbeck of Middleburg, son Alton Harold Quanbeck, Jr. of Lexington, Kentucky, son David Batiste Quanbeck and daughter, Karen Susan Quanbeck, who both live on the family farm near Middleburg. Her brother, Colonel John Batiste, died in 1979, and her sister Mary Murchison now lives in Holden Beach, North Carolina. She is also survived by five grandchildren.

The family requests that memorial gifts be directed to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 306, Middleburg, VA 20118.

Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund Response "Heartwarming"

Middleburg, March 14, 2007: Far beyond the expectations of its Establishing Donor for the fund's first months, the community of Middleburg have contributed more than $7000 for breast cancer prevention.

James P. Atkins, Establishing Donor for the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund, which was created in late January, said that the number of people donating and offering to participate in fundraising has been much greater than he expected. "The Donor Advisory Committee and I are really overwhelmed with the amount of money we have received to date" he said. "The response is really heartwarming."

A breast cancer survivor, he said, called after seeing the Middleburg Eccentric's article, offering to help. "After just a few minutes of discussion", Atkins said, "this winery owner agreed to provide the wine for our April 21st fundraiser."

Husbands and daughters of breast cancer victims unknown to me, Atkins related, have committed to participating in our planned fundraisers and to generating new events.

Atkins said the invitations to the Fund's April 21st Steeplechase For The Cure party at the Middleburg Spring Races will be issued in the next few days. "About 700 invitations will be sent", he said, "but a maximum of 100 can be accepted, so I urge people to respond early. The party will a great celebration of our commitment to the eradication of breast cancer."

Well-Earned Commendation for Postmaster Norris Beavers



On March 8 the Middleburg Town Council unanimously passed a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition commending Postmaster Norris Beavers for his 22 years of service to Middleburg and its Citizens.

Dawson Donates Hunt Table

For Methodist Church Silent Auction



Reggie Dawson, Vice President of Middleburg Bank, community volunteer par excellence and talented woodworker has designed a built a beautiful side table for silent auction at the Middleburg Methodist Church Gala on March 24th. Proceeds will benefit the Middleburg Methodist Church, Seven Loaves and Windy Hill Foundation. Joan Brown, an artist from Marshall, created and painted the charming Fox Hunting Country motif. For more information contact Cindy Pearson 540-687-5152.







News of Note

Items from the "Cappy" Smith Estate to be Auctioned Online, Charming Memorabilia from "The Horseman of the Millennium"

When Morton W. "Cappy" Smith died in 2002, his daughter distributed property from his Landmark Road house in Middleburg among her half-brother, herself and Henry McCall, Cappy's brother-in-law. McCall put his items in storage and put off even thinking about them for a long time.

"For many years I didn't think about any of these objects because I missed the people who had owned them," McCall remembered.

Recently he realized that Cappy's many friends in the Middleburg area might like to have something from his home to remember him by, and, rather than simply run a few advertisements announcing the sale as he would have done before the internet, McCall created the Morton W. "Cappy" Smith Auction online at www.pondvillage.com/cappy.



"This is not an ebay auction," McCall cautions. "There is no seller "rating" because the seller has never done anything remotely like this, and Pay Pal is not involved. This is simply an opportunity for individuals who knew and admired him to bid on a small number of Cappy's things."

There were, according to McCall, too few items for a real "estate" auction, and only several items of substantial market value.

"I included the less valuable personal items as I knew Cappy had many admirers around Middleburg and I know they will recognize many of the objects from his home."

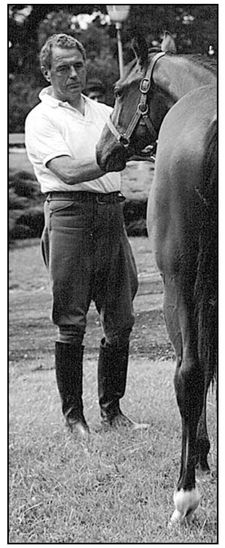
Although the provenance of the items is not available, there is a charming selection of decorative pieces and hunt memorabilia on view in the 105 crisp photographs on the website.

Reserves have been posted on the dining room table, a painting and other pieces of furniture but the personal items have no reserves and any items not sold will be donated to charity.

The sale begins at 9 a.m., Thursday, March 27th and ends at 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 3rd. Bidding, payment and shipping details are available on the website and bidders are encouraged to view the furniture and artwork prior to the auction.

McCall intends to be in Middleburg to distribute small items to winning bidders twice in the week following the sale. For bidders who are not in the Middleburg area, items will be shipped once payment has been received. Winning bidders for larger pieces must make arrangements to pick up their property by April 8th.

"The idea of having some fun with this sale is as important to me as trying to maximize any price," McCall concluded. "Right after the sale end, I am going to Rome where I will have dinner in an old restaurant behind the Pantheon where nuns serve you and sing hymns at the same time. From



there, I will remove to the Café Della Pace where I intend to raise a glass to Mr. and Mrs. Smith and to the very interesting lives they led."

Auction details are available at www.pondvillage.com/house-Auction.

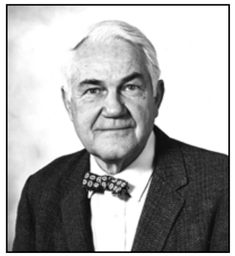
Family Honors Landscape Architect M. Meade Palmer With Major Gift to Northern PCF

Isabelle S. Palmer left a legacy to her community that will honor her husband, M. Meade Palmer for decades to come. Her family recently presented a $375,000 gift to the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation to establish the M. Meade Palmer Endowed Fund to recognize and remember his commitment as a tireless volunteer and a gifted landscape architect. Mrs. Palmer died in April of 2005.

Established to support charitable causes in the community, the fund will encourage the level of citizenship so amply evidenced by Palmer's life.

"We are honored to receive such a wonderful gift to help the community, said Elizabeth Henrickson, executive director of the NPCF. "We are gratified by the Palmer's generosity."

Palmer was an accomplished and talented landscape architect who opened a private practice in Warrenton in 1948. He focused his work primarily in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. Some of his notable projects include: Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove, Washington, DC; State office building and Governor's House, Annapolis, Maryland; Tomb of the Unknowns



at Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia; Woodrow Wilson Parkway, Staunton, Virginia; Bull Run Regional Park, Fairfax, Virginia; Sky Meadows State Park, Fauquier County, Virginia; Great Meadow Steeple Chase Course, The Plains, Virginia; Veterans Memorial, Warrenton, Virginia; Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia; Valentine Museum, Richmond, Virginia; National Cathedral, Washington, DC; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia; George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia; and the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

He was an actively involved community volunteer serving as Chair of the Fauquier County, Virginia Planning Commission; Zoning Administrator for Fauquier County, Virginia; and delegate to the Conservation Council of Virginia.

Palmer was a member of the Virginia Outdoors Recreation Study Commission; Lord Fairfax Community College Advisory Committee; National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Region Advisory Committee; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Fauquier Veterans Memorial Committee, Warrenton, Virginia; and the American Horticultural Society.

The Northern Piedmont Community Foundation is a public charity established in 2001. Over 700 community foundations exist in the United States, with 27 in Virginia. For more information, contact Elizabeth Henrickson at 540-349-0631 or P.O. Box 182, Warrenton, Virginia 20188.

Middleburg Town Council Votes to "Go Green," Creates Committee to Raise Awareness of Many Benefits

Town Council Members listened attentively as Rebecca Jarrett Posten, a member of the ad hoc committee created to look into what would be required for Middleburg to become a "Green Community," made a formal recommendation that the group become an official entity established to analyze and make recommendations that give citizens the benefits of environmental innovation and sustainability.

In her recommendation to the Council, Posten noted the wide range of experience and expertise represented by members of the ad hoc committee, and emphasized the group's generosity, enthusiasm, energy and exciting ideas.

"Committee members pointed out opportunities to increase awareness of sustainability by leveraging work being done by local businesses, citizens and organizations who are already working on similar efforts," she said. "We need to be methodical in involving the Town residents, of all ages…this is truly a group effort. The community needs to be informed and engaged."

As an example of the benefits of an informed citizenry, Posten explained that by simply changing from a 100 watt incandescent light bulb to a new, lumen compact fluorescent bulb, 500 pounds of coal are saved.

The benefit to the environment is obvious and there are significant reductions in cost that are reflected on the user's electric bill.

Posten suggested that, if the committee were formally established, the members would work closely with businesses to make purchasing the new bulbs easier and to establish recycling programs for the compact fluorescents. She noted that Australia's Environmental Minister recently announced that the burning of incandescent bulbs would be banned in Australia by 2010.

In her concluding remarks, Posten emphasized that sustainability is not an end in itself, but the beginning of an on-going process that will benefit the entire community.

The resolution to form the official committee to begin the work involved in Middleburg "Going Green," was passed unanimously by the Town Council.

Members of the Middleburg Goes Green ad hoc committee included: Mayor Betsy Davis; Director of Economic Development Claudia Dornin; Punkin Lee; Rebecca Jarrett Poston; Mimi Stein, compliance officer for Ayrshire Farm and Manager of the Home Farm Store; Ken Reid, executive vice president of the American Water Resources Association and member of the board of governors of the World Water Council; Connie Borely; Laura Gargagliano, LEED Certified Architect with Barnes Vanze Architects; Tony Hayes, Recycling Specialist with Loudoun County; Chandler Van Voorhis, vice president of CleanPower Foundation; Renee Lorton, CPA.



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Sporting Library Marks Centennial of Paul Mellon's Birth With Sir Alfred Munnings' "Reflections of a Life with Horses" Exhibit

Sporting Library Marks Centennial of Paul Mellon's Birth

With Sir Alfred Munnings' "Reflections of a Life with Horses" Exhibit.

National Sporting Library President and CEO Nancy Parsons recently announced that the Library will open an exceptional exhibit April 20th to honor Paul Mellon on the centennial of his birth.

Reflections of a Life with Horses: Sir Alfred J. Munnings' Paintings from the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art, will be on view through March 29, 2008.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have such an important exhibit at the National Sporting Library," said President Parsons. "Here, where Mr. Mellon lived, we are proud to participate in an international collaboration in his honor."

The exhibition, a noteworthy tribute to Paul Mellon, will feature sixteen exceptional paintings by the 20th century's premier equine painter, Sir Alfred J. Munnings (1878-1959).

The Library joins many other institutions that plan to host events this year to honor Paul Mellon who was born in 1907 and died in 1999.

Munnings enjoyed a well-established reputation long before Mellon met him in 1932. The second son of a Suffolk miller, the painter had been exhibiting his work at the Royal Academy since 1899. After serving in World War I, he was hired to execute Lord Beaverbrook's Canadian War Memorials Fund, a lucrative commission that launched him on the road to success.

Munnings then started producing dozens of successful equine portraits for the well-heeled sporting set in both England and America. These are the paintings for which he is renowned today.



A 44-page full-color catalogue of the exhibition will be available.

The National Sporting Library is located at 102 The Plains Road, Middleburg, Va., 42 miles west of Washington D.C. just off Route 50. It is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and on Saturday 1 pm to 4 pm. The Library is closed Sunday and Monday. Visit its web site at www.nsl.org .

Salamander Hospitality Letter of Intent

March 16, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
Town of Middleburg
Middleburg Town Hall
10 West Marshall Street
P.O. Box 187
Middleburg, VA 20118

Re: Salamander Resort

Dear Mayor Davis and Members of Council:

Thank you for considering our proposal to increase the number of guest rooms at the Salamander Resort to 168. As I explained to you during the March 8 Council meeting, a dramatic and unforeseen escalation in construction costs has made the current resort program financially unfeasible to build. We have diligently searched for solutions to this problem because of our sincere desire to complete the vision of a Five-Star resort in Middleburg. Although I know this is a significant change, we believe it offers substantial benefits to the Town:

- The increased number of guests will add to the business of Middleburg retailers, restaurateurs and related businesses;
- The 48 additional rooms will generate additional tax revenue for the Town with minimal demands for services and almost no impact on the landscape or natural resources;
- Ensuring the financial viability of the Resort with additional rooms increases the certainty of a sustained revenue base for the Town in the long-term.

I believe also that the additional number of rooms will have no adverse impact on traffic circulation in the Town. We have already commenced an updated traffic study to verify this. Other than the additional guest rooms, there will be no increase to capacities or square footage in any other area of the Resort.

As you consider our proposal, I want to allay any concerns you and the residents of Middleburg may have about our intent to build this resort and the timing of the new wastewater treatment plant. With the approval of the additional rooms and with the completion of our proposed master plan, Salamander will assure construction of the new plant on the current schedule, regardless of when the Resort is begun or completed. The current schedule for the plant will commence construction early next year and complete construction approximately one year later. We will work with the Town Attorney to provide a binding commitment to this effect.

I would also like to reiterate Salamander's commitment to grant the conservation easement to the Town and Potomac Conservancy. We have recently submitted the draft open space deed for review by the Town Attorney. As soon as the pending rezoning is approved, we will know the final boundaries of the new easement and record the deed.

We are eager to maintain our close, cooperative relationship with the Town and its residents as this project proceeds. Please let us know any questions or concerns you have about our proposal.

Sincerely,

Prem Devadas
President, Salamander Hospitality

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And don't miss the season's delicious sweet treats—including Easter cupcakes, giant egg sugar cookies and chocolate rabbits—created by our pastry chef Jason Reaves!

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News of Note

Women With the Power to End Poverty Meet in Middleburg as CARE Launches Global Campaign on International Women's Day

Dr. Helene Gayle, president and CEO of CARE, joined Sheila Johnson and 35 of the world's most powerful women at Johnson's Salamander Farm in Middleburg for the first "I Am Powerful" retreat. The "I Am Powerful" campaign, which officially launched on March 8th to coincide with International Women's Day, is designed to galvanize and capitalize on the power of women to end global poverty.

"Once a woman gains power, whether it be financial, political or associated with fame, she has a responsibility to use that power wisely," Johnson said as she opened the three-day event. "One woman can change the lives of a community, a village or a generation."

Dr. Gayle, an internationally recognized scientist and former Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation executive, was appointed president and CEO of CARE in December of 2005. She opened the meeting explaining that CARE, the world's leading international humanitarian organization fighting global poverty, celebrated its 61st anniversary in February.

"From post-World War II CARE packages to emergency relief, to fighting HIV/AIDS, gender inequity and poverty overall, CARE is an incredible organization," Gayle said.

As the organization's first woman president and CEO, she is determined to create a way for women in the United States to stand in solidarity with women in poor countries who struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day.

"When a woman gains power, she, her husband, her children and her extended family benefit for a lifetime," she continued. Women are an untapped natural resource in fighting global poverty."

Johnson, who is the Global Ambassador for CARE, opened the doors of her farm to a well-known and widely recognized group of women who brought intelligence, commitment and influence to the table for the first I Am Powerful retreat. Johnson challenged her guests to help change the world by being part of a movement to empower women.

Over the course of the weekend, participants included Gloria Allred (Partner, law firm of Allred, Maroko and Goldberg); Suzan Bymel (Partner, Management 360); Dominique Dawes (Gymnast/Olympian); Cynthia Dinkins (President, Sheila C. Johnson Foundation); Eve Ensler (Playwright, performer, activist - Vagina Monologues); Katharine Dyer (EVP, Digitas); Donna Shalala (President, University of Miami); Anne Eleanor Roosevelt (VP, Community and Education, Boeing) and Kate Roberts (Founder, YouthAIDS).

Also in attendance were Ivelisse Estrada (SVP Corporate & Community Relations, Univision); Susan Farnsworth (SVP for programs, at CARE); Juliet Garcia (President of Texas Southmost College); Vicki Gordon (SVP Corporate Affairs, Inter-Continental Hotels Group PLC of the United Kingdom); Charlayne Hunter-Gault (Award-winning Journalist); Sherine Jayawickrama (Sr. Policy Analyst, CARE); Dr. Natalia Kanem (President, ELMA Philanthropies Services); Kris Malkoski (EVP, CMO for Ubiquity Brands): Lydia Marshall (Board Member, Nationwide Insurance, Director of Seagate Technology); Pat Mitchell (President and CEO, Museum of Television and Radio, NY); Christine Morena (EVP Human Resources, Saks,Inc.).

Other attendees included Terry Neese (President and Co-founder, Women Impacting Public Policy Institute); Debra Neuman (SVP, External Relations, CARE USA.); Asra Nomani (Writer, Activist, former WSJ Correspondent); Peggy Northrop (Editor-in-Chief MORE Magazine); Millicent Obaso (Anthropologist and sociologist, Regional HIV & AIDS advisor, CARE); Donna Orender (President, WNBA Assoc.); Arely Francisca Reyes Reynado (Social Worker, CARE); Victoria Sant (Co-founder and President, Summit Foundation); Delmy Sandovar de Munoz (Community leader, Santa Gertrudis, El Salvador); Julia Savacool (Deputy Editor, Marie Claire); Pam Shockley-Zalabak (Chancellor and Professor at U of Colorado); Dr. Betty Spence (President NAFE); Sofia Sprechmann (Deputy Regional Director, CARE): Sandra Taylor (SVP, Corporate Social responsibility, Starbucks Coffee Co); Stanojka Tesic (Founder Forum Zena - Forum of Women, Bosnia); Marcy Vigoda (Director, CARE's Gulf of Guinea program); (Vera Vukovic, Manager CARE); Padmasree Warrior (EVP and CTO Motorola); Nancy Weber (Chief Marketing Officer, Meredith Publishing Group); Michele Wetherald (Executive Director, American Association of University Women) and Tae Yoo (VP Corporate Affairs, Cisco Systems, Inc.).

Participants engaged in a full agenda of discussions about how to use what they have accomplished to help other women and focused on both the domestic and global challenges women face.

By the conclusion of the weekend, participants were much more aware of each other's backgrounds and strengths, and could begin to envision how they might work together to help achieve the goals outlined by Dr. Gayle and Sheila Johnson.



PHOTO BY J.D. SCOTT/CARE

At left, Dr. Helene Gayle (CEO & President, CARE); Marie Daulne (Singer/founder Zap Mama); Charlayne Hunter-Gault(Journalist); and Millicent Obaso (Anthropologist and Sociologist, working for CARE as region HIV & AIDS advisor for East and Central Africa)

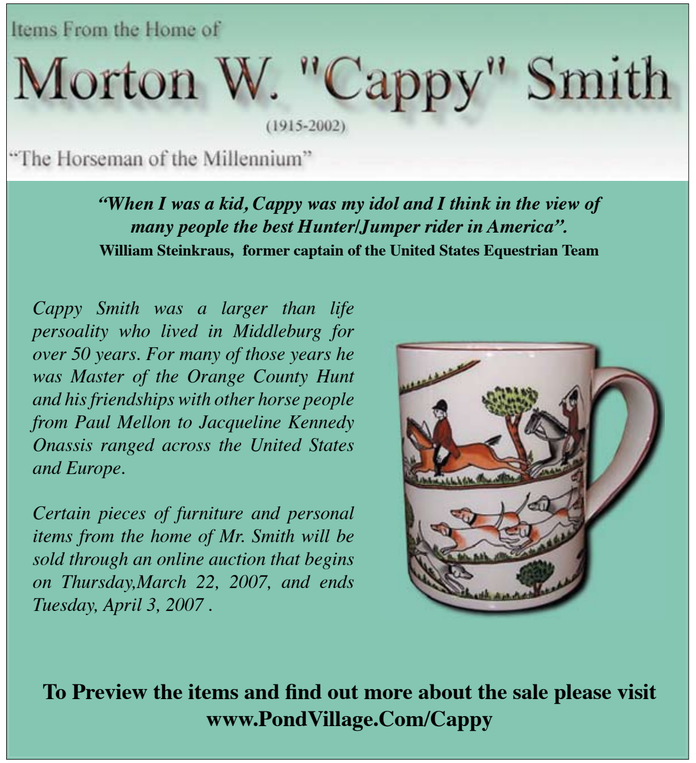
Today, women represent two-thirds of the world's 876 million illiterate adults, and, although women make up half the world's population and produce half the world's food, they own just one percent of its farmland.

CARE's six decades of experience and extensive research show that the longer a girls stays in school, the higher the income of her family when she becomes an adult. If women in the United States stand up and stand together now for women around the world, just as American women did a century ago to ensure that women had the right to participate fully in society, to vote and to own and inherit property, the world will definitely be a better place.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi , who was unable to attend the weekend retreat due to a prior commitment, called in to convey her support and to offer her help.

Zap Mama, one of the most popular Afro-European/World Music ensembles in the world, performed for the group on Saturday evening. Photographer Phil Borges, was on hand to sign his latest book "Women Empowered: Inspiring Change in the Emerging World." His photographs were also on display during the "I Am Powerful," retreat.







News of Note

The Gifford Foundation Pledges Support for Morrisville College Equine Rehabilitation Center, Cornell Also Desires Collaboration

The Gifford Foundation of CNY recently approved a $150,000 grant to the Morrisville College Foundation (MCF) for its planned Equine Rehabilitation and Physiology facility and Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine has indicated both support for the initiative and a desire to collaborate on the state-of-the-art facility.

More than 3,000 horses leave thoroughbred racing each year, and more than 80,000 horses from top level competition in 52 other equestrian sports, underscore the need for further study of equine rehabilitation and physiology. As a response to these needs, Morrisville State College {MSC}, intends to expand the capacity of its 301-student/400-horse operation to better serve horse owners across New York State and in the Northeast.

Eventually, MSC will offer the nation's $102 billion horse industry an opportunity to employ students trained in a real-world laboratory setting who have graduated from the college's planned bachelor of science degree in equine physiology, the first of its kind in the United States .

According to Kathy Goldfarb-Findling, executive director of The Gifford Foundation, "This grant represents The Gifford Foundation's continued commitment to worthwhile projects in Madison County, and we are especially pleased to support the innovative and entrepreneurial approach to education offered by MSC."

James Hastie, MCF executive director, said, "The first time I walked into The Gifford Foundation's board room and noticed the black and white picture of Rosamond Gifford with her horse, I admit I was optimistic. Now that one of the most well known philanthropic organizations in Central New York has made such a generous leadership gift to this project – I am truly grateful and hopeful that others supportive of economic development in Upstate New York will contribute to this campaign as well."

The college is in the process of raising funds to build the facility. To join The Gifford Foundation, Empire Racing, and so many others who have pledged close to two million dollars in support the MCF Equine Rehabilitation and Physiology campaign or for more information, visit www.morrisville.edu/mcf or call James Hastie, MCF executive director, at 315-684-6030 .

Go Low and Get Low" So You Won't Be Swept Away by a Tornado

Loudoun County residents are encouraged to know what action to take immediately should a tornado strike. According to the Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management, it is most important to seek shelter and to "go low and get low."

The general rule is to go to the lowest level of a structure you are in, or to seek shelter in the lowest level of a nearby building. The ideal place is a room with no windows with the very best space being a basement. A closet, bathroom or hallway are good options is a basement is not available.

If you cannot reach a building when a tornado is approaching, lay flat on the ground in the open and in a ditch or depression. If you are in a shopping mall, gymnasium or civic center, take shelter in the restroom if at all possible.

Do not stay or seek shelter in mobile homes, and, if possible, protect your body from flying debris with a heavy blanket or sleeping bag.

For further information regarding tornado preparedness, please visit www.loudoun.gov/oem or telephone 703 777 0333.

Middleburg Meander

From Page 1

another the objective will remain the same: "Developing a sense of stewardship amongst citizens," states Janes. "Because it's hard to do so with soul without people knowing about the wildlife and the plant life that is just as much a part of our community as are we."

Right now, it seems a large, somewhat unwieldy project as are so many in the beginning stages when a good idea requires hard work, research and management by an inspired champion, with the finish line only a marathon distance away.

Yet Janes has faced such daunting prospects before and managed to get things done.

As a former board member of the Piedmont Environmental Council and a member of the Goose Creek Association she is well-versed regarding the creation of conservation easements. But perhaps what drives her to protect the local ecosystems is deeper than any scientific or political understanding of how these things work – Janes grew up here.

Her parents had a farm where they raised ponies and made hay, making for a childhood she prizes and sees as the natural genesis of her active pursuit to preserve, at some level, that lifestyle and that landscape.

"I can't imagine," she says, "not having that."

Like others who grew up here, much of her time was spent exploring on horseback.

Beauty Pursued & Preserved

While that is still a common pursuit for many in the area, it is not as easily guaranteed as it once was. Thus, the suggestion that a walking trail be created that will allow everyone to enjoy and experience Middleburg's natural beauty. Moreover there are well-documented health benefits to country walks, an activity embraced in places like the United Kingdom, but an endeavor increasingly difficult to safely do in our fast-developing region.

This particular observation became clear to Janes on her frequent drives between Washington and Middleburg, a route that has undergone rampant growth in recent years.

Some might allow themselves to get discouraged faced so regularly with the oncoming sprawl, but Janes takes a more studious approach. She has taken note of the new communities being built and how they have succeeded in some regards (planting trees, planning green spaces) and failed in others (planting the "wrong" trees, not connecting the communities.)

Her hope is that these "wrongs" can be righted by effective education and the long-term benefits of preserving both ecological and cultural landscapes. She doesn't view the destruction of such as necessarily nefarious – just ill-advised, uneducated. "If someone is not a farmer or a horticulturalist, how would you know?"

Again, a basic education in the interdependent ways of ecosystems allows a person to appreciate and respect the reasons for sustaining them.

She gives an example that plays perfectly into her motivation to make education a key component of the walking trail - our ponds. Many newcomers come in and mow and weedwack the perimeter of a pond to make it neater. In doing so they unwittingly destroy the habitats for peepers and desirable bird life while attracting Canadian geese. The geese are fun for a bit – until they start making their trademark mess. And then the geese get cursed.

At the end of the day, the less "neat," more natural flora and fauna are easier and more pleasant to live with, a classic win-win scenario. Janes has plenty of examples to illustrate that dynamic, the dynamic being, it's hard to improve upon nature.

Having presented her case to the Town Council in February, will continue forward.

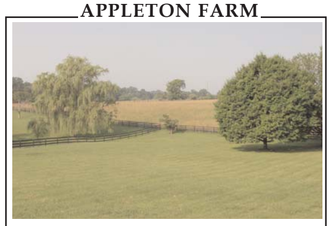
According to Town Council Member Lisa Patterson, Janes' presentation was well received.

"The Council was very supportive," says Patterson, "And we suggested she come to the Planning Commission so we can include the walking trail in the Comprehensive Plan."

Janes plans to do so and will also be meeting soon with the Middleburg Main Street Committee. Over time and with input and help from like-minded individuals Janes hopes to ensure the future of the path, see it adopted by town planners, secure funding, and eventually, see the Middleburg Meander enjoyed by all.

Mary Ann McGowan - Hunt Country Properties

APPLETON FARM



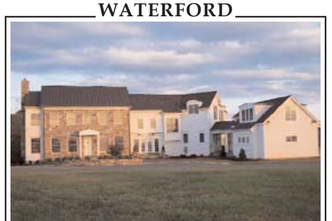
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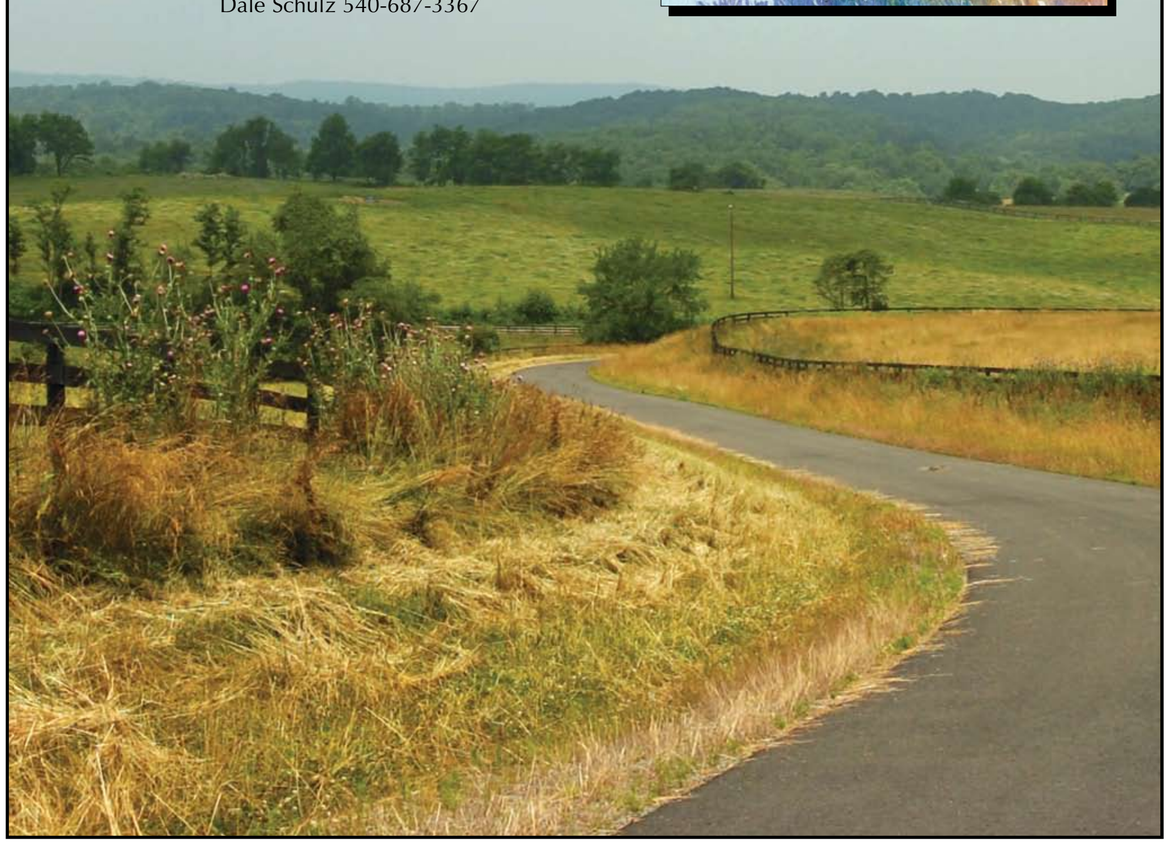
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Editor's Desk

If Wishes Were Horses...

When Salamander Inn was proposed and pro and con conversations were in full swing, the resort was to have 58 rooms. Then, that number was revised upwards to 120 rooms and in a 2005 memo of understanding the Town Council voted, among other things, to accept the increase.

A new $5million waste water treatment plant was an important part of that memo of understanding, and there is no question that gaining that much-needed infrastructure played a large role in the decision-making process

Last week, when the Town Council learned that, because of increases in construction costs, the Inn had to have 40 rooms more, at least, for the enterprise to be financially viable, the mood was understandably tense.

We live in a time when "A weekend in Middleburg Hunt Country" is easily as seductive as "A weekend in Napa's wine country," but we live in a place that is just as divided about the value of seducing weekenders to the area as Napa County was when enology began to fascinate trend followers and acres of ancient olive trees were uprooted to make way for more vines.

We are more than confident that Sheila Johnson and her team will take vigilant care of the countryside, and that our trees will be better protected than ever. We simply want to be as confident that this is the last request Salamander will make to enlarge the operation knowing full well that every citizen of the Village is depending on an agreement for vital infrastructure which cannot be delayed.

If wishes were horses, our memo of understanding would have concluded these negotiations.

Continual requests for more rooms is not on anyone's wish list and could seriously compromise supporters' confidence.

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:

At the February 13 Purcellville Town Council meeting I was approached by Councilman CJ Walker requesting that I serve on the town's Centennial Committee. Approaching me was logical because I founded the Centennial Committee and because I have worked tirelessly for many years, both on the Council and off, to enhance the quality of life in Purcellville. Mr. Walker seemed desperate to recruit residents to serve stating that there was nobody currently on the committee. One year ago the Centennial Committee was active and staffed with committed enthusiastic volunteers. What has happened in Purcellville in the past year? Perhaps I can shed some light on the situation.

We have a new Mayor and three new Council members. Since taking office last July they have spent enormous sums of our tax dollars fighting a high school, which would benefit our community. Our new Mayor promised during his campaign that he was the best-qualified person to repair and improve relations with the county government. The town is currently involved in three lawsuits, one with the town itself and two with the County. We are paying a cadre of lawyers to sue ourselves. Our tax dollars are being wasted to pay law firms on both sides of these issues. The state of relations between the town and county has never been more abysmal. It would not be an exaggeration to say that there currently is no working relationship with the county.

One of the lawsuits the town is engaged in is internal. The Town Council is suing the Town's own Board of Zoning Appeals which is made up of volunteer residents. The Council is insisting that the BZA side with them in its dispute regarding the planned high school at Fields Farm. The BZA wisely determined that its jurisdiction ends at the town limits. So town taxpayers are paying for legal counsel not only for the Council, but also for opposing legal counsel for the Town Board of Zoning Appeals. It is clear that if citizen volunteers refuse to go along with this Council's absurd schemes they could find themselves in litigation.

Is it any wonder that the Council is finding it difficult to recruit residents willing to volunteer their time to serve the Town? With the state of affairs in Purcellville I refuse to subject myself to a situation where I may be sued by the very organization I am being asked to assist. No thank you Mr. Walker. I've seen enough to know better. As a matter of fact, I find it amazing that the members of the current Board of Zoning Appeals haven't already tendered their resignations. Given the litigious nature of the Purcellville Town Council, I am surprised that anyone is serving on any of the Town's volunteer boards and commissions.

To add insult to injury the Council recently voted to remove $25,000 from the Centennial budget. I guess they decided they needed those funds to help pay for the multiple litigations they've initiated. You can bet that the county sure isn't going to help Purcellville finance a birthday party. What a shame. Purcellville is going to be observing its 100th anniversary next year and now it looks like we won't have any kind of celebration.

If this Mayor and Council want to encourage civic participation I recommend they stop wasting our tax dollars on ridiculous litigation. They should quit suing every agency or board that disagrees with their policies. Quit wasting our tax dollars on lawsuits and mailings intended to confuse and mislead the public. Then maybe they will have a chance to repair the damage that they have created. Perhaps residents will once again be willing to volunteer on Town boards and commissions.

Karl R. Phillips
Purcellville, Va

To the Editor:

The Troop-Surge Vote: The Journey Back to Leadership

I would like to commend those members of the U.S. Congressional delegation from Virginia who voted to express their disapproval of the Commander-in-Chief's tragic decision to disregard the specific recommendations of the bi-partisan committee on Iraq and increase troop strength in Baghdad. Make no mistake—this vote, more than any other over the next two years—draws a line in the sand for Virginia voters for the next two years. It reveals unequivocally who owns this war and who, specifically, must be held accountable in future elections for the serious damage it has done and will yet do to America. This disastrous foreign policy debacle continues to threaten our national security and is breaking the back of our military. For the most part, the Virginia Republican party—and the members of the Virginia Congressional delegation who continue to support "stay the course" in yet another guise—have once again supported a President and Vice President whose hubris knows no limits. Whatever happens from this point forward, Virginia's Congressional delegation is now on the record. Here's the tally:

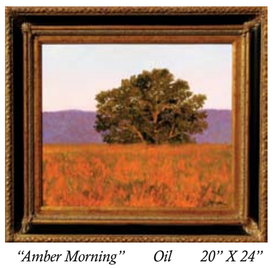
Senator Warner (R) and Senator Webb (D) voted "yes" to force an up-or-down vote on the President's actions and, in so doing, they demonstrated real leadership in the Senate at a critical time in this nation's history. Senator Webb has been against the war from the beginning. Senator Warner has finally begun to understand how damaging this policy he has supported for over three years is. In the House, Virginia's Republican congressional delegation voted overwhelmingly to support the President's troop surge—with one notable exception. Congressman Tom Davis, Republican, District 11 crossed over to vote in favor of the resolution opposing the surge. Again, cudos to the Congressman for acknowledging that his earlier position was ill-considered.

Most remarkable was Congressman Frank Wolf's vote. He voted—once again—to support the President's "stay the course" policy. This vote, more than any other, is simply incomprehensible. Congressman Wolf was the sponsor of the initiative to form the bi-partisan commission on Iraq. And yet, when the President summarily rejected the unanimous recommendations of some of the best, bi-partisan minds in the nation—recommendations which specifically advised against a troop surge—Congressman Wolf once again sided with the President in rejecting the committee's recommendations. More than any vote in his career, Congressman Wolf's vote on this issue represents incoherent policy, a shocking "flip-flop", and a profound lack of leadership. We will consider Congressman Wolf's new proposals to form yet more committees to address Medicare and Social Security in light of his complete disregard for the findings of his last sponsored committee.

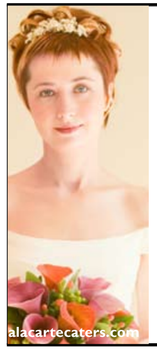
Apparently, the majority of Virginia's Congressional delegation continue to support the President's assertions that we must, "…finish the job…." I have only two challenges for members of Congress who espouse that view. Define "finish." Define "the job." Because if you can't do that, then you have no right to ask our men and women in uniform to extend their tours without prior notice, to curtail their time at home, and very possibly, to lay down their lives in pursuit of some objective neither you nor this government can enunciate.

Continued Page 13

Tom Neel



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Rant & Raves

Red vs Blue

Responsible Action Needed

Mark Tate - (R)

Last week the 27th Legislative committee decided that an open primary on June 12th will be the method of nomination.

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

There are many red flags that are raised by the rapid ascent from the development of the HPV Vaccine to being mandatory for girls entering sixth grade. The number one problem with the vaccine is that it has not been tested adequately on the group that is mandated to take it. Girls 9 to 15 were tested for immune response, not effectiveness of drug in prevention of cancer.

This vaccine is touted as being 100 percent effective against two strains of HPV associated with about 70 percent of diagnosed cases of cervical cancer. However, according to a study published in the February 28, 2007, issue of JAMA, only 2 percent of American women carry these two strains. _

Last but not least, vaccines are not benign agents. Hundreds of reports of adverse reactions to the HPV vaccination have been submitted to the CDC in the past few months, some of them involving joint pain, seizures, and Guillan-Barré syndrome, a serious neurological disorder. And because this vaccine was fast-tracked through the FDA approval process; it just hasn't been around long enough for long-term effects to be understood.

Why is there such a rush? Wall Street analysts predict that Gardasil, which is projected to generate $2 billion to $4 billion this year without state mandates and $12 billion with mandates.

We need to take a step back and make sure this vaccine is the right thing to do instead of pushing a vaccine upon sixth grade girls for the benefit of Merck's stock prices!

Dominion Power Reregulation

The so-called "re-regulation" bill, drafted primarily by Dominion Power, flew through the General Assembly with no debate or concern over its impact on the states and the nation's environment has to raise eyebrows.

This is unacceptable!

This bill will raise every citizen's electric bill by 25% which is tantamount to the biggest tax increase in Virginia's history.

Rather than embracing clean alternatives that benefit firms, citizens and the environment, Dominion's bill supports more of the same old dirty energy. As a country Dominion would rank 34th in the world in terms of pollution.

This bill doesn't need to be signed. We cannot afford to allow Dominion Power to have a blank check when it comes to our finances.

We also need to mandate Dominion to invest in energy efficiency, conservation programs, to build renewable generation for our future energy needs, utilizing emissions-free resources such as wind and solar instead of dirty coal.

Let Governor Kaine know that this bill cannot be passed in its current state!

March Madness

Dan Morrow - (D)

T. S. Eliot famously dubbed April the cruelest month. Perhaps it's the daylight savings time, but March now seems, somehow, competitive.

Iraq

March 20 marked the beginning of the fifth year of the war in Iraq. Nearly 3,200 American troops have died there; nearly 3,100 of them since "Mission Accomplished." More than 24,000 have been declared "officially" wounded.

Between 59,000 and 65,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed; maybe more.

All efforts to extricate ourselves from this quagmire before Bush leaves office seem doomed to failure.

The "Surge"

Bush's last best hope as military commander in Iraq has already called for nearly 5,000 more troops than he thought were required to support his efforts to pacify Baghdad. Brave men and women still follow orders and kick down doors in this Civil War's march toward that little clump of trees.

Walter Reed

The Washington Post's stories on the conditions at Walter Reed lead to an ongoing series of frightful revelations about the treatment of both recently wounded soldiers and our veterans from wars long past.

Head wounds

"Insult to the brain," the medics call it. Not always immediately obvious. Especially in the young.

Gonzales

Alberto Gonzales remains Attorney General of the United States, despite justifying torture, undermining the rights guaranteed by the Constitution he is sworn to uphold, subverting the Federal criminal justice system to serve the political agenda of his White House patrons, mismanaging his department, undermining the authority of Congress, and making the United States an international symbol of injustice, if not tyranny.

Cheney

"Scooter" Libby's stands convicted as a scapegoat for the Vice President he served, and a host of other Bush administration officials who feared exposure as either fools, dupes, or criminals.

Plame

Valerie Plame Wilson's standing as a covert agent has, at last, been certified . . . not only by the facts but by Bush's own CIA Director. "Ignorance" thus becomes the only defense for those who betrayed her and her contacts, though "indifference" becomes a key constituent in what the special prosecutor described as a "cloud" hanging over the Vice President.

Bush

The President of the United States of America now finds it embarrassing, if not dangerous, to travel in his own hemisphere, and is reduced to citing agreements on "beans and corn" as symbols of his country's preferability to Hugo Chavez's Venezuela.

Waste

Despairing candidates from both parties speak from their hearts, naming the sacrifice of good men and women on the altar of an ill-conceived and unjust war for precisely the thing it is.

Thus Eliot, a child of 30, in 1922: "What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow out of this stony rubbish?" Fall back. March forward.

Missed Lesson
From Beyond the Beltway

Ken Rietz

There is an old political axiom warning candidates not to run the next campaign on the issues of the previous campaign. This seems to be a lesson Nancy Pelosi and the Democrat leadership in the House of Representatives have missed. There is little question that the Democrat's success in the last election was Iraq driven, although some believe, Congressional corruption played an equal role.

The focus on the war in Iraq by this Congress however, has only divided the House. This became evident when YouTube began carrying a clip of Wisconsin , liberal Democratic Congressman, David Obey referring to his colleagues as "idiot liberals" and blaming them for House inaction.

In fact, there is little the House of Representatives can do other than pass meaningless resolutions or cut off funding for the troops.

All the polls however show, that while the American people are dissatisfied with the conduct of the war, they are overwhelmingly opposed to cutting off funding for our troops. This isn't the first time Congress has tried to meddle in the conduct of a war. In fact, in 1777 George Washington received a letter from the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, telling him to "totally subdue" the British. What did they think he was TRYING TO DO ? Washington was incensed but the letter had no other impact.

The present efforts by the House Democrats will be equally futile. The "Bush Surge" will either work or it won't. In either case, troops will start to come home next year. This will reduce the impact of Iraq on the 2008 elections.

So, the net impact of the effort by House Democrats will have been to divide their caucus, squander whatever momentum they had and waste valuable media coverage on an issue that will not be as important in the next election. They totally ignored other concerns such as healthcare, education, immigration and a viable energy policy.

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

Northern Virginians Don't Respond Well to Bullying

Jeff Carter

Everyone except Dominion Power is moving into the modern age of energy conservation and clean power. From their major national and global competitors to their customers and partners in Northern Virginia, Dominion is losing the race to 21st century corporate citizenship, productive customer partnerships and above board business practices.

Although green policies are now high on the priority lists of private and institutional investors, and stone walling the public has given way to transparency whether dealing with elected officials, concerned employees or the public at large, Dominion clearly still believes that the old way is the best way to get things done their way.

While ethanol-burning buses, hybrid cars and more trees are on the way for Fairfax County, Middleburg's Town Council has approved a "Go Green" initiative, and Warrenton's Mayor George Fitch is being recognized nationally for his ambitious and revenue productive environmental goals to serve his community better for less, Dominion offers scare tactics and blackout threats to promote their "towers of power" across the Virginia countryside without either the data or the confidence to clearly define the need.

President of Virginians for Sensible Energy Policies Matt Sheedy, insists that the alternative route Dominion has proposed that follows their existing right of way in no way takes the march of "towers of power" across beautiful Virginia hunt country and verdant farm land off the table. But the main problem with their request to add capacity at all is that Dominion still has not, and adamantly refuses to prove that the new lines are even nec-

Continued Page 38

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It's Your Business

Middleburg's Market Salamander Debuts in Palm Beach
A Celebratory "Taste of Florida" For Virginia Customers



To celebrate the opening of Market Salamander in Palm Beach, Florida, the Middleburg market will offer 'A Taste of Florida,' to Northern Virginia customers. A scrumptious key lime tart by Pastry Chef Jason Reeves, key lime and ginger shrimp and many other sunny surprises will be available during the month of March.

Market Salamander Palm Beach is modeled after the Middleburg market in space that was once home to former Palm Beach institution, Herbert's Lafayette Market. Sheila Johnson completely renovated the space to create a space reflective of her passion for fine food, from ingredients to preparation to packaging. MSPB will offer menus heavily focused on prepared take-away foods that do not compromise either quality of flavor.

General Manager and Chef, Steve Petusevsky spent ten years as Director of Creative Food Development for Whole Foods. His passion is for creative, wholesome, and satisfying food that focuses on fresh ingredients and full, forward flavors.

Petusevsky refers to the diverse menu offerings as "global cuisine with Mediterranean influences" a reflection of his own personal taste and extensive travel and writing assignments.

MSPB's off-site social and corporate catering staff will serve any event from lavish weddings to down home cookouts to board room luncheons. Daily delivery services are also available.

Market Salamander Palm Beach is located at 155 North County Road in Palm Beach, Florida and operates Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 7 pm. For more information please call 561.659.MSPB (6772) or visit www.market-salamander.com.

Brambleton Welcomes Cinema Complex, Barnes and Noble, more Retailers

New services and wider retail options are in store for almost 2,000 families who now call Brambleton home. With zoning approval is in place for a total of 6,240 residential units, there will be plenty of customers for the new businesses.

Barnes & Noble plans to open its first retail store in Loudoun at Brambleton's rapidly growing Town Center. Infrastructure on the site is being completed before turning this anchor tenant location over to Barnes & Noble for construction. Plans call for a 2008 opening.

This spring Consolidated Theatres plans to open a 16-theater complex at Brambleton's Town Center.

"The past three months have been among our strongest sales months ever," notes Kim Adams, Brambleton's director of marketing. "Our diverse range of builder products appeals to families at every stage of their lives. We are typically speaking to a new 100 families each week.

To serve the community's growth, the Brambleton Group's corporate offices have relocated from Route 7 to a 7,000-square-foot-space within the Town Center complex.

Jack Elder and Associates Real Estate Company is Growing

Jack Elder and Associates Real Estate Company is pleased to announce the expansion of their firm in Middleburg. The new offices are located at 103-C West Federal Street behind Middleburg Bank. Principal Broker, Jack Elder announces the following agents recently joined the firm: Colin B. MacLeod, (Realtor, GRI, ABR), Mary Litchfield Reid, (Associate Broker), and Darryl T. Dubose, Realtor.

Additionally, Wayne Bookstaver president of Blue Ridge Finance Corp. will maintain offices at the same address.

Kristina Bouweiri Receives Woman of the Year Award, Recognizes Business Acumen

Dulles-area businesswoman Kristina Bouweiri, president and CEO of Reston Limousine, was recently honored with a 2007 Enterprising Women of the Year award at the magazine's gala in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Presented by North Carolina-based publication, Enterprising Women, a women-owned magazine published exclusively for women business owners that chronicles the growing political, economic and social influence of entrepreneurial women, the awards honor the country's top women entrepreneurs and their achievements. Winners are also recognized as leaders who have given back to other women in business, and have had a profound impact on their community.

"Kristina Bouweiri is an accomplished entrepreneur who has earned the respect and admiration of her community," said Monica Smiley, publisher and CEO of Enterprising Women. "This award is a testament to Kristina's remarkable accomplishments and business acumen."

Already the largest luxury transportation service in the Commonwealth, Reston Limousine with its 137 vehicles now ranks 23rd in the nation in operational size. The company is also among the top 10 largest shuttle bus fleets in the country, and has 259 employees.

Founded in Reston in 1990, Reston Limousine recently purchased property and relocated from Shaw Road in Sterling to its own facility on Elmwood Court in the Dulles corridor of Loudoun County. Reston Limousine is well known locally for its government shuttle transportation services, innovative wine country tours and wedding, social, and VIP transportation. It is recognized as the official transportation provider of the Washington Capitals.

Bouweiri is actively involved in a number of local organizations, including the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce, Committee for Dulles, the Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association, and numerous trade organizations. Through Bouweiri's efforts, her company is a consistent advocate for children's causes as well as other charitable efforts, resulting in the donation of over $150,000 in funds and gifts-in-kind within the Washington metropolitan area.

For further information contact Reston Limousine at 703-478-0500 or visit www.RestonLimo.com.

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Editor's Desk

Letters to the Editor
From Page 10

Virginia's voters now have a clear choice. Thanks to the President's near-obsession to continue down this numbingly tragic path—and thanks to those members of Virginia's Congressional delegation who support him—we will be debating this issue well into the next election cycle. And Iraq will still be melting down. And several hundred more U.S. military families will be going to their loved ones' funerals.

Mike Turner
Colonel, USAF, retired
Former Joint Staff
Middle East Planner
Waterford, Va

To the Editor:

Every year in the United States more highway workers are killed than police and firefighters, combined. There is no question that highway construction is among the most dangerous professions. However, work zones can be even more dangerous for motorists – particularly young, inexperienced drivers. Statistics show that motorists comprise four out of five of all deaths in highway work zones.

Nearly 1,100 men, women and children are killed in work zones nationwide each year. In 2005 there were 2,278 crashes, 1,187 injuries and 14 deaths in Virginia work zones alone. This averages more than six crashes and three injuries every day. These deaths include Department of Transportation employees, contractors and motorists.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is committed to reducing these injuries and deaths. In addition to recognizing Work Zone Awareness Week each year in April for the past 10 years, VDOT and volunteers from the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance began bringing the message of driving safely through work zones to thousands of high school driver education classes in 2003. More than 79,000 of our youngest drivers have heard this message since over the last four years.

This year we will observe Work Zone Awareness Week in conjunction with National Work Zone Awareness Week April 2-6.

Everyone plays a role in keeping work zones safe. For motorists, these three steps can mean the difference between life and death.

• When you see the orange signs, be alert for changing conditions ahead.

• Slow down and expect the unexpected. Pay attention to your surroundings. You may encounter lane shifts, construction vehicles entering and leaving the roadway, or changed speed limits.

• Minimize distractions! Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving in the work zone.

We continue to look for innovative ways to safeguard motorists and highway work crews in work zones. We accelerate construction when possible and adjust schedules to do work during off-peak travel times. We use prefabricated components to quickly make road repairs and minimize work zones. We design work zones with safety as a top priority. And, we close roads and tunnels during off-peak hours to complete construction and maintenance more quickly. Yet, crashes continue to take lives every year. We will do our part to keep Virginia moving. We need your help to keep our work zones safe.

To find out more about driving safely through work zones, visit www.VirginiaDOT.org.

Sincerely,
VDOT Commissioner David S. Ekern, P.E.,
regarding National Work Zone Awareness Week April 2-6.

To the Editor:

20 months after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Salamander has come once again to the Town with another change proposal, this time requesting an addition to the Inn of "a minimum of 40 rooms, preferably 48", and claiming that the project at 120 rooms is no longer financially feasible. It is important to remember that the limit of 120 rooms was one suggested and agreed to by Salamander, in whose employ have been many experts (Salamander's own description) in the development industry with many years of experience in the field. This limit was much larger than many citizens in the town and greater community were comfortable with and much larger than originally proposed (40 in 2003) by Salamander for the Inn.

In his statement to the Town Council March 8, Prem Devadas said that if Salamander did not obtain permission to build the extra rooms, they may decide not to build the Inn at all. This was a very surprising statement, given the commitments made by Salamander in the MOU and their frequent assurances that they stand behind their commitments. The Town was enticed into the MOU by the promise of a new sewer plant and it would be quite revealing if Salamander does not live up to their end of the bargain. Salamander's threat shows great disdain for the commitment made by the Town to fulfill its obligations under the MOU and the trust the Town has had in Salamander that they would live up to their end of the agreement.

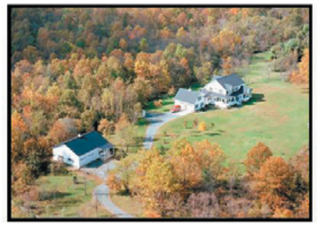
It is time for Salamander to follow through on the agreement they made with the town. If the financial picture for them has taken a turn for the worse, it is through no fault of the Town, rather quite the contrary. The Town has worked diligently to accommodate Salamander's applications and requests for four years, spending countless hours of staff, Town Council and Planning Commission time. Furthermore, Salamander has tremendous opportunity for revenue in the sale of the residential and commercial units on the balance of the property. What will the next request will be? Will there be an end to this project? Will it be built? After four years of trials and tribulations, what benefits have accrued to the town in this association?

To those worried as to what might happen if Salamander does not get its way, the town has been here for over two hundred years and will survive and prosper for many more with or without Salamander. Too many good people care deeply about the town for its future to be otherwise.

Sincerely,
Michael Morency
The Plains, Va

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Focus Wealth Management Expands with New Hire

Christopher S. Modly joins local Wealth Manager as director of business development.

Focus Wealth Management, Ltd., a local investment management and financial planning firm has recently hired Christopher S. Modly as director of business development. He will develop and manage all aspects of the firm's strategic growth initiative.

Modly, a decorated U.S. Navy veteran, comes to Focus from the golf industry where he served as head golf professional for Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club in Tampa, Florida. He was responsible for administering a $14 million budget to support their golf operations and is experienced in managing financial

operations and presenting complex financial analysis, along with being a certified golf instructor.

"We are excited to have Mr. Modly join our team", said Sandra Atkins, president of Focus Wealth Management. "Chris brings a solid record of delivering exceptional client service along with his strong business talents. He will be valuable in helping us to maintain our high standards as we continue to grow." Modly and his family plan to live in Warrenton



Business Executives and Professionals Look Forward



Making plans for a successful year of networking and marketing Middleburg as a premier destination were business execs and professionals at the recent Bizz Buzz Mixer. New Business and Professional Association President Jo An Hazard is the co-owner of Middleburg Country Inn; Ken Reid of American Water Resources is the new vice president; Pat Daly, co-owner of Books & Crannies serves as secretary; and Immediate Past President Dee Dee Hubbard, editor and co-owner of the Middleburg Eccentric, will serve as treasurer. The group meets monthly. Please contact khazard@middleburgcountryinn.com or telephone 540 687 6082 for information.

Lee To Lead As Board Increases Bank's Community Presence in Fauquier

Middleburg Bank announced on March 8, 2007, that G. Robert Lee has been elected Chairman of its Fauquier Board of Directors. Lee will lead the Fauquier board's efforts to increase Middleburg Bank's community presence in Fauquier County. Mr. Lee will assume the Chairmanship immediately.

Gary Shook, Executive Vice President and Fauquier Regional Executive of Middleburg Bank commented, "Bob Lee has been a leader in the Fauquier community for more than twenty years. Supporting the local community is as important to him as it is to us. I can't think of a better person to guide Middleburg Bank as we play a larger role in the Fauquier community."

G. Robert Lee has served the local community in a public capacity for years as County Administrator for both Fauquier County and Clarke County. Today, Mr. Lee is Executive Director of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving the natural, scenic, historic, open-space and recreational areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Members of the Fauquier board also include Joe Allen, President of Allen Real Estate, Ltd.; Millie Curtis, Executive Director of Intersure, Ltd.; Henry C. (Hank) Day, Attorney at Henry C. Day Attorney-at-Law; Karla MacKimmie, Community Volunteer; Mary Leigh McDaniel, Certified Public Accountant at Updegrove, Combs, McDaniel & Wilson; James G. (Greg) Merritt, Warrenton General Manager of Hampton Inn; William (Bill) Patchett, Certified Public Accountant at Scheulen, Patchett & Edwards, CPA; Dr. Thomas Sherman, Chairman of Medical Staff of Fauquier Hospital; Jim Timberlake, President and Owner of The Paint Shop, Ltd.

Susan Webb Joins PCF Board Directors

The directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) are pleased to announce that Susan D. Webb has joined their Board of Directors. Susan Webb resides in Middleburg with her husband E. Hughes Webb, a retired airline pilot.

Since 2005, Mrs. Webb has been active in PCF work serving as chairperson for the Community Advisory Committee. As a board member, she will continue in that roll as well as serving on the PCF investment committee. She also looks forward to making PCF better known and understood in the community. In her past professional legal work, she has seen the benefits of community foundations nationwide. And, in her personal life, she has been able to bring the PCF benefits to her family.

Mrs. Webb observes, "community foundations are doing wonderful work all over the country and we need to help expand public understanding of what our own community foundation can do here in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties. PCF offers beneficial tools to meet the needs of all manner of local donors and charitable organizations, and is an excellent vehicle for estate planning."

In 2005, she and the family of Peter Howard, her late husband who died of cancer in 2004, created the Peter M. Howard Memorial Fund at PCF.

The fund is a permanent endowment that will make annual grants for the preservation of historic buildings and open space. Susan and the Howard family are grateful to have an avenue to permanently remember Peter's name in the community while supporting the charitable interests that were important to him in his lifetime.



Susan Webb graduated from Albion College in Michigan with a liberal arts degree and then served with VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) in Cleveland, Ohio. During the early 1970s she joined one of the nation's largest law firms, Baker, Hostetler & Patterson. She was trained by the firm to assist lawyers in the field of tax exempt corporation, a skill she later used in working with other law firms over the years.

In 1988 she moved to the Middleburg area with her late husband, Peter Howard. She became an active member of the Middleburg volunteer community. She just recently completed her second four-year term of service (the last two years as president) on the board of directors of the Middleburg Community Center. Other activities include: founding member, officer and board member of Middleburg Beautification and Preservation, Inc.; past docent for the Middleburg "Pink Box" town information center: and past board member of the Middleburg Tennis Club.

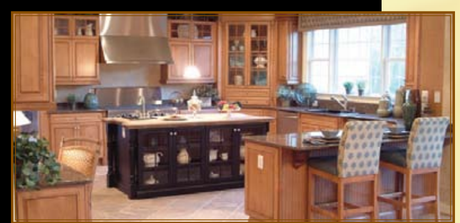
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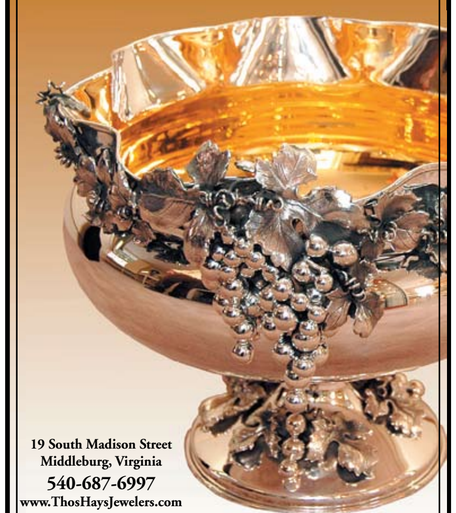
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Pastimes

Biddy Whyte Lennon & Other Irish Cooking Myths

From Behind the Stove

Brian Lichorowic



I mean offense to no one.

Looking through my emails for the past year I have received a fair amount of inquiries about Irish cooking. Go figure. I love the Irish. Married one in fact. But the cuisine of Ireland is in desperate need of a 'Movement' so to speak.

"Have you seen anything new in Irish cuisine?" was one of my favorite emails. To which I replied, "Anyone ever hear about a Nuevo Irish restaurant opening up in a strip mall in Reston any time soon?"

Most people are proud, and should be, of their heritage and like to cook ancestral cuisine. But in terms of need for a gastronomic renaissance, the Irish are ready. Today's Irish are looking for something different, something unique and something other than corned beef, cabbage and soda bread.

So I dug deep into the recesses of my recipe files. Turns out I had to go way back to find something new. I'm talking 3" floppies people! Old family recipes from our Dibble's Inn in New York.

At Dibble's, St. Patty's week was worked as a major business event. We would mix up gallons of "Biddy Whyte Lennon". What it is you ask? It's a simple lamb stew. My Dad got it from his corpsman in the Army who could cook it in the field if he had to! Other than the recipe and that my Dad could spell it, that's all we knew.

Along with the traditional staple foods offered most often on these days, my brothers and I were in charge of preparing the stew. As simple as it is to make, we managed to screw it up one year. One of my big brothers (still unknown, each blames the other) whisked in green food coloring into a 6 gallon batch for a bus luncheon on St. Patty's Day. That, in turn, whipped a Greyhound load of 80 Bluehairs, out on a Friday afternoon outlet run, into a lather.

Those is charge demanded the "green be taken out!" How do you take the green out? We added blue and sent it back out. Insulted, they stormed the kitchen. No survivors. It wasn't pretty.

The great Greyhound Mutton Revolt of '77.

Good times.





Biddy Whyte Lennon (Irish Stew)

Ironically, this recipe is in my father's handwriting, has deep, dark wax pencil modifications in my oldest brother's handwriting and the paper is completely covered with the big grape juice stain I gave the entire page back in '74. This is the first time I scaled this recipe down from the original service size of 250 people. *Gheez*

- 3 1/2 lb Leg of lamb, boned and cubed
- lb Butter
- Flour, for dusting
- 2 lg Onions, large, sliced
- 1 lg Parsley, large fresh bunch, chopped
- 4 tbs Thyme, fresh chopped
- 3 tbs Paprika
- 3 cups Water
- 1 Bay leaf whole
- 4 lb Potatoes, white, halved and peeled
- Salt and fresh black pepper to taste

1. In a large Dutch oven or oven safe baking pan with cover, heat on high and add 2 tbs of butter. Dust the meat with flour and flash brown them on all sides. Add the rest of the butter, onions and herbs. Sprinkle the chopped thyme and parsley and season well throughout. Mix everything so fresh herbs evenly distributed. Add water, bay leaf, and potatoes and gently stir well until boil and cover tightly

2. Tradition dictates one is supposed to incinerate the deal but I found that cooking 2 hours is when most people like it. Remove bay leaf. Go the full 2 1/2 - 3 hours if you prefer. The idea is that the potatoes will dissolve into the gravy and thicken. Add water if looser gravy is preferred. Serve very hot with more fresh chopped parsley sprinkled on top.

Serve with soda bread.

Vermont Irish Cheddar & Guiness Stout Fondue

Irish cooking 101: Beer and cheese are equivalent to cheerios and milk.

If you want to sacrifice (meaning cook with) a can or two of Guinness, it's a good cause.

- 2 cupsPotatoes, red-skinned, halved, 1 inch diameter
- 2 cups Cauliflower florets
- 2 cups Brussels sprouts, very small
- 2 Apples, cored, cut into wedges
- 2 Pears
- 1/2 lb Cherries
- 1 lb Irish cheddar cheese, grated
- 21/2 cups All-purpose flour
- 3/4-cup (or more) Irish stout (such as Guiness)
- 6 tbl Frozen apple juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 tbl Dijon mustard

Steam all vegetables until tender, about 15 minutes. Fruit remains raw. Meanwhile, toss cheese with flour in large bowl. Bring 3/4-cup stout juice, and mustard to simmer in large saucepan over medium heat. Gradually add cheese mixture, stirring constantly, until cheese is melted and smooth, thinning with more stout, if desired. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer fondue to bowl. Place in center of platter with vegetables and fruit.

Chicken, Ham & Leek Paddy Pie

A simple, elegant way to prepare a nice fresh piece of fish. If sea bass is not available, any firm white fish can be substituted. Work on your plating and presentation here. Place the sauce under and around the fish

- 6 oz Shortcrust pastry (will be in the freezer section)
- 4 lb Chicken, boned, chopped
- 4 Ham steak slices, cubed
- 4 lg Leeks, cleaned/chopped
- 1 med. Onion
- 1 pinch Ground nutmeg
- 1 cup Chicken stock
- 12 oz Double cream (wussies use milk)

1. Make the pastry and leave it in a cold place to rest. Meanwhile prepare the pie. In a deep 1 - 1 1/2 quart dish, place layers of the chicken, the ham, leeks and onion, nutmeg and seasoning, then repeating the layers until the dish is full.

2. Add the stock, then dampen the edges of the dish before rolling out the pastry to the required size. Place the pastry over the pie and press the edges down well. Crimp them. Make a small hole in the center. Roll out the scraps of pastry and form a leaf or rosette (mine always ends up being a circle) for the top. Place this very lightly over the small hole.

3. Brush the pastry with milk, and bake at 350F for 25-30 minutes. Cover the pastry with damp greaseproof paper when partially cooked if the top seems to be getting too brown.

4. Gently heat the cream. When pie is cooked, remove from oven. Carefully lift off the rosette and pour the cream in through the hole. Return the rosette and serve. This pie forms a delicious soft jelly when cold.

Comments or Catastrophes? fbts@mbecc.com

The Ins and Outs of Painting and Paintings - Part 1

The Art of Art

Tom Neel



Artists, throughout history, have discovered many different ways of approaching how they go about painting a painting. There's more to it than you may know and over time and with modern inventions, the ways available for artists to approach how they paint has changed. Some think for the worse, others don't care and other think for the better, me included. Time and inventions have changed how we go about doing almost everything so, why should painting be any different? Still, and I believe most important, is there is no right way or wrong way, that's what makes art, art and all artists different.

For you, the art collector or you, the artist, it's good to know about these approaches and how they effect the final result. It is those results that attract you to a piece and if you are an artist, it is those results which not only make you the artist you are, but make the journey of compleating a work of art a special one.

So, it's time to ask, what is the difference between a "studio" painting or a painting painted "en plein air"? As well, what is the difference between a painting done from a photograph or one done from life? And last, what is the difference between mediums such as oil, acrylic, pastel or others and how they might apply to this?

As with wine tasting, many collectors make it their priority to know or even to fuss over the answers to these questions, but I'll start right off by saying, " If it doesn't taste good, I don't care in the least, when and where it was made or how much it cost." Art should be no different because just like wine, it's open to very subjective appreciation. Everyone has different tastes and if you don't have a taste for something and you buy into liking it because someone says you should, nothing you read here will help you, unless you can you can trust these two words, "STOP THAT!" Okay, I'm over that little rant, but more kindly put, if you're buying something to suit someone else's taste, it better be a gift for them, not you.

Back to our questions. The basic differences between "studio" paintings (those done inside in a controlled environment) and those done "en plein air" (french for "in open air" or outdoors), have first to do with light. Painting outside offers only natural light and painting inside allows, depending on the studio, natural light and or artificial light (light bulbs). You may also hear the term "north light" when referring to artist's studios. North light is consistent, not moving or casting shadows across the studio walls and your painting as you work, like south light would, as the sun moves or the harsh light from the east in the morning or the west as the sun sets.

Light being everything to an artist, their source of light is then everything to their results. Painting outside is considered very pure and something many, but certainly not all, old masters did and therefore many artist today think it's the only way to paint. It is certainly a great way to paint, but not because the old masters did it, they often had no other choice. Remember, studios would have been not only a luxury to many, most only had candles and then years later gas lights. The light bulb wasn't invented until 1800 by Humphry Davy, (Edison's thing was making them long lasting) so, working inside was much harder.

Plein air paintings are mostly landscapes and offer a wonderful painterly look and feel. Most true plein air paintings are both small and loose or quickly done in one sitting, with "most" sized maybe 9 X 12 inches to 18 X 24. With the sun on the move, what you are seeing and painting is always changing. It's makes for a special challenge, but it's something all artists should try. The limit factors, past moving light, can be accessibility to a spot you wish to paint because of terrain or it's private property and then also conditions such as seasonal temps, rain, snow or bugs. It is a rewarding experience though and those that really take to it would be hard pressed to change. For you the collector, a note, especially if the term plein air is being tossed around like the buzz word of the day. Many larger paintings of this type, are started in the field and then through the use of reference photos, are completed in the studio, which is fine. Often artists will even complete a small study in the field and then recreate it as a larger piece later in the studio, having the effects of being a plein air piece, but not really being one. There's nothing wrong with that either, as long as you know it's the case.

This brings us inside. The artist's studio is not only a place to work, but can be by it's very nature, responsible for the final results of the painting. How, you may ask? As with painting outside, some studios and artists only rely on natural light through windows, while others supplement all or part of their light source from lights. All are just fine and many artists use all types depending on what they are painting. There is no right or wrong here, but rather a chosen path and in effect a chosen result. If you like the results, don't let anyone tell you one is better than the other. Their is no rule book, nor should their be. Just chosen paths, effects and results. In my opinion, those that judge otherwise miss the point of art and expression.

Now we come to painting from life and then paintings done using the aid of photographs and other references. Painting from life simply means, you look at what is in front of you and you paint it. Since painting is largely, as stated, about light, you are painting the light you see whether it is from a source natural or artificial, indoors or out and also that which has been recorded in a photo. All plein air paintings are from life, but If you for example, are in a studio, you can set up a bowl of fruit on a table and position lights to create an effect and you are still painting from life. As well and as stated, there are artists who paint from life to a point and then use photography as a reference tool to complete a work back in the studio.

Photography is something else the old masters did not really have at their disposal and I dare say, if they did, more would have used it, as photography has changed all of our lives in wonderful ways. I don't know anyone who doesn't own or take photos, including just about all artists. It is not only a great tool, it's an art form in its own right and just like paintings which rely heavily on light, so does photography, they are siblings.

So, do all artists use photography? Maybe not and certainly some more than others, but I would say just about all do in one form or another, even if they don't admit to it and trust me, this includes the best of the best. Many artists are very good photographers and use it as a tool with great success as part of their creative process. It allows them to reach places they couldn't otherwise go and paint paintings they might not otherwise be able to paint and again, results count. So, as a collector, if you see a painting you like and wish to own, over analyzing photography as part of the artistic process, to me only undermines your taste. As an artist, you must determine how all these things affect your results and creative wishes. It is afterall, your art.

So, are there any limits to this? Yes, I think there most certainly are and in my opinion, all have to do with with honesty. Let me give you a few examples. Photos and other such reference material are creative tools and they shouldn't replace actually seeing your subject matter with your own eyes and then making people think you did. Artists should never trick people into thinking they traveled to a far off land, when in fact, they never traveled past a travel magazine's photos to steal their subject matter. As an artist, if you want to do that for practice, fine, but for sale, not cool. Frankly though, there are much better ways to practice too so, it really should just be avoided.

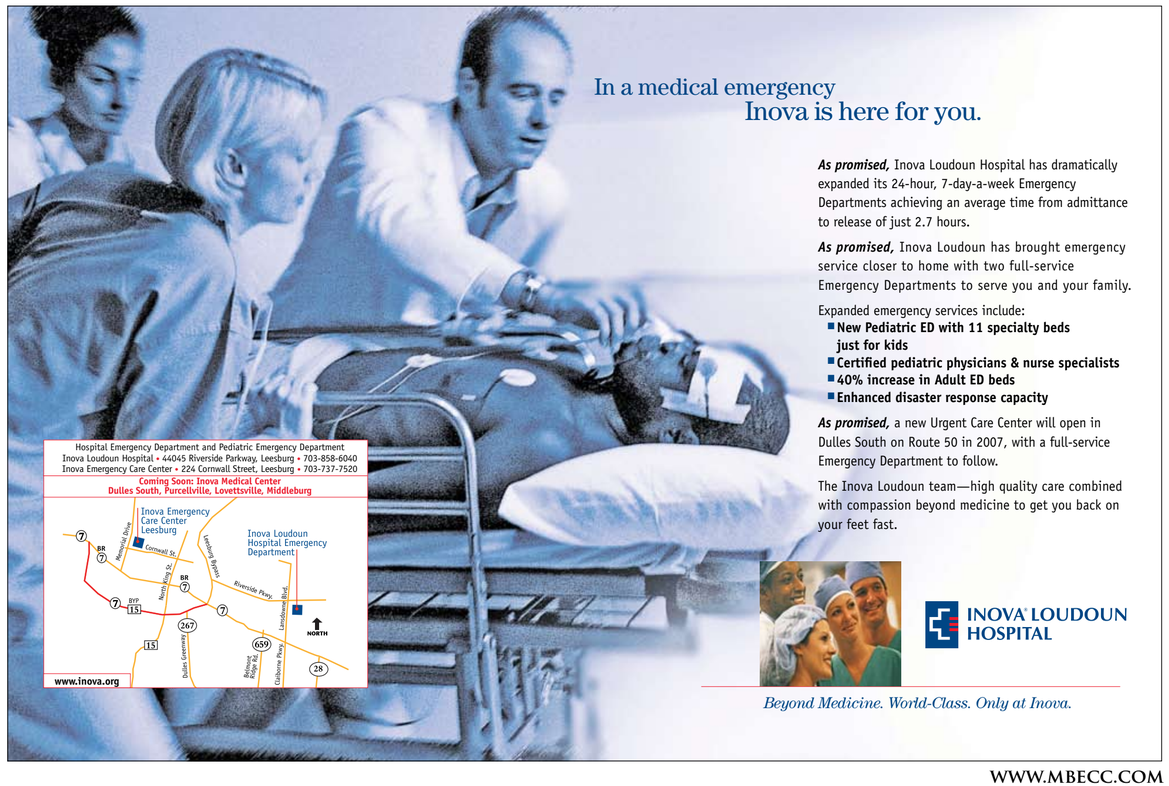
Also, many or even most portrait artists have replaced having their clients sitting for endless hours while they paint them, with that of taking reference photos to use for creating the painting. How those photos are then used or make it to canvas is a wide discussion in of itself, but many of you don't know that you can actually have a photo printed right onto canvas and then, in theory, painted right over it. Thus being easier than doing paint by number and a very obvious deception. Again, not cool.

In part two, we'll touch on some of the different materials artist use and why. I might suggest

saving part one to be read again with part two, as they really do apply to each other as a whole.

Enjoy, Tom

Tom Neel for questions or comments 540-364-4401



Pastimes



A Perfect Time for Lettuce

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode

We are about 5 weeks away from planting the summer vegetable garden with well chosen tomato and pepper plants. The warm season is an especially extensive one for the vegetable gardener as lots of space is required for numerous other summer vegetables such as cucumber, squash, corn and watermelon. As we longingly dream of warmer days, one must appreciate the fact that we are smack-dab in the middle of the cool season and the perfect time has arrived to set out cool crops. I'm fond of kohlrabi, broccoli and snap peas but my favorite early spring crop is lettuce. With many types to choose from the simple selection of lettuce may become confusing, additionally our Mid-Atlantic location restricts our choices, to some degree. I will outline the numerous differences below with an emphasis on days to harvest and heat resistance.

Crisphead (Iceberg) types (approximately 70-85 days to harvest from seed)

Head type lettuces dominate U.S. production as they are best adapted for long distance shipping. The long season requirements (days to harvest) are hard to accommodate in our gardens as the early warm temperatures of late spring often cause pre-mature bolting. Additionally the taste of crisphead types are inferior when compared to the looseleaf types.

Batavian or French crisp or Summer crisp types (approximately 50-60 days)

This group is intermediate between butterhead and crisphead. Loose heads form and the most popular commercial variety sold is 'Nevada' (56 days to harvest).

Butterhead types (approximately 60 days)

Boston lettuce falls into this category, small dense heads form and red leaf types exist. The foliage is light with a delicate flavor.

Bibb types (approximately 60 days)

The best known bibb type is 'Buttercrunch', a reasonably good lettuce for us, exhibiting good heat tolerance. A very popular variety is 'Speckles", an Amish heirloom with minute dots of red spread over the leaf surface.

Leaf types (approximately 50-60 days)

Also known as looseleaf or cutting lettuces, these do not grow into leafy heads, rather loose foliage. Very successful as garden plants, some gorgeous red leaf types make beautiful additions in a salad. One of the most beautiful leaf types is 'Galactic', an eye catching burgundy leafed form. Seed is available from Johnny's Select Seeds.

Oak leaf types (approximately 50-60 days)

Distinctive foliage makes this type stand out in the garden and salad bowl. The foliage mimics oak leaves, often marked with red highlights. A successful garden variety for Mid-Atlantic gardeners.

Cos (Romaine) types (approximately 65 days)

Romain types form long, upright, broadly oblong leaves with good cold resistance. It is not uncommon to find hybrids between this type as the cold resistance is frequently passed on. One such hybrid 'Blushed Butter Cos', is a cross using a butterhead type. Additionally dwarf varieties require fewer days to mature which makes them less prone to bolting, 'Little Leprechaun' only requires 56 days to mature. A popular variety named 'Freckles' displays the same beautiful patterning of the well known Amish butterhead-'Speckles'.

Mesclun mix greens

This is a term applied to a blend of fresh tender greens combined for their variety of textures, flavors and colors. Always successful as tolerance to cold and heat aids the gardener, harvests are interspersed with numerous varieties maturing at different times. I filp-flop between a popular blend known as the Napa Valley blend and Piquant mix. The Napa Valley blend contains romaine, oakleaf and endive types. Piquant mix contains mustard, arugula, mizuna and spicy cress, adding a zip to any salad.



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March Sadness, Year II

Seventh Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback



Here I sit again, the Monday morning after the opening two rounds of the men's NCAA basketball tournament, and what have I got to show for it? More than you'd think….

We have a new color printer this year that we didn't have last, so my brackets have an admittedly Christmas-time kind of tint to them, what with all the incriminating red slashes through my duds and the happy green of tea leaves read right.

My heart is feeling fitter after racing through most of the action on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Thursday was sort of a snoozer, I'll give you that, but I started getting my annual dose of cardio-work after that, watching my upset in waiting, Illinois, biff a 13 point lead to VPI, bouncing around the living room while Ohio State sleep walked through most of its second-rounder against Xavier (?!), choking back my disbelief as a pro-team of my youth, UNLV, made my second-seeded Badgers look sorely vulnerable without Brian Butch, and finally letting myself breathe again when Sean Singletary's three-pointer to tie rattled in and out at the buzzer giving Tennessee the win I needed to maintain cohesion in my South region bracket.

I got to see more of Kevin Durant than I had all regular season, which was as much of a treat as I'd been led to believe. The kid's the real deal and, Danny Ainge and the Celtics' nettlesome meddling aside, will be well served to come back to Texas next fall and try again. What, you thought Ainge, the Celtics' Executive Director of Basketball Operations, wound up sitting right next to Durant's parents purely by some serendipitous twist of fortune? In the NBA, Boston and Memphis are slugging it out to see who can play a more wretched brand of basketball all in the hopes of securing the number one pick in this year's lottery. If I were Durant or Greg Oden, the freshmen favorites to be that pick if one or both come out early, the very possibility that I'd have to play for either Boston or Memphis would be enough to send me straight to the library after the tournament so I could catch up on my studies.

The Dukies and Coach K made their earliest exit from the tournament in, oh, forever. Even better, they lost to Virginia Commonwealth, a classic mid-major that too many people, clearly even most from Durham, too easily overlooked.

A buddy of mine who prefers to remain nameless (I'll call him Lason Jersch) sent me a classic email on Friday helpfully pointing out the fact that not only was I losing to him in our pool but that I was also losing to my wife. I love my wife. That has nothing to do with the fact that I've known heads of cabbage with a better basic understanding of collegiate and professional sports than she. So imagine my happy surprise when I found my friend, Lason Jersch, hovering just slightly north of life support in our pool's standings this morning.

This year's tournament is the first in 11 years, the first since 1996, in which no team seeded lower than nine, no team seeded 10-16, made it to Sweet Sixteen. For some strange reason I had Old Dominion running into Florida in the Sixteen, but other than that even I kept all of my goofy upsets in the first round. If anything, I got bitten by a weakened number one seed (thanks Wisconsin) and a young Texas team that ran into a smart USC team that got what most other teams didn't this season; by accepting that Durant will light you up and focusing on holding his supporting cast in check, you can make Texas, at least in 2007, a very beatable team because they're so young. If all those freshmen come back to Austin in the fall, though, look out next year.

I feel good about the rest of my picks, at least for now. By the time this goes to press, I'm sure I'll be ringing my hands, gnashing my teeth and wailing with the best of the gloom and doom-ers. Before my spine completely deserts me, here's how I see things playing out…

In the East, I'm still looking for Georgetown to come through in one piece. I don't see Vanderbilt upending them, but I am admittedly nervous about the UNC-USC game. Either of those teams can give Georgetown trouble, but I'm gonna stick with my local guns here.

Down South, I have Ohio State and Memphis facing off in the round of eight, and I have Ohio State coming out of that game on top. A secret part of me just wants to see Roy Hibbert and Greg Oden duke it out in the Final Four, a big-man's battle not seen since Ewing and Olajuwon that would be a game of the year type of match-up, and we'd all be lucky to see it.

Out West, I'm looking for Kansas and Pitt to run into each other, although UCLA makes me nervous, particularly playing what's essentially a home game for them. Regardless, look for Kansas to beat the winner of that game and actually make it to the Final Four.

In the Midwest, I have Florida and Oregon butting heads. The way they're playing, UNLV could well trip up Oregon, but I don't see either of those guys trumping Florida's experience and Joakim Noah's energy.

In the end, I like Florida and Georgetown to meet in the Championship Game. Look for Florida to repeat.

cuda24@yahoo.com

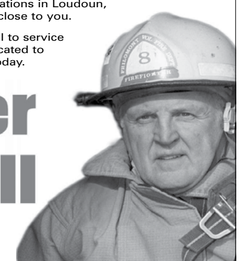


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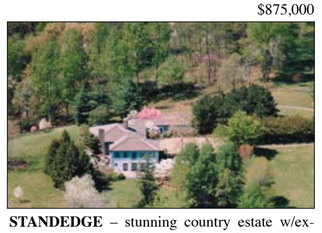
GREAT OAKS – aptly named for its perfect setting under a canopy of spreading oaks w/large boxwood and azalea. Slate roof, mahogany and teak library w/fp, LR w/marble fp, cozy paneled den w/fp, curved staircase, large kitchen, nanny qtrs, tennis court and charming guest house on 9[1/2] acres. $1,195,000



MILLVIEW C. 1838 – built w/stone from and old mill and a brick addition in 1951. Wide plank pine and oak floors, slate roof, 3 FPs, exposed beams, 4-5 BR, 3[1/2] baths, 3-car garage, 4-stall barn, very strong stream on 11 acres. $875,000



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STANDEDGE – stunning country estate w/exquisite features and appointments. Glass wall in 26' LR w/breathtaking Blue Ridge views, heart pine library, 4 master suites, elevator, limestone entrance, 4-car garage, 148 acres mostly open and manicured in two parcels, charming tenant house and stream. $4,750,000

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Heathfield, The Plains, VA
Estate of 50 acres in Orange County Hunt. It is surrounded by lovely gardens with a pool and tennis court. The recently renovated stable complex includes 17 stalls, tack rooms, wash areas, feed rooms, plus a 2 bedroom apartment. There is a charming 2 bedroom guest cottage, a studio/office, and garaging for 6 cars. $3,950,000.
Carole Miller **703-705-9110**
Ruth Ripley **540-253-5133**



Foxgloves, Near Orlean, VA
Beautiful 4 bedroom Williamsburg Colonial on 78+ acres. Sited on a knoll overlooking the surrounding countryside. Large rooms with hardwood floors. Fireplaces in the library and kitchen. Each bedroom has its own en-suite bath. 1 bedroom guest cottage, 2 car garage with apartment, second 2 car garage, and 3 stall stable with a large storage area. $2,750,000.
Carole Miller **703-705-9110**



Logan's Run, Middleburg, VA
Situated on a wooded hilltop among majestic mature oak, hickory and poplar trees on 5.8 acres, this stone and brick colonial enjoys absolute privacy. Pristine home with over 10,000 sq. ft. of finished living area. 4-6 bedrooms, 7 full baths, 5 fireplaces, walkways and patio, 4 car garage. $1,999,500.
Rick Lowe **703-509-3962**
Anita Sisney **703-973-1987**



The Jacob Mann House, Middleburg, VA
Stone colonial built in 1817 by local tanner, Jacob Mann. Heart of pine floors, antique mantels, built-in cupboards, 2 fireplaces, heated pool with spa. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Approx. 1,650 sq. ft. of living space plus 500 sq. ft. on lower level. New windows, wood shutters, high efficiency propane boiler, heat pump, central air, steam shower. 1/2 acre lot is well maintained with flowering trees, evergreens, stone retaining wall. $799,000.
Rick Lowe 703-509-3962 **Anita Sisney 703-973-1987**



Boulder Crest, Paris, VA
Fabulous post and beam home with cedar siding. Approx. 8,000+ sq. ft. of living space atop Blue Ridge Mountain with breathtaking views and lovely landscaping. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4 stone fireplaces. Master bedroom on main level, fireplace, game room, kitchen/breakfast room. 2nd floor home office. Multiple window walls and decks. 3 car garage with workshop. $1,990,000.
Jud and Page Glascock **540-592-3238**



Stonewood, Warrenton, VA
Lovely, well planned horse farm in Warrenton Hunt on 70+ acres with 4 bedroom house sited on a knoll. Center aisle barn has 14 stalls, large tack room with full bath, wash stall, feed room and hay storage. 4 fenced paddocks with run-in sheds, large area, 800' x 200', for a "stick and ball" polo field, round pen and separate office with 2 bay garage. 30+ acres are cleared, balance in woods. $1,950,000.
Carole Miller **703-705-9110**



Brookdale, Round Hill, VA
Stately 5 bedroom home on 17 manicured acres. Accessories include 4 full baths, 2 half baths, breathtaking views, heated pool and hot tub with cabana, home theater with 120" screen, full circuit home gym, Generac power system and concrete drive. Great commuter location. $1,625,000.
Bob Vantreasae 540-514-9295 **Linden Wiesman 703-408-4696**



Fairfield, Middleburg, VA
Special location with 4+ acres just east of Middleburg. 1st floor master bedroom with en-suite bath, living room, dining room with access to screened porch overlooking the pool. Two additional bedrooms, bath and half bath, den, family room, eat-in kitchen and library. Attached 2-car garage. $1,300,000.
Gloria Armfield **540-687-6395**



Villa Rosa, Markham, VA
Elegant Southern style one-level stucco home with expansive mountain views from every room. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths with finished walk-out basement, soaring 12 foot ceilings and 2 fireplaces. Land is half open half wooded with pond and stable. Very private. Close to I-66 and one mile from the village of Hume. $1,795,000.
Julie Reardon **540-364-9480**



Highview, Millwood, VA
Twice upgraded the last five years, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 1928 home sits on 1.7 acres in historic Millwood, near the 1728 Burwell-Morgan Mill. Private setting behind large evergreens and above the street. Large master suite with fireplace and a gourmet kitchen with granite/Boos Block counters. $525,000.
Gloria Armfield **540-687-6395**
James Atkins **703-447-2302**



Land, Millwood, VA
Near Millwood, 60 acres and 90 acres, adjoining parcels. Mostly wooded, 1/3 of 90 acres open. Easy clearing for surperb Blue Ridge views. Great location. Best parcels in Clarke County. 60 acres $1,125,000. 90 acres $1,575,000.
Ruth Ripley **540-687-6395**
Pete Dunning **540-955-3828**



Bear Mountain Drive, Marshall, VA
Inviting entrance road leads to the charming 5,200 sq. ft. home on 15.88 acres. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, all systems and appointments state-of-the-art. Lots of built-ins everywhere. Beautiful pool, spa, basketball and volleyball courts. Media area, exercise room, play room. Privacy with spectacular views to the west. $1,300,000.
Babette Scully **540-687-3323**



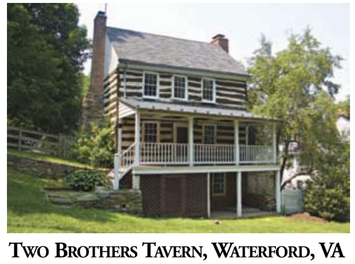
Northern Fauquier County, Paris, VA
209 acres near Paris, VA. Ponds, streams, and stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains with a Conservation Easement prohibiting any further subdivision. Permitted residence to have 4,500 sq. ft. of living space plus a total of 6,500 sq. ft. of farm buildings. $1675,492.
Carole Miller **703-705-9110**



4085 Zulla Road, Marshall, VA
This quaint bungalow style home rests on just over an acre in Fauquier County. Two bedrooms, two and a half baths, galley kitchen with breakfast bar, family room with fireplace, separate dining room, a mudroom and two decks make this the perfect little hunt box. Just minutes to Route 66. $425,000.
Camden Littleton **703-568-1097**



Presidential Retreat, Nethers, VA
Exquisite jewel of a farmhouse on 74+ acres adjacent to Shenandoah National Park. Three bedrooms, three baths, superb finishes. Formal gardens. The Hughes River flows through this magnificent estate parcel. Outstanding views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. $2,300,000.
Alan Zuschlag **540-937-6124**



Two Brothers Tavern, Waterford, VA
Located in the historic village of Waterford is this fantastic two bedroom log home retreat. The home boasts three levels, exposed log walls, wood floors, a very private backyard for entertaining and a front porch on which to admire the quaint town. $449,000.
Jim Thompson **540-687-3216**



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, beautiful setting. Two additional dwellings. In Conservation Easement. OLREA. $1,995,000.
Gloria Armfield **540-687-6395**



Hylton Head Farm, Rixeyville, VA
Over 89 rolling acres. 7,000+ sq. ft. French Country Manor home with 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, energy efficient, virtually maintenance free. Many distinctive features and upgrades, full finished basement with media room, new barn. Long frontage on Indian Run. $2,175,000.
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Pastimes

Spring Really Is Coming, So Are Some Great Books

Exploring Books

Genie Ford

In the land of books, the arrival of spring signals a lot more than green grass, daffodils and the big thaw. It's also the time when publishers issue new titles in hardcover and previous bestsellers in paperback. Get out that lawn chair and hunker down amongst the flowers, with a stack of books by your side.

For history buffs, Donald McCaig's *Canaan* is an epic novel of post-Civil War America, from Wall Street to Appomattox and on into the West. Pulitzer Prize-winning local author Geraldine Brooks calls *Canaan* a novel that is "credible, compelling and humane." And here's the cherry on top: Donald McCaig will be signing *Canaan* at Books & Crannies on Thursday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m.

If you're a news junkie but want a new perspective on our current predicament, pick up *Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present* by Michael B. Oren. American involvement in the Middle East is nothing new—we've been embroiled in the region since the Barbary Wars of the 18th century. This is a book that will help us understand more fully how we got where we are today.

For Paul Coelho fans, *The Alchemist* has been reissued in paperback with special additions such as an insightful interview with the author, a reader's guide and even a map of the main character's fateful journey. Paul Coelho is a magician with words. His books are wonderful, and if you've never read this author, this is the one you should start with.

Now out in paperback is Elizabeth Gilbert's enchanting *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia.* If you've ever felt that there has to be more to life than what you experience each day, this book is for you. It's a wonderful story of the author's journey to discover true, lasting meaning in life through three different aspects of her own nature. In the process, she teaches us lessons about pleasure in Italy, devotion in India, and finally, in Bali the way to balance the competing sides of our human nature.

If you've read and enjoyed *Eat, Pray, Love,* then we have a cookbook for you that is about a lot more than just food. *Big Small Plates* by Cindy Pawlcyn (with Pablo and Erasto Jacinto) gives us the best of new cuisine, but scaled down and with a lot less fuss and bother. The author provides more than just recipes—you'll learn a lot about ingredients, where they come from and how to use them properly, and you might just discover the joy of cooking in a whole new way.

Now that you're enlightened, entertained and fed, let's move on to some terrific books for young and younger reads. *21 Proms: Every date has a story* is a complication of prom adventures and misadventures shared by some of the best writers working today in the young reader genre. Just to whet your appetite, consider these chapter titles: *Off Like a Prom Dress, Mom called, she says you have to go to prom, Primate of the Prom,* and *Apology #1.*

Readers in this age group will also enjoy *Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood* by Ann Brashares. The series began with *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, and it has stayed true to the original premise that, no matter what size we come in, we are just fine. These books are about the glories of friendship, the perils and thrills of growing up, and that every one of us can emerge triumphant from even the most devastatingly embarrassing disasters.

When Daisy the Pig visited Books & Crannies recently, we all made a promise to "pig out on reading." Our younger readers can start with *Ace, The Very Important Pig* by Dick King-Smith and illustrated by Lynette Hemmant. Ace is no ordinary pig—he's a pig with a plan who's determined not to end up as somebody's lunch or dinner. Ace's friends, Clarence the cat and Megan the corgi, lend a helping paw and they all have a blast along the way.

Deal or No Deal?

From Page 1

were still proceeding on the old schedule, Devadas noted, " . . . but while we're doing that, we're spending money. I think we do want to try to determine as quickly as possible whether this is something we want to try to do or not."

In response to a question by Eura Lewis, Devadas noted that he remembered assuring the council, some two years ago, that 120 rooms would be really be sufficient to make the Inn viable, and that he would not be back at some later date asking for more. At that time Salamander had allowed for a 20% increase in costs over time, which seemed more than adequate. When asked if 168 rooms would be his "final" request" "That's what I would formally come to the council and ask for."

Questions from Council

No doubt because of Devadas's earlier, one-on-one meetings with council members, few questions were asked following Devadas public comments.

Eura Lewis, a supporter of the original Memorandum of Understanding, pointedly asked Devadas if this were the last new request the Council could expect. Devedas replied only that his formal request to Council would, indeed, ask for only 168 rooms.

Catherine ("Bundles") Murdock, a long-time opponent of the project, noted that she had "a lot of questions." She'd been seeking answers to some of them for weeks, she said, and was not prepared to "open discussion at this point."

Mark Snyder noted that he'd discussed the matter with Prem Devadas, and that most of his remaining questions, were generally legal and technical in nature and would be directed to the Town staff.

Asked by Council Member Trowbridge Littleton precisely when he would need a decision on the room increase, Devadas was unwilling to set a hard deadline, noting that Salamander's decisions would depend upon just how long Council took to come to some conclusion, and just what implications those decisions would have on the planning, and construction process.

"I think that, at this point, if nothing happened we would likely just stop" he said. Pressed, Devadas later told the Eccentric that a three-month decision-making process would probably be too long, and that he really wasn't expecting a decision within a week.

Reactions: Official and Unofficial

The lack of information forthcoming from Council's formal session on March 8, produced a flurry of speculative reaction in the days that followed, with most, if not all those contacted by the Eccentric revealing varying degrees of worry, anger, distrust, and concern for the town's future.

40% Cost Increases?

Salmander's contention that building costs had gone up some 40% aroused immediate suspicion, with critics citing the recent dramatic decrease in home construction and residential real estate prices.

Those familiar with commercial construction found the 40% estimate reasonable.

Prem Devadas pointed out that specialized and luxury commercial construction was radically different from residential construction, and that the cost estimates for the town's sewer treatment facility had risen more than 60% since it was first proposed.

Town Attorney, Luz Whiting, asked Calvin Grow of Leesburg's Engineering and Public Works department, to take a look at his most recent bids. The average increase, according to Whiting, was around 30%, with a 40% increase reported for a project on Battlefield Road between East Market and Sycolin Road.

Character, Trust, Time, Money

In an interview with the Eccentric, Mike Morency of Broad Hollow Farm and the Piedmont Environmental Council restated his ongoing concern for the effect of the Salamander development on the Middleburg's unique and special "character," which he described as that of "a small rural village catering to the needs of local residents."

Of equal concern, for Morency, however, were issues of simple trust and moral obligation.

In an open letter to the Town Council (see page 12) he noted pointedly that Middleburg had lived up to all its promises. Salamander, he said, is both "obligated and honor bound "to build a sewer plant for the town, whether or not it builds the Inn and Spa. He urged the Council to "Tell Salamander you have lived up to your

Continued Page 24

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Here are the facts on Dominion's blackout threats:

- The North American Electric Reliability Corporation in a 10-year outlook determined that power capacity in Virginia is "not a reliability concern at this time."[1]
- New development in Northern Virginia and military base realignment, causing employees to relocate within the state, do not change the projected electric demand growth over the next 5 years. Northern Virginia electric load growth from 1998-2004 was only 1.81% annually.[3]
- Transferring dirty, coal-fired electricity from Ohio through Virginia using the proposed towers is environmentally damaging and not a viable long-term solution to Dominion's unproven claims of "rolling blackouts."
- A report by the Virginia legislature noted that the line would provide zero long-term benefits to Virginia.[2] As recently as 2005 the proposed transmission line was not part of Dominion's 10-year plan.

Virginia's future energy needs can be met by initiating state energy policies similar to those adopted by 23 states including Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. These states emphasize energy efficiency, the use of modern technology and new initiatives to ensure reliability.

Dominion has failed to prove the need for this line, publishing no independent study to support their claims. While Dominion has proposed moving the line to an existing right of way, it has not ruled out other routes for this line.

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1 NERC 2005 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, Pg. 81.
2 VA General Assembly JLARC Report, "PJM's Preliminary Recommended Cost Allocations for New Transmission Lines," pgs. 129,130.
3 SCC Release, "SCC Hearing Examiner Recommends…" 1/4/07.

Deal or No Deal?

From Page 22

end of the agreement, and now it is time for them to do so as well."

Longstanding Salamander opponent, Council Member Catherine ("Bundles") Murdock, expressed outrage over Salamander's apparent complaints about the amount of money they'd spent to date on the project. "Salamander isn't the only one who has spent money to date, " she told the Eccentric. "What about the Town? Legal fees? Staff time!"

"Let us not forget," she said, "that in addition to council's time, volunteers on several town committees have devoted countless hours to the Salamander project."

On the eve of the Council's next work session, Murdock noted that she had voted "NO" to a 120-room inn . . . and that her vote would not change on one with 168 rooms.

The Trust is Gone

Council Member Darlene Kirk, a supporter of the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding with Salamander, has been most outspoken in her reaction to Salamander's demands.

"I am very torn and angry," Kirk told the Eccentric. "I voted to work with Salamander and am very disappointed that they are asking for more rooms at this point."

"Council has not even approved an entrance from town to the Inn. We haven't discussed the work to be done to our roads they want as accesses and who pays for that. We haven't approved the additional houses they want (for work force) or the commercial space they want. They want to build large houses and we want the houses more in line with Ridgeview since some may abut that neighborhood. They haven't discussed proffers to the town and refuse to trade houses for these rooms. These items need to be discussed and settled."

"When we initially started working with Salamander, they asked about a 160 room or larger inn and we said no, that we didn't want the resort to 'dominate' the town."

"They said they could make a 120 room inn work."

"Now they are saying that cost overruns are forcing them to ask for more rooms."

"Why should the town have to accommodate a larger inn because they misestimated?"

"Costs are continually rising. How can Council know that this is really it, that in 6 months, they won't come back and say we need 40 more rooms to make money. Or 60 more rooms?"

"They say they've added additional money into their budget for that but who knows if it's enough?"

"Salamander admits they have spent $13 million thus far, not including what Mrs. Johnson paid for the property. Where did that money go? To their ever increasing staff?"

"The Town hasn't seen any benefits of it. It has just cost the town money in terms of staff time and meetings. Personally the trust between me and Salamander has been damaged significantly by this request, even though I expected them to do something like this."

"The trust," Kirk says, "is gone.

"I understand that for them the bottom line is the almighty dollar, but for me it's the town and our citizens. Salamander needs to look at what they are doing through the eyes of the citizens and Council. Yes, they can benefit the town, but they can also easily destroy what they and everybody else loves about the town with their supersizing of the inn and the houses."

"My priority is what is best for the town and all its citizens."

"Yes," Kirk concludes, "I think the Inn can benefit the town, but the health of the town comes first! I don't want to destroy the small town qualities of Middleburg that we all love with a huge domineering resort overshadowing the town.

Impact on Town Finances

Jerry Schiro, Town Administrator since January, pointed out that, while the Salamander issue was "one of Council policy" and certainly not "a decision for me to make," from a "management perspective we have few options to cure our fiscal situation."

"The Town's tax and utility base must be expanded," Schiro insisted, "or the costs to the existing base must be increased. If not, we must reduce expenditures, thereby reducing services.

From his perspective, "the Salamander project is a more desirable option when compared to potential tax and user fee increases to our existing businesses and residents.

The project will generate significant general fund revenues from real estate, meals, lodging, and ABC taxes," Schiro noted, while "on the utility side the capital improvements funded by Salamander will eliminate the need for the Town to issue additional debt for much-needed improvements to the utility infrastructure. Also, the increased utility demand will expand the operating revenues, eliminating otherwise required rate increases."

Caveats from Supporters

Council Member Lisa Patterson, who describes herself as generally inclined to "support the continued progress and development of the Resort" insisted that Salamander "show this community that they are truly vested."

" I would like to see the new waste water treatment plant under construction, with guarantees that it will be completed with or without the resort," she told the Eccentric, noting further that "Salamander has already invested at least a half million dollars in planning the treatment facility."

"There are many of people beyond the Council that have put in a lot of hours to make this project a reality," Patterson continued. "Salamander needs to demonstrate that with the approval of the additional rooms, they will move forward with meeting the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding."

Mayor Davis Counsels Full Review of Options

Middleburg's Mayor, Betsy Davis, noting that the issue would be discussed at length at the Council's next work session on March 22nd, took a position of studied neutrality. "I would like to hear all of council's comments and discussions on this, " she told the Eccentric. "Obviously, I wish we didn't have to address this again (as I'm sure Salamander does not either), but these are the facts and we have to have fair and honest discussions about all of the pros and cons."

Jerry Schiro Speaks to Town Finances

As part of his ongoing efforts to put the town's finances and financial reporting systems in order, Town Administrator Jerry Schiro received approval on March 8 to retain Davenport & Company, LLC, of Richmond to provide financial advisory services to the town. Davenport agreed to charge Middleburg "only the actual cost associated with staff time and materials" for the advisory work, and, further, agreed to "defer any compensation" until such time as Middleburg's budget "can absorb the expense."

At Thursday's Council meeting Schiro also announced that an "anonymous donor" had agreed to pay half the cost of Davenport's services to the town.

Expenses and Collections to Date

With Town Treasurer Debbie Jewell still recovering from surgery, Schiro once more found himself heavily engaged in both report preparation and delivery of the monthly Treasurer's report.

According to the report, the town is 66% through its budget year. It has collected approximately 77% of its general fund revenues.

"That number," Schiro conceded, is "somewhat deceiving" since the town real estate revenue collections were roughly 20% higher than anticipated. In several other general revenue categories less than 66% of revenues have been collected."

On the utility side of the town's budget Shiro reported, "we fall nearly 20% short of the 66% collection threshold" with "water and sewer availability fees . . . the big problem.", To date, Schiro notes, the town has collected none of the budgeted $300,000 revenue.

Cash Flow

Schiro's most immediate worry remains cash flow.

"Over the past several fiscal years," he notes, the budget was balanced using reserves and one-time fees. The reserves, of course, are now gone and the one-time fees, as the title suggests, only occur ONE time."

Continued Page 38



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Stephen Plescow (who is named after Mello Out's Plescow Panini) proudly displays a picture of Peppermint the pony. He won the bidding competition to be Peppermint's sponsor for the next year.



Margaret Good, recipient of the 2007 Equitarian Award for outstanding contribution to the equestrian world.



Rick Perkins and Randi Thomason



Cathy Blaine with Hogettes (left to right) Big Macette, Howiette, and Mikey T



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Anne Fognano with Hogettes (left to right) Mikey T and Big Macette

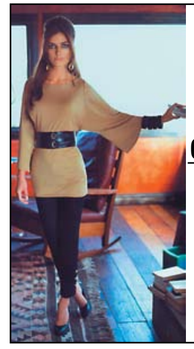


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Parents & Progeny

Emerick Elementary Steps Up the Fundraising for a New Playground

With an end in sight as it reaches its halfway point to raise funds for a new playground to replace its outdated set, the PTO of Emerick Elementary takes its fundraising efforts up a notch, asking the community for help.

"Without funding from the county for playground equipment, it's up to us," says President of PTO Meredith Thomas. "Even the kids are chipping in to the fund ... it's very exciting for them to feel a part of the project!"

In recent weeks, after reviewing several proposals, the PTO selected "Gametime-Cunningham Associates" to build Emerick's new playground. After distributing ballot sheets, where every student voted on what type of equipment they wanted most (i.e. rock climbing walls vs. slides), there is a sense of ownership and they feel so much more involved.

They have been very creative collecting funds for their playground, even putting out a make-shift "cookie jar" where spare change was collected which proved to be a huge fundraising success. Additionally, with proceeds from the third grade class' Mailagram Valentine program, a check was presented in the amount of $200 to the PTO on March 5 with hopes that the goal is that much closer.

"It's been the buzz at school for several months," says Emerick's Principal Deborah Cookus. "The kids have a true sense of involvement and responsibility to reach the goal of having a state-of-the-art playground that they were able to help design and contribute towards."

"The playground will feature state of the art equipment that will provide a fun and physical environment for the children of Emerick," says Marcy Hudson, Co-chair of the Playground Committee. "Our current playground is over 18 years old with limited equipment and currently not being used by the upper grade level students."

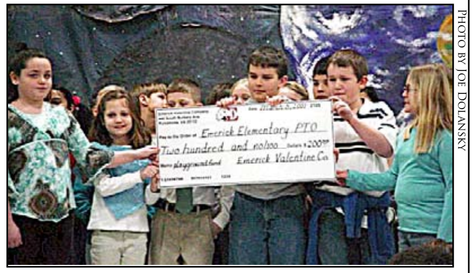


PHOTO BY JOE DOLANSKY

On March 5, the third grade classes of Emerick Elementary in Purcellville presented a check from proceeds from their Mailagram Valentine program towards the new playground fund. Helping the PTO get that much closer to its goal of $55,000.

The PTO is halfway to its fundraising goal of $55,000. While proceeds from PTO events and fundraisers throughout the year will benefit the playground fund, it is the generosity through donations from members of the Emerick family and community that will really help to tip the scales.

"Though the Emerick family, including grandparents, is so supportive of the playground fund, we are still very much in need of assistance from the community," continues Thomas. "Considering that our children really are our community's future, it is so important that we support them today."

If you or your organization would like to contribute towards the EMERICK PTO PLAYGROUND FUND, please send your donation to Emerick Elementary, 440 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, VA 20132.

CONTACT INFO:

Marcy Hudson at marcellah@gmail.com

Sandra Weems at dsweems@verizon.net

Middleburg Elementary School News

Virginia Opera Company and Middleburg 5th Graders Present "Cinderella"

The Virginia Opera Company and the Middleburg Elementary School 5th grade class will present the opera "Cinderella" on Monday, March 26, 2007. There will be two shows. The afternoon performance begins at 1:00 pm, and the evening performance will be held at 7:00 pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a professional opera at no cost. Bring the entire family for this entertaining event!

Middleburg Elementary School Open House

The Middleburg Elementary School PTO would like to invite you to attend an Open House for prospective students on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. One session will be held from 7-10 am, and the other from 5-7 pm.

The Open House is open to all Loudoun residents. Because of a new ruling, Loudoun residents can apply for a special exception for their children to attend Middleburg Elementary. Middleburg Elementary School is known for its strong academic program and for its experienced and caring faculty and staff. Middleburg Elementary graduates go on to experience great success at various public and private secondary schools in the region.

Please stop by for a visit. Middleburg Elementary School is located at 101 N. Madison Street in the heart of the town of Middleburg. You may call the school office at 703-771-6680 for more information.

Wakefield School Students from Middleburg Earning Honors for the Second Quarter of the 2006-2007

High Honors:
Kendra Riddleberger
Madison Lee
Brian Mascatello

Honors:
Anne Olimpi
Ivan Power-Kronick
Corina Benitz
Kiely MacMahon
Christopher Riddleberger
Carter Dale
Taylor Thompson
Conor Witt
Atalanta Benitz
Jackson Zyontz

How Parents Can Help Grieving Teenagers

Reality arrives quickly when young people are suddenly faced with the loss of a friend or family member. Every parent struggles to put the loss in perspective and to incorporate the loss into a context of the complexities and unexpected occurrences that combine to complete everyone's life.

Many parents have learned to rely on ten simple tips to help their grieving teens according to Kristi Guadagnoli, PysD and Licensed Clinical Psychologist at Mindworks.

They include:

• Offer your child an "open door" to talk about their thoughts and feelings regarding the loss.

• Parents can model healthy grieving by discussing their own feelings and expressing emotions.

• Be a good listener by asking questions such as: What was that like? How did that feel?

• Validate their feelings using reflecting statements like "of course you are sad."

• Normalize their feelings as there is no "correct" way to grieve.

• Allow them to talk with their friends and others who experienced the loss as much as possible.

• Encourage self care and stress management activities (exercise, rest, social activity, listening to music, meditation).

• Encourage activity like journaling which allows the teen to express feelings in writing or drawing.

• Encourage a family or community activity that allows the teen to memorialize the deceased (planting a tree, fund raising, scrap book).

• Be aware of signs of unhealthy grieving which may include poor sleep habits, loss of appetite, decline in academic performance, increased risk taking and drug use, suicidal ideation, preoccupation with death, and excessive sadness; if these occur please contact a mental health professional for an evaluation immediately.

To reach Mindworks Clinical Psychology, telephone 703 378 7998.

Notre Dame Academy Stages Three One-Act Comedies

The Notre Dame Academy Theater Department will present a series of three one-act comedies as their spring 2007 production: Phillip Glass Buys A Loaf Of Bread by David Ives, The Auditioners by Doug Rand, and The Actor's Nightmare by Christopher Durang. Performances will be held at Notre Dame Academy in Middleburg Friday, March 23 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 24 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 25 at 2:00 p.m.

The cast includes seniors Caroline Gonzmart and Constance Lee, and sophomores Megan and Katie Callaghan, with junior Katie Beliveau choreographing Phillip Glass Buys A Loaf Of Bread. Also featured are freshmen Sadie Albert, Brett Besecky, Maria Kostina, Cornelia O'Connor, Mary Phillips, Laura Pittaluga, John Ritonia, Jared Rosa, and Douglas Whitehead.

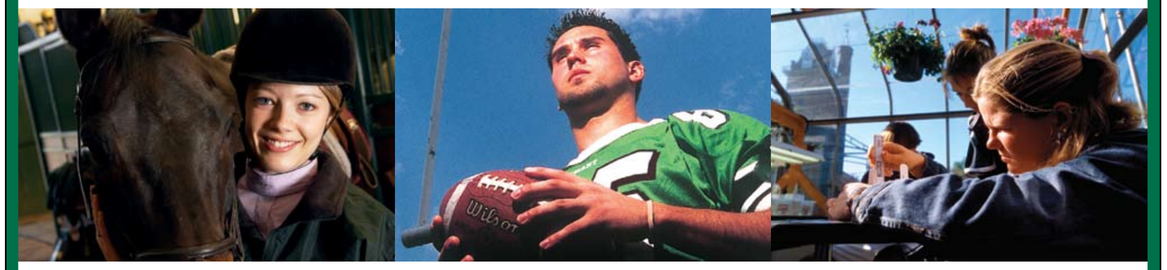
Tickets, available at the door, are $10 for adults and $5 for students/senior citizens.

Artist Signing
The Fun Shop
117 W. Washington St., Middleburg, Va
Signing Rescheduled
April 14 ~ 1-4 pm



Fancy Dancer
by Local Artist Devon Schreiner
Artist's Signing Fee $15
To pre-order Fancy Dancer for a signing, please call 540/687/6590

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Things to Do

Mosby Heritage Area offers Field Trips for Loudoun 250

The Mosby Heritage Area Association announced this week a spring 2007 educational offering in commemoration of Loudoun's 250th anniversary, a 4-trip series of field explorations of Loudoun's past. Entitled "Exploring Olde Loudoun," the four-hour trips will explore Loudoun chronologically. The series has been endorsed by the Loudoun 250 Committee and by the Loudoun Historical Society.

Part history lesson and part field trip, the series is particularly aimed at those who don't know much about Loudoun, including both newcomers and longer residents who've never had the time or chance to find out much about the county's past. The series will be led by Richard Gillespie, retired Loudoun history teacher and current Director of Education for the Mosby Heritage Area. A former National Park Ranger and Agnes Meyer Teacher of the Year award winner for Loudoun, Gillespie was particularly noted for the hundreds of field trips he offered during his 30-year teaching career, many of them focusing on local history. Today, he runs programs for the Mosby Heritage Area and visits classrooms and civic groups.

"Loudoun means so much more as you drive its roads and walk its streets when you know the part of the story before you arrived," Gillespie says. "There are so many sites and buildings with great meaning for those who know. We'd like to clue you in." The Mosby Heritage Area hopes that participants may include mothers or fathers bringing an interested daughter or son, teachers new to the area, neighbors with a mutual urge to explore, and those from the new residential communities a little more removed from the historic highways and byways. "Its hard to feel like a Loudouner if you don't know your way around," notes Gillespie. "So we especially invite newcomers on these trips." He promises visits to sites that participants will want to show a friend.

Trips begin and end in Leesburg. The March 18th trip will examine colonial Loudoun, in particular, the German and Quaker settlements and colonial Leesburg, focusing on their architecture, roads, meetinghouses and graveyards. Antebellum Loudoun will be explored on March 25th, with a look at the agricultural revolution in Loudoun, at transportation improvements that connected us to the cities, at slavery and the quiet resistance to it, and at the handsome, functional buildings this period left us. Highlights will include a look at historic Oak Hill, the home of President James Monroe, the 1807 Aldie Mill, the grave of a slave at Ketoctin Church near Purcellville, and an Underground Railroad site in Lincoln.

After a two-Sunday break for Palm Sunday and Easter (and Loudoun schools spring break), Loudoun's Civil War heritage will be the focus of the April 15th exploration. Participants will visit Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Confederate Camp Carolina, the near-perfect Civil War era village of Unison, 1863 "road to Gettysburg" locations, and sites having to do with the exciting "Gray Ghost" legend—John Singleton Mosby and his Rangers, who were based in Loudoun and next door Fauquier. Loudoun history from the Civil War to World War II will be the subject of the final trip on April 22nd. Reconstruction sites, turn-of-the-century small town Loudoun and the beloved W & OD railroad, the advent of the hunt country, the move of General George C. Marshall to Leesburg, and the shift to suburban subdivisions will all be considered.

Those wishing to participate can sign up for individual trips at $15 each or the whole series for $50. To sign up for the "Exploring Olde Loudoun" trips, call the Mosby Heritage Area at (540) 687-6681. A complete list of the field trips and the dates and times are posted on the Mosby Heritage Area Association's web site, www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

Workshop & Class Schedule 2007 With Catherine Hillis



Catherine Hillis is an acclaimed watercolor artist and teacher whose work has been featured regionally and nationally. Her work was published in the September 2006 issue of American Artist Magazine in her article titled "10 Tools for Better Watercolors." See the online version of the article at www.myamericanartist.com. Mrs. Hillis has most recently been awarded a grant to be resident artist in Dinan, France.

.PAINTING HISTORIC PLACES: beginners – intermediates. Register with instructor.

Saturday, March 31, 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM: The historic Purcellville Train Station, Purcellville, Va.

Bring in photos of your favorite historic scenes and learn how to bring these landscapes to life! Learn how to paint stone, wood and glass textures, compose a sketch and go home with a landscape painting.

Older Teens to Adults

Fee: $60.00 for the 1-day workshop.

WATERCOLOR WEEKENDS: A 4-week session in the Lincoln, VA studio at 18187 Lincoln Road. Saturday, April 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2007. Weather permitting, most classes will be held outdoors painting on-site at several different locations. Two Saturday class times: 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM and 1:00 PM – 3:15 PM. Limit of 4 persons in each class. Fee: $140.00 for the 4 week session. Contact instructor.

WONDERFUL WATERCOLORS: A 5- week session for beginners – intermediates at The Studio Art Shop in Winchester, VA. Call 540-665-2787 for registration. Fridays, from 10:00 AM until 12:15 PM, April 27 – May 25.

Fee: $150.00

March 23, 24, 29, 30 and April 6

High School Musical by The Pickwick Players

Evening show dates are March 23, 24, 29, 30 and April 6 and 7 at 7:30pm

Saturday Matiness on March 24 and April 7 at 2:00pm

All shows are at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, VA.

The family ticket show will be Thursday, March 29 for $45 (immediate family members only)

Presold regular admission prices are $10 for children 12 and under and Seniors, and $12 for adults. They can be purchased online at our website www.pickwickplayers.org. At the door, tickets are $12 for children and Seniors and $14 for adults. Questions - visit our website or email us at pickwickplayers@mail.com.

The Rail Stop
restaurant

◆ ◆ ◆

Join us for Easter Dinner!
We will be featuring the following three course prix fixe menu
Easter Sunday, April 8th from 12:00pm-6:00pm.
Please call for reservations (540) 253-5644

First Course Choices
Antipasto with Grilled Artichokes,
Roasted Peppers, Marinated Olives,
Smoked Ham, Prosciutto, Parmesan
and Herbed Focaccia

Smoked Trout with an
Arugula, Lemon Salad

Smoked Grilled Quail over
Mixed Greens and Blood Oranges,
Toasted Walnuts, Baby Beets, Blue Cheese
and White Balsamic Vinaigrette

Medley of Mushroom and Herb Soup

Dessert Choices
Mixed Berry Parfait
Key Lime Tart
Chocolate Mousse

Entrée Choices
Crab Benedict
Twin Crab Cakes
with Poached Eggs & Hollandaise,
served with Roasted Potatoes

Grilled Organic Salmon
with Marinated Asparagus,
Cherry Tomatoes, Red Pearl Onions
and Gremolata Sauce

Roasted Rack of Lamb
with Fingerling Potatoes,
Baby Spinach and Rosemary Jus

Grilled Rib Eye
with Sweet Potato Fries,
Sautéed Spinach
and Burgundy Butter

$40.00 per person (exclusive of tax & gratuity)
Children's Menu
$19.95 (plus tax, tip & beverages)

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March 24

Wakefield School Gears Up for "La Luna Bella di Tuscana" with Master of Ceremonies Superbowl Champion Brian Mitchell



The Wakefield School in The Plains, VA is making final preparations for their annual dinner/dance auction to be held this spring on Exciting auction items include live horses, vintage cars and fabulous getaway packages. Brian Mitchell, former Superbowl Champion, will be the featured Master of Ceremonies. Several ongoing raffles are highlights of this year's auction, including a chance to own a 1993 Mazda Miata (only 300 tickets sold) as well as the popular 50/50 raffle (the more you buy, the more you win!). You do not need to be present to win. Visit the auction website at www.wakefieldschool.org or call 540.253.7508 for more details.

March 31

A Baby Shower to benefit LifeLine/1st Choice Women's Health Center of Lansdowne.

Hosted by The Christian Shoppe of Purcellville and Birthverse products.
Please bring a tax-deductible
gift from the list of items needed:
• new baby clothes • diapers
• wipes • new maternity tops
• financial gifts always welcomed
A representative from the Center will be at the
Shoppe with information and to receive donations
The Christian Shoppe

Continued Page 34

Books & Crannies

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Celebrate our Grand Opening

April 27th - 30th

19 East Washington Street
Middleburg, VA

Broadway comes to Foxcroft

FOXCROFT SCHOOL invites you
to the premier of the Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Lecture Series



CHAN HARRIS in
Strange Voyage: An Artist's Travelogue
A musical performance inspired by his journals

Monday, April 30 at 8:00 p.m.
Engelhard Activities Building, Foxcroft School
Reservations: 540.687.4513 or *development@foxcroft.org*

A veteran performer on- and off-Broadway, as well as in regional and international theater productions, Harris is a graduate of New York's Juilliard and Tisch schools. The Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Lecture Series was established through the generosity of Austi Brown, Foxcroft Class of 1973, in honor of her mother, and will bring a variety of literary, performing and fine artists to Foxcroft.

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Races Run Rain or Shine.
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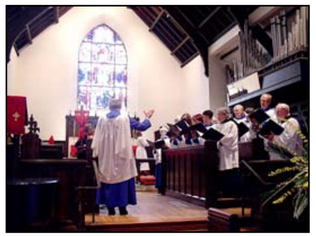
INFINITIVE · BLACKWATER · The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club · GCC Galen Capital Corp. · VIRGINIA LOTTERY

Things to DO

Continued from Page 33

161 N. Hatcher Ave.
Purcellville, VA 20132

April 6
The Grace Church Choir Samuel Carabetta, Organist and Choirmaster with soloists, Joellen Brassfield, Lawrence Reppert, Woodward Waesche and Dana Westring



On Good Friday, April 6th at 7 pm, the Grace Church Choir, soloists and cellist under the direction of Samuel Carabetta, Organist and Choirmaster will present A Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with Carols. Carols are most often associated with the Advent and Christmas seasons, but they exist for different occasions. Many carols are replete with references and imagery of more than one aspect of Christ's life and ministry, making them equally, if not more appropriate for use at Passiontide. Now intersperse ancient and intoxicating plainsong amidst the carols—the combination is extraordinarily powerful and moving!

Grace Episcopal Church is located at 6507 Main Street, The Plains, VA 20198. Child care is available during the service. For more information, please visit the website at www.gracechurch.net or call 540-253-5177.

April 7, 14, 21, 28, 29
Skymeadows State Park April 2007 Programs

Saturday, April 7

Life on the Farm between 1:00 and 4:00 PM

Watch and talk with history interpreters in 1860s attire, and find out what the Settle family might have been doing in the Mount Bleak house, yard, and outbuildings in 1860.

Saturday, April 14

Astronomy for Everyone from 7:45 to 11:00 PM

As the sky darkens, find out about U.S. space research from the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab's "Solar System Ambassadors." At dark, take a sky tour with Sean O'Brien of the Smithsonian's Albert Einstein Planetarium, and look for deep sky objects through large telescopes with the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club. If the sky is cloudy, only the NASA/JPL program will be presented, and the park gates will close at 10:00 PM.

Saturday, April 21

Astronomy Day from 3:00 to 11:00 PM

Join the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club to learn about the night sky and view deep sky objects through dozens of telescopes. Many experienced astronomers will be available to answer questions and share their knowledge. Solar observing begins at 3:00 and special presentations will be offered at 4:00 and 5:00 PM. For all age and interest levels.

Saturday, April 28

Hearthside Cooking between 12:00 and 4:00 PM

See how your ancestors might have prepared and cooked their meals in1860. Try your own hand at open fire cooking. Please wear only natural fabric clothing.

Sunday, April 29

Fun and Games between 12:00 to 3:30 PM

How did children have fun in 1860, without video games? Play with some old time toys and find out. All ages welcome.

April 15
The PEC 4th Annual Bluebell Walk

r way to the beautiful bluebell-covered banks of Cedar Run.

This event is free and open to the public. Casual attire, bring boots and your family. Refreshments will be served.

Hosted By PEC and the Julian W. Scheer Cedar Run Land Conservation Fund

Bonny Brook Farm, 8446 Old Dumfries Road, Catlett, VA 20119 Heather Richards, Fauquier County Land Conservation Officer, 540.347.2334x23 hrichards[at]pecva.org

RSVP by: April 15, 2007 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

April 22
3 PM Aldie Community Concert

Joni Bishop will perform Sunday, April 22, in a special concert and art show in Aldie, VA. Joni is a singer-songwriter from Nashville who has toured throughout the U.S. and Europe, recorded for CBS, and has released 5 CD's on her independent Polestar label. Her songs have been recorded by other artists as well, among them country singer Crystal Gayle, pop group 3T, Australian country artist Shanly Dell and numerous folk artists and bluegrass groups. Her music continues to receive airplay around the country on Americana, college & public radio.

She will be joined by her friend and local DC area favorite Lisa Taylor on vocals & percussion, and John Powers from Savannah on bass. Music will include selections from her latest CD "Steal Away Home," a journey through traditional spirituals, treasured hymns, & favorite gospel songs

The multi-media performance will also include projected images of Joni's folk art paintings and photographs. There will be an adjoining exhibit of her original work and mixed media collages of American Jazz/Blues & Gospel music makers.

All are invited to attend; voluntary donations welcome.

Aldie United Methodist Church

39325 John Mosby Highway
Aldie, VA 20105

American Brass Quintet Closes Grace Church Concert Series



The final concert in this season's Grace Church Concert Series comes a few weeks earlier than usual this year: Sunday, April 22, at 5 PM. The reward for your trip to The Plains will be a terrific performance by the American Brass Quintet, hailed as "the high priests of brass" by Newsweek, "positively breathtaking" by the New York Times, and "the Rolls Royce of brass quintets" by the Baltimore Sun.

The audience is invited to attend a festive reception after the concert to meet the artists. Child care is provided for those who want to attend without small children. The Grace Church Concert Series is funded in part through the generosity of Mrs. Jacqueline Mars in memory of her mother, Mrs. Forrest Mars, who was devoted to music and loved Grace Church. Tax-deductible donations from the concerts benefit the church's music program.

Grace Church is located at 6507 Main Street, Rt. 55, The Plains, VA 20198. Individual tickets for this subscription series are still available in advance from the church office or website, or at the door for $25 each. For further information or to purchase tickets, please call (540) 253-5177 or visit www.gracechurch.net .

2007 Point to Point Race Schedule

March 24, 9:30 am
PIEDMONT FOX HOUNDS HUNTER PACE
Salem Course, Upperville
Information (540) 592-3223

March 24 at12:30 pm
PIEDMONT FOX HOUNDS POINT-TO-POINT
Salem Course, Upperville
Information (540) 687-3455

March 25 at 1:00 pm
FARMINGTON HUNT
KESWICK HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Montpelier Race Course, Montpelier Station
Information (434) 980-9926

March 31/(RESCHEDULED)
RAPPAHANNOCK HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Woodley Farm
Information (540) 547-2810 (eve.)
(540) 937-3066 (d)

March 31/(RESCHEDULED)
Rappahannock and Blue Ridge Combined Meet
Woodley Farm, Berryville

April 1 at1:00 pm
ORANGE COUNTY HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Locust Hill Farm, Middleburg
Information (540) 687-6528

April 1 at 9:00 am /(RESCHEDULED)
BLUE RIDGE HUNT HUNTER PACE
Woodley Farm, Berryville
Information (540) 955-1577
(540) 955-0036

April 7 at 12:00 noon
OLD DOMINION HOUNDS POINT-TO-POINT
Ben Venue Farm, Ben Venue
Information (540) 364-4573,
(540) 636-1507

April 8 at 2:00 pm
OLD DOMINION HOUNDS HUNTER PACE
Ben Venue Farm, Ben Venue

April 14 at10:00 am
BULL RUN HUNT HUNTER PACE
Peacock Farm, Culpeper
Information (703) 866-0509

April 15 at 1:00 pm
LOUDOUN HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Oatlands, Leesburg
Information (703) 777-8480, (540) 338-4031

April 21 at 12 noon /(RESCHEDULED)
CASANOVA HUNT HUNTER PACE
Acorn Farm, Warrenton
Information (540) 788-4806

April 21 at 1:30 p.m.
MIDDLEBURG SPRING RACE MEET
Glenwood Park, Middleburg
Information (540) 687-6545, (540) 687-6595

April 21 at 9:00 am /(RESCHEDULED)
CASANOVA HUNT HUNTER PACE
Acorn Farm, Warrenton
Information (540) 788-4806

April 22 at 1:30 pm
FAIRFAX HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Morven Park, Leesburg
Information (703) 787-6673

April 22 at 9:00 am /(RESCHEDULED)
RAPPAHANNOCK HUNT HUNTER PACE
Birmingham Farm, Culpeper
Information (540) 547-3413

April 28 at 10:00 am
FAIRFAX HUNT HUNTER PACE
Rolling Meadow Farm, Philomont
Information (703) 585-6581

April 29 at 1:00 pm
MIDDLEBURG HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Glenwood Park, Middleburg
Information (540) 454-2991 or (540) 687-6069

May 5 at 1:00 pm
VIRGINIA GOLD CUP RACE MEET
Great Meadow Course, The Plains
Information (540) 347-2612

May 6 at 12:30 pm
BULL RUN HUNT POINT-TO-POINT
Brandywine Park, Culpeper
Information (540) 727-8201


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REAGAN– Reagan is an exceptional pup! Her mom is a small shepherd mix (Lady!), ? dad. Reagan is about 15 weeks old and loves to play. She is very intelligent and as you can see, absolutely adorable!



SPORT–Sport is a 1 year old bull dog mix, This is such a special guy, he just loves everyone! Funny because he looks pretty tough but truly, he is a sweetheart! Come out to meet him, you'll fall in love!



BOOMER – A 1 year old super kind hearted & very attractive Lab/ hound mix pup. He is a big guy and still growing! Boomer has a heart of gold. He will make a lovely canine companion.



CHARLESTON - Charleston is a cat lovers dream- somewhat temperamental but his looks make up for his quirkiness! Indoor/outdoor or a barn would be best for this handsome guy!



RACHEL – A super cutie pie! Rachel is a Border Collie/ hound mix pup who is full of love, life & energy!



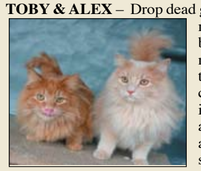
LARRY – This is one sweet Chihuahua! He was found in the middle of the night on a busy highway and no-one has claimed him. He has a nice temperment and is full of love and energy. Larry needs a home with lots of love and no small kids.



LADY– An exceptionally lovely dog. Lady is super smart, gentle, great with kids, cats & all other dogs. She would make a wonderful companion for just about anyone!



GOATS– Boy do we have goats! Various breeds, all getting healthy and some pregnant! Go to our website for more info!



TOBY & ALEX – Drop dead gorgeous and absolute love muffin brothers! These boys will be one year old next month. They are used to an indoor home only but could do indoor/outdoor in the right home. They are very affectionate and as you can see quite handsome!



NATALIE– A fun loving 2 year old Cocker Spaniel who seems to love everyone and everything! Natalie loves to cuddle but she also needs room to run and play.



JOEY- Super cuteness! Joey is a 1-2 year old small Terrier mix who is housebroken and good with other dogs but needs a home with no cats.



DUKE– A big handsome purebred Rotweiller who is very affectionate and quite well mannered and gentle. Duke does best with female dogs. He is a lovely guy who would be a terrific watch dog!

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Albert's Corner

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



It's spring (yippee) and that means perfect ball-fetching weather is on the way. It also means lots of people will be bringing a new puppy home. All puppies, regardless of breed, need a great deal of care and attention in order to become wonderful adult dogs. The formative months are a critical time in the life of a dog, and one of the most important aspects of development is socialization.

Puppy socialization is a proper-sounding term for something extremely simple: puppies need to encounter lots of things! They need to experience all of the strange and wonderful things the world has to offer: people of all shapes and ages; dogs big and small; loud noises; car rides; big crowds; delivery people; neighbors; friends; and extended family. The first year of a dog's life is the perfect time to ensure that a puppy will turn into a confident, comfortable, non-aggressive pet.

During the very first few months of life, most puppies receive a round of vaccinations. Before these vaccinations are complete, your puppy may be at risk for picking up germs in the air and off of surfaces. It's important, therefore, to get the all-clear from your vet before you take your puppy to public places – especially places lots of other dogs visit. Once your puppy is fully vaccinated, however, the world is your oyster and you can let the socialization begin!

Puppies who are not exposed to all kinds of situations when they are young can become fearful, shy and possibly aggressive adult dogs. It is particularly important to let puppies meet children and other dogs. These meetings need to take place in controlled environments with close owner supervision. For instance, you should take every opportunity to invite children to pet and play with your puppy and hold your puppy while sitting in a chair or on the floor. It's not a good idea, however, for a child to hold a puppy while the child is standing because the puppy could easily wiggle out of the child's arms.

One of the best ways to socialize puppies is to enroll in a group puppy training class. That way, the puppy is exposed to lots of people and pets at a very early age in a safe atmosphere. It's also a good idea to take walks with your puppy. These walks can be in the neighborhood, around a shopping center, or in a town. In all cases, you are guaranteed that your puppy will experience things he or she cannot experience inside your home. Just be sure to keep your eyes open for any potential threats – like yucky things on the sidewalk your puppy might eat or aggressive dogs headed your way.

You might also want to ask other puppy parents to form a puppy play group. This is a great way for puppies to get a chance to interact with other dogs and people. It's also a way for people to trade new puppy stories and socialize as well.

Your home can be a good place for socialization too. Invite friends over so that your puppy gets used to new people coming into the house. A great trick is to let your friends offer the puppy a treat when they arrive so that the puppy associates a knock on the door with a positive event.

I do not recommend off-leash dog parks for puppies. In that kind of uncontrolled environment, dog aggression can flare up in an instant and the results can be traumatic for the owner and the puppy.

To sum up, if you are a new puppy parent, get ready for a little adventure! Your puppy will have fun discovering new experiences and you will have a well-adjusted best friend.

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.

Animal Care & Control Wants Your Opinion

Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is asking Loudoun County residents to express their opinions regarding the adoption of pit bulls from the Animal Shelter.

Animal Care & Control is currently reviewing its adoption policy in reference to pit bulls due to the fact that the Attorney General of Virginia recently issued an advisory opinion stating that publicly funded animal shelters may not euthanize dogs based solely upon breed. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is a publicly funded shelter operated by the Loudoun County Government.

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter's current adoption policy does not allow for adoption of pit bulls or pit bull mixes. The Department hopes to receive input from the County's citizens in order to best serve the needs of our community.

The survey will be conducted online via the Department's website – www.loudoun.gov/animals. Loudoun County residents are encouraged to visit the website and complete the survey.

A print version of the survey is also available for those without access to the internet. A copy may be obtained by calling 703-777-0406 or by visiting the Loudoun County Animal Shelter.

The survey will be open through March 31.

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

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Deal or No Deal?

From Page 24

"One time revenues should be used for capital budgets since capital programs are one-time expenses."

"Operational costs are reoccurring since they include personnel, expenditures such as fuel, electricity, etc. These expenses should be funded from revenue streams such as utility user fees and general fund tax revenues."

Debt

Another concern is the debt service on the utility side of the Town's budget.

"The Town has increased its debt by over $2 million since 2004," Schiro reported, "bringing our annual debt service payments to nearly $290,000 annually. This is a significant drain on the operational budget."

Cash on Hand

According to Schiro, Middleburg now has total cash assets somewhere in the range of $125,000 in the bank.

"With payroll and payables totaling between $20,000 & $30,000 per month, there is little or no margin for emergencies," Schiro said, noting that all the town's major revenue sources for the fiscal year had already been collected.

"All departments are now working diligently, "Schiro noted, "to keep spending in control. However some of the costs that the Town incurred earlier in the budget year inflated the expenditures."

"The transition in administration, additional staffing, coupled with additional attorney and audit fees have resulted in overages in the administrative budget. Also, there were contractual agreements entered into by the Town that continue to drive the expenditures higher."

Budget Projections for Next Year

Budgeting very conservatively with regard to income and projecting little or no change in expenses for the coming fiscal year, Schiro tells the Eccentric his current draft budget shows the town at around $40,000 in the red for general fund expenses., and about the same amount in the red for water and utility-related expenses.

Those numbers are manageable, says Schiro, and will be addressed as the budgeting process continues.

Correction

In the February edition of the Eccentric we reported that a debate over the Town's reserve funds had led to a " . . . separate council meeting to approve the budget and, according to some sources, contributed to current Mayor Betsy Davis's Spring, 2006, decision to resign from the Finance and Personnel Committee." According to Mayor Davis, she actually resigned on June 10, 2006, after Council members who served on the Committee voted against a draft budget they had just approved when it came to a full vote of the Town Council. See "TOWN BUDGET IN LIMBO: PROPOSAL FAILS IN SURPRISE 4-3 VOTE", Middleburg Eccentric, June, 2006. We regret the error.

Bullying

From Page 11

essary.

"We have been asking for Dominion's studies for several months, " explains Sheedy. "Dominion blatantly refuses to share any data with us. It is unconscionable that a company that is funded by the public refuses to present their data."

Energy experts continue to say that the proposed 40-mile, 500-kv transmission with its 15-story-tall towers is overkill. But an engineer with Burns & McDonnell, the firm that represents Dominion, explained to concerned citizens at a Middleburg meeting that the line was initially sited south of Interstate 66 because "….there's nothing there but cattle and horse farms and ….weekend homes."

Citizens attending were furious because their full-time family homes were right in the path of the power towers.

Dominion's recent highly produced advertising campaign has only complicated their problems by using old, wasteful light bulbs as graphics, twisting statistics and employing heavy-handed, unsupportable messages that offend the intelligence of voters, elected officials and citizens.

Without question, energy capacity and efficiency are on the minds of almost all Virginians, Dominion Power and elected officials included. With vision, commitment and a determination to partner with its critics and customers to set new standards for the region and the nation, Dominion could leapfrog to the head of the race for better policy and bigger profits instead of stubbornly insisting they can "buy" whatever they want from their cronies and let the citizens and voters be damned.

Who know, if the change their approach, they might have the courage to annual meeting in Virginia.

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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.



Brickland Yard

Delaplane, Virginia

Immaculate property on 20 acres in hunt country. Home is completely updated with 2 master suites; one could be a large home office and 3 additional bedrooms. New kitchen and appliances, new baths, hardwood floors, extensive custom trim and new windows throughout. Beautiful views and large all weather deck for outdoor entertaining. Fenced for horses with 2 run in sheds. $1,350,000.



Kincheloe's Store

Rectortown, Virginia

100+ years ago this was a small village store and today the current owners have blended the old charm of 10'+ ceilings, oversized farmhouse windows, the large wrap around porch and original floors with the modern amenities everyone seeks. A recent addition includes a large family room open to the gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, granite counters and a professional stove. The second floor holds a master bedroom, separate bath and home office or studio area with exceptional views from every window overlooking the Cobbler Mountains and large back yard. $834,900.



Hunton Wood

Broad Run, Virginia

All brick one level home in a quiet neighborhood between Warrenton and The Plains on hard surface road. Lot backs up to wooded common area—towering trees and mature gardens. 4 bedrooms with additional unfinished space from the walkout basement and stairs are in place upstairs as well. Large wooden deck and screened-in porch accessed by the kitchen and family room. $725,000.



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.



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.



Achilles Lane

Marshall, Virginia

Horse property close to Marshall on 7+ acres with 3 stall barn and board fencing. Three bedroom home has recently been upgraded with a gourmet kitchen, fully finished lower level with outdoor access and a rear deck with pasture and mountain views. Less than three miles from I 66 makes for an easy commute! $689,000.



Commercial Building

Middleburg, Virginia

Commercial or retail opportunity one-half block off the main street in the village of Middleburg. Turn-key space with parking available in the adjacent town parking lot. Would make a fine office or boutique. Not your typical offering. $899,000.



Putnams Mill

Orlean, Virginia

Traditional home surrounded by 2 acres of mature landscaping located on a quiet gravel road. A charming and immaculate home with light-filled rooms, front porch, large rear deck, finished basement, garage and gardener's shed. $670,000.

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Beautiful property on 190 acs. of rolling countryside ♦Bordered by North Fork, Goose Creek, & Crooked Run ♦Spring fed pond w/dock ♦4 BR Cape with wrap-around porch ♦8 stall barn ♦Board fenced paddocks ♦Ideal for horses **$3,199,000**

LAUGHING DOG



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WESTFIELD



Minutes to Middleburg ♦3 level custom colonial ♦10 acres ♦HW flrs ♦High ceilings ♦3 FP's ♦Fam. Rm. w/vaulted & beamed ceiling ♦Spacious screened porch ♦Gourmet kit. ♦In-ground pool & spa ♦4-stall barn ♦3 paddocks **$1,850,000**

WATERFORD HEIGHTS



Extraordinary 5 bedroom♦ 4.5 bath custom colonial on 4.5 beautifully landscaped acres.♦ Built in 1999 ♦3 finished levels with over 7,000 sq. ft. of fabulous living space♦ Soaring ceilings ♦4 fireplaces **$1,495,000**

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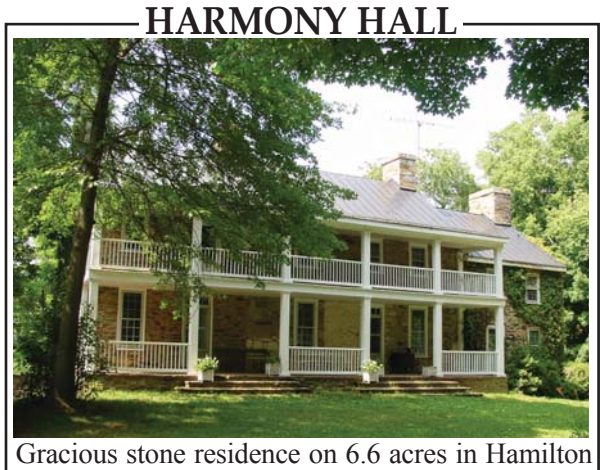
Fabulous 4 BR, 4.5 BA Colonial Cape ♦3+ gorgeous acs. w/mature trees ♦Hdwd flrs ♦High ceilings ♦Spacious sun filled rms ♦3 fin. levels feat. media room, guest ste & main level Mstr ste ♦Home Warranty ♦ Motivated seller ! **$1,145,000**

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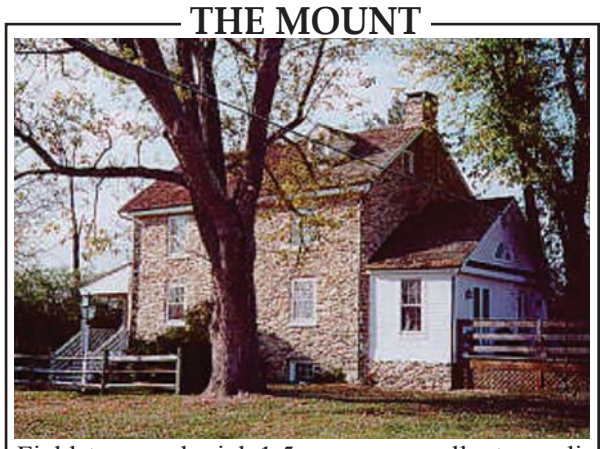
Custom Colonial on 5.5 acres in Waterford sMint condition scharming rooms sfenced paddocks s Center aisle barn s Adjacent to 125 acres that are fabulous for riding and hiking ♦ Commanding views♦Ideal equestrianproperty **$949,000**

HARMONY HALL



Gracious stone residence on 6.6 acres in Hamilton ♦ Wood floors ♦ High ceilings ♦ 7 fireplaces in beautiful setting♦ Guest cottage ♦ Stone office♦ small brn/paddocks♦ New heating ♦Newly finished floors **$859,000**

THE MOUNT



Fieldstone colonial♦1.5 acres♦ excellent condition.♦ Bright,sunny rooms ♦random width pine floors♦ lovely neutral décor.♦ French doors from the Family Room open to spacious deck ♦ located in Middleburg Hunt Country **$795,000**

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