



THE BEGINNING OF THE INN

HOSPICE CUP POLO CHARITY MATCH

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SPEAKING UP IN
THE PLAINS

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COUNCIL APPROVES SALAMANDER ZONING

DANIEL MORROW

At its regular monthly meeting on August 9, 2007, the Middleburg Town Council passed four key motions, amending the Town's zoning ordinances and maps, and granting a special use permit that will allow construction to begin on the Salamander Inn and Spa and its related housing and mixed-use developments.

Two of the four critical motions passed unanimously: one granting Salamander a critical "special-use" permit; the other amending the Town's zoning ordinance to allow construction of a resort and spa.

More problematic were motions to create a new "Mixed Use Village" zoning designation for Middleburg, and the all-important motion formally rezoning the 341.28-acre Salamander property.

Both these motions passed 4-2. Eura Lewiston, Lisa Patterson and Karen Robinson voted "yes."

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk and Mark Snyder voted "no."

Katherine ("Bundles") Murdock, who had consistently opposed the project under both Mayor Tim Dimos and Mayor Betsy Davis, was absent.

The End of the Beginning

The final vote, the culmination of almost six years of hard work, controversy, debate and compromise, was, at first, greeted with silence by a packed gallery, representing an almost complete cross-section of the roughly 640 residents of the town, reinforced by a large contingent from Shiloh Baptist Church, on hand to witness passage of an official resolution honoring the 140th anniversary of its founding in 1867.

Only when Mayor Davis quietly broke the silence did the crowd appear to realize the full impact of what they had just witnessed.

"I'd like to extend my congratulations," she began, "to Dr. Johnson, her family, and Salamander Hospitality; ... to our staff ... for all their hard work; and to Council ..."

As she spoke, glances were exchanged, tentative smiles broke out, and whispers began to spread around the Council chambers.

"I'm looking forward, along with Council, to having a great project," Davis continued, "in which we'll all work together. I know we're all going to be proud of this and make it the best resort in the nation."

By the time she finished, it was clear what had been done. Cheers and applause spread around the room.

As the applause faded, Sheila Johnson, educator, entrepreneur, co-founder of BET, and by

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PAN AMERICAN GLORY FOR KAREN O'CONNOR AND THEODORE, WORLD'S BRAVEST, MOST BELOVED EVENT PONY

PATRICIA VOS

The XV Pan American Games took place July 13-29 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, featuring 5,500 athletes from 42 countries competing in 28 different sports. The US delegation was made up of nearly 600 athletes and they brought home an impressive 237 medals with the US leading the final medal count, not-so-closely followed by Cuba and host nation Brazil.

But does anyone from Middleburg pay much mind to medal sweeps in synchronized swimming or table tennis? Unlikely. Not to take anything away from the Herculean efforts of the judo team or the swimmers or badminton players who came home with the gold, but our concerns tend to run with all things equestrian.

Lucky for us then that the equestrian event squad, a decent percentage of whom were locals, came home with a small pile of medals, including a few for The Plains resident and eventing star Karen O'Connor who rode a pony, yes a pony, to double gold medal glory.

If an event horse always strikes one as a particularly brave creature as it approaches daunting ditches, banks and solid obstacles,

imagine how plucky a 14.1 and a bit pony appears as it does so. Theodore O'Connor, the 12-year old Thoroughbred/Arabian/Shetland cross, is now quite possibly the bravest, most beloved event pony in all the world.

While getting a pony to an international event is never a sure thing, the purported troubles at the Rio venue nearly made it a non-starter for the entire squad. As the team was being selected, prepared, trained and beginning their travels with a trip to Miami for quarantine, word from Brazil was not encouraging. The cross country course building was behind schedule. There were health concerns. The dressage teams that had traveled ahead for their competitions reported back with stories of nightmarish bureaucracies.

Back home, veterinary concerns over two of the horses chosen for the US Event team forced last minute changes to the squad. When, at last, they left for Rio, the US team was comprised of Phillip Dutton of West Grove, PA with Truluck, Gina Miles of Creston, CA with McKinlaigh, Stephen Bradley of Leesburg, VA with From, Mara Dean of Round Hill, VA with Nicki Henley and Darren Chiacchia of Springville, NY with Better I Do It.

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NEWS OF NOTE

SWEDENBURG CONTINUES HIS PARENTS' LEGACY

Thomas Jefferson would certainly understand Marc Swedenburg's devotion to the vineyard and his mother and father planted at Valley View Farm outside Middleburg.

Swedenburg's determination to improve his vineyards at the circa 1760 farm is also reminiscent of Jefferson's dedication to farming and agricultural innovation. It is, in fact, precisely these qualities in a young man make Marc that vineyard in the Napa Valley should pay close attention to as the quality of Virginia wines begins to reflect the pleasure and the passion so fundamental to the creation of truly great vineyards.

When Janina Swedenburg, Marc's mother, died earlier this year, the future of the vineyard and the vineyard that now have a serious following, rested squarely in his hands. His commitment to continue her and his father's work is clear and without question.

"My mother was a marvel at making excellent wine," Swedenburg notes. "She could correct for almost anything. I want to focus more in our 15-acre vineyard and attempt to ensure that our vines are producing truly excellent fruit."

Born in Santa Barbara, California during the year his parents spent in the United States, Marc grew up in Klamath, Sierra Leone and Magdalen. His memory is vivid about his childhood near the sea in West and East Africa.

"I've been fortunate to see so many beautiful parts of the world. My parents were from Illinois and Kansas but they met in Italy, and worked in Saigon when it was one of the most beautiful cities in the world. After a few years in the States when my mother taught while my father worked in Fiji and the Sudan, they agreed that we would return to the Foreign Service. They missed the romance of their life abroad."

Marc went to school in Alexandria and took his business degree at Virginia

Tech. Today, he is very impressed with the advances the agriculture department there is making in ecology or wine making and vineyard management.

"It takes the commitment of a university to establish and support a successful wine making industry. In California, it was the commitment of the University of California at Davis that really made the difference when wine making began to evolve in Northern California. I've been very impressed with the entire Virginia Tech in making this area."

"When my parents began to bottle Swedenburg vintages in 1987, they knew how important individuals like Steve Reed and Tony Wolf had been to them when they planted our vines in the early '80s. They helped my parents from the time they began. He went on to become a famous winemaker on the west coast as the head chateau manager at Kendall Jackson."

"Tony Wolf, of Winchester and Blackburg, helped my parents enormously in the area of viticulture."

In the '80s, when his parents were planting their first vines, there were only three of them working the fields. Marc, now an information technology executive who can often work from the farm, arrived at the farm faithfully every weekend to help in every area that needed attention. After his father Wayne died in 2004, Marc and his family moved to the farm to help with the vineyard and their herd of Chandelers.

"I wish I could have worked side-by-side with my mother on a more consistent basis," he recalls. "I want to continue her commitment to quality and to make certain that the farm continues agricultural production."

Janina Swedenburg was in the news shortly before her death when she won her case before the Supreme Court that won all

lows wine makers to accept and fill orders from other states.

"We still have to finalize the shipment details before we can really capitalize on the ruling," Marc explained. "It isn't easy to create a system that ensures that alcoholic beverages are shipped for by individuals who are over the legal age limit every time. Federal Express or UPS comes to the door. This is being resolved right now. Customers who cannot visit our vineyards will be able to purchase our wines late this year."

The rapid growth and related change in Loudoun County has not gone unnoticed by Swedenburg.

"We have to keep a really sharp eye on Loudoun County, to be certain that Loudoun, Fauquier and Clark counties respect and embrace. If we simply respect and embrace, we'll protect agricultural enterprise as it changes and evolves to reflect the changing times."

Clark, Fauquier and Albemarle counties already face issues with legislation in Richmond reflecting the Net In My Back and pension.

Whether you enjoy a dry and frosty morning that recalls a French vintage or a German, or Swedenburg's Chant La Vie is delicious now, it is clearly an asset to the Northern Virginia community to have Marc Swedenburg and his family at Valley View Farm.

"Valley View Farm has been in continuous operation for 250 years. The farm has to be self-sufficient, but it is my sincere hope to continue this legacy."

MIDDLEBURG FITNESS CLUB HOSTS NANETTE'S WALK SEPTEMBER 15

The first annual Nanette's Walk will be held in Middleburg on September 15, 2007. Nanette's Walk is a fundraising event for the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund, a fund of the Piedmont Community Foundation, and a member of the Middleburg community who has been a year-long breast cancer survivor.

The two-mile walk will raise funds for breast cancer prevention and early detection through screening and education to those individuals and families facing breast cancer in Loudoun and Fauquier counties and to advance scientific research in the fight to eradicate breast cancer.

The walk will begin at the Middleburg Fitness Club, located at 7 West Washington St. in Middleburg, and continue through a portion of our historic town as well as the beautiful grounds of the Hill School. Registration is at 8:30 am, followed by a kick off by the Master of Ceremonies, Betty Davis, Recreational Manager of Middleburg at 10:30 am. All participants will meet back at the Fitness Club where they will be eligible for a drawing and awards which have been generously donated by merchants in Loudoun and Fauquier County. Children under 12 are free, well behaved dogs on leashes are welcome as are spectators.

Sponsors of the event include Armfield, Miller & Taylor, Free Paperies, LLC, George White Fencing and Middleburg Self Storage and The Graham Companies, LLC.

For those interested in participating please visit the Middleburg Fitness Club website at www.middleburgfitnessclub.com and look for the registration form which can be printed and mailed in along with team and pledge information. Please read important terms and conditions to CBBF-PFCC, P.O. Box 402, Middleburg, VA 22118.



Greg and Teresa Ramsay took their 1934 Ford Hot Rod custom farmer rig to the Summer Thunder Cruise at Franklin Park. This one of a kind rig drew a big crowd.

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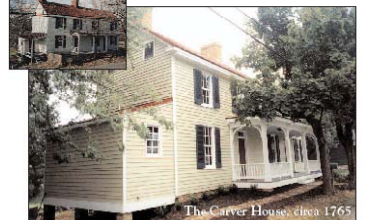


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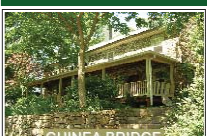
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SPEAKING UP IN THE PLAINS

ALEX CUDABACK

The Plains, estimated 2006 population of 289 according to City-Data.com, is probably best known in the region as the home of the famed Virginia Gold Cup steeplechase, or maybe as the closest incorporated town to Halfway, home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Devall.

There is also reported to be a corn maze in The Plains, though I admit to never having visited. The Plains is that most idyllic of American towns, sleepy, cozy, and easy to drive right by if you blink at the wrong time or let your eyes drift to the radio dial as the signal begins to crackle and fizz.

There's a three-way stop sign at the town's main intersection, nothing that one could call rush hour traffic with a straight face, and a sense of calm and peace that seems to bake up from the sidewalks as you make your way around.

About the only thing missing from the Rockwellian scene of place is a sign on the outskirts of town welcoming you to "The Plains: A Nice Place to Live."

All of which were precisely the things that Dan Summa was looking for when he opened his international talent management firm, The Agency Speakers, just two short years ago.

Quality of life was a big deal for Michelle and me when we de-

cided to locate in The Plains," says Dan, referring to his wife, the Senior Talent Liaison for The Agency Speakers.

"Interaction with our clients, most typically corporate meeting planners, and our speakers, the incredible men and women with whom we get to work, more often than not takes place over the phone or on email. We had the wonderful opportunity to literally be wherever we wanted, as long as there was broadband connectivity, FedEx, and an airport. Finding ourselves smack in the middle of hunk-country was sort of a bonus."

Based out of a non-swinging, bungalow-style home on Main Street, The Agency Speakers has grown in the last two years since its

founding from, quite literally, a one-speaker firm to one of the most forward thinking agencies in its industry, representing an All-Star stable of well over 30 speakers, from business and political leaders to entertainment and sports hall of famers.

"I had been working as a speaker or agent for several years already," recalls Dan, "when I decided to form my own agency. I'd worked with Jerry Coffey quite a bit in the past, and he was the first speaker to join our team."

Captain Gerald Coffey (ret.) served for 28 years in the United States Air Force. During his distinguished service, Captain Coffey was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying low-level reconnaissance missions over Cuba in his F-8 Crusader and taking the photos that

helped the United States' Ambassador to the U.N. prove the existence of Soviet missiles there in 1962. While flying combat missions over the jungles of Vietnam in 1966, Captain Coffey's jet was shot down and he was taken prisoner; after being held as a POW for seven years he was "repatriated" in 1973. He served twelve more years of active duty before retiring from the Air Force. During his service, Captain Coffey was recognized with the Silver Star, two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, the Air Medal, two Purple Hearts, and the Vietnam Service Medal with 13 stars.

Jerry is a remarkable man, and a gifted speaker," says Dan.

Gifted speaker may not convey exactly the full extent of Coffey's speaking prowess. He has been recognized as one of the nation's top 10 speakers in a poll of corporate meeting planners and is one of only 175 CPAs, the professional speakers version of a Hall of Famer, in the world.

Other speakers represented by The Agency Speakers include Olympians Gold Medalists Dan Jansen, Bonnie Blair and Keri Strug, NFL Hall of Famers Troy Aikman, Warren Moon and Steve Young, NBA Hall of Famer Karl Thomas, John Alston, Matt Weinzierl, Tim Lincecum and Willie Jolley, all CPAs, members of the Council of Peers Award for Excellence, a lifetime award for speaking excellence and professionalism granted on material, style, experience, delivery, image, professionalism and communication, are all also represented by The Agency Speakers.

How Dan and Michelle have created such a titan in their industry in such a short period of time is a testament to any number of things, not least of which have been a willingness to listen to their clients and the speakers they represent, a palpable enthusiasm for the work they do, and a staff that feels more like a team, a

group of dedicated individuals pulling together towards a single, simple goal: success, not only for themselves and for their speakers, but for their clients and their audience.

Professional speaking is not for everybody. When you realize the time and effort the top speakers have put into their careers, the dedication they have shown and the sacrifices they have made, you begin to understand how similar they are to any other elite professional. Our job is to make sure that these men and women have everything they need to do their jobs at the highest level of their abilities, from liaising with hiring agents to working out all the logistical details, from negotiating speaker fees to furthering the "brand" of that particular speaker.

As he speaks, Dan's passion for his work comes through loud and clear.

"Corporate meeting planners, our primary clients, really began expecting, requiring even, that speaker managers be able to show that they had a real relationship with their speakers. That's really what we bring to the table here. We have personal relationships with each and every one of our speakers; we have to. We'd insist on it even if the meeting planners didn't. How else would we be able to do the best job for our speakers if we didn't?"

Chicago and Washington, D.C., with their large numbers of associations, corporations and government agencies, are hot beds on the public speaking circuit, so setting up shop less than 30 minutes from Dullies airport and just a bit longer to get to downtown D.C. made perfect sense. Besides, a lot of Dan and Michelle's clients like the opportunity to get O'Utide the beltway.

It was an unexpected bonus to opening our offices in The Plains," says Michelle. "When we do need to have a face-to-face meeting, we've really found that people love to come out here. We'll offer to meet them in D.C. or Tysons and they'll say 'No, no, let us come out to you guys.' Turns out a lot of them like to spend time out here in the area after our meeting is done, sometimes staying for the day or even the weekend. It's a real treat for people to be able to come out this way."

It's apparent how much the people at The Agency Speakers enjoy what they do and the people with whom they work. It's just as apparent how much they enjoy where they get to work, and what an asset that has become for them.

We love what we do and we love the people we get to work with," says Dan. "But we also love where we get to do it."

The Plains: A Nice Place to Live....

...AND Work.

CATCH THE BIZ BUZZ AS THE MIDDLEBURG BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

The Middleburg Business and Professional Association (MBPA) will host the annual membership meeting on Tuesday, September 11 at the Red Fox Inn. The meeting will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and will feature guest speaker Diane Logan, Diane Logan is the Executive

Director of Downtown Culpeper and will speak on "The Changing World of Retail."

Please RSVP to (540) 687-6082 or email info@mbpa.org by Tuesday, September 4.

The Red Fox Inn is located at 2 East Washington Street, Middleburg, Virginia 20118.

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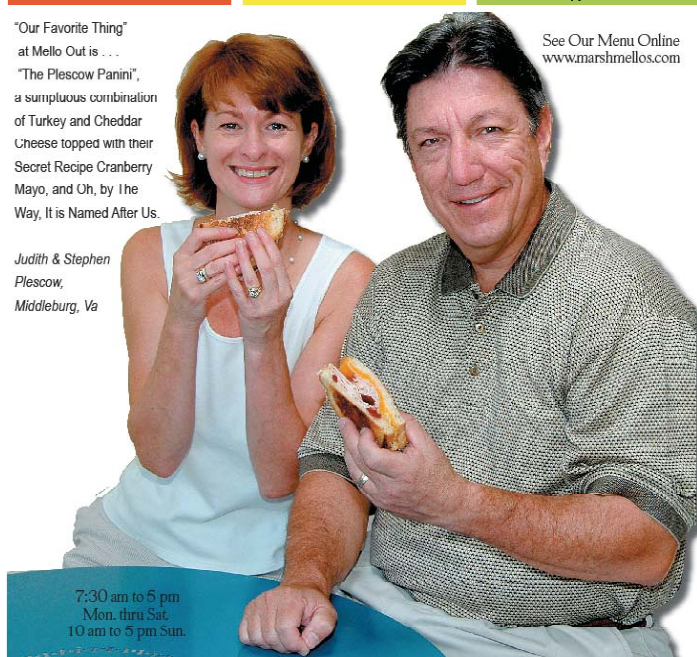
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EDITOR'S DESK

ONLY THE BEST

The long debate and concerned critique, both pro and con, of Sheila Johnson's plans for the Harriman estate only underscore the high regard Middleburg citizens have for the history and legacy of this beautiful countryside.

We have grown accustomed to a land of rare abundance and delightful nuances that remains, for the most part, an accurate reflection of the Northern Virginia hills and dales our forefathers loved so passionately. Our village is, without doubt, charming and seductive, centered in a place so lovely that it is revered as a Horse Country paradise in all corners of the world.

If a love of this land can become a magnificent obsession, we are all proud to be guilty, and it is our good fortune that, in her wisdom, Sheila Johnson is as guilty as any one of us.

We congratulate her on the vote Salamander Hospitality received that allows her organization to proceed with the Inn & Spa, and we encourage her to never forget the first time she saw this spectacular Countryside.

Our best wishes and sincere advice is simply: be wise, be well and proceed with caution as you endeavor to enhance and protect Middleburg. This is an area that deserves only the best and, just as discretion is the better form of valor, less is often more in every aspect of life.

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@mbec.com or P.O. Box 1768, Middleburg VA 20118

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Ken Reitz writes, in the 29 August edition, "The Federal deficit is getting smaller and projected to disappear completely next year." Odd, that. The mainstream economists see the budget deficit now at 10% a year, and mostly financed by China, as getting worse as baby boomers try to retire. This country, counting taking care of our wounded for years to come, has poured almost a trillion dollars on the sands of Iraq. 5% of middle class home owners are behind on their mortgages, and few know if they will have a good job in five years. Ken, don't Bogart that just, just, friend.

Harrison Picot
Haymarket VA

To the Editor:

What we've seen in Loudoun County's government over the past four years is a total disregard for democratic norms. Loudoun's Democratic Party isn't alone in concern about this fact, because we share it with many Independents and Republicans alike. But I believe we stand uniquely poised for the process by which citizens in all walks of life, in all economic strata, living in towns, houses, large homes or in farms or rural hamlets can have an effective voice in how our County operates, changes

and grows. We haven't had the kind of transparent effective government that listens to the People these past four years. Instead we've had a Republican majority on the Board of Supervisors that disenfranchised Loudoun's voters at the outset of their term as they stole the authority granted by the voters to the only County-wide elected official - the Board Chairman, Scott York. They then moved on from this coup and sought vigorously to work the will of their developer contributors and a small cadre of property owners working hand in glove with these same developers to maximize their profits while raising the costs, taxes, and traffic congestion for everyone in the county.

This all happened at the same time they were pledging lower taxes while actually raising them with unbridled residential growth. We've seen growth of the wrong type in the wrong places for so long now. In suffering that we've endured an unprecedented backward step - a denigration of democracy and disregard of citizens in Loudoun that has cost us all dearly not only in lifestyle but also basic confidence in our local government to do the right thing for the residents rather than special interests.

That's why, this year, Loudoun County Democratic Committee supports a slate of candidates who promise to, and will, bring fiscal, economic, environmental, and social sanity back to Loudoun through a resurgence of balanced growth. That is why the voters on November 6th will elect those who truly want a government that represents the PEOPLE of Loudoun County, the Democratic slate.

Thom Bees
Loudoun Chair

To the Editor:

Is there a skeleton in your closet? Maybe not, but if you own a fur-trimmed jacket, leather shoes, or a wool sweater, you do have an embalmated corpse in these. Most of us have a natural affinity for animals but rarely think about the innumerable suffering that goes into every piece of fur, leather, or wool clothing.

This year, as you're shopping for the season's must-have styles, why not add compassion to your shopping list by leaving dead animals off? PETA's first annual Compassionate Fashion Day, August 18, is the perfect time to start. Fortunately, animal-friendly shopping is easy and affordable. Stores like Payless, TJ Maxx, and Target are great places to find

faux-leather shoes and bags. Old Navy, Urban Outfitters, Forever 21, and other retailers offer a fantastic array of faux-fur fashions and better-than-wool sweaters.

For a free guide to compassionate shopping or to sign PETA's "Go Faux for Fur" pledge (and get a free button), visit PETA.org.

Matt Rice
Senior Campaign Coordinator

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

To the Editor:

Has anyone noticed that lack of integrity and the inability to keep one's word is on the rise? I read with great interest the recent Leesburg Today article, "Campaign Targets Myers for Support of Simpson," which highlighted Dale Polen Myers - a former county board chairman and a current member of the Loudoun County Republican Committee - help in re-electing the campaign of Stephen Simpson who lost his bid for the Republican nomination for Sheriff at the June 9 Convention by actively gathering signatures in support of Simpson's run as an Independent. Circulating a petition to put Simpson, who is no longer a Republican, on the ballot while at the same time signing a pledge to support the candidates elected at the Convention is an unscrupulous

and altogether dishonorable decision by Myers!

Myers registered as a delegate at the Republican convention and signed a pledge of loyalty to support all the Republican candidates in the elections this Fall. I find it appalling that Myers, a so-called leader within the Republican Party and within Loudoun County, would actively campaign against another Republican running for public office by supporting Simpson who, by the way, has dishonorably abandoned the GOP. At what point do our so-called leaders and elected officials have to uphold their word and keep their promise on the rise? At what point do these folks get a pass on integrity?

It's time for Myers to stop skirting around party policy that apparently everyone else within the Party is obliged to adhere to but that she seems to think doesn't apply to her. It's time for Myers to stop breaking her pledges. Where is the integrity in breaking one's word? If she can't keep her pledges, perhaps she shouldn't make them in the first place. She should resign from the Republican Committee immediately to restore some level of dignity.

Kyra Maass
Leesburg, VA

RANT & RAVES

RED VS BLUE

THE ENABLERS

DAN MORROW - (D)

"... set as if
On thee and on thy deed
Depended the fate of all"
And thou alone must answer for it."

As we go to the polls this November (and next), let us remember the critical role of local and state Republicans as enablers of the national tragedy that is now the legacy of the Bush presidency. Under the tutelage of Karl Rove, the GOP at long last learned the lesson that all politics is local.

As a result, a succession of own-county state and congressional Republicans gave or raised money, appointed cronies to jobs, talked the talk and walked the walk of the Bush administration.

Those who were not active were complicit by their silence. It took more than Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Rove to produce the string of embarrassing failures that have marked the past six years like the sad scars of a smallpox survivor.

John Warner, Frank Wolf and even Lorie Waters may well have been embarrassed by the actions done in the name of the party they served... but they served nevertheless.

There is the tragedy of decency in service to demonstrable incompetence, corruption, and criminality, whether by intention or neglect. Their virtues thus help enable people and policies they privately despise.

Delgadinos, Snow, Storton, and Tulloch not only corrupt the policy of

our country, they enable incompetence, corruption, and disaster on a national and, in the world of the 21st century, on a global scale.

In an odd reversal of the small flow, every appointee they reward, every contract they steer toward a cronny, every appointment they make to a county board or commission, produces effects that flow... uphill... to the national party.

When you vote in November remember Fictle's dictum, quoted above. Remember Iraq and Katrina, foreclosures and corruption; Gittens and Gonzales; oversight and abuses; corpus healthcare and pseudo-science; and the local state and national Republicans who were and are the enablers, willing and unwilling.

BLAME BUSH AND RAISE TAXES

KEN RIETZ - (R)

A bridge collapsed in Minnesota. It was a tragic accident. Within hours, however, the Democrat talking heads were on TV blaming President Bush.

Despite the \$300 billion transportation act Bush had signed earlier in the year, the Democrats were trying to somehow equate the spending in Iraq with the failure of this bridge. A REAL stretch that didn't make sense in any way. Then Democrats in Congress fell back on their traditional song of "we need more money, so let's raise taxes". The gasoline tax all of us pay is already over 18 cents per gallon. An increase in that tax would hurt the very people Democrats say they are defending - the middle

class. In their rush to blame Bush, Democrat leaders failed to mention the \$3 billion Minnesota is spending on a new football stadium or the millions of transportation dollars the state is spending for "beautification" rather than for repair of infrastructure.

Perhaps the biggest hypocrisy is Congressman John Murtha, who while decrying the lack of funds for infrastructure and equipment for our military, shipped an "earmark" into the Defense Appropriation Bill to provide billions of dollars for something in his district called "The National Drug Intelligence Center".

When President Eisenhower launched our national freeway system it was not a

paragon effort. Over 50 years later, focusing on repairing that invaluable system should not be partisan.

SAFETY is everyone's interest. Just like a lot of things in Washington, if we take out the hypocrisy and partisanship of the decision making process we will accomplish great things. We have enough money to repair our bridges if we stop building "bridges to nowhere" and providing money for every Congressman's favorite pork barrel project.

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

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PASTIMES

CHARITY SPA CUISINE FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOWITZ

Some of our friends are developing a cult following with their homegrown produce. Bob & Jean Kaplan's monster zucchini, canned herself, are mouth watering and Paul Hoogetoven's ten year-old vine ripened Heirloom tomatoes are without peer in my book. These things I have prepped and practically devoured before the front door closes. But I'm as glibly as the next for not taking advantage of fresh food when I have it. I've made the mistake of thinking that a fresh local pepper will last as long as the chemically and genetically modified and heavily waxed covered pepper I picked up at the grocery store. I occasionally will go into my produce drawer and with revision, find an interesting science experiment going on and curse myself for not eating them when I had the chance. Writing food is a mortal sin in my book.

Problem is...if you have one bulb of fennel, no problem, but what do you do with six of them? How about the ten pounds of green beans that you received? I always seem to have the same inventory this time each year - bags of green beans and zucchini, dozens of tomatoes and peppers, and suitcases of fennel amongst other goodies. Nothing should or has to go to waste here. If these vegetables can't be enjoyed at their peak most can be flash frozen for later consumption, especially for use in sauces. I've been on a spa cuisine kick for the last couple of months - light fare and very nutritious using as much fresh food as is possible. Summer is my perfect time to do what has been tabbed as "No Cook" or "Raw" meals. Nearly all spa dishes have a unique dressing or sauce to enhance the flavor. This is due to the lack of seasoning when preparing the dish and the use of fresh natural ingredients. Vinaigrettes seem to rule.



Sweet Baby Carrot and Fresh Fennel Shave

I've previously had to many bridges, the rule, there are usually the best two vegetable fresh veggie and after everything else has been consumed. The natural sweetness of the baby carrots complements the carrots and fennel nicely and pairs well with the sauce's hot notes of MSG, olive and chicken.

- 2 baby fennel, julienne
- 1 lb baby carrots, julienne
- 1 small red pepper, julienne

- 1/4 cup honey, drizzle
- 1/4 cup balsamic
- Pinch of salt and ground black pepper

Remove any large outer leaves from the fennel bulbs. Cut off and discard the bottom green ends. Slice and put into a bowl with the carrots and pepper.

Add the onion, prepared shallots and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper and stir to mix. The baby carrots may not need to be cut off at all.

Salad of Mixed Local Greens, Fresh Red Peppers, Chèvre Cheese and Walnuts with Walnut Vinaigrette

Hardly likely to buy for me when it comes to salads. This is fresh, easy and delicious enough that your family will think you spent hours picking the greens and preparing the oil. Walnut oil is available in just about every grocery store in the mountains of the Valley. Complement the carrots and fennel nicely and pairs well with the sauce's hot notes of MSG, olive and chicken.

- 1 bag mixed spring greens (from the farmers market)
- 2 small red peppers, julienne

- 1 small log of Chèvre cheese (about 1 1/2 oz), sliced, drizzle with olive oil
- 1/4 cup walnuts, chopped

Wash and dry the greens and arrange on plate. Slice the peppers. Place the walnuts on top and sprinkle the chopped walnuts over the salad plate.

Green Bean Salad with Radicchio & Young Fava Beans

If you're a vegan, this is great main course on the house as a great source of protein. While it is a light salad, much more than beans. It is not suitable, if not beans, will suffice.

- 2 lb. Chopped green beans, washed, drained and trimmed
- 1/4 lb. Green Beans, fresh, cut into 1" lengths
- 1/4 cup Vinaigrette (see below)
- 2 lbs. Fresh fava, chopped

- 2 lbs. Fresh fennel, (finest) drizzle with olive oil
- 4 lbs. Fresh Chive (finest) drizzle with olive oil

Make: Cook the green beans properly to ensure the probability of this dish. Don't overcook.

In a pot of boiling water, place the pre-cooked green beans and the green beans together for 2-3 minutes until the green beans are bright green and retain crisp texture.

Place the hot beans into a bowl with the vinaigrette, salt, pepper and fennel. Stir well. Then let cool. (Don't waste the oil in the radiator to be used to heat the radiator.)

Serve with a side of rice. (optional)

Comments or Catastrophes?
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PASTIMES

GREAT NEW BOOKS COMING OUR WAY THIS FALL

EXPLORING BOOKS
GENIE FORD

On Thursday, September 17, a very special visitor will be coming to Middleburg. Frank Beddor, a Hollywood producer-turned-children's author, will be speaking to young readers (and not-so-young readers) about his wonderful series that proposes to tell the *first* story of Alice in Wonderland. *The Looking Glass Wars* introduced us to Alysia Heart, the Princess of Wonderland who lost her parents in a battle with the evil Aunt Redd. Now Alysia returns in *Seeing Redd*, the second in Beddor's planned trilogy. Alysia discovers being queen is not just a piece of cake. Beddor brings his moviemaking sensibility to his

writing; the descriptions are vivid, the action is nonstop, and the entertainment factor is extremely high. Plans are still being finalized as to time and location, but this is an event you won't want to miss. Beddor is a charming storyteller who is as captivating in person as he is on the page. Call Books & Crannies at 540-687-6677 for more information.

For history buffs, author James Gaines (*For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette and Their Revolution*) will also be visiting us on Monday, September 17. We are planning a reception in our store, followed by a ticketed event including dinner at the Red Fox Inn. You'll need to reserve your seat early as space is limited

to 55. This exciting book tells the story of the American and French Revolutions, and shows just how deeply intertwined these two extraordinary events actually were. Gaines, a thoughtful and insightful historian, provides a fascinating look into the psyche of George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette and their own personal transformations that occurred within the context of revolution.

This should be an extraordinary evening with one of our country's major historians. Call Books & Crannies for more information. On Sunday, September 23, Ellen Crosby (*Merlot Murders*) will sign her delightful new book, *Chandanyu Churade: A Wine Country Mystery*. You'll find the setting of her second wine country mystery familiar. Anoka, Virginia, Lacie Montgomery, the heroine of *Merlot Murders*, returns in this installment with more trouble among the vines. *Publisher's Weekly* enjoyed this book, and so did we. We think you will, too. Join us for a reception (with wine, of course) and great conversation.

Among new releases is the second in the *Fourth Deadly Sin* by John Twelve Hawks. *The Dark River* brings back siblings Gabriel and Michael Corrigan (*The Traveler*), who now know they are part of an ancient lineage of prophets fighting to survive in a world controlled through a computer known as the Vast Machine. The brothers

take this revelation from two distinct vantage points: One sees responsibility, the other sees profit. The ensuing tension builds to a shattering climax.

Need something a little less ominous? Try *The Careful Use of Compliments*, #4 in the Isabel Chalmers series. Alexander McCall Smith brings back our

wonderful philosopher-sleuth heroine, *The Right Attitude to Rain* who has recently become a mother grappling with complicated relationships.

For non-fiction buffs, pick up *The Blair Years: The Alaskan Campbell Dietaries*. Campbell was Tony Blair's spokesman and main political strategist from 1994 to 2003. This is perhaps the best chronicle so far of the rise of New Labour and the transformation of British politics, set against the tumultuous events of the late 20s and early 21st centuries.

For young adult readers, Stephanie Meyer's *Eclipse* is out at last! Readers who loved *Twilight* and *New Moon* will devour this third installment in the author's vampire love saga. As if being an adolescent wasn't challenging enough!

Also out is *Quantum Properties: The Awakening* by Michael Carroll. Described as an action-packed story in the tradition of the X-Men, this book is about the search for super heroes a decade after they were supposedly all wiped out. But are they really gone? And are all the super villains really gone too?

Secrets of My Hollywood Life: On Location by Jen Calcutti is a novel about what it might really be like to be a teenage actor, with an entourage, a boyfriend, a best friend, a worst enemy, as well as greasy clothes, shoes and accessories. This is more than just a story about a girl and her problems; readers will get a glimpse inside the inner circle, including some great stuff about how movies are made.

For younger readers, there's *Wildful Thinking* (Benjamin Barlow's new *Puff Series #2*) by Jason Leitch. This continues the

story of the orphan boy who made the ultimate birthday wish: unlimited wishes! Now he grants wishes himself through his Wishworks Factory, but watch out! There's trouble ahead in the person of the mean-spirited Pendelo.

Author Lynne Truss (*Eats, Shoots and Leaves*) gives younger readers a genuine guide of their own in *The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes!* Truss and illustrator Bonnie Timmons make it fun to learn about this particularly dangerous punctuation mark.

There are a few books ahead that might pique your interest enough to pre-order a copy. Alan Alda has written *Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself*, a candid, wise and funny book that asks, and tries to answer, some of the toughest questions we know (e.g., What do I value? What is a good life?). Bill Clinton has written *Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World*. The title says it all; this is an inspiring look at how individual efforts can save lives, solve problems and make a huge difference.

Master storyteller Garrison Keillor gives us yet another wonderful book about a little piece of America that he has made very real over the years. In *Pontoon: A Novel of Lake Wobegon*, he introduces us to the late Evelyn, dedicated churchgoer, devoted mother, and serious quilter, who also turns out to have a secret life with a Las Vegas man. All of Keillor's characters have a lot going on besides baking biscuits or hanging out at the local bar. These people, eccentric though they may be, are utterly endearing—a bit like the author himself.

based on nobody on the team doing anything egregiously stupid, like getting arrested or hurt or anything else, during this two-week span. If someone does, all bets are off.

Week five should be a game against a much-improved but still awful Detroit Lions team. The defense will score at least two touchdowns and the offense will score at least three. This game will be the highlight of the season.

Week six will see the Redskins freezing their tailbones off at frozen Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Freak early season storms will dump snow in record amounts and the 'Skins will be glad to get out without any serious cases of frostbite.

Week seven should be a win at home against Arizona, but Matt Leinart and the rest of Cardinal nation may just have a few nasty surprises up their sleeves. Keep an eye on this game.

Week eight is a dreadfully complete loss to a vastly superior Patriots team in Foxboro. That's gonna be one quiet locker room after this game, you watch.

Week nine is a win at the New York Jets, a Cinderella last year, a post-strike of midnight country pumpkin this year.

Weeks ten and eleven are both losses in the division, the first at home to the Eagles, competing the season sweep, and the second in Big

Continued Page 16

NANETTE'S WALK

Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by the Middleburg Fitness Club

A two-mile walk to raise funds for breast cancer prevention and early detection through screening and education; provide support and community outreach to those individuals and families facing breast cancer in Loudoun and Fauquier counties, and advance scientific research in the fight to eradicate breast cancer

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The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund is grateful to the Middleburg Eccentric for the donation of two full page ads to promote Nanette's Walk.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please tear off and send in this registration form and fee by September 1, 2007 to the address below to ensure that a shirt will be available for you.
Children under 12 are free.

Walker's Name _____
☐ Male ☐ Female Age: _____ Birth Date: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

☐ Entry Fee \$30 (includes \$40 t-shirt) ☐ Entry Fee \$35 (includes \$40 t-shirt)
Unisex T-shirt Size: Small Medium Large X-Large

☐ My Company has a Matching Gift Program.

I am current participant in the walk last phase accept any duration of:

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Please make checks payable to the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund/PCF

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law

In consideration of being permitted to participate in Nanette's Walk, 2007, I hereby fix myself, my heirs, and personal representatives, successors and all heirs, which might be associated with the event, I further waive, release, discharge, and indemnify the CHBPCF, Middleburg Fitness Club, The Hill School, volunteers, sponsors, and others associated with this event from any and all claims for injuries or damages of any kind arising from participating in Nanette's Walk. I permit the CHBPCF the free use of my name and photograph in any newspaper/newsletter in reports or presentations of this event or future events.

Signature _____ Date _____
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WALK SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 15, 2007

Length of Walk: Two Miles

Announcement: 8:30 a.m.

Walk Time: 9:00 a.m.

Arrival & Drawings: Approx. 10:30 a.m.

Location: Middleburg Fitness Club

7 West Washington St.

Donations & Pledges

Ask friends, co-workers and family members to support you and The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund by sponsoring you for \$5, \$10, \$20 or more. Find out whether your company has a matching gift program. Please collect all pledges prior to the walk and mail them to the Breast Cancer Fund or bring them to registration on the day of the walk.

Teams

Forming a team is simple. Just organize a group from your school, workplace, club, church, family or friends. Children under 12 are free. Well-behaved dogs on leashes and strollers are welcome to walk.

Awards & Drawings

Awards will be presented to teams and walkers in a variety of categories immediately following the walk. All walkers will automatically be entered in a special drawing to receive prizes donated by Loudoun and Fauquier businesses.

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PASTIMES

LIATRIS, A PLEASURABLE PERENNIAL

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

Most of us know liatris as a cut flower, popular with florists, the bright flower spikes are covered in small purple, button-like flowers. In the garden they are fabulous, in fact the entire genus is from Eastern North America, found in variable habitats from rich streambank soils to poor sandy dunes. There are about 55 species with flowers confined to white or various shades of lavender, as flowering plants they all produce upright spikes with flowers that resemble round florets with fine purple or white hairs that are actually tiny tubes. Common names

include gay feather, blazing star, snake root and button snake root. Two plants share a common name of button snake root yet only Eryngium yuccifolium (the other snake root) actually helps with a snake bite. Liatris, it seems, was used for liver and bladder ailments, occasionally for snake bites, but with no success. I never hesitate to order corns of various liatris every year. Corns are how they store food during prolonged periods of drought, like a bulb only filled with starchy food and prone to producing lots of small cornets, hence your liatris patch gets bigger and bigger. I find them highly ornamental and joyfully rugged. As I try various species it becomes quite clear that our

common Liatris spicata or blazing star is possibly the least showy of the lot - not to say it's ugly - simply boring. As I grow some of the most recently acquired liatris and watch them flower, I'm amazed at how variable the genus can be. This common perennial can grow from 2 to 6 feet tall and the flowers can be 1/4 to 1" across. Butterflies rely on them for summer nectar and they are one of the 1st plants to consider when attracting butterflies. The smallest species, Liatris microphylla grows 18 inches tall and has tiny flowers. In the Appalachians, the many fine stalks give it a delicate look, remarkably different from Liatris squarrosa with flowers that can be more



than 1" across. Liatris squarrosa is a seldom seen species, a local native with spiky foliage and lanky stems, made popular once again by Mary Painter, a local plantwoman from Hume, Virginia. Plant Liatris squarrosa with the wonderful native perennial, Eryngium yuccifolium or Hyssop Leaf Joe Pye Weed, with its white flowers set in flat umbels, much like yarrow or achillea. The contrast in upright stalks of purple and flat topped, white floral heads is beautiful. I find that Liatris squarrosa is my favorite of newly acquired liatris, due to its extra big flowers and sturdy stems. Last year I fell in love with Liatris aspect 'September Glory' and it is clearly still one of the showiest. The flower buds are covered with scaly outer petals that begin to open and look almost rose-like. One of the last to flower, it extends the liatris season.

Given the fact that our perennial show is so diminished in August, one must consider liatris as a superior perennial for sunny, dry locations. My pleasure with this perennial continues to increase. I look forward to trying them all.

YEAR IV OF THE SCOG FROM PAGE 14

D to the dreaded Cowboys and Wade "What, me worry?" Phillips.

Weeks twelve and thirteen are wins in Tampa Bay and at home against Buffalo. By that point, the "Skins defense will be such a well-oiled machine that Jon Gruden will need all five quarterbacks he still has on his roster just to finish the game and London Fletcher will hardly be able to contain his enthusiasm as he blows up his former Bills teammates one after another.

Weeks fourteen and fifteen, though, prove Washington's final undoing as they falter and lose close, must-win games to Chicago at home and the Giants on the road.

They'll bounce back in Minnesota in week sixteen, reminding just enough hope to make the season-ending loss to the Cowboys, at home, in week seventeen all that more heartbreaking.

And that'll be it, another much ballyhooed season of opportunity and potential fizzling to an 8-8 finish.

I could be wrong. But I could be right.

Either way, water's still wet, the vet's still spinning and I still love football.

Take it to the bank.

IS IT THE REAL THING?

ADRIENNE LEWIS

Not too long ago I visited an art gallery which was filled with by an artist with whose work I thought were extremely low prices for this particular artist's work. I looked carefully at the description cards, the gallery has prepared to accompany each piece. The card listed the name of the piece, the artist, the size and the price but the descriptive line "oil on canvas" or some such other description was conspicuously missing. I immediately knew I was looking at giclées (pronounced "gee-clay") which are the newest form of "prints" on today's contemporary art market.

So what is a giclée? Giclées are reproductions, originally developed in 1989, as a plateless method of fine art printing. The images are scanned and digitally stored in a computer and sent directly to a high resolution printer. Unlike other printing methods, each image is sent to the printer individually. Since 1989, as computer technology has improved so have giclées. Many are printed directly on fine lines canvas and offered in enhanced versions, where paint is added directly on to the canvas to give it added texture and make it look more like an original oil painting.

Giclées have their place in the art market. How many of us started our art "collections" by purchasing a poster or a print from a museum or museum shop? We fell in love with a painting, an image that we could never own. But we could buy a reasonable facsimile of that painting and enjoy it daily in our homes or offices. Giclées are much the same, offering individuals the opportunity to own a loved image that may not be available because the original is already sold or is in a price range that precludes purchasing it. The one critical difference is when buying that beloved print we never thought we were purchasing an actual Renoir or a Van Gogh. We knew what we were buying a copy and the contemporary art buyer should be as well informed. So when considering purchasing art consider the following:

Have I seen work by this artist at much higher prices? If the price is too good to be true, it probably is. Don't be afraid to ask if you are looking at an original piece of art and by definition one-of-a-kind.

If you are looking at a giclée, do you know how many have been made of this particular image? Are they being made in different sizes?

Has it been hand embellished? If so, by whom?

(Many pieces say "hand embellished by artist" but many times "the artist" is a different one than the one whose name appears on the piece.)

Is it signed? Again, by whom? Is the artist signing

each piece as an endorsement that he/she believes the giclée is a good representation of their original work, or has the artist given a stamp of his/her signature to the publisher of the print?

Since many giclées are no longer numbered and can be printed individually, it's important to trust the source from whom you are buying. Always buy what you love, but ask questions. Any reputable dealer or artist will be more than happy to discuss all aspects of purchasing original and print work. The following list of

definitions maybe helpful to you when purchasing prints of any kind.

Intaglio: Any technique in which an image is incised below the surface of the plate, including etching, engraving, and mezzotint.

Engraving: An intaglio process in which lines are cut into a metal plate and then filled with ink to transfer the image onto paper.

Etching: An intaglio process in which an image is scratched through an acid-resistant coating on a metal plate. The plate is then dipped in acid

which eats into the exposed surface.

Mezzotint: An intaglio process in which the plate surface is roughened and then an image is created by smoothing the areas to be printed.

Lithograph: A graphic process in which images are drawn with crayon or a greasy ink on stone or metal and then transferred to paper.

Screenprint: A stenciling method in which the image is transferred to paper by forcing ink through a fine mesh in which the background has been blocked.

Signed and numbered: Authenticated with the artist's signature, the total number of impressions in the edition, and the order in which the impression is signed; "5/20" indicates that the print is the fifth signed of an edition of 20 impressions.

Adrienne Lewis is the owner of Trowbridge-Lewis Galleries on main street in Middleburg Va. The gallery sells original oil paintings and sculpture.



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All of Virginia's future energy needs can be met through a comprehensive state energy plan that promotes the use of modern technology and energy efficiency.

Virginia doesn't need, doesn't want and can't afford these power towers.

1 MBEC 2008 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, page 61.
2 NA Electric Reliability (NERC) Report, "Virginia's Future Electric Reliability," 2006.
3 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, "Virginia's Air Quality," 2006.

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Spanning 6,300 square feet, Craftsman style home just built with exceptional detail and solid construction overlooking 10 immaculate acres. Gourmet kitchen with Dacor appliances, Strati Rosewood floors throughout the main and upper levels, and custom millwork. Huge finished basement, workout room, home office, lots of storage, views from every window. Property is bound by a bold creek and large mature trees. \$1,290,000.



16+ acres in Middleburg. Elevated and rolling land with fabulous western views. Entire property is open and useable acreage. Quiet and private. Home with 4 fully finished levels, bright and open design further enhanced by two separate farm cottages. \$1,250,000.



Elegant colonial in the village of Middleburg. Lovely living room opens to the large dining room and terrace in the private garden area. There is also a charming paneled study with a fireplace. The expanded master bedroom suite is enhanced by a large in-home office area and many closets. Numerous fine finishes, ample storage and a large updated kitchen. 2 car garage. Shows very well. \$1,250,000.



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THE BEGINNING OF THE INN

FROM PAGE 1

all accounts the first black American woman to join the ranks of the world's billionaires, stood to speak.

"First of all," she began, "I'm really trying to hold back tears. I am thrilled that it's come to this. I cannot begin to thank everybody in this room for all the hard work. It's been a very long process."

After thanking the Mayor and other personally, Johnson turned to the assembled crowd. "I will not let you down," she said. "Noting that she and her colleagues had put their 'hearts and souls into the project."

"We're honorable people; we care very much about this town," she continued, "and we will continue to work... with everybody. This project will belong to everybody."

Speaking to those concerned about the impact of the new resort on the town's existing businesses, Johnson noted, "We're going to work very closely with the town's retailers, because it's very important to us... to bring further economic development to this town."

Noting that she "... fell in love with this place" well before moving here eleven years ago, she concluded with a promise: "I am here for all of you, and as Americans rise once more, I thank you all again for your support."

The beginning of the Inn
Salamander Hospitality President, Penn Devasdas, hopes to break ground this fall and work expeditiously toward a late 2009 opening date for the much-debated, much-anticipated, five-star, \$100 million plus, 168-key, luxury Inn and Spa. In 1991, Mrs. Johnson paid roughly \$7 million for its site, some 341 acres of open meadow, forest and rolling hills, adjacent to the northern boundary of Middleburg. The setting is not only beautiful and undeveloped, for many residents of Middleburg and the surrounding hunt country, it has special historical and emotional resonance. It belonged to the late United States Ambassador to France, Pamela Harriman, one-time daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill, wife of legendary New York Governor Averell Harriman, personal friend and confidant of



servations. Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk and Mark Snyder both voted for the Salamander project before they cast such negative votes on two of the four resolutions passed on August 9.

Both had served as Council Members under former Middleburg Mayor Tim Dimos, and both had stood with the narrow 4-3 majority, that passed the Town's initial, July 2005, "Memorandum of Understanding" with Salamander De-

velopement. The memorandum envisioned, among other things, a smaller, 120-room Inn.

Vice Mayor Kirk began to question the project when it grew from 120 to 168 rooms in March and April of this year. Noting that Salamander's requests had grown from 40 to 120 rooms, and then to a non-negotiable demand for 168, she began questioning other aspects of the development, including whether or not Salamander's demands on the town would not continue to grow.

Mark Snyder, whose vote had been critical to the passage of the Town's first, critical, Memorandum of Understanding on the project, consistently questioned the value of Salamander's financial proposal in comparison to the windfall value they received when their deal had been made.

Both expressed concern for the integrity and ongoing viability of the town's existing commercial core, and worried about access routes to the site, before, during and after construction.

In the face of four solid votes supporting the project, Mayor Davis's pro-Salamander voting record during the administration of Mayor Tim Dimos, and Bantles Murdock's silence, Kirk and Snyder found themselves casting votes that were more symbolic than substantive.

Shiloh Baptist Church
Recognized
The Town Council unanimously passed a "Resolution in Honor and Appreciation of the 140th Anniversary of Shiloh Baptist Church."

Founded in 1867 in the home of the late Deacon Peter Tibbs by a young preacher named Leland Waring, the church moved to 304 East Marshall Street on the eve of the First World War.

Some of the most prominent African American residents of the Middleburg area have worshipped there, and it has served as a center of activity for civil rights, education, and entrepreneurship.

In its unanimous vote, the Council acknowledged "... on behalf of the Citizens of Middleburg the contribution, both historical and spiritual, the church has made to the greater Middleburg Community."

The "Pink Box" Chronicles
On July 30, Mayor Davis's select committee on the "Pink Box" held its first official meeting, a part of an ongoing effort to untangle the finances and decide the fate of the town's controversial official "Visitor Information Center," the "Pink Box."

The ultimate goal of the "Pink Box" committee is to decide how much of a roughly quarter-million dollar trust fund is owed to the town, and how much can be made available to the current "Pink Box" organization to reconstruct and maintain its facilities and activities, independent of Town financial support.

According to Town Administrator Jerry Schino's, preliminary estimates, the "Pink Box" fund owed Middleburg nearly \$73,000, leaving just over \$180,000 in escrow for eventual transfer to an as-yet-to-be-formed new "Pink Box" non-profit organization.

Chaired by Eira Lewis, the Town Council's long-standing official "Representative to the Pink Box," Mayor Davis's committee included Council Members: Townbridge Littleton and Bantles Murdock. "Pink Box" President Mary Kay Garwood, and Vice President Audrey W. Bergner represented the "Pink Box."

Garwood and Bergner opened their portion of the meeting by documenting in detail five major objections to Schino's expense estimate.

The expense information provided by the Town, they charged, was, at best, incomplete.

The expense summary spreadsheets prepared by the Town, they noted, do not appear to match up with the data contained in the ledger reports on which they were ostensibly based.

Several expenses, according to Garwood and Bergner, were either inadequately identified, or were expenses unrelated to the operation of the "Pink Box."

"Miscellaneous Income" transferred to the town by the "Pink Box" staff, they claimed, appeared to be unaccounted for, and finally, the "Pink Box" had not been given "a complete accounting" of investment, income and/or losses, resulting from its management by the Middleburg Trust Company.

According to Bantles Murdock's official report on the meeting, everyone present discussed the Garwood and Bergner concerns, and agreed that the numbers "... should be looked into and reported back to the Pink Box Members."

In its unanimous vote, the Council acknowledged "... on behalf of the Citizens of Middleburg the contribution, both historical and spiritual, the church has made to the greater Middleburg Community."

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KAREN O'CONNOR AND THEODORE

FROM PAGE 1

The troubles of tribulations leading up to the competition were soon put aside however once the first phase of the competition began. The US team completely and totally swept up in Dressage taking the top five spots.

Mane Dean led the field with 40.20 penalties, followed by Stephen Bradley and the 15-year-old Russian Thoroughbred from O'Connor (aka Teddy, Connor, Super Ted), Chuchas and the 14-year-old Swedish Warmblood, Refier I De It, and finally, Phillip Dutton, at his first international competition riding for the United States, in fifth on Ann Jones and Shannon Stinson's 10-year-old Thoroughbred, Triluck.

The one major disappointment for the team that day was

handed to Miles and the rather large McKinlay, a 17.3, 13-year-old Irish Thoroughbred owned by Laura Coates and Thomas Schulz. An over-exuberant presentation in the arena left them in 11th place.

Miles did not let that dampen her drive however and she and her decidedly unpony-sized mount went off the next day and came back with a clear and fast cross-country run. Fellow members Dean and Bradley did not have such luck. Dean, leading after her stellar dressage performance the day before, pulled up on course when she suspected her horse had injured himself, a suspicion later confirmed by the team veterinarian. Bradley in the meantime had an unfortunate stop at the second water jump thus dropping him from his second place perch.

One would like to say Dutton and Triluck enjoyed a typical Dutton cross country experience (as he is known for impressive runs) but "enjoyed" was not how he typified his clean run in interview afterwards. Dutton apparently felt the course rode tougher than it walked and regretted that he and his horse never settled into a steady rhythm. Still a clean run being a clean run he moved up into second place after cross country, right behind O'Connor and Teddy.

That pair had gone out first on cross country and blazed across the three star track without issues, gathering more and more Pony Power fans as they went along. They managed a run free of jumping penalties and with just a few seconds over time. Super Ted went to the final phase, Stadium Jump-

ing, in the lead.

And there they remained. At the end of the final phase it was Team USA with the gold medal. Karen O'Connor also winning the individual gold, Phillip Dutton with the individual silver, and Cima Miles with the individual bronze. An impressive sweep not seen in 20 years at a Pan Am equestrian event. The Canadian Team took home the team silver while the Brazilian team pleased its rancous home towns crowd with the bronze.

While Teddy's fame and popularity were building with the evening crowd leading up to his gold medal win in Rex, it now seems to have bubbled over to horse (and pony) lovers across the board. It was recently announced

by Breyer that the super pony would be amongst their latest new portrait models.

Few would have thought it possible for a card-carrying pony to win an international event. Certainly Karen O'Connor believed. As did his breeder, and original trainer and owner, P. Wynn Norman of Sportponies Unlimited. Understanding that this pony has many more places to go and the will and the wherewithal to get there, she has now opened up his ownership to syndication. (The Theodore O'Connor Syndication LLC) in order to ensure his international competition dreams, and to those of all his amazed and astonished fans, can continue to come true.

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THINGS TO DO

COACHING WEEKEND TO BENEFIT NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY



Historic Llangollen will be the venue for the 2007 Coach luncheon and the black tie gala, featuring Peter Duchin and his orchestra.

A pageantry of coaching will take place Sept. 28-30 when 22 teams of four-in-hand carriages will pull authentically restored 19th and early 20th century carriages in and around Virginia's famed horse country. The event will center around Upperville, Va., about 55 miles west of Washington D.C. Different routes are planned for each day, varying in distance from eight to ten miles.

Spectators can view the coaches at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, when they gather at the Upperville, Va. Horse Show Grounds on Route 50, five miles west of Middleburg. (There is no charge.) An announcer will present each coach and share the fascinating history of these vehicles, and there will also be a horse-blowing contest. A black-tie gala at Llangollen in Upperville will be held on Saturday evening, featuring music by Peter Duchin and his orchestra. Please telephone 540-687-6542 to make reservations for the dinner dance, for which there is a charge.

The carefully restored and maintained coaches on view are reminiscent of the Gilded Age. Many were either commercial road coaches, used to transport either mail or passengers, or park drags - private vehicles used for pleasure driving.

Four-in-hand - horses, called wheelers and drivers, are guided by whips in top hats and aprons, who hold the reins and maneuver the turns. Groomsmen dressed in proper livery are at the ready, looking on at the back of the coach; also on board are gentlemen and ladies turned-out in period attire complete with top hats, gloves, and long dresses.

The event is to benefit of the National Sporting Library. Join in the fun of the 2007 National Sporting Library Coaching Event! Sponsorships are also available; for information, call 540-687-6542, or visit www.nsl.org.

SEPTEMBER 2007
SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

early for a special "Junior Astronomer" activity

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Confederates at Mount Bleak Farm from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (See August 4)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Astronomy for Everyone 7:30 to 11:00 PM

Find out about U.S. space research, take a sky tour, and look for deep space objects through large telescopes. If the sky is cloudy, a short program will be presented and the park gates will close at 10 p.m. Bring your children - hour

The Virginia Scottish Games and Festival from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM For the first time in its 34-year history, the Virginia Scottish Games and Festival will be held at Sky Meadows State Park. The Games celebrate the rich Scottish heritage and traditions of many of the original

European settlers of Northern Virginia. Festival highlights include: highland athletic and dance competitions, bagpipe competitions and performances, Scottish country dancing, a gathering of the clans, living history encampment, fiddling events, sheep herding demonstrations, children's games, musical performances, British car show and a variety of food and craft vendors.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Life on the Farm from 1:00 to 4:00 PM Watch as history comes to life and find out what the Settle family might have been doing on their farm in 1860.

PERMISSION TO dream

Imagine galloping through wooded trails, or racing through grassy open fields and splashing through cool mountain streams. Bethany is a small college of distinction tucked in the beautiful foothills of West Virginia. Enthusiasts in our equestrian program gives you a unique opportunity to experience a well rounded education, while continuing to train and compete in equestrian sports. We also offer an equine studies program and an excellent pre-veterinary program. Here you'll find everything a competitive rider could dream of.

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WWW.MBECC.COM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Flutter By, Butterfly from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Look for butterflies with Mary Alexander and Steve Malone of the Washington Area Butterfly Club. Enjoy the brilliance and variety of Sky Meadows' butterflies. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. (2 miles)

MOUNT BLEAK HOUSE TOURS

The Mount Bleak house was the home of the Settle family before and during the Civil War. On house tours, you'll get a glimpse into the life of this middle class farm family around 1860. The house will be open for guided tours between 1:00 and 4:00 PM on weekends and holidays.

1012 Edmonds Lane, Delaplane, VA 20144
Phone: 540-592-3556

BANSHEE REEKS NATURE PRESERVE

The Bansee Reeks Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program is accepting applications for an evening training program that begins on September 11, 2007. The program supports a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the management of natural resources and natural areas within communities. An eight-month course is offered for anyone interested in obtaining certification as a Virginia Master Naturalist. The training covers topics in biogeography, botany, ecology, ornithology, management and conservation of ecological systems.

Bansee Reeks Nature Preserve, located at 21085 The Woods Road in Leesburg, VA, provides the perfect setting for the course with its education center and nearly 700 acres of forests, fields, ponds and streams in which to conduct field studies, advanced training and volunteer service projects. The course is open to anyone 18 years or older. The total cost is \$200, which includes all class materials. The deadline for applications is September 1, 2007. For course details and applications, visit www.vmanbanseereeks.org or call 703-757-8992.

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Middleburg Humane Foundation

540-364-3272



BUNNIES—Angora cross bunnies. Super healthy, absolutely adorable and being handled daily here so super friendly! These little kiddies are available now! Please call us to make an appointment to come and see them!



KITTENS—We have many beautiful, healthy & very friendly baby kittens available for adoption! Lots of colors & fun personalities! Call to arrange a visit!



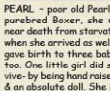
BOO—Boo is a great family dog! He is terrific with all ages of kids, cats & other dogs. Boo does not need a fenced yard.



SOLLY—A gorgeous 2 year old Golden Retriever/Black Lab mix. He is house trained and adores kitty cats! Solly would be an easy addition to your household.



BETTY—Poor Miss Betty is back! Betty is very affectionate. She needs a quiet home as an only cat.



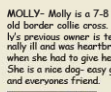
PEARL—Poor old Pearl—A purebred Boxer, she was near death from starvation when she arrived as well as gave birth to three babies too. One little girl did survive, by being hand raised. Pearl is now very healthy & an absolute doll. She is OB trained & very dear.



CHARLIE BROWN & PEPPERKINT—Patty, Brother & sister St. Bernards! Corgi mixed! They are about 2 year old - we would love to place them together.



TYLER—A handsome Pit Bull who has a great temperament. He is OB trained and good with cats & female dogs.



MOLLY—Molly is a 7-8 year old border collie cross. Molly's previous owner is terminally ill and was heartbroken when she had to give her up. She is a nice dog—easy going and everyone's friend.



ANDY & BELLE—Adorable 5 month old JRT/7 Fox terrier? mix puppies! Will grow to be medium sized.



TIGER & SPYRO—These 7 year old brothers really need a home soon. They are true characters—full of funnies & love! Indoor only would be best. Surgery didn't slow her down a bit!



YUPPIE—Yuppie is a super sweet 10 year old Poodle with cataracts. He has impaired vision but gets around beautifully. He would be the perfect companion for a retired person.

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At this time of year, the lazy days of summer are numbered. Thoughts turn to jobs and routine. It's the perfect time for me to talk about canine purpose. In the canine world, we all have certain missions that matter to us. It's up to you as caregivers to help us fulfill them.

If we're answering our calling, we're happier and better behaved. Our calling, by the way, does not necessarily correspond with our breed. We are as individual as you are. As an example, I'll use my four-legged family.

Riley, a Weimaraner, considers it his greatest purpose to literally stand by our people. When he first came to our house, he created a big problem. No one could sleep. My people would "tuck him in" to his comfortable bed at night, shut the door to his room, and go to their own room. Riley would bark, pace and cry all night. After trying every alternative, my people finally realized they would never sleep unless they moved his bed to their room. They thought bringing him to their room would mean bringing the barking closer to their bed. On the contrary, he curled up on his bed immediately and went to sleep. With his purpose of being with my people fulfilled, he became the perfect nighttime companion.

Tucker, a Whippet, gets bored very easily. His purpose is to explore and discover. When his mind isn't engaged, he creates things to do. This became quite a nuisance as more and more household furnishings were destroyed. The introduction of a toy box that lets him sort through his toys was a huge help, as was putting some toys away and bringing them out as "new" toys when the existing toys lost their novelty. Even something as simple as allowing him to peek

into drawers and cabinets while my people are cooking or getting ready in the morning makes him happy. Voila, a well-behaved canine emerged.

Isabelle, a Jack Russell, cares not one bit about discovering anything except an open lap. Her happiness is entirely dependent on affection. She is never more content than when she is giving affection or getting a tummy rub. Without lots of hands-on attention, she becomes de-

structive. She chewed a hole in our drywall to prove it.

Me? I'm a social butterfly who needs interaction with dogs and people. I'm cranky when I'm alone. In fact, left to my own devices, I can be a bit of a problem child. Fortunately, with three other dogs, two people and a cat to keep me occupied, I keep myself pretty happy.

At some point, all canine caregivers need to figure out what's most essential to their dog's emotional well-being.

If our people had insisted that Riley sleep in a separate room, there would never have been a moment of peace at night for him or them.

So take a close look at your dog, figure out what makes his or her heart sing, and get to work making that purpose possible. As long as what we want falls in the category of being safe, healthy and appropriate for us, you have every reason to help us achieve it. This may mean reconsidering a rule, changing

your daily routine, or spending a bit more time with us. The reward will be a more harmonious home and a happier best friend.

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

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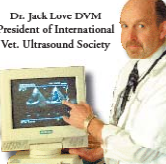
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