

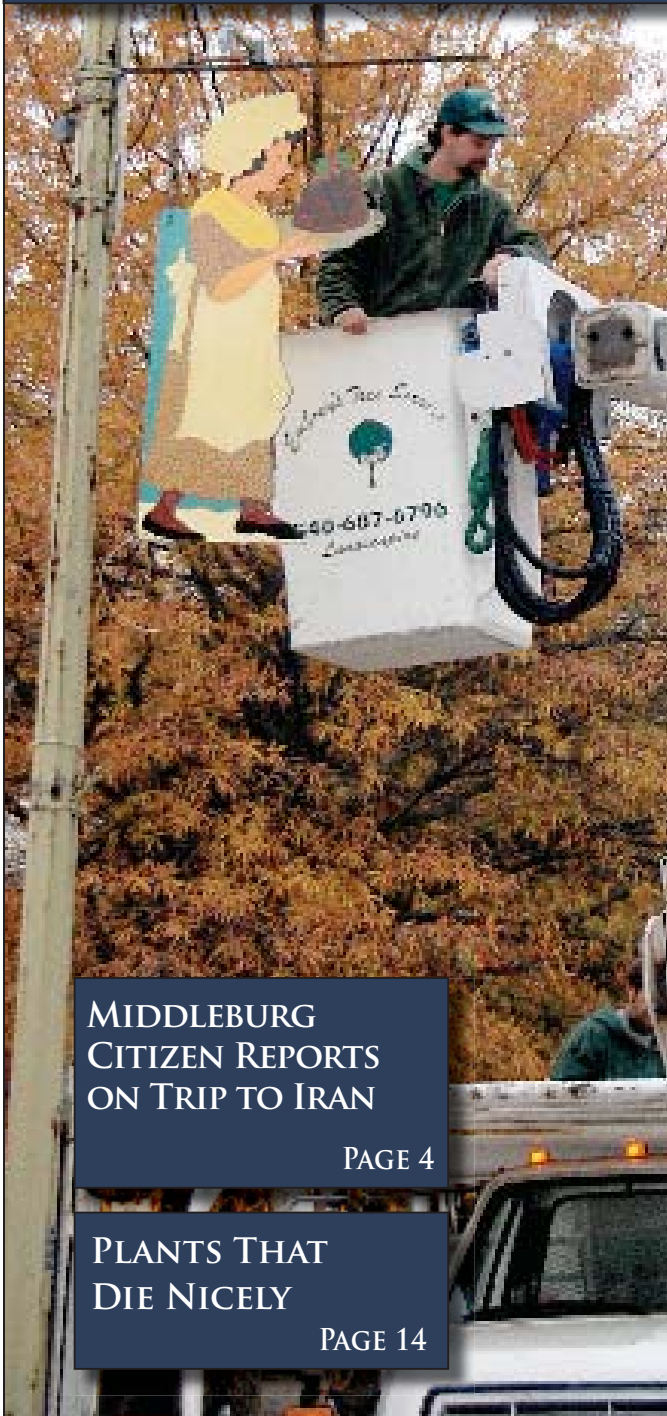


DON'T WORRY ABOUT WINE!
THE EXPERTS ARE IN TOWN... PAGE 12

EARLY CHRISTMAS FOR COUNCIL

MUTTS STRUT FOR
MIDDLEBURG HUMANE

PAGE 28



MIDDLEBURG
CITIZEN REPORTS
ON TRIP TO IRAN

PAGE 4

PLANTS THAT
DIE NICELY

PAGE 14

TREASURY STRONG, SALAMANDER UNDERWAY, CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS MINIMAL

DANIEL MORROW

Applause Greet 2007 Preliminary Audit

It was Christmas music to an accountant's ears as Middleburg's Town Council broke into applause on November 5, when the Town's auditor, Mitchell and Company of Leesburg, concluded their delivery of this year's preliminary audit for fiscal year 2006-2007.

As smiling Council members clapped their hands and nodded approval Mayor Betsy Davis expressed special thanks to Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, Town Treasurer, Debbie Jewell, and to Claudia Dornin, the Town's former Economic Development Manager, who had served as interim Town Administrator for nearly six months, before Schiro's arrival.

In stark contrast to last year's premature predictions of massive shortfalls, this year Mitchell and Company reported a healthy \$394,068 surplus in the Town's General Fund, as of June 30, 2007.

In last year's "sobering" preliminary audit, Mitchell predicted that Middleburg's General Fund would be some \$94,000 in the red for 2006, reflecting what was then believed to be a negative shift, in one year, of some \$718,000.

Mayor Betsy Davis worked with Dornin, Schiro, Jewell, and a Council that eventually included three new members, to institute

tighter oversight procedures, spending cuts, and a series of revenue enhancements, including selective tax increases, new taxes and fees, higher rates for some town services, and formal annexation of the Salamander properties on the north side of Town, roughly doubling the town's taxable acreage.

After reconstructing records, pursuing uncollected funds owed to the Town by the State, and other measures, the actual deficit for 2006 turned out to be only \$54,777.

Increased tax revenues and prepayments of fees by Salamander Development since June 30, have put the Town firmly in the black, with a restored cash reserve large enough to consider shifting part of it to higher interest bearing investments.

Salamander Groundbreaking

Salamander Hospitality Founder Sheila Johnson hosted formal groundbreaking ceremonies for the long-awaited and much debated Salamander Inn and Spa on Thursday, October 25. A misting rain, chilly wind, and a new access road deemed too slippery for even a Land Rover were greeted as good omens by nearly everyone attending, even those responsible for a well-executed last-minute re-location of the ceremonies.

"This is an historical moment," Johnson told the gathering. "... and this is going to be wonderful for the town of Middleburg."

Continued Page 4

SENATOR WARNER'S VIRGINIA

DANIEL MORROW

On the last day of August, 2007, on the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, John William Warner, one of the most honored and popular United States Senators in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia announced that he would not seek an unprecedented sixth term.

Warner entered the Senate in January of 1979 after a long career of service to his country, which began, officially when he was a boy of 17.

Born in 1927, in Washington, D.C., he left St. Albans School in 1944 to join the Navy. Discharged at war's end as a Petty Officer 3rd Class, he was admitted to his father's alma mater in Lexington, Virginia, Washington & Lee. His father died the same year. Young Warner graduated in 1949 and entered law school at the University of Virginia.

When war broke out in Korea the next year, Warner joined the Marines, and served as a ground officer with the 1st Marine Air Wing and later in the Marine Corps Reserves.

After the war, Captain Warner returned to UVA, where he was awarded a law degree in 1953. After graduation, he served for a time as a law clerk under US Court of Appeals Judge E. B. Prettyman, and then as an Assistant US Attorney. In 1960, he entered private practice.

In February, 1969, President Richard Nixon made him an Undersecretary of the Navy. Three years later, in May, 1972, he succeeded John Chafee as Secretary of the Navy.

Though Warner has, over the years, become the iconic senior Senator, the quintessential "gentleman from Virginia," he entered politics almost by accident. In 1978 the Virginia GOP chose Richard Obenshain instead of Warner as its candidate for Senator. When Obenshain was killed in a plane crash just months later, Warner became the Party's candidate. He

won a hard-fought campaign against a former Virginia Attorney General, the popular Democrat, Andrew Miller, and has been "Senator Warner," ever since.

On Wednesday, November 14, Senator Warner talked with the Eccentric about his beloved state of Virginia... past, present and future. Excerpts from that conversation follow.

The Piedmont

"I've often said, I've traveled the world, I've traveled every town, village and crossroads in the great State of Virginia, but there's nothing like that Piedmont region. From Leesburg, down to Warrenton; with Middleburg at the heart of it, up to Aldie, I know every square inch of it. I just love it dearly. It was my home for many years. I started there in the late 1930's on a farm, worked with all dray horses. We rarely used tractors... only when we did threshing of the orchard grass, and then the wheat and barley, and then at corn-cutting time to fill silo. The rest of the time I was relegated to working in the horse barn and in the fields, and I loved it. That's where I learned my love for horses and the outdoors."

"My love for this district has no limitations, and I often come down to speak to the Piedmont Environmental Council and urge them on to protect what can never be replicated or recreated"

The World War at 17

"People don't think much about it now, but in the fall of 1944 and the winter of 1945, there were a number of very serious battles, beginning with the Battle of the Bulge in Europe in December..."

Continued Page 6

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Cover Photo
by Dee Bee Hubbard

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NEWS OF NOTE

URBAN NATION TO WELCOME CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG



Dr. Johnson's help and support, this initiative would not have existed," Payton explained. "I met her when I was the music teacher at Sidwell Friends School, and we understood immediately that we shared a commitment to help kids who have few opportunities to get ahead. This was a dream of mine, to give kids a voice and the power to shape their future."

Although he insists it seems impossible that eleven years have passed since the group was founded, his pride in the Urban Nation group is palpable. The group now has over forty major corporate sponsors including The Washington Post, Fannie Mae and many, many others.

They help us improve the future for our members, and by helping, we all work together to ensure that the next generation of citizens will be honorable and well prepared for their responsibilities.

Channeling the artistic and creative energies of this talented group in ways that will foster excellence in all facets of their lives is the primary goal of Urban Nation.

The Hip Hop Choir is just the cherry on top of the Urban

and personal character.

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The Hip Hop Choir is just the cherry on top of the Urban

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GO GREEN MIDDLEBURG

CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

renewable sources, you can offset that ton with the purchase of carbon credits. For example, the average driver emits five tons of CO₂ per year. To make your traveling carbon neutral, one would purchase five tons of CO₂ from a reforestation project or a wind project. So, your driving causes five tons to be emitted but your purchase of five tons reduces your personal account to zero, making you driving carbon neutral.

Carbon Dioxide (aka Carbon or CO₂) is emitted when combustion takes place. Every time we flip on a light switch, 51% of that power comes from the combustion of coal. This act causes carbon dioxide to be

emitted. Likewise, every time we fill up our cars and hit the gas pedal, we are combusting fossil fuels to propel us forward, leaving a trail of carbon dioxide in our wake.

By being carbon neutral you are making a conscientious statement to be a part of the solution. For businesses, there is an extra, added benefit of what such a statement conveys to your customers. Okay, so you are convinced that going carbon neutral is what you want to do for you and/or your business. How does one go about it? It is as easy as 1,2,3.

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3. Purchase the amount you need to bring your carbon footprint to zero.

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Chandler Van Voorhis is Managing Partner of Carbon Farmers, a forest carbon aggregation company located in Middleburg, VA. For more information on Carbon Farmers, visit www.carbonfarmers.com

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NEWS OF NOTE

EARLY CHRISTMAS FOR COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Among those enjoying Mayor Salamander's catered brunch, fine wine and champagne, were Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis and several Council members who must, at least until 2009, be responsible of oversight the project for the town.

Davis noted that she agreed with Johnson, and the majority of her council, that the project would be good "for all of us" and that Mr. Johnson "would not let us down."

Former Mayor Tim Dimos, whose leadership through four years of often acrimonious debate produced the town's crucial "Memorandum of Understanding" with Salamander was there too, along with Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York and Supervisor Stephen Snow.

Council member Bundles Munko, a consistent opponent of the project also attended, and she too wished the best for Johnson and her team. Despite her own reservations about the size of the inn and spa (a reservation shared by Middleburg Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk), Munko conceded that new that the project is approved and underway, "many of Middleburg's citizens are supporting its construction. I just hope they build the best they can build," she told the Washington Post, "and Sheila is assuring us of that."

Heavy Equipment Arrives
The first stages of construction and grading on the roughly 340-acre Salamander site almost immediately produced complaints and expressions of concern from concerned citizens of Middleburg.

On the morning of October 30, several big, wide, heavy tracked equipment transporters began to appear in the center of Middleburg's historic district, making slow, swinging, traffic-blocking turns at the Red Fox Inn, and trundling off toward the long negotiated and carefully selected work site entrance to the Salamander property north of town. The growing noise, the size and weight of the equipment, and what at first appeared to be a demand for prolonged blockage of all too rare Madison Street parking spaces, soon had phones ringing in the Middleburg Town offices.

Town Administrator Jerry Schiro soon reported that there would be only around 30 such trips through the center of town before Christmas, that they would be one way, and that Salamander was working closely with the town and the Virginia Department of Transportation to schedule the movements to produce the least possible impact on the town, and those passing through on Route 50.

Noting that a project of the size Salamander would inevitably require a "tremendous amount" of construction equipment, Schiro assured Mayor Davis and the Council that the most difficult

MIDDLEBURG CITIZEN REPORTS ON TRIP TO IRAN CITES BENEFITS OF "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" DIPLOMACY

At 8:30 AM on Saturday, August 18, Middleburg's fire and rescue squad reported: there were sounds rushing water coming from underneath apartments at 300 Windy Hill Road.

According to Police Chief Steve Weber, fire, rescue and police responded to find water spewing from the Southwest corner of the building's cinder block foundation, flowing into the parking lot, across an adjacent road, and into a stream.

Clear inspection revealed water backed up inside the building. Rising to doorknob level in places, the water was nearly four feet deep in a closed storage area, and had flooded the apartment manager's office.

As the water receded, the Fire Marshall promptly ordered the

complex, with one providing water under pressures of 80 pounds per square inch for a fire suppression system. That line apparently burst, at a 90-degree elbow joint underneath the basement floor.

By the time the break was discovered, water pressure had lifted and buckled parts of the four to five-inch concrete slab floor, separating it in places, from the foundation.

Middleburg's, on-call Utility Superintendent, Gary Garrett, arrived quickly on the scene, located the meter and valves serving both lines, and shut them off. By that time roughly 20,000 gallons of water had been pushed into and through the building.

Domestic Power was called to shut down electrical service. As the water receded, the Fire Marshall promptly ordered the

cult equipment moves would be scheduled outside rush hours and, whenever possible, outside the usual arrival and departure times for students at local schools.

Tree Removals Addressed
Mike Morency started a series of phone calls to the town offices when he noticed a bulldozer knocking down trees along the north side of Stonewall Avenue at the west end of town.

Morency immediately contacted Town Administrator Jerry Schiro. Schiro told the Eccentric he knew immediately that Salamander should not be taking down trees in that general area, and that he and Morency immediately rode to the site.

Schiro stopped the bulldozer operator, and asked that he not remove any more trees until the town "could get the matter clarified with Turner Construction," Salamander's subcontractor.

According to Schiro, Turner's project manager, Mark Miller, responded immediately and redirected the efforts of the bulldozer operator.

By that time, however, six trees had been taken down, two of which were reported to be "of significant" size. At their "regular" meeting on November 8, nearly every member of Town Council expressed concern at what at first appeared to be a total breakdown of oversight and communication. All agreed that it would be wise for the town to look into hiring a construction site "ombudsman" or "supervisor" who could monitor Salamander's compliance with its agreements with the town on a regular basis.

By Thursday, November 15, however, the town's Streetscape Committee had convened, walked the Salamander site, and helped clearly mark what could and could not be touched as landscaping work, road construction, and erosion control progresses.

As for the downed trees, it was soon discovered that they were clearly destined for removal as part of Salamander's work on the town's new Water Treatment Plant, and had been so marked on the approved and bonded plans from which Turner's bulldozer operator had been briefed.

Technically, however, detailed site plans for the water treatment plant have not yet been formally approved by the town, and the Virginia Department of Transportation has not yet approved a Stonewall Avenue construction entrance.

At Council's November 15 work session, Democrat Ryan of Salamander's site consulting firm, Turner Construction's Miller, Schiro and Town Planner David Benamini explained the Water Treatment Plant approval situation in detail, apologized for the premature removal of the trees, and re-assured Council about both the quality of oversight of the project, and Salamander's commitment to landscaping plans that would screen the new Water Treatment plant effectively for the residents of Stonewall Avenue.

Water, Water
Despite recent rains, water restrictions remain in effect

evacuation of the building, noting that there was no way to determine just how badly the building had been damaged.

As of Monday morning, best reports indicated that residents of fifteen apartments had been evacuated.

During the crisis, Police, Fire Department and EMS workers helped residents gather what they could from their apartments for what may be an extended displacement. Many appear to have been taken in by family or friends. The Red Cross is reported to have arranged temporary housing for as many as thirteen people.

A clean bill of health from County building inspectors and a structural engineer will no doubt be required to clear the structure for re-entry.

Residents also continued to urge Council to adopt a special fee for town residents who want to look up fire suppression systems to the town water supply.

Noting that the town had lost an estimated 20,000 gallons of precious water due to accidental leakage at Windy Hill, Snyder suggested that it was only fair to the other residents of the town to charge something.

Council Member Trowbridge Liffitt suggested that Council look at practices in other Northern Virginia communities. Noting that it was in the town's interest to encourage the use of fire-suppression sprinklers, Liffitt expressed concern that such special fees would have just the opposite effect. Nor, he said, would it be wise for Middleburg to make it difficult for people living in subsidized housing to be protected by such systems.

Other News in Brief
Council welcomed the return of Euna Lewis from an extended leave of absence. The presence of the veteran Council member and official liaison to the Pink Box visitor center organization brought the Council to full voting strength.

Middleburg's November 6 Choices
Middleburg voted overwhelmingly on November 6 for Democrat Karen Schuch (86%) over the eventual victor for the 27th District seat in the Virginia State Senate, Republican Jill Hollman Vogel Vogel and independent challenger, Donald Marro.

Democrat Bruce Roemer received 58% of Middleburg's vote in his losing effort against Republican Bob Marshall for the 13th District seat in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Independent Scott York received 75% support in Middleburg in his successful campaigning for re-election as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

The Blue Ridge District's Incumbent Supervisor Jim Burton, an Independent, received 74% of Middleburg's votes.

Priscilla Godfrey was elected Blue Ridge's representative on the Loudoun County School Board by the same margin.

The Town gave Democrat Mike George 51% of its votes for

Continued Page 8

Christmas in Middleburg
December 1st, 2007

Photo Credit: Jay Hubbard

Featuring Performances by

Urban Nation HIP HOP Choir, Loudoun Symphony and Wakefield School Handbell Choir

8am-10am
Breakfast with Santa and Silent Auction
The Middleburg Elementary School
10am-3pm
Middleburg Garden Club's
Christmas Flower & Greens Show
10am-5pm
Craft Show at the Community Center

11am
The Hunt rides through Middleburg, the sight is spectacular with approximately 100 riders and dozens of hounds
11:30am-2pm
Hayrides from the Pink Box porch immediately following the parade.
3pm
The Christmas Parade
Santa will be on PNC Bank Porch



"Love of beauty is taste. The creation of beauty is Art."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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"Venus Player" Oil on Canvas 30 x 30 by Terry Vail



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NEWS OF NOTE

SENATOR WARNER'S VIRGINIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

followed then, in the Pacific, by two firms . . . and the battle of Okinawa. My whole age group of youngsters, 17 years old, were anxious to join. It wasn't any big deal. We just felt that we had to join because of the intensity of the fighting in that period of time. We all ran around and enlisted (enlisted in the Army Air Corps . . . I enlisted in the Navy, and I wanted to enlist in the Marine Corps . . . but . . . you had to have parental consent. So I enlisted, and waited patiently at home

to see whichever letter would come. The Navy letter came first. I didn't quite finish high school. I just went on it. I'm not suggesting that I'm anything special. We all did it. All of us who were 17 years old.

On the End of the War
I never got overseas. I was in the training command the whole time. Our age group was training to go on the invasion of the mainland of Japan for the Japanese civilian population

Bomb dropped, transformed the war, and quickly brought it to an end. . . . We were grateful. All you have to look at is the Battle of Okinawa, where we had casualties of 38,000 . . . killed, wounded, or missing . . . in a period of nine weeks, I think it was. It started on Easter Sunday and ended nine weeks later . . . 38,000 men in a period of nine weeks . . . The invasion would have been deadly . . . and I think more so for the Japanese civilian population than for the soldiers on both sides.

On Becoming a Virginian

My father's family came from Amherst, Virginia, a little village untouched, almost, to this day. I used to start my campaigns there, on the Courthouse steps . . . I came out of the Navy and went to Washington & Lee, my father's school. My father graduated in 1903. I'll never forget . . . he was [dying] . . . really in his last days. I came home in my soldier's suit and we sat in his library and he said, "I'd like to have you go to school at Washington & Lee. And I said, "Well, Daddy, I haven't really finished high school." And he said, "Well, I'll work on it." I remember it well. He called Francis Pendleton Gaines, the President, spoke to him, and then told me "Get on down. They're going to look you over." I went . . . and enjoyed these wonderful years there and got my degree, and then went on to the University of Virginia.

Almost a Newspaper Man

I almost became a newspaperman early in my career. In those days The Fauquier Democrat was owned by . . . Hubert Phillips . . . and Philip's home was about a mile from where I lived in Alaska. He took a liking to me. He was a great horseman: a great polo player . . . and I later acquired the polo field he built and . . . several other properties he'd owned . . . because he knew I wanted to keep the land the way it was . . . and he liked that.

One day he said to me, "Would you be interested some day in [owning the paper]?" I said, "Well, you know I'm now practicing law . . . but . . . I'll take a look at it." And he said, "Well, if I pass on, in, in the general estate, and my son (who at that time was just a youngster) will have first call on it. Well, he died, and his son expressed no interest in the estate put it up for sale.

I went in and put what I thought was a very good bid down, and the trustees, and Fauquier Bank, and everyone else it seemed, thought that I would get it.

Then, out of nowhere came [another bidder], a woman, who topped my bid and got the paper.

She struggled with it for a couple of years, and in that interim, four of us started The Piedmont Virginian, a little newspaper that came out weekly. It was a wonderful little paper and we had a lot of fun with it, and made, I think, a contribution . . . it had been designed to promote the preservation of historic properties and things of that nature.

But, then someone I'd known very well, Nick Armold bought the Fauquier Democrat and started doing what I thought was a pretty good job . . . which led us to decide to allow the slow demise of the old Piedmont Virginian.

The Sixties

In the sixties I had not yet begun to get into political life very much. I had gone to law school with Bobby Kennedy. I knew him, and his brother, then "Senator Kennedy." They were always trying to lure me into the Democratic Party . . . but I was still, "apolitical," so to speak.

I had then I married into a very famous Republican family, there are a number here, the Mellon family, and that was a wonderful extension of my sphere of life and existence. Paul Mellon took me under his wing and did so many wonderful things for me and it was he who encouraged me to go into public life. I attribute what success I've had to Paul Mellon and to one or two others who said, you know, you're destined to do public life. So here I am, finishing up 30 years in the Senate, the longest serving Republican Senator in

the history of Virginia, second only to Harry Byrd in overall service.

I remember well the early days of the civil rights movement. I'd been in the US Attorney's office in Washington, as an Assistant US Attorney and saw a great deal of the last vestiges of legal discrimination . . . the large number of African Americans arrested and sent to trial underrepresented by the legal profession.

I helped start, with some others, an adjunct to the Georgetown Law School . . . a small segment of that law school which is still in existence to train young lawyers in criminal practice and so they could do pro bono criminal work.

It's not well known, but . . . I was much taken . . . by the swiftness with which Martin Luther King was passing down, just as a spectator and stood in the proximity of the Lincoln Memorial [during the great march on Washington]. I still recall . . . the emotion of the crowd . . . it was enormous. And in my own psyche, in my own mind at that time, it played a role in kindling thoughts of a role for me in politics.

In later years I was pleased to be one of two or three members of Congress who helped get the legislation through to create the memorial here in Washington on the tidal basin.

I also played a role in doing some of the most simple things: helping folks like Jane McCarty to get things like running water and sewer service extended to some of the predominantly African American communities near Middleburg.

But, despite some of my affiliations with what you might term some of the liberal causes of the '60s, once I got into the center of gravity of politics, I was very definitely aligned with what I would call the "conservative moderate" wing of the party . . . and I've remained that way . . . perhaps drifting a little more towards the conservative . . . but certainly the center right is where I've tried to maintain my base throughout my political career.

What's Changed and Why?

Change in Virginia has been driven by several factors. Number one is the burgeoning growth of the Nation's Capital and the growth of the federal government. That drew a lot of people in, and that, in turn expanded the suburbs.

Then the co-location of the military industrial complex that's a central part of our national defense system . . . in Northern Virginia . . . transformed this area.

But we still have an agricultural base . . . I used to love to farm. I had a nice farm there in the Middleburg/Upperville area for many years.

Middleburg

Despite, or perhaps because of its reputation for fast hunting and the rural life, many many good people retired to the Middleburg area and continued to lead extraordinary, active lives. Very active. And they can discuss international politics, domestic politics, literature, and the rural situation as well. I've always found great intellectual stimulation there.

What Still Keeps You Awake at Night?

I'm gravely concerned about the military. A considerable portion of my mind and time is devoted to thinking about that, around the clock . . . I had two careers in the military . . . one in the Navy in World War Two . . . another in the Marines during Korea . . . and they were . . . my roles, that . . . were they as millions of others performed theirs. But it amazed me . . . through the GI Bill . . . to finish Washington & Lee . . . and after the Korean War another GI Bill put me through the Uni-

Continued Page 8

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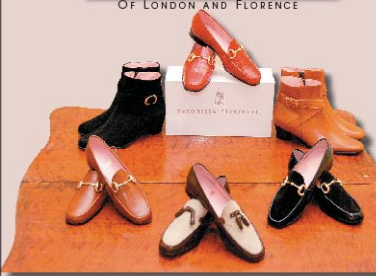


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NEWS OF NOTE

SENATOR WARNER'S VIRGINIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Shenandoah River, which, unfortunately, and for reasons biologists can't exactly determine, is not supporting a healthy fish stock any more, sporting fish or otherwise. I continue to try to channel small amounts of money into research ... to study what the problem is. The river's sick, for some reason. But the Rappahannock is one of my favorite streams, and I've fished it, and canoe it, from one end to the other. For many years we looked at an old coffee dam, built sometime in the early 1800's, which blocked the natural migration pattern of spawning fish from the Atlantic Ocean, through the Chesapeake Bay, and up the Rappahannock and its tributaries to the Blue Ridge Mountains ... particularly the native Shad, and the cat, and herring, and so forth. I spent fifteen YEARS in

the Senate trying to get the funds, and working my way carefully through the environmental laws (and I say that respectfully). Finally, we got a permit through the Army Corps of Engineers and I was the one who got to push the plunger and blow up the old coffee dam. We blew it up, and tore a bridge down, and restored the river, as best we could, to the state it was in when man first inherited this region. Now the spawning fish travel freely from the Atlantic in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains, almost as far as Calverton.

Virginia's Natural Resources
I think it will always have a very strong place within our Federal Republic of Fifty States. Its future, I think, is somewhat dependent on the ability

of citizens today to see themselves as trustees ... to allow reasonable growth ... but not to allow that growth to take away the important and magnificent natural resources and beauty that we have in this State.

I'm working quietly, and I swear I'll get it through, on legislation to protect Route 15 from Gettysburg to Charlottesville, "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground." It's through the Senate, but is being held up, for technical reasons, along with a whole five other similar bills for other states ... but I think we'll get there.

And we're just finishing setting up another wilderness area in the southwestern part of the state.

On the Greenhouse Effect
My most recent foray into the environment is what they call the "Li-

berman Warner Bill" which is being marked up here in a few weeks, to put us into the cap-and-trade for greenhouse gases, which speaks to the core of a major controversy about the implications of man's production of those gases on our nation's environment and our basic weather patterns.

On the Virginia Delegation
I'll tell you one other unique thing about Virginia ... the Congressional Delegation from our state has worked very closely together on behalf of Virginia, irrespective of our political affiliations ... regardless of whether we're Republicans or Democrats. And we're the ONLY, here in the Congress, of other states, for the way in which we all work together for the common interest of Virginia.

On the Corps
There's a certain bond between people who've served together in the Marine Corps. That's true. It has something to do with the rigor of our training, that's just not duplicated elsewhere ... and the bonding of a small group ... we're relatively quite small in numbers compared to the Army and the Navy and the Air Force ... and we feel that we're bonded for life as Marines, and that carries forward. I make no claim to be one of great value or achievement in the Corps ... I just did my small part ... and stayed in as a reserve for another ten years after the Korean war.

On Interviews with John Warner
Frankly, the less said about me, the better ... that's my attitude.

EARLY CHRISTMAS FOR COUNCIL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Loudoun County Sheriff. The winner, Independent incumbent Sheriff Steve Simpson, received only 41%.

Republicans Jim Plowman received 61% of the Town's vote for in what was, for months, an unopposed race for Commonwealth Attorney. Write-in's accounted for an amazing 39% of the vote, most for last-minute Democratic challenger, John Flannery.

Christmas in Middleburg
Preparations are underway for "Christmas in Middleburg," the festivities marking Town's formal kick-off to the holiday season, now set for December 1.

Decorations
The Town of Middleburg's, light poles from which Middleburg's signature hand-painted signs are hung during the holiday season. Some of the poles and mountings are fragile. At Council Member Lisa Parterson's suggestion, Council is now investigating approaches to address the issue. Town Administrator Schiro indicated that new poles, in any form, are expensive. New poles suitable for Middleburg's historic district may well be more expensive than more utilitarian counterparts.

Which of Your Achievements Pleases You Most?

If you ask me what is the single most important achievement as a Senator for VIRGINIA, it's the following.

I love to fish and I've fished the streams of Virginia here, there and everywhere, and many a time on the

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EDITOR'S DESK

WHERE HAVE ALL THE POPPIES GONE?

There were so few poppies in evidence this Veterans Day one wonders if, somehow, this much loved and most important holiday has lost its cherished bright red emblem in our part of the world.

This small, simple symbol of our gratitude and high regard for those who bravely defend our freedom was nowhere available or much in evidence in our Village or nearby environs.

In Britain, of course, they were everywhere, symbols of a nation's ongoing determination to honor service that, all too often, requires the ultimate sacrifice.

There, every year since the Great War ended, at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the petals of a million poppies drift down from the dome of London's Albert Hall, and a nation collectively remembers the plea and admonition first expressed, so eloquently, by a Canadian soldier, John McCrae, and symbolized in the blood red petals of the poppy:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunsets glow,
Loved and are loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe,
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Next November, let's remember to remember.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I read, with great interest, Dana Pastos' letter about the new Gum Spring Library slated to open in 2009. All I can say is it is about time! I am a mom of two teenage girls. When they were toddlers, I lived in a town that had it's own library so close to us, I doubt they would be doing as well in their studies, not to mention loving to read, if a library had not been

available to them. Since we have moved to South Riding, it has been extremely difficult to go to the library since any library within driving distance is at least 20-30 minutes away (sometimes more with traffic). That is inexcusable! It has been a nightmare with high school projects to try and get to the library after work during the week and almost impossible on the weekends since our weekends are filled with after school activities. I, for one, cannot wait for the Gum Spring Library to come to our

Sincerely,
Laura Plourde
South Riding, VA

RANT & RAVES

WE NEED A PATRIOT TAX

JOHN SHILLING

We are well into the 5th year of the war in Iraq, and it will continue for some time. The costs are high and rising. Over \$800 billion has been committed, and several hundred billion dollars more will be needed. The war's cost will exceed \$1.5 TRILLION.

More important are the sacrifices made by our troops. Over 4,000 Americans have already sacrificed their lives, and others will - 2007 has already recorded the highest number of American deaths of any year. Well over 50,000 have been seriously wounded - including sacrifices of limbs and health, traumatic head injuries, and post traumatic stress that devastate their livelihoods and families. The

costs of caring for the wounded and disability support will amount to another several hundred billion dollars. President Bush, political and military leaders, and ordinary Americans recognize, deeply respect, and honor the valiant sacrifices made by our troops and their supporters in Iraq and Afghanistan - they are true patriots!

But are most of the rest of us making any sacrifices? It is clear that the middle and lower classes are bearing the bulk of the direct burden of the war, since they provide vast majority of the enlistees, Reservists, and National Guard forces. However, expenditures on the war have been rationed by budget shortfalls, constraining training and equipment for those at risk. Revelations about treatment of the wounded at Walter Reed Hospital and impediments to providing for the disabled show that there are inadequate resources for caring for veterans. This government is unwilling to ask the rest of us to pay for the war - to make financial sacrifices to support the troops in the field who are sacrificing lives, limbs, and livelihoods. All the war's appropriations have been supplemental authorizations - to allow him to remain as president for a longer term. They have called him a dictator who has quashed freedom of the press and freedom of speech, they have called him a dangerous autocrat who cares more about personal power than the citizens of his country. Even stronger words of disapproval of the Chavez government have been used by Members of Congress, and much of the press has jumped on the bandwagon of criticizing President Chavez for abuses of power. What is rarely reported

RANT & RAVES

How could we do this? The answer is simple. The economy has recovered from the recession of 2001 and has the capacity to support the cost of the war. We should institute a Patriot Tax to pay for the war. Roll back Bush's tax cuts and add whatever necessary to pay for the wars and the veterans benefits. Since the middle and poorer classes are bearing the bulk of the burden of fighting, the affluent and wealthy should bear more of the financial

burden. They can. The top 10% of earners have received almost all of the income increase due to the economic growth since 2002.

It would be unpatriotic to refuse to make some small sacrifices here at home while our troops are making phenomenal sacrifices in the battlefield. Let's demonstrate our support of the troops, regardless of whether or not we support the war, and implement the Patriot Tax!

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

Recent events in Pakistan point out further hypocrisy in the present administration.

The president and vice president have spent untold amounts of time and energy vilifying Hugo Chavez, of Venezuela, (not Peru as the vice president recently said in a speech, which was not corrected) for attempting to change the constitution of Venezuela to allow him to remain as president for a longer term.

They have called him a dictator who has quashed freedom of the press and freedom of speech, they have called him a dangerous autocrat who cares more about personal power than the citizens of his country. Even stronger words of disapproval of the Chavez government have been used by Members of Congress, and much of the press has jumped on the bandwagon of criticizing President Chavez for abuses of power. What is rarely reported

is that any changes to the Venezuelan constitution must be presented to the people of Venezuela for approval through a nationwide referendum. Therefore, if the people do not approve of constitutional changes that allow President Chavez to remain for a longer term, he will not be able to do so.

This seems to me to be in stark contrast to what President (and head of the military) Musharraf has done in Pakistan. There the constitution has been suspended, the supreme court disbanded, a virtual lockdown of the press has occurred and what amounts to martial law declared.

When a reporter recently asked President Bush what he was doing about the situation in Pakistan, all Bush said was he told him "...to schedule elections and take off your uniform."

To me the contrast between how we deal with Pakistan and Venezuela is the height of hypocrisy.

RED VS BLUE

GOP '08 CHANCES IMPROVING

KEN RIETZ - (R)

One year away from the next Presidential election the fortunes of the GOP are improving. Although the inside of the beltway pundits had pretty much written off GOP chances of winning next year, the Democrats have been just the opposite. They have spent most of their time bickering over the war in Iraq and making incredible statements such as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's declaration that the war was lost and Congressman David Obey's recent comment that violence is down in Iraq because "there are less people

to kill." The Democrats have introduced 41 measures to stop the war and after wasting much time on debate, they have all failed. In the meantime Congressman Charlie Rangel, chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, introduced legislation that has been called the "mother of all tax increases." Is it any wonder that recent polls show the approval rating of Congress at under 20%? Then there was the gift given by New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, just when Republicans were trying to get over the hangover from the failed effort by President Bush to provide comprehensive immigration reform, the Governor proposed to provide driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. Even in New York, 70% of the voters opposed this idea and Democratic candidates for

President are floundering all over the place trying to come up with an answer. Of course there is the potential Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. She has the highest NEGATIVE poll numbers of ANY Presidential candidate in recent times. Her negatives are particularly high when it comes to believability and trust.

When you throw onto all of this the fact that Bill Clinton, who never received over 49% in a National election, plans to play a leading role in the '08 campaign, chances for Republicans are getting brighter.

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

MUKASEY AND THE DEMOCRATS

DAN MORROW - (D)

On November 9, in private ceremonies, Michael Bernard Mukasey was sworn in as the 81st Attorney General of the United States, succeeding the disgraced and discredited Alberto Gonzales.

The support of two Democratic Senators, Charles Schumer of New York and Dianne Feinstein of California was critical to Mukasey's appointment.

Schumer had named Mukasey, along with four others, as acceptable candidates for Gonzales's old job.

Mukasey had been widely praised for his integrity, and for his performance on the federal bench, where he had presided over a number of precedent-setting trials.

His first day of testimony before the Judiciary Committee had been a triumph. But on the second day he repeatedly refused to say, in response to pointed questioning, that "waterboarding" was "torture."

His confirmation seemed in

doubt, until Schumer and Feinstein announced that they would continue to support him.

Given the long history of waterboarding, its nearly universal condemnation as torture, and the ongoing outrage over Alberto Gonzales's role in providing "cover" for its use, it is inconceivable that the

best case for Mukasey's answers may well be found in Schumer's unsatisfying justification for his vote: that if Mukasey were not confirmed, Bush would appoint someone worse.

Indeed, if Mukasey admitted publicly that waterboarding was torture, he put himself in the position of having to prosecute not only those who had used the technique, but those who had knowingly approved it.

Among those who, guided by Gonzales, had approved waterboarding was the President of the

United States.

Exposing the President, along with all those guilty of systematic acquiescence in the execution of clearly illegal orders, would have meant the immediate withdrawal of Mukasey's nomination.

One can only hope that the judge made both Schumer and Feinstein acutely aware of his dilemma, and promised that, once confirmed, he could and would act.

Mukasey has asked publicly for legislation to "clarify" the status of waterboarding. Congress should oblige, but not in a form that would provide ex post facto "cover" for torturers.

"Waterboarding," Congress should say, "is now, was, and always shall be, torture." Thus armed, the new Attorney General must either act, or live forever with the irony of the date on which he took the oath of office, November 9, a day on which, in 1958, much more than glass was cruelly broken.

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PASTIMES

PLANTS THAT DIE NICELY

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

Recently there was an article in a gardening magazine from Great Britain that observed the various ways perennials died down. Their life is not coming to an end really, they're going to sleep, and some do it nicely. How nicely they retreat in England is different than here in the Mid-Atlantic where summer drought and heat push them to the limit, but still there are a few, they oblige and it pays to take notes.

November is a month that gardeners generally use to clean up the garden. October is often too mild,

lots of perennials still look good. The determining factors for removing old foliage are three: the first freeze, how tired a plant appears or how much new growth is evident. Some perennials are refreshed by cool nights and a little rain. A year to year practice of observing will reveal a few perennials that are outstanding November plants. Colors change tremendously as fall turns to winter. Tans, yellows and reds over power greens. One remarkable plant is Solomon's Seal or Polygonatum sp. The foliage goes from soft, lime green to yellow and finally tan. In the tan phase the stems topple, easy clean-up. This is a per-

ennial that lives and dies well, no whispering from drought and a tidy exit. Best planted in shade or partial shade, the underground rhizomes spread and eventually the three foot stems form a tall groundcover. Slow to establish, patience will reward the gardener. Many ornamental grasses age gracefully. Grasses become tan in various shades. Their foliage can be left all winter, the bleaching process sees them go from tan to blonde. There are candidates for sun or shade. Popular for sun is Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'. The arching foliage reaches four to five feet with a plume that rises another

foot. The entire clump is sturdy enough to withstand snows that topple others, even fully dormant this grass puts on a show. For the shade gardener consider Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola', a bright yellow leaved grass that lights up the woodland in summer and turns tan for winter. Commonly known as Japanese Forest Grass, the clumps are extremely slow to mature and the plume is secondary to the foliage. Only eighteen inches tall, it's beautiful enough for containers



where it arches over the edge.

If day lily foliage was cut back in summer, the replacement leaves can be yellow in fall, actually getting brighter as November passes. This was definitely not my first year to take note of their winning leaves, not the best of years considering the drought, but worthy. The same can be said for hosta foliage, another member of the lily family. Do not cut the foliage back mid-summer, simply observe which varieties color up in November. Some do an exceptional job. It is said that in Japan, where the hosta grow with grasses in fields, the yellow from the foliage will light up an entire hillside. Much like an aspen and fir forest might color the top of a mountain in Maine or Utah in fall.

The best native perennial for foliage in fall is amonia. If you have not discovered this plant, take note. Hardly any perennials have the stamens of amonia, another hero that triumphs over garden evils. No signs of drought stress, nary an insect that feeds on it, and fall foliage that gets better and better. There are a handful of amonia species available at local nurseries. Breeding advancements have improved on flower color, a bluish blue can be found in Amonia 'Blue Ice'. Plant in full to partial sun and watch as surrounding perennials fade away, leaving this gorgeous yellow leaved specimen to wile away the days of November. Some others that are worth seeking are Amonia tuberculata and A. tabernaemontana. Taller than A. 'Blue Ice', growing three to four feet tall, they stay in breezes and will eventually form clumps that can be five feet across.

Lastly, but certainly not the last, I would like to point out Iris sibirica or Japanese Roof Iris. The foliage is broad and arches over, only twenty inches tall. It tries desperately to be evergreen but finally gives in to tan. A glorious perennial that holds its own in summer, despite even this years horrific drought. Partial sun, like a high shade, is a good spot to plant it. The flowers of spring are either blue or white and the shade gardener prefers the white flowering form. Easily said, not so easily found. In my nursery days I grew it from seed and two years was all that was required for Iris sibirica to reach flowering size. Most plants are produced by root division and it seems that demand is outstriking supply.

These beautiful colors from late fall leaves suit the month of November with its gloomy days. Seed pods on woody plants like hollies and sinners contribute their part, aided by the legging of superior perennials that go to sleep nicely.

SPEAKING OF THAT SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Wow, anybody get the number of that Red Sox express that absolutely steamrolled Colorado and any shot I had at prognosticating my way up to the show?

While everybody agrees that the Sox were the better team, the Rockies got hit by the same bug that hit the Tigers the year before; both were punished for earlier success and forced to sit around waiting for an interminable amount of time while their eventual World Series opponent stayed in a groove, playing right up to Game 1.

Look, we don't live in a perfect world so I can't expect a perfect system, but c'mon, a 10-day playoff before the biggest series of your professional career? It's a bit much to expect, and as Major League Baseball has tweaked and diddled with its postseason scheduling to squeeze every last nickel and dime out of the revenue stream they've seemed to send a big, red up-yours to fans who don't want to wait five days and weeks while any flicker of interest they had in the World Series is slowly, incredibly snuffed out.

Revenues are up, attendance is up, everything is up. Just ask Bud Selig; he'll happily tell you. But the postseason system in baseball is a farce, conjured up by 21st century alchemists twisting cowhide and ash into dollars and cents solely for the profit and pleasure of owners and a league that too-quickly has forgotten what we, the fans, have not: that the success they now so happily enjoy was built on a sham of a decade with performance-enhancers aplenty as its foundation. Revenues aren't every thing; every once in a great while, integrity counts for something as well.

Speaking of integrity, Barry Bonds was indicted last week on four counts of perjury and one of obstruction of justice. Bonds' lawyers are saying all the right things, that they'll poke holes all through the prosecution's case, largely thanks to a steroids test that Bonds purportedly failed in 2000-2001. Bonds' lawyers will work hard to show that the prosecution's case is a house of cards, wobbly at the top and wobbly at the bottom; a couple good knocks, the defense hopes, and the whole thing should come tumbling down. Maybe. Or maybe there's a good reason federal prosecutors have a 90% conviction rate and maybe that good reason is they don't bring cases to trial unless they have a pretty good idea they can win. At this point, it only really matters for one person, whoever that lucky sap was that came down with homerun 762. Given that the current implacable animosity reduces the chances of any team owner signing Bonds to a contract (largely because the DeLia family doesn't own a baseball team), his career is now officially done. And a career career means 762 is the new record.

Speaking of new records, all signs point to Alex Rodriguez resigning with the New York Yankees for another 10 years for about \$275 million. Who helped bring this about, you ask? None other than billionaire investor and philanthropist, Warren Buffett. According to reports first published in the Wall Street Journal

last Saturday, Rodriguez contacted Buffett shortly after his agent, Scott Boras, announced his client's intention to opt out of the remaining three years of his then-record, \$252 million contract, during game four of the World Series. Apparently hurt and chastised at the public outcry surrounding his incredibly tasteless move, A-Rod started shopping around for advice on how to make a right. Buffett reportedly suggested A-Rod cut his agent out of the loop and get on the phone with the only team rich and nuts enough to talk to him: the Yankees. So the Yankees got their All-World third baseman locked

up for the next decade. A-Rod gets to break all the records he's predicted to break in pinstripes. Scott Boras gets his condescension, and Warren Buffett gets to double in sports management. Personally, everything going on up there in the Bronx is getting just too weird for me.

Speaking of weird, the Redskins only ran the ball 17 times on Sunday, and two of those were scrambles by Jason Campbell. Meanwhile, they threw the ball with something approaching Martinis-in-shandon, chucking the ol' pigskin 54 times. I was never particularly good at figuring out what looks an awful lot like a 3:1

pass-to-run ratio, hardly the balanced attack we've been hearing so much about from the Redskins' presspeople department. That didn't take long. Somebody's finally convinced the old-folks home running the Redskins that Hogs and three-yards-and-a-mile-of-dust football went out with the brotonsaurus and the Model T. After forcing their offense to hatter their collective heads against a brick wall for the better part of a year and a half, it looks like the coaches may have finally taken a look at the team they'd assembled and realized that it was a pass-first, run later kind of team, something more closely resemble-

bling the team Steve Spurrier always so openly lusts after, rather than the sleep-on-every-teams'-dresses, smashmouth kind of team the Bucky and Gold made famous back in the 80's and early 90's.

Well of course, they'll say, it's all part of the plan. It's all part of the strategy. Fine. Whatever. Bottom line, the 'Skins may have lost to the Cowboys, but they almost pulled it out, and what emerged on the offensive side of the ball was very interesting indeed. Stay tuned.



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PASTIMES

SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME

PAT DALY

With the weather so warm throughout October and early November, many of us have not begun to think about the holiday season that's just around the corner. If you find you are behind in your holiday shopping, fear not! Everything you need is just a few miles from home right in Middleburg. So, support your local businesses and avoid the hassle of mail or mail shopping. If it's a special gift

book you have in mind, you'll find it at Books & Crannies. For history lovers, we recommend: *How a Little Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, DC and Changed American History* by Marc Leepson, and *For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette, and Their Revolution* by James R. Gaines. In both of these thoroughly researched and well-written books there are fascinating details about the men and women who played significant roles in the history of our

nation. From the prize-winning author of the bestselling *Founding Brothers* and *American Splinter*, Joseph J. Ellis, comes *American Creatives: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic*, a masterful examination of the founding years of our country. And not to be left out of any history buff's list is David Halberstam's *The Coldest Winter*, a significant historical title that explores the untold heroism and pathos of the Korean War and the politics that set it in motion.

At the top of our recommended list of biographies this season, you'll find Eric Clapton's autobiography entitled, *Clapton: The Autobiography*. Within its pages, one of the most revered and private figures in the history of rock, blues, and pop finally shares his astonishing life story. It's the perfect gift for any Slow Hand fan. We also recommend *Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker*, by Stacy A. Cordery. An intimate and revealing portrait of

America's most memorable first daughter, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, this biography presents a detailed and richly entertaining portrait of the witty and whip-smart child of Teddy Roosevelt. The best non-fiction we've seen this season is by far Alan Greenspan's *Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World*. With the distillation of a life's worth of wisdom and insight into an elegant expression of a coherent worldview, this book will stand as Greenspan's personal and intellectual legacy.

New in fiction are four titles we highly recommend: *World Without End*, by Ken Follett (the sequel to *The Pillars of the Earth*); *Home to Holly Springs*, by Jan Karan (the first of the Father Tim novels in which a newly retired priest returns to his birthplace in response to a mysterious unsigned note saying simply, "Come Home"); *Bridge of Sight*, Richard Russo's fascinating story about strange ways in which parents and children, friends and lovers connect; and David Baldacci's newest thriller, *Stone Cold*, in which recurring characters Oliver Stone and his Camel Club are back to save the life of a beautiful con artist and solve a string of murders of Washington, D.C., political staffers.

Gift books we love are *The Curious Gardener's Almanac* by Niall Edworthy, Ralph Lauren, by Ralph Lauren, a visually stunning book, in which the designer speaks candidly about himself and his art; *The Lane of London*, by Noel Grove, and *Country Pursuits: British, American, and French Sporting Art from the Mellon Collections in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art*, by Malcolm Cormack.

If a holiday-themed book tickles your fancy, you'll find what you're looking for in Caroline Kennedy's *A Family Christmas* - a charming collection of her favorite Christmas tales for those who love to celebrate the spirit of the holidays. Or cozy up with your little ones and travel to the Arctic for an Inuit Goldilocks with an original twist from Jan Brett's new picture book, *The Three Snow Bears*. In the story, Aloo-ki glances up from fishing to see her sled dogs floating off on an ice floe. She races after them and comes upon an igloo with nobody home - because the polar bear family is out walking while their breakfast cools off. See if you can guess what happens!

For fans of "Russell the Sheep," you'll find Russell's Christmas Movie filled with heroic acts on Russell's part as he saves a stranded Santa and his sleigh with hard work and imagination. But our favorite children's picture book this season is not a holiday title - it's *Toy Boat*. As he did with *The Little Engine That Could*, artist Loren Long creates a world of boys and children that go right to the soul, in a story written by Randall de Sève of a toy boat that becomes separated from the boy he loves.



THANKS FOR THE ART

ADRIENNE LEWIS

As we approach the holiday season, I often reflect as I suppose many of us do, on the past year and the new one to come. Today as I'm sitting in my gallery surrounded by exceptionally beautiful things and feeling pretty fortunate, I am struck by a quote by Michelangelo who said, "If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all."

As collectors we are don't always think about how the art we love is created - the hard work of the artist. We see the beautiful finished creations adorning our walls. Pieces that remind us of places we have been, sights that we may never see or times in which we have never lived. The art brings us joy - joy we want to share with others. This year when we think about the gift of art - or gifts of art - we

should also think about the artists whose gifts are the true ones.

Ria DeWit, A good friend and a great artist, reminds me often that although talent (or at least the ability to draw) is a component of artistic talent is nothing without hard work and dedication.

The artists we represent are as diverse as their work itself. They are impressionists, portrait artists, realists, expressionists, abstractionists - but perfectionists all. They are young or young at heart and their experiences are as varied as the countries they live in or come from.

Tang Wei Min Tang, an extraordinary painter and practicing Zen Buddhist lives in a monastery in order to be spiritually clean for the painting of art. He chooses to be surrounded by the objects he depicts in his work the world of the ancient China. Tang considers painting as his way to being harmony, balance

and beauty to the world.

Our artists paint outside (plein air) and in studios, from photographs and live models. Their subject matter can be found in nature or solely in their minds. Whether painting for five years or sixty-five years all are dedicated and all share with us the passion of creation and beauty and I believe they would all agree with another quote by Michelangelo, "Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I can accomplish."

Happy holidays to art lovers, collectors, enthusiasts of all kinds, and most of all to artists everywhere!

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



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PARENTS & PROGENY

13 FOXCROFT STUDENTS EARN AP SCHOLAR AWARDS 2007 GRAD JILLIAN CAIRNS NAMED NATIONAL SCHOLAR!

Two current students and 111 recent graduates of Foxcroft School have earned AP Scholar designation from the College Board for exceptional achievement on the Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams taken last May. Jillian Cairns, a 2007 graduate from Chantilly, VA, was named a National Scholar – an elite designation granted to a rare number of students.

Cairns, now a freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received an average grade of at least 4 (out of 5) on every AP Exam she took and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of the tests to become Foxcroft's third

National Scholar. Cairns was joined by classmates Madeleine Rafferty, Cameron Shaw and Shannon Walker as AP Scholars with Distinction. Rafferty, of Fishers Island, NY, attends St. Andrews University in St. Andrews, Scotland. Shaw, a senior at the University of Michigan and Walker, of Princeton University, is studying biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan and Walker, of Princeton University. These students earned an average of at least 3.5 on all the AP Exams they took and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of the exams.

Yu Zhang, a senior from Shanghai, China, earned AP Scholar with Honor status, for ac-

cumulating a 3.25 average overall and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of the tests.

A senior from Seoul, South Korea, and seven members of the Class of 2007 were named AP Scholars for receiving grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams: Janya Chah (Arlington, VA, Davidson College), Alexandra Fitter (The Plains, VA, Washington & Lee University), Timothy Geller (Lincoln, VA, College of Charleston), Savannah Giessey (Fairfax and Clifton, VA, Kenyon College), Lisa Jacobson (Reston, VA), Morgan Manley (New York, NY, Brandeis University) and Whitney Spreadbury (Middleburg, VA, and University

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY GIRL'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS SIGN NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

On Thursday, November 15, four members of Notre Dame Academy's Girl's Basketball Team signed their national letters of intent. Kristin Coles signed to play with American University. Mia Nickson with Boston College, Ariana Stewart with the University of Florida, and Morgan Wiggins with Radford University. We commend all of these student athletes with their accomplishments both on the court, and in the classroom at Notre Dame Academy. We also wish them the best in the upcoming season as well as in their bright college futures.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The following students have been selected by the Faculty Council for membership into the Notre Dame Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society. Selection was based upon careful consideration of each student's scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The inductees were honored at an induction ceremony on Thursday, October 25 at the school.

Trevor Adick of Aldie, J. Sue Allen of South Korea, Maria Arlano of Middleburg, Anna Balzano of Charles Town, West Virginia, Kathryn Callaghan of Warrenton

Meghan Escher of Gainesville, Clay Esteninger of Ashburn, Sarah Friberg of Round Hill, Victoria Jewell of Warrenton, David Kim of South Korea, Bong Ju Lee of South Korea, Mary McCarthy of Broad Run, Matthew Miller of Warrenton, Kevleigh Mize of Warrenton, Jaqueline Moncelle of Fairfax, Christine Nelson of Ashburn, Carrick Oviatt of Oakton, Chris Pasarelli of Middleburg, Elizabeth Snow of Millwood, Caroline Vroom of Purcellville



Chant Tanya
Arlington, VA
Davidson College



Cairns Jillian
Chantilly, VA



Geller Timothy
Lincoln, VA
College of Charleston



Whitney Spreadbury
Middleburg, VA
University of Virginia



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FOXCROFT HOLIDAY PAGEANT

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

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

"It's a wonderful pageant," says Jane Lockhart, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Activities at Foxcroft, who has seen the Foxcroft Pageant 51 times. "I first saw it when

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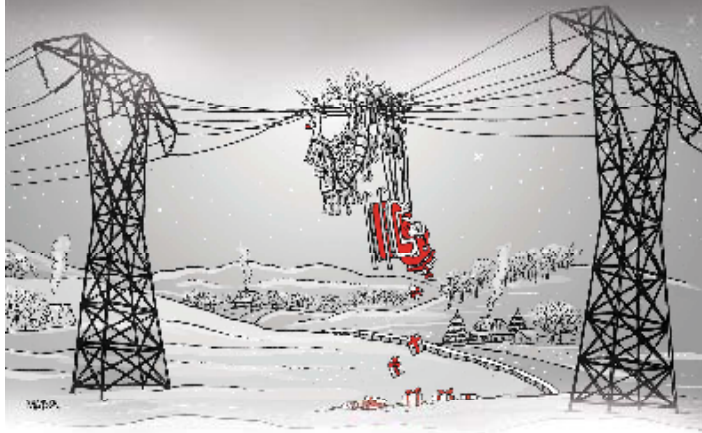
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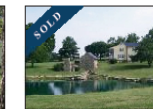
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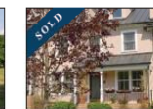
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Old Oaks
Leesburg, Virginia

Classic restored Virginia home on 8.75 acres, minutes from Leesburg and Greenway. House circa 1880 has been completely restored and shows beautifully. Great woodwork and detail. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, lovely formal landscaped gardens and care guest house. Beautiful setting. \$2,300,000.



Atoka Chase
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Impressive stone and frame home with a pond and 10 acres in Atoka Chase. Large first floor master suite, open contemporary design, great natural light, vaulted ceilings and a second story fireplace. Screened porch includes an outdoor kitchen, an extensive finished walkout basement with recreation room and fireplace, guest room, exercise room and storage areas. Great location, extensive plantings and a private setting. \$1,995,000.



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THINGS TO DO

DECEMBER 1 AND 2, 2007 LOUDOUN CHORALE PRESENTS "THE MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS"

The Loudoun Chorale continues its long tradition of performing high quality choral music with its winter concert "The Many Moods of Christmas."

Under the direction of William Propst, featured works will include Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata," Morten Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium," and the quintessential

holiday arrangement of beloved carols, "The Many Moods of Christmas, Suites I, II and III," by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett.

Concert dates, times and locations are Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 37018 Glendale St., Purcellville, 20132, and Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 West Market Street, Leesburg, 20176. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10 general admission. Senior tickets are \$8 and youth tickets are \$5. There is no charge for children 12 and under.

DECEMBER 1ST BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Start off "Christmas in Middleburg" at Middleburg Elementary School by having a delicious breakfast with Santa himself!

Middleburg Elementary School is holding its annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. The Middleburg Elementary School Dads will prepare a wonderful breakfast including Egg Strata, sausage, pancakes, fruit and Einstein's Bagels.

tion, where they can decorate a holiday treat.

Adults will be able to visit the silent Auction where many unique treasures and specialty items will be available. Bidding will end at 10:30 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Middleburg Elementary School PTO, so please plan to attend.

DECEMBER 2ND "SNAPSOTS OF SNICKER'S GAP - 1900"

On December 2, Winchester art historian and artist Dr. Geraldine Kiefer will show a little-known set of early photos by Frances Benjamin Johnson, a pioneering woman photographer - in the Bluemont

community in which they were taken in 1900. Kiefer, Assistant Professor of Art History and Art at Shenandoah University, will discuss the historic images at the Friends of Bluemont Annual Meeting, Sunday December 2, 2007, 2:00-4:00 PM, at the Bluemont Community Center, 33846 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont, 20135. The talk is free and open to the public. Friends of Bluemont is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization that works to preserve and protect the natural beauty, uniqueness, and heritage of the village of Bluemont.

Johnson visited Snicker's Gap in the spring of



1900 as a side trip (a stage coach ride) from Winchester, according to Kiefer. Johnson came to the Virginia city to work on a photo-spread intended for Ladies Home Journal, portraying the country where, 36 years earlier, General Philip Sheridan had made his fifteen-mile "Sheridan's Ride," restoring desperate Union fortunes at the Civil War battle of Cedar Creek.

Ladies Home Journal soon printed the "Sheridan's Ride" photo-spread, but Johnson's Snicker's Gap photos, documenting tourist attractions and the picturesque countryside on Loudoun County's western border, apparently were never published.

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THINGS TO DO

Johnson's photographs were "educational and entertaining, with a documentary aspect," Kiefer explained, products of "an era before movies or television." As an artist, Johnson trained in Paris, studied photography in Washington, D.C., and opened a professional photographic studio about 1890. She is best known for photographic studies of several presidents and of historic homes and gardens of the South.

"Johnson's Snicker's Gap photos have sat in an archive in the Library of Congress for decades," declared Friends of Blumont President Susan Freis Falknor, "but nobody around here seemed to know about them. Now Gerry Kiefer is bringing them home to Blumont."

"The children in Johnson's pictures have long since grown old and passed away," said Falknor, "but the Blumont street corner where she photographed the waiting Winchester stage looks very much the same."

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Aurora is one special girl! She is a Border Collie mix, about 1 year old with 8 months pups. Aurora has a lovely way about her - kind with all and seems very smart as well.

1 year is the perfect family dog! He adores kids of all ages, and is OK with cats & other dogs. He has completed obedience class.

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Chico is a 1.5 year old dachshund/terrier mix who gets along well with other dogs, cats and kids! Great family dog! He will need a fenced yard.

Teddy Bear! Teddy is a 2 year old puppy who was found as a stray! It was obvious that he had not been handled much so we are currently working with him for great manners - a program & smart guy!

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Nikko is a 4-5 year old very affectionate Rottweiler who gets along well with other dogs!

Katie's pup! 14 week old cocker mix puppies - very cute little girls. Mom is available too - a lovely parvovirus Cocker.

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Aurora's pup! These little cuties are Border collies, about 14 weeks old. The mom is a purebred Beagle, & dad! They will grow to be medium size.

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My very favorite day of the year is just around the corner! Christmas in Middleburg is on Saturday, December 1.

It's a magical day that is guaranteed to put everyone in the holiday spirit. The day is overflowing with good cheer and the entire village gets in on the act. The most anticipated events of the day are when the Middleburg Hunt goes through town at 11:00 and when the parade begins at 3:00. In between, there are countless things to do and see.

As with most big events in Middleburg, dogs play a huge role in the fun. Lots of people bring their dogs to enjoy the day's festivities and quite a few dogs are official parade participants. For many of us, it's a chance to spend time with our people, socialize with other dogs, and be part of an amazing celebration. In other words, it's a great place for us to be.

If you're planning to come to Christmas in Middleburg with your four-legged friend, there are a few key things to keep in mind. First, remember to bring water. Even though it might be chilly outside, we will still get thirsty. Be sure to watch what we find on the ground; it's not unusual for candy to make its way to the sidewalks. Some candy, especially chocolate, can be dangerous for us. Finally, hold on to us when the Hunt goes through town! Letting us "run with the hounds" is a terrible idea! Just terrible! It has happened in the past, and it's always a little scary.

Most importantly, remember that crowds and noise can be overwhelming for some pets. Make sure we're comfortable and happy. If we get a little anxious, take a break to pet us and spend a few minutes of quiet time. Middleburg has

lots of tranquil spots that are perfect for a brief respite. The best part is that Middleburg is very dog-friendly, so you will be able to enjoy many shops with your furry friend by your side. If anything, your dog will get the star treatment! Bring a camera; you'll want to have something to help you remember this extraordinary day. Christmas in Middleburg is a breathtakingly beautiful and rare treat for those who are fortunate enough to be part of it.

See you soon! PS... I wanted to let you know that the photo of Panzer that ran in last month's edition was taken by his "mom", M.T. Kingsley. Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wags, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg and Fairfax. Write to Albert at albertspawpals@gmail.com.



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