Middleburg Eccentric™
MIDDLEBURG'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED NEWSPAPER
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SHOP AT OUR FARMERS MARKEST
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MAY 6 ELECTION IN MIDDLEBURG

MIDDLEBURG SPRING RACES
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MAYOR DAVIS UNOPPOSED
FOUR CANDIDATES FOR THREE SEATS

DAN MORROW

On May 6, 2008, Betsy Davis runs unopposed for her second term as Mayor of Middleburg, while four candidates, current council members Trowbridge Littleton and Catherine ("Bundles") Murdock compete with Sara E. ("Sally") Bolton and Kathy Jo Shea for just three open seats on Town Council.

Under normal circumstances the duties of Middleburg's Mayor are more like those of the U.S. Vice President than those of a Chief Executive. Though her signature is required on key legislative and financial documents, the Mayor's duties are mostly limited to presiding over meetings of Council, setting a direction and "tone" for her administration, and formally representing Middleburg on ceremonial occasions.

Like the U.S. Vice President, the Mayor's vote also breaks ties. Indeed, the only time the Mayor votes is when Council is otherwise evenly divided.

The Mayor and new members of Council will be called on to make key decisions in the year ahead: on zoning and land use; taxes and fees; the transformation and management of the town's infrastructure, and a host of related issues critical to both the future of the town and its special ambience.

During the week of April 14, the Eccentric asked each of the candidates for voting seats on the Town Council to answer six questions about themselves, the Town, and its future. Their answers follow.

Continued Page 8

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE FOR MIDDLEBURG'S MASTER CLOCKMAKER

Douglas Whitesell is a clockmaker extraordinaire whose Middleburg address is well known to clock owners far and wide. His clients include families who treasure their timepieces, museums, National Trust properties and the White House.

For years he has worked exclusively from his Middleburg shop, and for two days a week, he will continue to do so. But now that his children are older he wants to enjoy as much time with them as possible so he's decided to create a second workshop in his own historic venue.

"I've been refurbishing a summer kitchen at our 200-year-old stone farmhouse near Winchester," he explained. "It will be a wonderful workshop, and a few days each week I'll thoroughly enjoy being close to home."

The 1783 stone farmhouse is located in an idyllic setting in the middle of an apple orchard where his wife Katherine's family has grown apples for generations. Katherine is a pianist, who also directs a Winchester choir.

"When our two children, Emily and Robert, were little, it was sometimes difficult to work on clocks when they were in my shop. They were so curious and I always heard myself saying, 'Careful, please don't touch!'" he said. "Working exclusively at the shop was fairer to them and to me."

Now, however, his children are teenagers and working with them nearby a few days each week will be a pleasure and a luxury.

Customers need not be at all concerned. On the days when Doug is working in his Summer Kitchen workshop his telephone number will ring at both places. No matter where he's working, he will continue to be available to keep the many clocks that depend on him for care running well and in perfect condition.

Today, Doug restores, repairs and often makes new parts for the many clocks under his care.

Doug's career as clockmaker began with an apprenticeship under his father, Douglas Whitesell, Sr.

"My father and uncle were both great engineers. My uncle William designed equipment for the military, gear trains and mechanisms. My father went to Virginia Tech and studied aeronautical engineering until he left to attend pilot school; he flew B-24's in the Pacific."

"When the war ended, he and my uncle bought Army surplus motorcycles and repaired and repainted them to sell to the public. Personal transportation was at a premium, and it was a good income."

Douglas was born in Pulaski, Virginia. His mother was from Lebanon, in the heart of Appalachia on the Kentucky border.

"I love the country in Appalachia," Doug said. "The hills are so beautiful and I'm related to almost everyone there."

As he softly started to tell the story of how he became a clockmaker, Doug leaned forward and his clear, aqua eyes began to sparkle.

"We moved to Loudoun County in 1964 when my father took a job with the Federal Aviation Authority, then located at National Airport. The FAA was headquartered in a hanger at National," Doug explained. "It was suffocating in the summer and freezing every winter. When the new headquarters were completed in Leesburg, he was happy to move."

In the evenings and on weekends, Douglas, Sr., worked on the clocks he had collected over the years. He had to repair them to keep them in good working order and, in not too long, he was repairing clocks for others.

For the FAA engineer, the exacting restoration and repair work that takes such infinite care and patience helped him wind down from the tension and demands of his daily responsibilities.

"He loved to work on clocks," Doug remembered, "…and the word quickly spread in our neighborhood and beyond that he was a clockmaker of the highest order."

Doug's mother, Mary, taught fourth and fifth graders at Lincoln Elementary in Lincoln, Virginia.

"I often see her former students and they

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INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON'S 30TH CELEBRATION GALA
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INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL HONORS
PAGE 4

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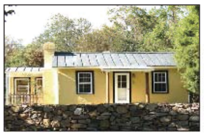

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NEWS OF NOTE

MARION BENEDETTO WILL BE MISSED

Frank Benedetto met his wife, Marion at a ballroom dance on Long Island. After 51 years of marriage to the woman he believes was one of the most stylish and vibrant beauties in the world, he found her facedown in her office at their Purcellville farm, stricken by a sudden brain embolism on March 31st.

"She was working on the races for The Middleburg Hunt," he said sadly. "We both loved to ride. That's why we moved to this area.

Marion Joan Benedetto was a stunning girl who was actively engaged in the fashion business in New York and in ballroom dancing when a good friend of Frank's pointed her out to him at a dance. When he spotted the pretty redhead in a black watch plaid dress with puff sleeves and a big crinoline skirt he was smitten.

"I asked her to dance that evening, and a year later I asked her to marry me," he remembered.

Frank and Marion both grew up in New York. His mother was a "First Dress" fashion designer. These are the individuals who work one-on-one with designers to create the impeccable model of a new design. So Frank Benedetto knew a fashionable beauty when he saw one.

Marion was running Macy's runway fashion shows, events that drew crowds of 500 or more customers on a regular basis.

"She was such a knock-out that night," Frank said. 'I'd grown up knowing about fashion and she was the epitome of a truly fashionable beauty. Over time, I learned that she was truly exceptional in every way."

While they were in New York, Frank and Marion danced at all the legendary ballrooms and clubs.

"We danced at the Long Island Club, The Latin Quarter, Roseland and the Copacabana," he remembered. "The Polish Halls had the biggest bands. We loved to dance."

One of his favorite memories is about Marion being recognized three times with the Tailgate Prize at the Gold Cup Races.

"We always have Spot 11 on the rail, and she was always so beautiful in her big hats and classy fashions. But nothing surpassed her tailgates! I think, eventually, they simply couldn't keep giving her the prize, even though I think she deserved it. But believe me, it didn't matter a bit to her. She just loved being part of the racing festivities."

The doctor told Frank that Marion never knew what happened.

Sadly, as he said, "…it doesn't change the fact that I'll miss her forever."

Marion Joan Benedetto's surviving family includes children, Frank Benedetto of Long Island, N.Y., and Teresa Treffeisen of Huntington, N.Y., five grandchildren, and her sister Gail Smith and her brother, John Polifka, also of Long Island, N.Y.

She will be sadly missed in Hunt Country.

CHARLES FALLOT, ARCHITECT, PILOT, BON VIVANT, DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

When Charles Fallot died recently, his family, friends and many colleagues lost a lost the companionship and comradeship of a valiant, devoted friend.

"He flew in the South Pacific in the Battle of Incheon Bay, he was a hurricane hunter for weather reconnaissance before the war and he served three tours in Vietnam," his wife Ilene remembered, "but his war stories were always funny stories designed to amuse. He never wanted to focus on or convey anything maudlin or negative about those times."

Born in New Jersey in 1933, Fallot served two years with the U.S. Navy and was with one of the first landing parties at Incheon during the Korean War. He was at the Pentagon for many years before he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force to serve in Vietnam.

"He flew everything from F-15's to C5 Transports," his wife explained.

He retired from the Air Force in 1974 after three tours of duty in Vietnam.

While flying as a hurricane hunter in the South Pacific, Fallot landed on all the little islands, sometimes diving down so steeply that the maneuver put flying circus stunt flyers to shame.

"He was always greeted warmly by the islanders," Mrs. Fallot said.

Fallot studied architecture under Meis van der Rohe, one of the pioneers of modern architecture, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. When he retired from the Air Force, he moved to Florida where he met Ilene, then an interior designer.

"For many years, we purchased waterfront properties, Chuck designed and personally built a home and I handled the interiors. It was a wonderful life, but when two of our daughters moved to Middleburg, we couldn't resist moving here too"

Although his illness became apparent shortly after their move to Middleburg, his spirit and sense of fair play didn't languish. He wanted to be near his grandchildren and he loved the Piedmont region.

Charles Fallot is survived by his wife, Ilene of Middleburg, VA.; daughter, Kim Missigman of Charlotte, N.C.; daughters, Ilene Tognini and Belinda Lee of Middleburg, VA.; and daughter Holly Benke of Orlando, FL.

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Thomas & Talbot Real Estate is home to the top Agents in Hunt Country for the past four decades and we continue to have the best in 2008. The 2007 awards for Top Agents were presented March 14, 2007 by The Greater Piedmont Area Association of Realtors, which has 723 members. We are most fortunate and proud to again congratulate The #1 Top Producer, John Coles. John has been the #1 Top Producer for the past 6 years. We are also fortunate to have the #2 Sales Agent, Mary Ann McGowan, who has been a Top Five Award Winner for the past 7 years. Mary Ann McGowan also received the third place award based on the number of Sales Transactions. We also wish to congratulate Cricket Bedford, who received production award Platinum and her 5 year production award. Mary Owen Chatfield-Taylor and Emily Ristau for receiving the Production Awards Gold, honoring sales over $10 million. Mary Owen Chatfield-Taylor also received her 5 year production award. Susie Ashcom, Catherine Bernache, Rein duPont and Alex Sharp (our man in Rappahannock) all received Production Awards Silver for sales over $2 million.

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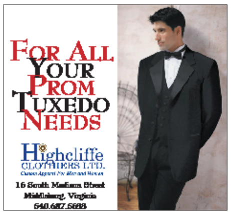

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NEWS OF NOTE

INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL TO HONOR THE SPIRIT AND STEWARDSHIP THAT MAKE LOUDOUN COUNTY A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Inova Loudoun Hospital CEO Randy Kelley recently announced the creation of a new initiative called The Loudoun Laurels, a program designed to recognize the truly outstanding individuals and organizations that make Greater Loudoun County a vibrant, supportive community and an exceptional place to live.

"By recognizing citizens and organizations whose service to our community too often goes unnoticed, we will increase awareness of the dedication and stewardship that make a major contribution to our quality of life," Kelley explained. "We hope the Loudoun Laurels will elevate people for recognition who will become role models for others who want to carry on the traditions of generosity and dedication that are so important to our community."

A Founder's Committee of Greater Loudoun citizens has been established to serve as nominators for The Loudoun Laurels. The community leaders who have been invited to serve as Loudoun Laurels Founders each have a history of service and a deep sense of community made them ideal advisors to the new venture.

Speaking thoughtfully about the Northern Virginia area he has enthusiastically embraced as home since arriving at Inova Loudoun Hospital almost two years ago, Kelley noted, "In the last few years, our county has all too often been defined by the strains of population growth and rapid development or, more recently, the real estate crisis. The spirit, the sense of community, the innovation, and the dedication that are hallmarks here are too often overlooked."

Kelley firmly believes that by honoring the best in people, the Loudoun Laurels will help establish a powerful sense of community among old and new residents that will enrich the life of every citizen.

"Inova Loudoun Hospital is a true community institution," he continued.

"It is our responsibility to provide services for every person within every town, village and neighborhood and we take that responsibility very seriously."

"We want to contribute to a change in the tenor of the conversation in and about Loudoun," says Kelley. "Amazing people are doing remarkable things in Loudoun, be it dedicated young people helping others, long-time residents quietly giving to those less fortunate over the course of their lifetimes, or businesses pushing the frontiers of what we imagine is possible. We want to move beyond the hot-button issues of the day and ensure that everyone understands that the historic sense of stewardship is alive and well in this beautiful and historic place."

Ever a realist, Kelley is quick to point out that the goal of The Loudoun Laurels is not to gloss over any challenges the county faces, but rather to shine a little bit of the spotlight on men and women of all ages who, through their pro-active and consistent commitment, have a positive impact on the community.

"This program will not make the issues we all face, traffic, schools, cost of living, go away. Those are real issues that must be resolved. But there are other things that too often don't receive the attention we feel they deserve. Positive things that everyone should be aware of and take delight in because it is these things that contribute so much to the pleasure of living here.

"That's what The Loudoun Laurels will be about; ensuring that we are all knowledgeable about and aware of the many positive aspects of community. "

Members of The Loudoun Laurels' Founders' Committee include Howard M. Armfield, Jr., formerly of Armfield, Harrison & Thomas, Inc., Peter Arundel of ArCom Publishing, Joseph L. Boling

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TIME TO HONOR AMERICA'S DEBT TO THE RETIRED

JOHN SHILLING

The first American baby boomers have now become eligible to retire and start drawing on Social Security, the government pension program.

Many politicians are telling us that the resulting rise in

Social Security "entitlement" payments will break the budget, so we have to cut benefits to retired people.

But the politicians do not want to mention that the Social Security system has been compiling a huge surplus.

Why?

Because they have been using that surplus for years to hide the real size of the current federal budget deficit, allowing them to spend more and justify tax cuts for the wealthy.

US Office of Management and Budget data show that while government's reported deficit averaged about $300bn a year from 2002 to 2006 – roughly $4,000 per household – the real current deficit was actually more than 50 per cent bigger.

The government just "borrowed" about $165bn from the Social

Security Trust Fund every year – under the table.

In 2007, the real deficit was $449bn according to the OMB. However, the "official" deficit widely reported is only $257bn, because it is government policy to add the borrowed Social Security Trust Fund surplus ($192bn in 2007) to revenues before calculating the "official" deficit that has to be borrowed publicly.

The recently passed economic stimulus package of $160bn is reported to raise the 2008 official deficit to about $400bn. But the real deficit in 2008 will be about $600bn.

How does this work?

Social Security was initially a pay-as-you-go system – annual payroll taxes of workers covered that year's payments to retired people. By the early 1980s, however, it was clear that this system was not sustainable.

Payments were increasing faster than revenues, and when the baby boomers started retiring and collecting pensions, there would be huge shortfalls.

President Ronald Reagan had the prudence to address this problem early enough to make Social Security sustainable.

He appointed Alan Greenspan to design a massive overhaul of the system, which was implemented. Social Security was in effect transformed into a national pension plan. Social Security payroll taxes were raised, creating a surplus in the trust fund that would fully cover the future costs of baby-boomer retirement.

The payroll tax now puts 12.4 per cent of each worker's wage income into the trust fund (half is paid by the employer, except for the self-employed, who pay the full 12.4 per cent).

The tax is capped and applies to annual income up to $102,000, which includes the lower 85 per cent of income earners.

The top 15 per cent of income earners are taxed only on income up to the cap. Millionaires and billionaires pay the same as someone earning $102,000. The cap supported by Reagan was initially set at 90 per cent of income earners, but the changing distribution of income has allowed it to fall to 85 per cent.

Baby boomers, and all others who have worked since 1983, paid in more than needed for Social Security retirement payments. They saved and created the trust fund surplus, which now amounts to more than $2,000bn and must be invested in US Treasury bonds. It is projected to reach nearly $3,000bn in 10 years.

Then Social Security will stop generating a surplus to subsidize the rest of the budget and will begin redeeming its bonds to help make payments. Current projections show that the trust fund bonds may be exhausted by about 2041.

The trust fund's full sustainability for at least the next 75 years could be restored easily with minor adjustments, including restoring the income cap to 90 per cent, according to the recently retired commissioner of the Social

Security Administration.

Politicians understand that, with the Social Security Trust Fund surplus declining, they will no longer be able to borrow from them under the table while announcing fictitiously smaller deficits to justify continued expenditures and tax cuts. And they will have to generate funds from other sources of revenue to redeem the bonds after 2017.

Rather than admit too much was borrowed recently, and must now be repaid, they want to reduce Social Security benefits.

This puts much of the burden on the middle class, who created most of the surplus that has been used to hide the real size of the deficits.

Fundamentally, the Social Security issue is not one of "entitlements" but of the obligation of our government to honor its debt and not reduce Social Security benefits.

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NEWS OF NOTE

GROWTH AND RESTRUCTURING ISSUES DOMINATE COUNCIL AGENDAS

DAN MORROW

With elections set for May, a new budget due in June, and all members present and accounted for, Middleburg's Town Council had been making every meeting count.

Indeed, ever since last year's scrapping of the Council's antiquated committee structure in favor of ongoing work as a "committee of the whole," the Council's sparsely-attended "work sessions" have become as productive, if not more so, than regular monthly Council meetings. This month was no exception.

Road Damage Feared

At a March 27 work session, Council approved spending up to $5,000 for a "geotechnical study" designed to assess the risk posed by heavy construction equipment to the access road serving the town's existing water treatment plant

In a letter to Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, Middleburg's Town Engineer, Phil DeLeon expressed concern about impact of heavy traffic on the stability and integrity of the roadway and noted that the narrow right of way was critical for both new construction traffic and the ongoing operations of the existing town water treatment facilities.

Accidents or pollution of nearby wetlands caused by a crumbling roadbed, or accidents caused by it, could require entering into lengthy analysis and permitting procedures with the Army Corps of Engineers and other interested parties, possibly delaying construction of both the Salamander Inn and the Town's new water treatment facilities for nine months or more.

Schiro pointed that it was the Town's responsibility to "keep the access open and make sure it is protected before allowing construction traffic on it . . . ." and that it would be wise to assess the risks before they became real problems.

In discussions before the Town Planning Commission, the use of steel plates to protect the road's surface had been suggested, but, according to Schiro, the Town Engineer was "not confident" that such measures would be adequate.

LCVA TOURISM AWARD RECIPIENTS EURA LEWIS & MARY KAY GARWOOD (THE PINK BOX VISITOR CENTER), GENIE FORD (BOOKS N' CRANNIES), PUNKIN LEE (JOURNEYMEN), AND MIDDLEBURG MAYOR BETSY DAVIS.

The Tree at the Red Fox Inn

With great regret, the Council also authorized the removal of a large tree in the public right-of-way adjacent to the Red Fox Inn.

According to Town Administrator Schiro, Dominion Virginia Power had first offered to prune the tree and had contacted the owner of the Inn, Turner Reuter. Reuter, according to Council reports, " . . . did not want the tree to be removed, wanted to supervise the pruning, [but] did not want to accept [legal] responsibility in the event the tree were to fall."

Concerned about potential liability Schiro consulted the Town Arborist, who recommended cutting the tree down. Pruning, the Arborist noted, would "probably kill the tree" and " . . . the Town would be faced with a liability situation once it was dead."

On the brighter side of what all agreed was a regrettable situation, Town Planner David Beniamino noted that the Middleburg Beautification Committee has replacement trees available, and that the matter was already on the Streetscape Committee's next agenda.

Water Restrictions Lifted

With Council Members Lisa Patterson and Mark Snyder in opposition, Council approved lifting the mandatory water-use restrictions currently in force, while continuing to urge citizens to use water carefully.

Patterson opposed the measure, in part because of predictions by State authorities that drought conditions would persist in our area for the next decade. She noted that, while streams "refresh" themselves quickly, ground water, which feeds the Town's wells, does not. Snyder had requested that the Council delay it decision for a month or so. He noted that the town's recently completed program of "flushing" its pipes had used a lot of water, and that more time was needed for town's wells to recover from the process.

A typical "flushing," according to Town Administrator Schiro, required pushing water through the lines for two nights a week, for four consecutive weeks, using somewhere between 320,000 gallons of water (Schiro's figure) or twice that (Snyder's calculation.)

Middleburg MacMansions

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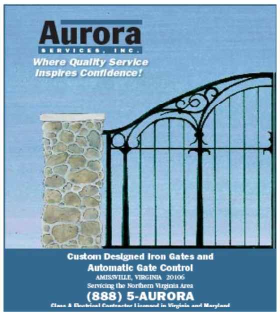
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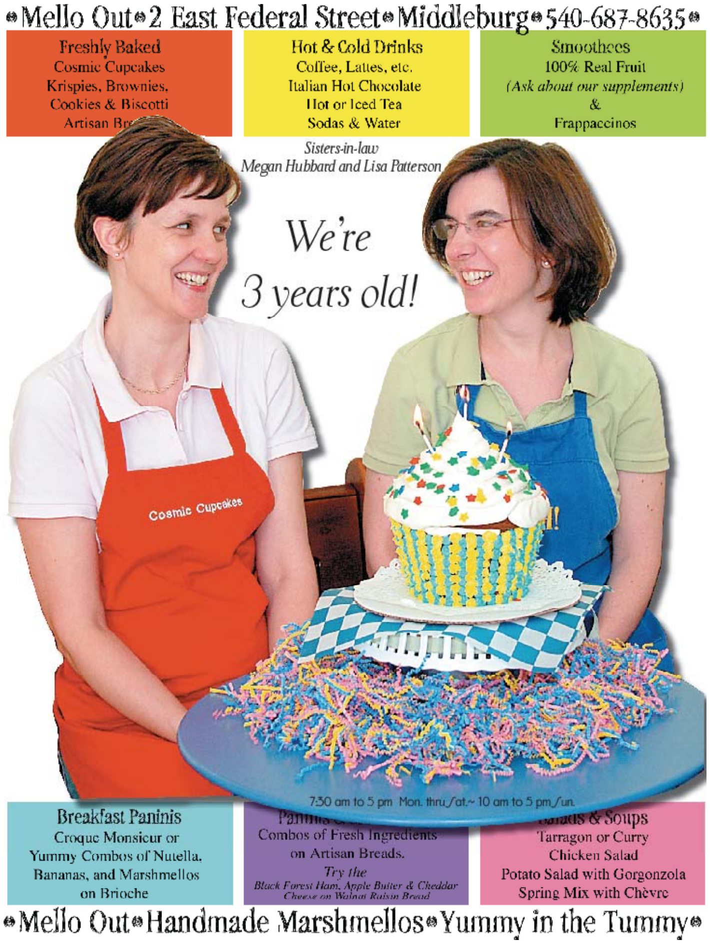
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News of Note

Middleburg Election

Continued from page 1

Catherine ("Bundles") Murdock

1) Why are you running for Town Council?

Earlier, I had announced that I would not run for Town Council because I thought I had given enough time on various committees, commissions, and the council and that it was time for someone else. At 12 noon on the day of the deadline to register, there was only one candidate signed up to run. That meant the field was open for write-ins and I did not want to leave Middleburg in the position of having someone totally unqualified in my seat so I signed up.

2) What experience makes you qualified to run?

I've served many years on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, and Town Council and have spent a lifetime in and around Middleburg. I'm someone who remembers who built The Community Center, The American Legion hall, and where the old fire house was located. We must not forget the things that lie at the heart of our town and its history.

3) What are the top three problems you believe Town Council needs to solve in the next four years?

The first would be to continue to improve our financial situation. We have gone from a negative to a positive position in the last four years and we need to keep going in a positive direction.

The second would be to continue to work on our ancient water lines and improve overall water quality for all the town's residents.

The third would be keeping a careful eye on new building not only by Salamander but others as well.

4) Should the County run the town's water and sewer system. Why or why not?

We doubled the size of Middleburg when annexed the Salamander property and soon will have huge demands on these systems. We must either double the size of our staff in those departments or join the Loudoun County Sewer Authority. LCSA will be cheaper and they have employees with all the necessary qualifications to run the new, highly sophisticated facilities we're building. We had a choice of a small town or a much larger town with a resort. We got the resort and the need for more services that come with it.

5) Council's current meeting structure does not allow immediate responses to questions raised by non-members at meetings. Would you favor adding a "New England Town Meeting" session to the agenda? Why or why not?

Yes it does. Mayor Davis does let Council speak to the public after the session has closed.

6) Anything else you'd like to say?

The Town of Middleburg is near and dear to my heart and I do not take the position of being on the Town Council lightly. I am committed, want to win and will work hard for the good of the town and especially for its citizens.

Sara ("Sally") Bolton

1) Why are you running for Town Council?

I'm running because I've been here, in this community, for years. I've done business in the Town for 28 years and I've been in the neighborhood for thirty-some years. I'm very fond of this town. I like it very much. And, it seems to me, rather than sitting back and criticizing what someone else does, it's better to make a commitment and do something yourself, especially if there's something you want to see changed.

2) What experience makes you qualified to run?

I've attended meetings and stood before Council on any number of occasions, and one of the things I've learned is . . . to shut up . . . that it's often better to listen and pay attention, than just become a mouthpiece.

I've also learned that self-interest is not the right motivation for a candidate for public office. The good of the whole, what's good for everyone, should be what public office is all about.

3) What are the top three problems you believe Town Council needs to solve in the next four years?

I think the biggest issue we'll have to face is infrastructure, in particular the water system. It will absolutely have to be addressed, both in terms of conservation of our water resources and the upkeep and repair of the systems.

Whether most people realize it or not, water is one of the top issues facing municipalities all over the country, not just here in Middleburg. We could introduce, for example, gray water systems . . . ways to allow us to use water we'd normally just waste. Conservation, care and maintenance. Those are the keys.

4) Should the County run the town's water and sewer system. Why or why not?

ABSOLUTELY not! Water will become more precious than oil, very shortly . . . and the last thing you want to do is give up your water rights. It would be like giving up your mineral rights if you were a country. It's absolutely the dumbest thing I've ever heard of. And, I think I'd have to say that the County has made some pretty horrific mistakes in its billing over the last six months. . . and Loudoun County is growing so fast, you don't want them to have ANY control over your water rights.

5) Council's current meeting structure does not allow immediate responses to questions raised by non-members at meetings. Would you favor adding a "New England Town Meeting" session to the agenda? Why or why not?

Of course! At least once a month . . . or every quarter at least . . . there should be a "Town Meeting" agenda.

6) Anything else you'd like to say?

I think sometimes we don't see the forest for the trees. I think I can bring some long-term perspective to council . . . look at things from a distance . . . and see how decisions about small things, over time, can produce profound . . . and sometimes surprising . . . effects . . . whether they be about water rights vs. maintenance costs . . . or a decision to drive away flocks of birds because they're making a mess on your car.

Trowbridge Littleton

1) Why are you running for Town Council?

I am lifelong resident of Middleburg and hope to help in continuing the preservation of its wonderful history while maintaining the quality of life for its citizens without a major tax or utility burden.

2) What experience makes you qualified to run?

I have previously served 21 years on the council and have encountered many of the problems we are now faced with. My construction experience has also been of great use on our capital improvement projects.

3) What are the top three problems Town Council you believe needs to solve in the next four years?

1. Conservative financial budget. 2. Repair and upgrade of water and sewer. 3. Healthy business community.

4) Should the County run the town's water and sewer system. Why or why not?

Yes, they should because it will be a financial saving and they will give technical and manpower support that we currently do not have.

5) Council's current meeting structure does not allow immediate responses to questions raised by non-members at meetings. Would you favor adding a "New England Town Meeting" session to the agenda? Why or why not?

I like the way our meetings are run now. They are efficient and still give our citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions.

6) Anything else you'd like to say?

I hope all our citizens will come out and vote!

Kathy Jo Shea

1) Why are you running for Town Council?

I have built a business in this community over the past 15 years and have lived her for the past two years. I have come to appreciate and care about Middleburg. Further, I believe all citizens should to participate in their government and I hope to serve this community.

2) What experience makes you qualified to run?

My experience includes organizing and co-chairing a state wide organization, community development training, social service, political activity, and running a business for many years. On a personal level, I generally have a positive attitude, I am able to see different perspectives and I value being informed on topics.

3) What are the top three problems Town Council you believe needs to solve in the next four years?

The challenges that face the Town and therefore the Town Council, in my view, are: dealing with the aging infrastructure (i.e. water and sewer); preservation of our community and quality of life, in the face of growth and change; and since we have a small tax base, the budget.

4) Should the County run the town's water and sewer system. Why or why not?

At this point I have not studied any materials on which to base this decision, something that I would have to do as a Council Member. What I would consider in making the decision is the cost to the citizens over the long run, the resources and expertise available to both entities, and the quality of water and service that each could provide.

5) Council's current meeting structure does not allow immediate responses to questions raised by non-members at meetings. Would you favor adding a "New England Town Meeting" session to the agenda? Why or why not?

My unfamiliarity with the New England Town Meeting format means that I can not respond directly to its use. However, I do believe that in a small town, discussion and direct communication are important and I would support some format for discussion.

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EDITOR'S DESK

MIDDLEBURG, PLEASE VOTE…

In a year in which we've all heard plenty about national and state candidates for office, the noise level might easily drown out the fact that this is also an important election year for Middleburg.

Our mayor, Betsy Davis, is running unopposed. But there are three vacant seats on our Town Council and four candidates from which to choose. Our only request to readers who can vote in the Middleburg election, is that they do so.

Issues of importance, some large, some small, but all of significance to some of us will be on the Town Council agenda during the next four years. This is your opportunity to ensure that there is a council member who accurately reflects your perspective and concerns when the votes are taken.

Please make time to visit the Town Office on Marshall Street May 6th to vote.

Middleburg Eccentric welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Letters must be signed and include writer's name, address and daytime phone number. Please submit letter via email: editor@mbecc.com or P.O. Box 1768, Middleburg VA 20118

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

It is truly wonderful when the pieces of the puzzle come together.

Recently, Loudoun Interfaith Relief (Loudoun County's largest emergency food pantry) made a move to a new location. We were concerned about convenient transportation for our clients. Even though we had to move and even though we were committed to staying in Leesburg, we knew that our central location was no longer possible.

So; when we moved to our new location at 750 Miller Drive, it became critical that transportation was available. That is when the Virginia Regional Transit (VRTA) came to our rescue. The staff at VRTA was incredibly supportive and was able to quickly identify a new route so that our increasing number of clients could seek our services.

I would like to thank the staff of VRTA for making it possible for us to continue to serve those in need by providing their essential bus services. Our community should also be very thankful that such an organization exists and can adapt to the needs of our community so easily.

The bus stops at the Loudoun Government Center, 1 Harrison Street in Leesburg. It operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 9:30 a.m. and runs every half hour until 1:30 p.m. It stops at our front door. Several connectors are also available. Please contact, 540-338-1616 for a bus schedule and connector information

Bonnie Inman
Executive Director
Loudoun Interfaith Relief

To the Editor:

Why is there any debate about whether or not we are in a recession? Ask shop owners in Middleburg and they'll tell you that things are bad and have been for a long time. Sales are down dramatically, and the surest sign that people aren't shopping is simple: You can find a parking place on Washington Street almost any time of day!

Despite this grim reality, there is an easy solution—get out there and shop in your local stores. You don't have to spend a lot—a little will do quite nicely and will give all of us who own businesses in the village a little lift at a time when we need it. Much of the charm of Middleburg is that when you walk down the street, there are no big, anonymous chain stores that exist in nearly every other city or town in the nation. We're not homogenized like so much of the rest of our area and even the country. You also have stores where almost everyone knows your name or at least recognizes you. This personal connection is wonderful, valuable and important. As more stores disappear from our streets, we are in danger of losing our unique character, that ambience that sets us apart from the suburban shopping areas whose main quality is their "sameness."

Yes, the price of gas is awful and many people are driving as little as possible, but there is a danger in this of losing what we have—and then the oil companies win all over again. The weather is improving at last and it's time to get out of the house, come into the village and support your local shops and businesses. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Genie Ford
Middleburg, VA

RANT & RAVES

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

This month's column veers slightly from the main theme but I think you will see plenty of subtle hypocrisy throughout the article.

John McCain, much to his chagrin, has been dubbed "John 100 years McCain" because of his recent comment at a rally that he would not mind if our troops stayed in Iraq for 100 years. He later said that he was misquoted or that the comment was taken out of context and what he said in addition to the 100 years comment was, he would not mind staying indefinitely if our troops were not shot at. Which is, in my opinion, rather stupid because the reason our troops are being shot at is because we ARE THERE, and most people in Iraq, including leading Middle East experts, feel that as long as we are there we will be attacked as occupiers.

Therefore, according to McCain's logic, we must remain until the shooting stops. Who knows when that will be! General Petraeus and Admiral Crocker could not even come close to predicting that date in their recent testimony to Congress.

I would like to take McCain's comment and change it a bit: how about we make an agreement that IF the shooting at our troops stops we WILL LEAVE! Which leads me to what I believe could be an end to this mess Bush and his cronies have gotten us into.

The first hypothesis that we must consider: The reasons for invading Iraq have been realized. No weapons of mass destruction found, Saddam is gone, elections have taken place and a democracy has been put in place. Those have consistently been used as the reasons for the invasion--- so, mission accomplished--- and any further stay must be considered an occupation that is illegal and immoral.

Now, how to clean up the mess we have made and leave with at least a modicum of dignity.

Many will think this naïve, simplistic and maybe even childish, but never underestimate the wisdom of a child.

First, we call all the Iraqi factions together, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Kurdish president Massoud Barzani, cleric Moktada al-Sadr and close neighbors Syria, Iran and Jordan. We then make an agreement that if the violence not only against American troops but against all Iraqis stops we will leave completely, period!

We insist that they, on their own figure out a way to share the oil wealth, water and other resources without violence. We will also take an equivalent amount of money that is now spent killing people for a period of 2.5 years (half the time we have occupied Iraq) and give it to the Iraqi people as reparations to rebuild what we have destroyed. We will also give over the bulk of the largest US Embassy in the world to the Iraqi government and maintain a reasonable space, in line with other embassies around the world. We will not remove US construction companies but they will have to bid against companies from Iraq and other nations on a fair basis. We will not have permanent military bases in Iraq

Just think what this would accomplish: men and women in Iraq who now are desperate and without hope for a normal future and employment will have no reason to blow themselves up to kill the insurgents. Recruitment by Al Qaeda will be severely affected because they will no longer have us as the infidel occupiers to use as their chief recruitment tool. Our standing in the world will be restored and we will be seen, as we once were, as a great and giving nation, not the imperialistic resource grabbing nation that we have become in the last seven years

It would have to be made absolutely clear that if the violence does not stop immediately the deal is off and we will return to the desperate state that now exists.

I welcome all comments and look forward to lively discussions from Eccentric readers.

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RED VS. BLUE

PRESIDENT JOHN MCCAIN ?

KEN RIETZ - (R)

On the face of it, the Republicans have no right to even DREAM that they have a chance to win the Presidency this year.

We are in the middle of a drawn out and unpopular war in Iraq, our economy is hurting everyone with higher food prices, gas prices and a growing jobless rate. Our mortgage market is in a shambles. Over 80% of Americans think our country is headed in the WRONG direction.

On top of all this President Bush's performance rating is at an all time low. In addition, John McCain would be the oldest man ever elected President and he is not universally liked by conservative Republicans.

So why do polls suddenly show that McCain is running neck and neck with EITHER Obama or Clinton?

President Nixon told me years ago that the most important ingredient in being elected to office is having the right opponent.

In this case Obama and Clinton have done to each other what no Republican now needs to do. Clinton's negative rating is now more than 50%. The number of people who say that she cannot be trusted is almost 60%.

Obama's negative rating has been driven up to almost 40%. In the key electoral states of Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, he is running behind McCain.

The Democrat Leadership is helping to fuel that positive movement for Republicans. After making promises of quick action after the 2004 elections, Reid and Pelosi have failed to deliver a SINGLE MAJOR legislative program. President Bill Clinton has added to the potential Democrat debacle by completely embarrassing himself on the campaign trail, moving his negative numbers to above 50% for the first time since the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

National elections are usually about the future rather than the past. It is becoming more obvious every day that INDEPENDENT voters are looking toward John McCain as the most TRUSTWORTHY candidate. Someone they can trust with our country's future.

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

BITTER

DAN MORROW - (D)

For those of you who missed the most recent debate between Senators Clinton and Obama on ABC, let me quote the Washington Post's Tom Shales on the "shoddy, despicable performances" by moderators Charlie Gibson and George Stephanopoulos and (in spirit), Jerry Springer.

"For the first 52 minutes of the two-hour, commercial-crammed show," Shales noted, "Gibson and Stephanopoulos dwelled entirely on specious and gossipy trivia that already has been hashed and rehashed, in the hope of getting the candidates to claw at one another over disputes that are no longer news. "

If nearly an hour of pharmaceutical spots, flag pins, fluffed lines, and things old friends did when we were eight doesn't cut the mustard, what SHOULD we be talking about . . . and sooner rather than later?

Violations of the Constitution? Apparently not, despite ABC's fluffy window dressing of quotations from the document.

Why most Americans . . . and most Iraqis . . . and most of our friends and allies . . . . want us out of Iraq? No!

Thoughts on why the shiite IRAQI government (the one we support) calls on IRAN (the shiite government we don't support) to bail us out of a battle they lost to the shiite Iraqi opposition? Time for a laxative commercial.

Musings about why our general-on-the-ground labels the "surge's successes" as, at best, "fragile" and "reversible?" Too complicated to take on early in the show, and too complicated for the advertisers' key demographic targets.

Why, as American casualties in Iraq approach 34,000, our leaders can't define our enemies, or victory, or even the conditions for an acceptable "peace" ? Takes longer than a minute to discuss.

What's a Commander in Chief going to do about having no trained, battle-ready strategic infantry reserves and an Army reduced to accepting criminals and high-school drop-outs to meet its manpower goals? You gotta be kidding? Those guys buy COMMERCIALS.

Our banking and credit structures face crises unparalleled for more than half a century. Any thoughts? On banking? In Prime Time? Surely you jest!

Your house has lost a fifth of it's value, if you can sell it, or rent it, at all? So?

Hotels abroad prefer euros to dollars, as gas prices reach for infinity and beyond, and our most important manufactured "product" is bad debt? See banking and prime time, above.

The President of the United States is pleased to announce we'll "get started" on the problems of global warming by, oh, 2025? Flag pins don't melt at a mere 104.

An agency for advanced energy research projects is established . . . but not funded? Talk about science or research? You gotta be kidding. The President still has "doubts" about evolution, and McCain gets it confused with the movie of the same name.

Rising food prices drive inflation at home and riots abroad? Obama's no good at bowling.

The Republican candidate for President can't keep our enemies or his own economic theories straight, while arguing that we "stay the Bush courses on the war and economy?" Why should Democrats talk about THOSE things? Have a beer.

FISA? Subpoenas of Presidential advisors? Cabinet members facing indictment? Corruption? Fraud? Bush's public praise for waterboarding (a story ABC broke!). Not for our moderators. Perhaps the candidates should have sent Charlie and George to a corner for "quiet time" and asked each other questions.

'There is a reluctance in our time," John Kenneth Galbraith wrote a year after Nixon's resignation and pardon, "to attribute great consequences to human inadequacy -- to what, in a semantically less cautious era, was called stupidity."

Am I bitter? Good Lord. Pass me a Colt-45.

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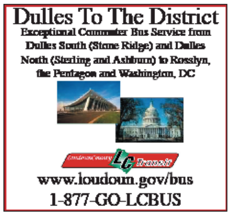
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News of Note

Master Clockmaker

Continued from page 1

all tell me she was their very favorite teacher," he said smiling.

Doug attended Brevard College near Asheville, N.C. where he enjoyed the artistic atmosphere of the small, beautiful campus in the North Carolina mountains.

"I wouldn't have done well at a large college," Whitesell noted. "It was the perfect place for me."

He took apart his first clock, a very simple timepiece, when he was about 21.

" My apprentice program ended when my Dad stopped taking half of the money I made," Doug says, smiling. "Because it had begun as a hobby for my father, charges were moderate, maybe $40 for a repair. Today that same repair on a grandfather clock is $1,200 or more."

By the time Doug's brother finished college, his father was confident that Doug had attained clockmaker status and his father no longer needed the extra income for tuition bills.

In 1975, Doug's father also gave him all his books on horological history, restoration and repair.

In Doug's Middleburg shop, there are books and catalogues everywhere with titles like, 'Antiquarian Horology and the Proceedings of the Antiquarian Horological Society,' and there are clock repair tools and tool-boxes in ample evidence.

Before Doug settled on clockmaking as a career he pursued other professional paths.

"About the time I finished apprenticing with my father, about the mid-'70's, I took a job as a porter on the Auto Train. It was the perfect job. I was in my early twenties and after I made a round-trip to Florida I had four days off before returning to work."

So, he bought a farm in West Virginia and built a new cabin on the property where he also kept 1,200 hives of honey-bees.

"My Dad and I were fascinated with bees," he remembered. "We had all kinds of books about bees, and we studied them all the time. But we never kept bees at all, so having my own hives was a great experience."

Beekeeping, however, was not for him.

"It's hard work. You have to move them late at night when they're at home. You put a little screen on their entrance and move them to their next pollinating destination. The work hours are not excellent, and having to wear so many layers of clothing in the heat of summer is no pleasure."

"But the bees themselves are a real pleasure," he emphasized.

Doug continued to work on clocks in the cold weather and he returned to Loudoun County in the mid-'80's.

His first Middleburg shop was where Scruffy's Ice Cream Parlor is now located and then he moved to the former firehouse on Madison Street where the Nobel Nielson shoe shop is now located. Eventually, Doug purchased that building and worked happily and successfully there until his private client list lengthened so much that maintaining shop hours became impossible. He then moved his shop to a small, independent gray building just behind The Back Street Café, where he will continue to work several days a week.

"When I opened my first Middleburg shop in 1984, fine clocks were rare, but I quickly realized that this was a wonderful area for important clocks. They needed attention, and, as people realized I was here, they began to trust me with their clocks."

Doug Whitesell's very favorite clock is a French gilt, bronze and marble timepiece that features Billy goats carrying the clockworks on a sedan chair.

"It has wonderful frette work around the base and a small pipe organ and bellows that plays many different songs. The works are amazing, so complicated but such a pleasure."

Today, Doug sees two clocks a week. If he's asked to do a complete overhaul, he guarantees his work for five

Continued Page 22

Historic Middleburg

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Tuesday, May 13th
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by
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Please RSVP to 540.687.6082
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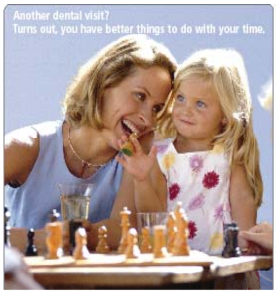
by Tuesday, May 6th



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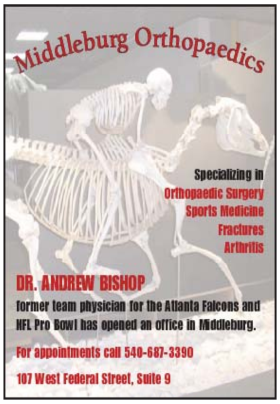

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Broadlands
is the
Wrong Location
for the
Next Loudoun Hospital

Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) wants to build the next Loudoun hospital. So does Inova Health System. Others may be interested as well. While the question of who should build the hospital is worthy of public debate, the single most important question is:

WHERE SHOULD THAT HOSPITAL BE BUILT? The answer will impact accessibility and quality of health care for Loudoun families for decades to come.

HCA wants the public debate to be about anything but location. HCA talks about the property taxes they will pay. They talk about the need for competition. They talk about choice. They demonize Inova Loudoun Hospital. They vilify the Board of Supervisors, which already voted once to reject the proposed Broadlands location. HCA continues to intimidate the County with lawsuits and threats of lawsuits.

But the only real issue Loudoun families should focus on is location.

And, the decision that County leaders make on the location of the next Loudoun hospital—regardless of who builds it—will dramatically impact the real life and death struggles of real people. That fact is undeniable.

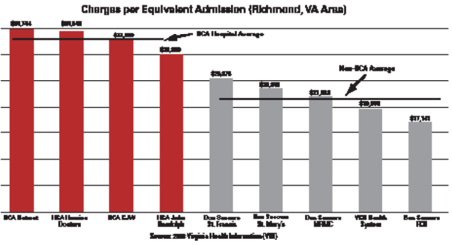
Will a hospital in Broadlands—built five miles from the existing hospital—harm the future of health care in Loudoun County?

The HCA Myths—Competition

- "With choice comes competition, and competition raises the bar." *(Source: Margaret Lewis, President, HCA Capital Division, Washington Post)*

The Facts & Key Questions

- HCA hospitals in the highly competitive market of Richmond, Virginia, have the highest patient charges when compared to other hospitals in the area. Will competition from a for-profit company like HCA really be good for Loudoun families and the long-term future of health care in the County?



Location. Location. Location.
The only real issue in Loudoun's health care debate.

INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL

www.nextloudounhospital.com

PASTIMES

Native Azaleas Can Flower for Many Months

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode

May will be full of fabulous flowers, the most anticipated month of the year for the gardener. If this past April's show is any indication of things to come, it will indeed be beautiful. With any luck May will be frost free and the real work of preparing vegetable and flower borders has arrived.

There is one group of plants that I would like to highlight. The first flowers will arrive in May but the show will continue until early September, what a fantastic range of bloom. I'm talking about the native rhododendrons or native azaleas. Not only will various species bloom sequentially over this extended time frame but many are very fragrant, sometimes referred to as wild honeysuckle. I suspect that a few are resistant to deer browsing as well, I do see them occasionally in the understory on wooded sites. There is work being done to breed with Rhododendron austrinum to introduce some deer resistance so I'm sure it has potential as a native species in areas with deer pressure. The real attraction though is the chance to have flowers in the various summer months, when little else is flowering in the shady garden. Most native azaleas (technically rhododendron), offer flowers that are very open and display extended stamens and pistils which elongate, curving upwards, at least doubling the length of the petals. The flowers, better known as trusses, open in a horizontal whorls and are exceedingly beautiful.

The first to flower offers its colorful bloom in May, Rhododendron austrinum is also known as the Florida Azalea or Flame Azalea. The flowers vary from the purest yellow to orange and a orange-yellow mix. Initially the flower clusters develop at the end of almost leafless stems. This is one of the fragrant natives, sending a light floral fragrance across the woodland garden. Tall growing, in time this woody shrub can reach 10 feet. There are several cultivars of this species, the most available of these is named R. 'Millie Mac' with bright yellow flowers. Rhododendron atlanticum follows with white flowers that age to pink. Also fragrant, both sweet and strong enough to waft in spring breezes. A thicket forming rhododendron that grows 3 to 6 feet tall, very old colonies (100's of years) can become acres in the wild. Next to come into flower is Rhododendron arborescens with flowers that open in June or early July. White in color, perfect for the shady garden, this is a species that can grow very tall, reaching 8 to 10 feet. The flowers are highly fragrant, like heliotrope. One of its common names is sweet azalea, I'm sure in reference to the floral fragrance. An upright grower, it will also sucker and form a thicket. Next to flower comes the highly desirable Rhododendron prunifolium which flowers in July and August. Often called the plumleaf azalea, eluding to the Latin name prunifolium from prunus, the same family as the fruiting plumes. The flowers are bright orange-red and not fragrant. The best specimens I have encountered where at woods edge, a delightful encounter for mid to late summer. Typically slow growing, like the many other species, capable of reaching 10 feet over time. The final 'piece de resistance' is Rhododendron serrulatum. Pale pink to white flowers open in July and August, sometimes September. Commonly known as the hammocksweet azalea, it can be found growing wild from Florida to Louisiana and north to Maine. The flowers produce a clove-like fragrance and this is another tall shrub, capable of reaching 10 feet. A moist site suits this species best and it is considered the last of the native azaleas to flower.

May is great but for the gardener with native azaleas and even more exciting in the months that follow. Not just with color for the visual sense but fragrance too!

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Act Locally: Shop at Our Farmer's Markets

Your Personal Chef

Alyson Browett

Saturday, May 3, marks the beginning of the farmer's market season in Loudoun County. The Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets Association is managing five markets this year, representing more than 65 vendors of local foods, meats, wines, produce, honey, herbs, and other products. In Middleburg, the local farmer's market, which has been a staple in the community for more than a decade, will reclaim its spot on Marshall Street, behind the Community Center, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays. The market is looking forward to a rewarding year, with new vendors and – after last year's drought – a wetter, more plentiful season in store (knock on wood, fingers crossed).

There are many benefits to eating lower on the food chain and obtaining seasonal produce and meats from local or regional farmers. We've all heard the saying "Think globally. Act locally." Well, shopping at a farmer's market is the perfect way to enact that mantra. Sally Bolton of the Vineyard Nursery, a vendor and one of the town's market managers, says that Middleburg's farmer's market is one of few in the area that is extremely local, with about 80% of the vendors coming from within 15 miles of town. This provides townspeople and visitors a unique opportunity to support the local economy, prevent land from being developed, and help local farmers stay in business. Melissa Piper Nelson, agricultural marketing manager for Loudoun County, adds that the county is "riding the high" of the local food movement, as many more people have become concerned with the safety of their foods.

Purchasing locally and seasonally also can help reduce emissions from national and international fruit, vegetable and meat transport routes, which in turn helps lower air pollution and reduce global warming. According to the National Resources Defense Council, most produce travels an average of 1,500 miles before it's sold in grocery stores. Think of grapes that are imported from Chile – and then think of how many planes, trains and automobiles it took for those grapes to reach your plate. When you purchase food from a farmer's market, rest assured that your dollar is going directly into the producer's pocket (and not into the gas tank of a jet flying red peppers in from Holland or a truck toting strawberries from California). Bolton points out that if you think of yourself as environmentally concerned (and I like to think most of us do), this is the perfect way to contribute to a better environment.

In addition to helping the environment, the food is fresh, most often brought to market within 24 hours of being harvested. The fresher the food, the more nutrients it retains and the better it tastes. A lot of fruits sold in major grocery stores are picked while they are still unripe, so by the time they reach the store, they will not be rotten. For example, if you purchase tomatoes in the winter, they most likely will be harvested in a green or pink state and gassed on their way to be sold so they will be "ripe" when they reach the shelves. To boot, a lot of large agribusinesses use toxic fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals to grow their foods, while most local, small farms use organic, natural and sustainable methods to produce their goods (such as grass-fed cows, which are at no risk of being tainted by "mad cow" disease). According to the NRDC, fruits and vegetables can retain up to 13 pesticides even after they're washed.

You can also get to know people who are familiar with and love food. They're more than willing to share recipes and cooking tips, and they often can introduce you to meats or produce varietals you've never tasted. Bolton says that the vendors look forward to developing relationships with townspeople, adding that many producers will listen to special needs of customers and try to meet them, particularly during the week. Developing and nurturing these relationships is one of the best ways to learn about how the food you eat reaches your kitchen, which brings us all closer to our roots of hunters, gatherers and farmers.

In the beginning of the season, you can look forward to asparagus, lettuce, spinach, arugula, turnips, radishes, spring onions, herbs, tomato plants, flowering topiaries, cheeses, eggs and chicken. The rest of the summer months will bring a cornucopia of other produce. I can't wait! Check back each month for recipes featuring different vendors' products from the farmers themselves and local chefs. In the meantime, enjoy the ones below and enjoy the Spring!

Other Loudoun County farmer's market locations include: Cascades Market, Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place; Leesburg Market, Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon, Virginia Village Shopping Center, Catoctin Circle; Lovettsville Market, Tuesdays, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Game Protective Association Parking Lot, Rt. 287; Purcellville Market, Thursdays, 4-7 p.m., 21st Street, across from the Train Station. If you're looking to venture out into other counties or states, check out http://www.localharvest.org to search for other markets, farms and shops that carry local produce and products.

Pasta with Herb Pesto, Oven-Roasted Tomatoes and Shrimp

This is a great sauce that can be served with pasta, rice or any other grain. Use your imagination with the herbs – whatever you have on hand is great! This dish can be served warm or cold, and you can easily substitute cooked chicken for the shrimp.

3 cups herbs, washed and roughly chopped (I used basil, parsley and chives)

1 clove garlic, roughly chopped

¾ cup extra virgin olive oil

¼ cup toasted pine nuts, slivered almonds or walnuts

¼ cup shredded parmesan cheese

Salt and pepper

Place all ingredients in a blender and pulse until incorporated. You might need to use a spatula to push the herbs down between pulses. Blend until smooth and adjust the seasoning.

½ lb. pasta (I used whole wheat penne)

1 ¼ lbs. shrimp, peeled

1 lemon

1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 350°. Wash the tomatoes and toss them in the olive oil and salt and pepper. Place them on a baking sheet lined with foil (to ease clean-up) and bake for about 25 minutes, or until they've popped open to release their juices. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to a boil and follow the instructions for cooking the pasta. To cook the shrimp, either steam them over a simmering bath of salted water with lemon juice, or place them directly in the simmering bath. The shrimp are done right as they turn pink, about 3-5 minutes total. Do not overcook the shrimp or they will become rubbery. Drain the pasta and return it to the pot. Add the cooked shrimp, baked tomatoes and herb pesto and stir to combine. Garnish with shredded parmesan, a sprig of herb and a lemon wedge. Serves 4.

Chilled Asparagus Soup

If you're like me, you hate wasting food. And if you're like me, you love asparagus. So, instead of throwing out the trimmed ends of the asparagus after you eat the tips, use them to make this delicious soup!

Approx. 1-1 ½ lbs. asparagus ends, cut into one-inch pieces (with some tips reserved for garnish, if desired)

1 leek, green and white parts only, chopped

½ medium white onion, chopped

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

4 cups vegetable stock, chicken stock or water

Salt and pepper

1 cup Greek or plain yogurt

Melt butter in a large stockpot over medium heat. Add chopped leeks and onion. Sweat in butter for about 3 minutes. Add asparagus and stir, cooking for another 5 minutes. Do not let the onions and leeks brown. Add the stock and bring to a simmer. Cook for about 18-20 minutes. Cool mixture slightly before transferring, in batches, to a blender. Blend – carefully because it's hot – in batches until smooth. Using the back of a soup ladle, push each batch through a strainer and into a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Chill the mixture for at least 2 hours. Before serving, whisk in the yogurt until the soup is smooth. Garnish with chopped chives, steamed asparagus tips and/or a drizzle of whipped yogurt. Serves 4-6.

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PASTIMES

HAPPY TRAILS

7th Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

When the night has come
And the land is dark
And the moon is the only light we'll see
No I won't be afraid, no I won't be afraid
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

Stand By Me
Ben E. King

Max was my best friend.

We first met when I was 21, over Christmas break of my junior year of college. Over the next 12 1/2 years he was always there, his hard, ice-blue left eye taking me in, looking for any cracks or fissures, his head, as often as not, cocking to one side or the other as he wound up his once-over. Inspection complete, and if I'd passed muster, Max would tilt his ears back, stick about the pointiest nose on the planet straight up into the air, throw open his mouth and proclaim, from way down deep, "RRROOOWWRRRRROOOOOORRR!"

I always liked to think Max picked me. When I went to meet the pups in his litter on that fateful day in December of '95 I remember being absolutely knocked over by this wrigglin', wrastlin' pile of fur and yips that turned out to be about eight different Siberian Husky puppies all rolling around in an outdoor pen in the backwoods of western Massachusetts. And yeah, it was cold. But these were Huskies, and the sky was that beautiful blue you can only get in the winter in New England, and the whole scene about broke my heart.

Most of the pups continued whatever game of kill the carrier it was they were so engrossed in when I entered the pen. I was happy to just sit, feeling the warmth in my body slowly leak through my jeans into the frozen ground, and take them in for a while. To say Max burst out of that frozen scrum to come see me, all Golden Retriever-slobbery, would be inaccurate, and not at all a testament to his slightly more dignified air. But he did sort of tumble out of that teaming pile, coming to rest, for the most part, on his rear, looking around and clearly trying to work out in his brain just how the heck he'd gotten from there to here. And then that Ripken-blue eye, looking out from under his one still-flopped-over ear, found me, his head cocked, and he roly-poly'd his way over to see just exactly what I thought I was doing there. That was it. Done deal. Max came home with me.

On the way home, he yakked all over the back of my parents' car, a beloved Mercedes that I later totaled. Youth…

Over the next five or six years, all spent in the Midwest, Max and I grew up together. His flopped-over ear straightened up, I got my life relatively pulled together, and we spent some incredible time with some wonderful people, friends to this day, friends who had just as much to do with raising a pup as I did, friends who never grumbled too loudly when a shoe or a sock would go missing, friends who grew to love Max *almost* as much as I, friends who used to derive great enjoyment in pointing out that the reason Max was such a picky eater was because he was working to balance out the impact I was having on the food supply. Ha ha. With friends like these…

They were also the friends who helped out whenever Max wanted to play his favorite game, what my family started calling, none too creatively mind you, "Catch the Dog!" Born from a long line of sled-pulling stock, the only thing Max liked better than winter was the opportunity to run, unfettered, over ridiculous amounts of ground for seemingly limitless periods of time. Whether or not you were game for the idea was of little consequence to Max. An open, unguarded door was all he would need.

"I'm …. just … going …. to …. walk…. over *here*….. ANDSPRINTOUTTHEDOORANDDOWN THESTREETANDYOUCANCOMEIFYOUWANT IAMGONE!!!RRROOOWWRRRRROOOOOORR!!!"

And another game of Chase the Dog would commence.

He once completely outclassed a Harley-Davidson golf cart on the Northport Point Golf Course in Northport, MI. It was one of those classic carts, three-wheeled, dark green, and completely lacking any kind of regulator on the gas. Trust me when I say it hauled. Max completely smoked the thing.

He always knew where his pursuers were when we played Catch the Dog, and he always seemed to have just a little bit more in the tank than you did. He hated to blow your doors off right out of the gate, seemed to prefer to keep your heart in it for a while, would let you get close, painfully close, he's-so-close-I-can-almost-touch-him close, and then he'd turn that heartbreakingly-blue eye back over his shoulder, his tongue would hang a little lower, his lips would curl up into his best smile, and he'd hit warp speed.

Poof! He'd be about a bazillion feet ahead of you before you knew what the heck had happened.

He got left outside once during a thunderstorm when he was young. *I* left him outside once during a thunderstorm when he was young. It was awful, and by the time I realized what I'd done and raced home to get him inside the storm had lashed it's way through and Max gave me a look like "What the *!#$@!%* was that all about?!" Thunderstorms were ever-after a source of consternation for Max and whenever one would roll through he would always take the danger seriously, walking around the house, sticking his nose in your hand, letting you give him a pet, maybe leaning up against you until you felt better, before making his way on to whoever else might need his attention.

Max loved people, any friends or family that came to the house and he never once forgot a person he'd met at some point, long ago, in his puppyhood. Little kids were especially fond of Max and seemed to get over his startlingly lupine appearance much faster than their parents did.

Christmas was one of his favorite times every year. Friends and family were around all the time, a couple good long car-rides were almost always guaranteed, and more and more over the past few years, he got to play Chase the Dog with little kids *indoors*. And they were small enough that every once in a while, *he* could turn around and chase *them*! Nothing made him happier.

Shrieks of two-year-olds' laughter followed by a good, old-fashioned RRROOOWWRRRRO OOOOORRR!!! always meant that Christmas was in full swing.

People were always startled to find out how old he was, mostly because he was fond of acting a fool right up into his old age. When you'd give people a number they usually thought you were talking in months, not years. Maybe because of that, he seemed to age in an instant towards the end, developing serious trouble after suffering seizures brought on by a possible stroke. He pulled through it, but was never quite the same. That attitude never quite righted itself, his singing never sounded quite so sweet, and his spark dimmed down to almost nothing.

Max left the party on Tuesday, April 1st, of this year.

It was the worst April Fool's day ever. It was the right thing to do and the right time to do it.

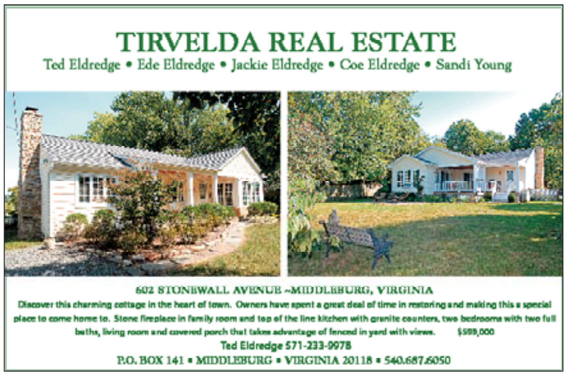
But doing the right thing never hurt so much.

I know he's up there, somewhere, looking back over his shoulder with his tongue lolling out, laughing, waiting.

Waiting for one last, one cosmic, just one more, game of Catch the Dog…

Love you, bud

cuda24@yahoo.com



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The Inn at Little Washington's 30th Celebration Gala

Tom Neel

Fantasy has always had its place. There, deep in the creative mind, there in your dreams, but when you are Patrick O'Connell, chef extraordinaire and owner of the magical Inn at Little Washington and you are celebrating 30 years of making dreams come true, fantasy quickly turns to reality.

April 9th was a mild, overcast spring day in our nation's capital, but the sun shone on the Inn's gala event. At 6pm on Constitution Avenue, the red carpet came alive with enthusiastic guests making their way into the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium. Flanking the entry were eight perfect little red, white and blue, American revolutionary solders, all saluting and all around the age of 10. Think Little Washingtons...

Once inside, the fantasy was heightened by the presence of graceful, lovely young ladies from The Washington Ballet, tip toeing their way through the crowd and little ones dressed as mushrooms who came to the feet of a full size moss-covered-man centerpiece. His hat and shoulder swag were a garnish of brightly colored apples, lemons, radishes and artichokes. He had cheeks made of apple halves, eyebrows and lips made of string beans and bundles of carrots, potatoes and corn lie at his feet. It all made my mouth water in anticipation of the meal that would eventually follow.

The night was not all about food, even though Mr. O'Connell could have made it so. This night, his night, the Inn's celebratory night, was so much more about giving. Both giving forward and giving back. Instead of aligning all the award winning greatness he and his establishment deserved, he realigned that energy and passion to others.

In giving forward, he set his sights, and our's, on Five and Alive, a non profit organization whose mission is to save the lives of the 10 million children, in 30 countries, that die each year before the age of five. To that cause, the evenings guests were treated to 30 silent and 3 live auctions and then a surprise.

In giving back, he created an organization appropriately named, American's Culinary Pioneers, whose mission would be to award and give thanks to those who paved the way to the gastronomic delights we experience in the top restaurants and home kitchens today. The list of 30 not only includes great chefs, but pioneering visionaries. Certainly names like Julia Child, Wolfgang Puck, Martha Stewart and Thomas Jefferson, easily roll off the tongue. Others such as Tim and Nina Zagat "Zagat Survey", Robert Mondavi "Mondavi Vineyards", Jess Jackson "Kendall-Jackson" and Robert Parker "Wine Advocate" are on the list too. The list also sees the likes of James Beard who was anointed the "dean of American cooking" by the New York Times in 1954, Craig Claiborne who, among other things, is credited through his New York Times food page with making world cuisine accessible to the American audience. There was Edna Lewis, the daughter of freed slaves who grew to become a renowned chef and celebrated author and Washington Post restaurant critic, Phyllis Richman.

There were many others, but the stars of the night and in attendance were Thomas Keller, Daniel Boulud, Gary Danko, Dean Fearing, Charlie Trotter and Alice Waters, some of today's most renowned chefs and restauranteurs. Special guests were led to a private reception before the gala, to spend time with these giants of the culinary world.

With the silent auction still in full swing, doors then opened for all to enter the main ballroom of the Mellon Auditorium. Massive Roman columns rose to a lavishly ornate ceiling. The tables for 500 guests were beautifully appointed with citrus centerpieces of lemons, oranges or apples and all the glasses and silverware one would need to indulge themselves with a champagne toast, seven courses, including Minted Pea Soup, Seared Ahi Tuna with Daikon Radish and Cucumber Sorbet, Fricassee of Maine Lobster, Braised Veal Cheek, a Trio of Cheeses and an ending with Lilliputian Chocolate Fantasy! All paired with wines.

The menu's cover featured the 30th celebration painting "Onward and Upward" I had been commissioned to create by Patrick for the occasion, but the surprise was how it was turned into the focal point of the ballroom on what had to be the largest big screen I have ever seen outside of a stadium.

Patrick O'Connell soon took to the stage for a moving speech followed by a toast, having the crowd raising their many glasses of Champaign and he, a shot of Irish Whiskey. The toast then gave way to Patrick introducing NBC's Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Andrea Mitchell, as the evening's Mistress of Ceremonies. Of the many kind words she spoke about Patrick and the Inn, "being seduced by his food" and "the embodiment of all things romantic", she would share of the Inn being the special place where she and husband Alan Greenspan would be married. Tim Zagat and chef Charlie Trotter also spoke from the heart about our world renowned Virginia chef and I thought to myself, "he could have built his Inn anywhere, but he didn't, it's right here".

As our taste buds were being rolled over like a "dalmatian" having its belly scratched, fellow table guest and auctioneer, Fred Reger took to the stage after a passionate speech by Five and Alive founder Kate Roberts. One by one, the three live auction items rolled through Fred's "humina, humina, humina, sold!" sequence, with supporters giving heavy to the cause, but remember I mentioned a surprise? As Fred mentioned this surprise, the six previously mentioned star chefs took to the stage. As it turns out, just hours earlier the group had come up with an idea to auction off the services of their personal restaurant chefs to come to the winning bidder's house to prepare what one could only imagine as the meal of meals, for 12 guests!

Well, that's where it started, but as Fred's enthusiastic auctioneering phrases had the bidders in the $25,000 range, Charlie Trotter took Fred's microphone and raised the guest list to 16. The bidding resumed, only to have Trotter again and again, continue adding ingredients to the pot! So much so, that it was hard to keep track. Additions went something like this. Their chefs can come to your house, or then Daniel Boulud offered to have it at his home in New York. The Ritz Carlton then offered to throw in a top suite for a week in N.Y., which then became, if you have the dinner at your house, you still can have a week at any Ritz, anywhere! That was followed by each of the six offering a magnum of wine from their personal wine cellars and that was then followed by dinner for four at each of their restaurants!

With each item being added, the bidding would energetically rise, $85,000., then 90, 95, 100 and finally ending, "SOLD! $105,000." Talk about giving back, but the night was still young. There were still awards to give out to America's Culinary Pioneers. The lights grew dim and a film made in partnership with VISA began. The film not only covered the 30 years of the Inn's history and paid homage to these culinary masters in grand style. It did it with a refreshing blend of the wit and humor of Monty Python's Flying Circus, jazzy photo layered editing and all of the heart felt appreciation of a man that passionately cares for his craft. As the film ended, the silent room broke into roaring applause, only to find an unexpected gag reel, turning all to laughter.

Then one by one, the chefs took to the stage to accept their awards and with that, the fabulous celebration ended. If you missed it, the good news is, you have the rest of the year to celebrate this wonderful milestone, right at The Inn at Little Washington. It's so close, you can almost taste it!

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Hilltoppers Restaurant: Hidden Local Gem

Alyson Browett

Imagine rolling hills, highlighted by stone fences splitting the pastures. The sun is setting on a beautiful Spring day, and you're settling in to enjoy an evening of Italian wines and food. A lucky group of locals and visitors from surrounding areas did not have to travel to Tuscany to enjoy this night; rather, the guests gathered at Hilltoppers restaurant at the Goodstone Inn & Estate, located right outside the Town of Middleburg. Few locals have discovered this gem in their backyard, but with culinary creations such as the four-course masterpiece served at the Spring Italian Wine Dinner on April 9, it won't take long for the word to escape. The dinner was the first in a series that the restaurant will be featuring in the coming months.

This night, diners enjoyed a sweet, sour and spicy calamari, prepared Sicilian style and served with Otella, La Creete 2006; goose liver ravioli with balsamic and brown butter paired with Lucente 2004; Waygu (the equivalent of Kobe) beef short ribs braised to perfection in chianti with porcini mushrooms and polenta and served with a bold Modus Ruffino 2003; and, for the sweet tooth, black-pepper macerated strawberries, sabayon and orange-pistachio biscotti paired with the pink and bubbly Rosa Regal Banfi 2007. The wines came from Hilltoppers' beautiful wine cellar, which features a mural expertly depicting Hunt Country and a table that easily seats twelve. Ian Buffington of Republic National Distributors, educated the guests on the wines, their distinctive varietals and why they were paired with each course.

In addition to its monthly wine dinners, Hilltoppers is open to the public five nights a week, Wednesday through Sunday, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Distinguished Executive Chef Christopher Carey creates the four-course, prix fixe menus based on the best available seasonal and local produce. For April, Hilltoppers' nightly dinner menu featured four choices for each course, including a duck terrine with a cornichon-caper vinaigrette, a carrot-ginger soup made with Blue Ridge Dairy honey yogurt, venison osso bucco with saffron Israeli couscous, and "Café du Monde" beignets. Chef Carey expressed excitement for the coming months, as the restaurant will be using produce from its own gardens and farm and will be expanding its use of local purveyors, including lamb from Fields of Athenry in Philomont. On May 11, Hilltoppers will be serving a special Mother's Day luncheon and dinner, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Reservations are required for the restaurant.

Hilltoppers and Goodstone Inn are the perfect getaway – even if your drive time is only five to 10 minutes – for people in need of rest and relaxation. The staff treats you as if you are royalty and is happy to assist with any needs, including arranging special occasions in the wine cellar or corporate retreats. For more information on Hilltoppers and Goodstone, visit http://www.goodstone.com or call 687-4645.

The Cherry on Top

Lady Dragons Recognized as #3 Team in the Country

Alex Cudaback

Capping off an incredible run that saw it go 28-2 against local and national competition, the Notre Dame girls' basketball team was recognized as the third ranked girls' basketball team in the country by MaxPreps, a California-based media company.

The Dragons were one of only 10 teams honored nationally out of over 20,000 public and private schools as part of the MaxPreps Tour of Champions presented by the Army National Guard.

"The MaxPreps Tour of Champions presented by the Army National Guard acknowledges the important role that high school sports play for young athletes around the country," said Andy Beal, president of MaxPreps. "We congratulate Notre Dame Academy on their outstanding performance this season."

"We had an incredible year, and it's a testament to the fantastic senior leadership we were lucky enough to have on the team," said Dragons' Coach Mike Teasley.

The team was presented with a gold-plated trophy by Virginia Army National Guard Captain John E. Scott at a recent school assembly.

A number of the Dragons were recognized individually, as well.

Center Azania Stewart, or Z, as her friends and teammates like to call her, was named a first-team ESPN HoopGurlz All-American, third-team All-Parade, and Washington Post Loudoun first-teamer.

Other team members named to Washington Post's first team included forward Mia Nickson and point guard Josette Campbell. Nickson took home overall Loudoun player of the year honors from the Post. Coach Teasley was named Coach of the Year.

Echoing the sentiments of their Coach, both Nickson and Stewart praised the team-first mentality of the Dragons, pointing to that repeatedly as the secret for their team and individual successes.

"It's hard to emphasize just how much we all mean to each other," noted Stewart, "and how much everybody on the team contributes to the team doing as well as we did this year. Knowing that we're all there for each other, knowing that if one of us has an off-game the rest of the team is willing to help pick up the slack, that's just a huge relief to all of us. The familiarity we all have with each other was invaluable."

Stewart, one of several international students enrolled at Notre Dame, came to Middleburg three years ago from the United Kingdom.

"I started playing basketball when I was about 12 or so," said Stewart. "I was tall, and a coach back home thought I might have some potential."

Now almost 6-foot-5 with quick feet and a confident way about her, it's easy to see the basketball skills Stewart has at her disposal.

"Trust me, when I started playing back home I couldn't have imagined all this," she says about the accolades and recruiters.

"I wouldn't say I was clumsy…."

She pauses.

"No, I was, I was clumsy!" she laughs. "And my first workout with Coach when I arrived as a sophomore? Oh my gosh! He had us out running hills by the lacrosse field! I'd never seen anything like it! I remember saying to myself, 'I don't know if I can do this!'"

Mia Nickson, listening in, smiles at the memory.

"We've all come an incredibly long way as a group. What Coach has done for us, how he's helped us all become better, as players and as people, how he's helped us grow, how he's helped us through the college recruitment process: unbelievable."

"But yeah, those hills…. 'Go hard or go home,' he always used to say. I'll always remember that, too."

Nickson, from Ashburn, was named Player of the Year as a freshman at her previous high school.

"I remember the first time I talked with Coach he said to me 'If it's that easy for you, if you're that good, great. But if you want a challenge…' The implication was obvious," Nickson said, smiling at the memory. "He was right. It was a challenge."

She leans forward in her chair, the look of a leader glinting in her eyes.

"But you know what? Nothing that's worth it in life *isn't* a challenge. Look where we all are now."

Coach Teasley, sitting with his players, clearly enjoys the trip down memory lane. But he seems happiest seeing who they've become as people.

"It's all about personal growth, both on the team and here at Notre Dame. That's what we strive to help all our kids find, that personal growth. Resiliency. Handling pressure. A work ethic. To succeed in life, those are some of the things you need, and those are some of the things we want to teach all our kids."

Mission accomplished.

Tom Neel
Studio Open House
Tom Neel invites you to visit the studio, see his latest works of art, enjoy refreshments and engage in artful conversation
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For details and directions call the studio at 540-364-4401 or visit www.thomasneel.com

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DOUBLE BRIDLE FARM, CATHARPIN, VA

Lovely brick and siding colonial on 10 acres near Manassas Battlefield. Four finished levels, 6 bedrooms, 6 baths, gourmet kitchen with adjoining breakfast room, family room with soaring stone fireplace, separate living room and dining room. Lower level media room with 100" projection screen, TV, DVD, satellite system and 8 leather recliner chairs. Custom built center aisle stable with 5 stalls, regulation size dressage ring, fenced paddocks. [illegible]
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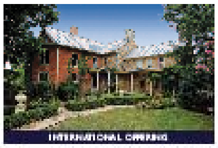
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BROOKDALE, ROUND HILL, VA

Sturdy 5 bedroom home on 17 manicured acres. Amenities include 4 full baths, 2 half baths, breathtaking views, heated pool and hot tub with cabana, home theater with 120" screen, full climb home gym, Generac power system and concrete drive. Great commuter location. $1,490,000.
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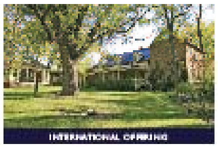
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MILL STREET HOUSE, UPPERVILLE, VA

5280 John Marshall Highway. This historic stone and brick 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with 3 fireplaces and wood floors is situated on over 3 acres in a charming hunt country village. Includes old mill, outdoor entertainment pavilion with kitchen, pool and bold creek. $1,480,000.
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CODLEIGH, THE PLAINS, VA

Breathtaking views, complete privacy and best location between Middleburg and The Plains. [illegible] On 11 acres in Orange Co. Hunt territory $2,795,000
Linda Norris 540.270.7560

DOUBLE LOG CABIN, CASTLETON, VA

Charming log home, perfect for a weekend retreat! This cottage has 2 bedrooms, one with fireplace, 1.5 baths, kitchen and dining room that could be a third bedroom. The dining and living rooms each have fireplaces. 50 wooded acres to wander, plus a front porch to enjoy the mountain views. In Virginia Outdoors Foundation easement, can be [illegible].
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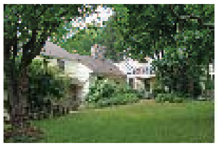

WILDSIDE, HUME, VA

This charming farm sits on [illegible] acres with magnificent views and privacy. 4 bedrooms, 3 bath house, 3 stall stable, garage, guesthouse, 1.5 acre pond, and fenced paddocks. Located in the heart of Old Dominion Hunt. [illegible]
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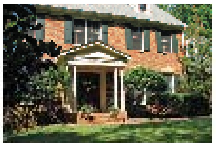

SNOW HILL, WARRENTON, VA

First Offering. Beautiful brick Colonial home in prestigious "Snow Hill" neighborhood. [illegible]
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ZULLA ROAD, THE PLAINS, VA

18 beautiful rolling acres in the heart of Hunt Country. Property has fabulous pond site with all weather springs. House site with wonderful 280 degree views. 3 bedroom perk site to be updated. Formerly used for polo practice. [illegible]
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FOXCROFT HEADMISTRESS CELEBRATED AS "ONE SINGULAR SENSATION"

Students, colleagues and friends convened at Foxcroft to celebrate Mary Louise Leipheimer's 20th anniversary as Head of School. Mary Lou joined the Foxcroft faculty as an English teacher in 1967. The average tenure for heads of independent schools is nine years. Mary Lou has played an important role in the lives of many Foxcroft students during her tenure, and helped ensure that the premier girls' school attain and maintain top boarding schools status. More than 500 people attended the celebration at which Mary Lou was presented with the Anna Kane McGuire Distinguished Service Award. It was also announced that the school's new gymnasium will be named in her honor. Mary Lou is pictured above with Lisa Patterson, of Middleburg, who was a Foxcroft senior in 1989 when Mary Lou was appointed headmistress.

JOHN H. DANIELS FELLOW AND PHOTOJOURNALIST NOEL MULLINS TO LECTURE ON "THE FOXHUNTING HUMOR OF SOMERVILLE & ROSS LIVES ON!: 'TALES OF FOXHUNTING PACKS IN IRELAND'"

John H. Daniels Fellow and photojournalist Noel Mullins will deliver a lecture upon the tradition of humor in foxhunting literature and culture at the National Sporting Library on Wednesday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

Noel Mullins, who lives in Malheney, Skerries, Ireland, is in residency at the Library researching the literary and artistic partnership of Irish writers, Edith Somerville and Martin Ross (pseudonym of Violet Martin). The Library owns some original manuscripts, correspondence, original artwork, and first editions of works by these authors. Mullins is a member of the legendary Galway Blazers and reports on foxhunting for several sporting publications, including The Irish Field.

Somerville and Ross collaborated over a period of 30 years, writing such novels as "The Irish R.M.," "The Real Charlotte," "In the Vine Country," and "The Silver Fox."

The works of Somerville & Ross have been described as "humor with a gender," and certainly that is one way of describing the writings of these two fine authors. Of the 36 books that they published, probably the most widely read, and that foxhunters can identify with, is the collection based on "The Irish R.M. (Resident Magistrate)." Both Somerville & Ross were passionate foxhunters, so they were writing from first hand experience. Edith Somerville was also master of the West Carbery Foxhounds and an accomplished artist and illustrator.

The humor of Somerville & Ross lives on in the hunting field today. In addition to his discussion of these two authors, Mullins will also take the audience on a tour of foxhunting packs in Ireland, illustrated by his original photographs taken in the field.

Admission is free. For information, visit www.nsl.org. To RSVP, contact Judy Sheehan at 540-687-6542 x 10.

CLOCKMAKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

years. He spends much of his time paying house calls on his many clients clocks that reside in famous places and cannot come to him for repair and restoration.

"I really like to work on 18th and 19th century clocks," he emphasizes. "Fine clocks are so rare now, I used to visit France and England regularly to purchase clocks for clients, but the exchange rate prohibits that now. The clockmakers trade is well understood and highly respected in Europe, and it was immensely rewarding to meet my colleagues there to learn about the latest developments."

It is obvious that working from home a few days a week is something Doug Whitesell truly relishes. He is delighted he'll have more time to spend with his family, and he is renovating the summer kitchen to become a dream workshop.

"A clock needs to run to be in good order," says Whitesell. "When dust oxidizes in the gears, it pits the surface. Then nothing works smoothly. They need to be cleaned every five-to-seven-years to address the grit and wear. If they are well cared for, good clocks will run forever."

In addition to restoration and repair, many customers rely on Doug for appraisals and advice on purchases.

"My clients understand how much I love the clocks I care for, and they know they can trust my word and my work."

Whether his workshop is in Middleburg proper, or in the middle of an apple orchard, Douglas Whitesell, Jr., is carrying on a fine tradition in the best possible way.

To reach Doug, please telephone: 540 687 5550.

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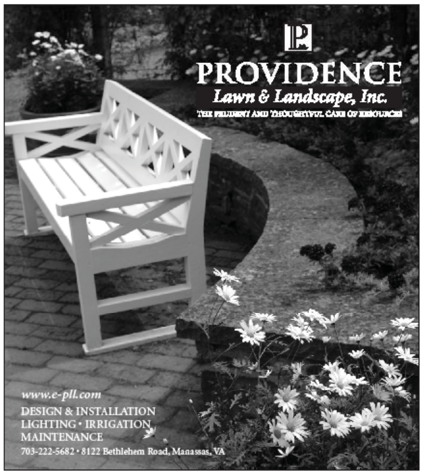

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Dakota
Middleburg, Virginia
Unsurpassed quality throughout this new "old" house on 87 acres. The fieldstone and stucco exterior appears to be that of a century-old home, yet an open floor plan allows perfect flow for entertaining and for comfortable living. Multiple porches and patios. 5 bedrooms, 8 1/2 baths, gourmet kitchen, 12'+ ceilings, heart pine floors, custom millwork, and highest quality throughout this 7500 sq. ft. home. Three stall barn, two ponds, old growth oaks, complete privacy. $6,500,000.

Oakfield
Upperville, Virginia
A rare offering. Just east of the village of Upperville, the property consists of 86 acres of open and fenced land with two spring-fed ponds. The main house is a stone structure of extraordinary restraint which has recently been impeccably restored to include a gourmet kitchen and pantry, a generous first floor master suite and four additional bedrooms. The home is bound by mature perennial gardens, stone walls, terraces and panoramic views of the Blue Ridge and Bull Run Mountains. $5,800,000.

Firethorn Lane
The Plains, Virginia
Very special 2 acre property between Middleburg and The Plains. The 3 bedroom main house has been expanded and renovated including the new master suite, a large gourmet kitchen, lovely dining room, wrap-around porch, a charming guest house, extensive gardens and stonework. Great western views of neighboring farms from the elevated site. $1,495,000.

Lincoln Road
Purcellville, Virginia
Beautiful farm on 55.24 acres recorded in 5 parcels. Gently rolling land with lovely views in protected area near Lincoln. Contemporary home with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. 3 fireplaces and 2-car garage. European style stable with 6 stalls, tack room, office, wash stall and apartment. Very private. $2,495,000.

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

Northwood
Middleburg, Virginia
Immaculate brick home, custom built in 2002, on 6.77 gently rolling, open acres. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, den, large kitchen, family room, living room, formal dining room, gas fireplace, 9 foot ceilings and 2-car garage. Lovely mountain views and a pond. $975,000.

Furr Road
Unison, Virginia
This is the horse property for the serious amateur. Absolutely choice hunt box on 5 acres in area of large farms and conservation easements. Attractive 3,200 sq. ft. stucco house with gracious rooms, 4 BR, 2.5 BA. 1,500+ sq. ft. guest house. Incredible barn with three stalls, center aisle, H&C wash stall, office-tack room, feed room, and full stand-up hay loft with throwdowns for hay. Land is open, 2 paddocks (approx. 4 acres) with automatic waterers and 3-board fencing. Piedmont Hunt territory. $925,000.

East Marshall Street
Middleburg, Virginia
Gracious, well-constructed house in private, Middleburg in-town location. Walk to shops and restaurants. Built 2002. Small, easily maintained, fenced yard; deck; rear patio. Gourmet kitchen. Five bedrooms, four full baths, one half bath. 10' ceilings on main level. Gas fireplace. 3,500+ square feet on four levels. Lower level could be au pair suite or potential rental unit. $674,900.

Chinn Lane Gate House
Middleburg, Virginia
The Chinn Lane Gate House has been transformed into the perfect in-town home. Lovely yard with large trees, a new stucco wall for privacy and side terrace. First floor bedroom, large living room, lots of built-ins and storage, separate dining room, original fireplace and hardwood floors throughout the main level. $795,000.

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Extraordinary all brick colonial, custom built in 2000 on 5+ gorgeous acres. Features 3 fin. levels of approx. 7000 sq.ft of spectacular living space, beautifully decorated & in pristine condition. Gleaming HW fls, 9 ft ceilings on every level, gourmet kitchen, new stone terrace & deck, crown moldings, plantation shutters & brilliant gardens. $1,147,000

CRESTMONT

Charming Williamsburg Cape Cod on 7 acres, beautifully decorated & in pristine condition. Gleaming wood floors throughout the main level, high ceilings & sun-filled, spacious rooms. French doors from fireplaced Fam. Rm. open to fabulous screened porch & oversized deck. Bright & airy walkout level $950,000

HUGHESVILLE

Outstanding country colonial on 3 gorgeous acres w/ flowering trees and brilliant gardens. Charming wrap-around porch & decks overlook pool and manicured grounds. 3 fin. levels feature sun-filled rms, refinished HW floors, fab. kitchen & brick fireplace. $885,000

STONELEIGH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Beautifully landscaped grounds w/sweeping lawns bordered by lush woodlands, surround this gracious 4BR colonial. The two story Great Room w/a soaring stone fplc features French doors to a spacious rear deck. The main level master suite also accesses the private deck and the sun-filled rooms offer a warm and inviting atmosphere. Reduced to $839,750

TELEGRAPH SPRINGS RD

Beautiful custom colonial move in ready on approx. 6 gorgeous acres w/wonderful mtn views. Features 2 Mstr suites, country kitchen /stainless steel appliances & granite counters, refinished HW floors, new carpeting, vaulted ceilings in spacious Fam.Rm., oversized deck. Fin. W/O lower level w/Media Rm. & Guest/au pair suite. $729,000

EQUESTRIAN PROPERTIES

FOXMOUNT FARM

Extraordinary equestrian property on 133 +/- acres in a gorgeous setting. Contemporary residence. Fabulous 12 stall stable. 3 tenant houses beautifully updated. 2 charming stone cottages. Schooling and riding rings. New price/acreage. $5,600,000

GRASSLAND FARM

Bluemont. 100+ gorgeous acres. 2 center aisle stables, two tenant houses. Several storage buildings. Several modern additions. Spacious sun filled rooms, high ceilings, lovely hardwood floors. Three finished levels. Land in easement. $2,900,000

LEESBURG

Stunning 12 rm 3 lvl col on 32+ gorgeous acres with spectacular mtn views Features high ceilings, sun-filled rooms, spacious deck, gourmet kit/granite, finished walk out level with rec. room, guest room, full bath. Open pasture & woodlands. Ideal for horses. $1,850,000

BEAVER CREEK

Sited on 11 gorgeous acs. overlooking board fenced paddocks. 4BR custom colonial. Mins. from historic Middleburg. HW flrs, 2 FP's, walls of windows in mstr. suite & 3rd flr studio. Fabulous lap pool, tiered decks, flagstone terraces. Barn & workshop. Picture perfect setting. $1,570,000

AMITY FARM

Ideal horse property on 8+ acres. Fenced paddocks, spring fed pond, riding ring & beautiful views. Contemporary home with sun filled rooms, vaulted ceilings, skylights, gourmet kitchen, granite counter tops, new tile backsplash, HW floors, decks & attached 3 stall barn. Office/studio w/full bath & sep entrance over 3 bay garage $895,000

ESTATE PROPERTIES

DEER HAVEN

Stunning 16 room brick colonial on 28+ park-like acres with spectacular views of the Paris Valley in Upperville. Elegant rooms, fine moldings, gorgeous decor, extraordinary detail and superior quality. Towering trees and brilliant gardens surround this fabulous estate. $2,350,000

LA JOLIE

Exquisite custom built French manor on 8 private acs in Middleburg Hunt Territory. Features over 7,000 sq ft of living space, marble floors, 3 FPs, chef's Kitchen. Extraordinary quality and décor, pool, magnificent gardens. All in pristine condition. $2,350,000

RICH BOTTOM FARM

Gorgeous family compound includes an exquisite stone federal residence, circa 1780, a new 3 BR Guest House In Law, a barn, smoke house & spring house on 10 park like acres. Antique home is meticulously restored, listed in VA/Nat Registers. Encompasses flagstone terrace, spa, picturesque pond & open meadows on an idyllic setting. $2,100,000

CATOCTIN CREEK

Fabulous 18 room custom brick colonial on 13+acres overlooking a spring fed pond & scenic vistas. 9000 sf w/high ceilings, home theatre, exercise rm., rec. rm w/FP & wet bar. Gorgeous paneled study. Spectacular Master Suite & gourmet kitchen. $2,200,000

WATERFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Elegant custom colonial on 17+ gorgeous acres w/ spectacular mountain views. High ceilings, superior quality, stunning decor w/ approx. 7,000 sq. ft. of living space. Gourmet kitchen. 5 bedrooms, 6.5 baths Vineyard. Ideal for horses or a pool. $1,894,000

Offers subject to errors, omissions, change of price or withdrawal without notice. Information contained herein is deemed reliable, but is not so warranted nor is it otherwise guaranteed.

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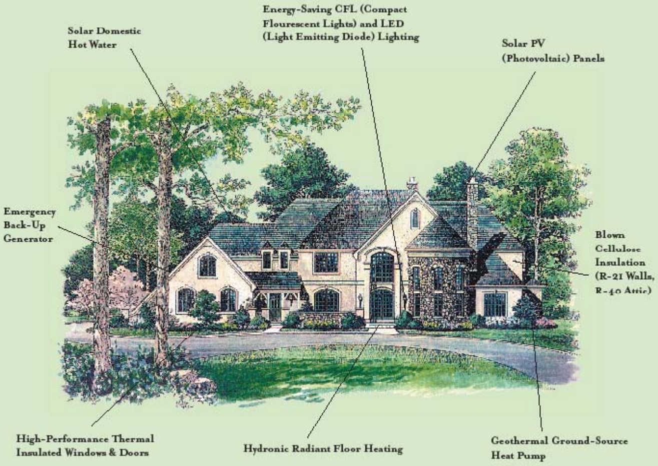
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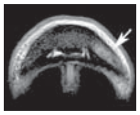
Nathaniel A. White, II, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS



What a difference 30 years makes. Significant advances in veterinary imaging technologies over the last three decades have produced a wide array of diagnostic options for horses. However, with the myriad of modalities that are currently available, it can be difficult to understand why one might be better for a particular problem than another. The following overview of these technologies may assist owners in making informed decisions concerning their horse's medical care.

Digital and computed radiography make images of bone and joint structures using an x-ray machine. Though similar to the radiographs taken with film, digital and computed radiographs have exceptional detail, are frequently used for identifying leg injuries, and are especially useful for most lameness problems involving the bones and joints. The new digital systems provide rapid instantaneous images that can be viewed on a computer or printed on film.

Medical ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves reflected off of tissue planes to generate an image that represents the densities and fluids within soft tissue structures. Many of the newer ultrasound machines are portable and can be brought directly to the patient. Ultrasonography is used on all body systems including the intestines, lungs, eyes, muscle, tendons, joints and heart, as well as cartilage and bone surfaces. It is especially useful for diagnosing tendon and ligament injuries and heart and lung diseases.

Scintigraphy starts with an intravenous injection of a radiopharmaceutical (radioactive isotope) that is linked to a phosphate compound which is actively absorbed into the bones. Once the isotope has circulated to all parts of the horse, a gamma camera is used to detect the radiopharmaceutical uptake that is increased in injured or infected bone areas due to higher metabolic rates. This powerful scanning technique is commonly utilized in horses to locate and diagnose bone, joint and soft tissue problems. Scintigraphy is especially useful for localizing stress fractures, arthritis and infections.

Computed tomography, also known as a CAT Scan, uses three dimensional radiographs to create multiple images as slices of a structure. The large size of the horse limits the parts of the body on which computed tomography can be used. By adapting special tables and gantries, CAT Scans can capture images of a horse's limbs, cranium and neck and are particularly helpful for identifying equine head fractures and dental disease.

Thermography maps the surface temperature of an object by detecting the heat emanating from infrared rays. Because environmental temperatures or focal exposure to the sun can interfere with the mapping process, thermographic equipment must be used in a controlled environment with adequate time for surface temperature equilibration. Thermography is especially useful for diagnosing infection as well as early tendon damage and sites of pressure from a poor fitting saddle.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) provides incredibly sharp and detailed pictures of soft tissues and bone by using radiowaves that are intermittently pulsed into the horse's limb within a strong magnetic field. When energy gained from the radiowaves is released from the tissue, it is detected as a signal and transmitted to a computer. The resulting picture provides clues to the structure as well as the chemical make up of the tissue. As an example, an increased signal shows up with more white than black in a dense tendon or bone indicating abnormal inflammation. MRI is the most powerful veterinary imaging tool available

and therefore provides the most detailed images. It is commonly used to diagnose joint, tendon and foot injuries and is especially useful for investigating the depth and location of nail punctures to the hoof.

As the descriptions above demonstrate, medical imaging for horses has never been better and it appears that even more advanced technologies are on the horizon. By working with their veterinarian, owners can utilize the powers of these tools to provide the best healthcare for their horse.

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center offers an extensive lineup of diagnostic capabilities. To learn more or to schedule a consultation, call 703/771-6800 or visit www.equinemedicalcenter.net.

Dr. White is the Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and Director at Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center. He can be reached at nawhite2@vt.edu. To view his online profile, visit www.equinemedicalcenter.net. Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center is a premier full-service equine hospital located in Leesburg, Va., that offers advanced specialty care, 24-hour emergency treatment and diagnostic services for all ages and breeds of horses. One of three campuses that comprise the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, the center and its team of equine specialists are committed to providing exceptional treatment to patients, superior service to clients and cutting-edge research to the equine community.

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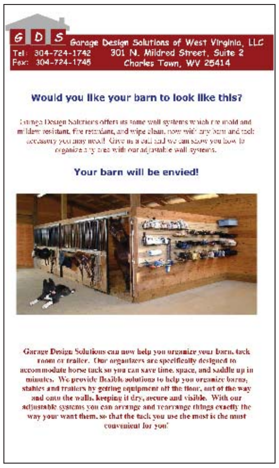

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JOE FARGIS INDUCTED INTO SHOW JUMPING HALL OF FAME

Joe Fargis was inducted into The Show Jumping Hall of Fame the Hall of Fame at the Budweiser American Invitational in Tampa Florida April 4th. Induction into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame is a great honor bestowed annually upon select individuals whose contribution to the sport has set them apart from others and whose influence has had a significant impact on the world of show jumping.

The Election Committee is composed of some of the nation's top riders, trainers and officials.

Joe Fargis is best known for his double Gold Medal performance at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. There, riding 'Touch of Class,' he became only the second American show jumper to win an Olympic individual Gold Medal, while leading the U.S. to the team Gold as well. He rode 'Touch of Class' successfully over 90 of 91 obstacles, an Olympic record.

Four years later Fargis added a third Olympic medal when he rode 'Mill Pearl' and helped the U.S. win the team Sliver at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, a Games at which he also placed seventh individually. In all, Joe's incredible record of success both in the U.S. and abroad has spanned four full decades.

Joe Fargis first represented the U.S. in 1970 in Lucerne, Switzerland where he rode 'Bonte II' on the U.S.'s winning Nations' Cup team. Over the years, he rode on more than 30 Nations' Cup teams and was part of winning teams at many of the word's most significant horse shows including Aachen, Washington, New York, Calgary, Rome, and Cannes.

Fargis won the USA-East World Cup League twice and finished fourth in the 1989 World Cup Final in Tampa. He was the Leading International Rider at the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden in 1987. He was also a member of the Gold Medal team at the 1975 Pan American Games in Mexico City and of the U.S.'s fourth place team at the 1990 World Championships held as part of the initial World Equestrian Games in Stockholm, Sweden.

Fargis's string of Grand Prix wins is equally impressive. He won such notable events as the American Gold Cup in Devon, PA; the Hickstead Grand Prix in England; the USET Wellington Cup; the Ox Ridge Grand Prix; the Grand Prix of Tampa; and the I Love New York Grand Prix in Lake Placid.

Continuing to compete well into his fifties, Fargis added more wins in the first decade of the new millennium including the I Love New York Grand Prix; the $175,000 Grand Prix of the United States at the Oaks Blenheim International CSI; and the $100,000 Hampton Classic Grand Prix.

Respected and admired by the full spectrum of the show jumping world, Fargis continues to be a favorite at every event he attends.

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame and Museum at Busch Gardens in Tampa, FL was established in 1987 and formally opened in 1989. It was organized to promote the sport of show jumping and to immortalize the legends of the men, women and horses who have made great contributions to the sport.

Since 1987, the Show Jumping Hall of Fame has inducted William C. Steinkraus, Bertalan deNemethy, Idle Dice (1987); Patrick Butler, August A. Busch, Jr. (1988); David Kelly, Jimmy Williams, Ben O'Meara, Frances Row (1989); Arthur McCashin, Kathy Kusner, Brigadier General Harry D. Chamberlin, San Lucas (1990); Adolph Mogavero, Whitney Stone, Morton "Cappy" Smith, Pat Dixon (1991); Eleonora "Eleo" Sears, Mary Mairs Chapot, Barbara Worth Oakford, Snowman (1992); Dr. Robert C. Rost, Joe Green (1993); Frank Chapot, Gordon Wright (1994); Mickey Walsh, Trail Guide (1995); Pamela Carruthers, Jet Run, Richard "Dick" Donnelly, Heatherbloom (1996); Edward "Ned" King, Bobby Egan, Sun Beau (1997); Fred "Freddy" Wettach, Jr., Melanie Smith Taylor, Johnny Bell (1998); Rodney Jenkins, Sinjon, Franklin F. "Fuddy" Wing, Jr., Democrat (1999); George Morris, Carol Durand, Touch of Class (2000); Eugene R. Mische, Lt. Colonel John W. Russell, Bobby Burke, Untouchable (2001); Harry R. Gill, Clarence L. "Honey" Craven, Calypso, Gem Twist (2002); J. Russell Stewart, Sr., Main Spring (2003); Snowbound (2004); Michael Matz and For The Moment (2005); and Conrad Homfeld (2006).

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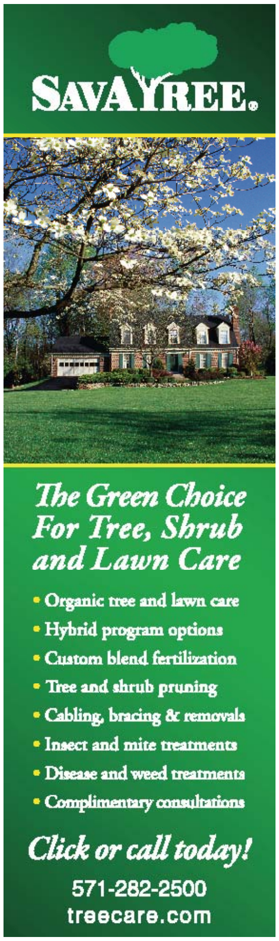

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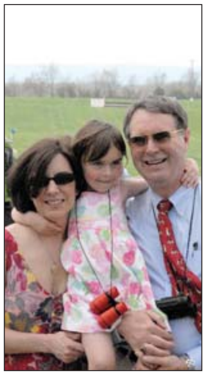

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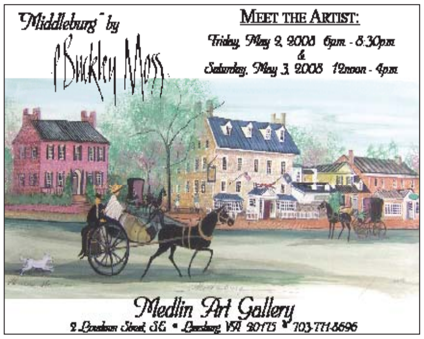
Middleburg Virginia, March 22, 2008
Photos by Kim Basinger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Corotoman in Upperville, VA, April 18th, 2008
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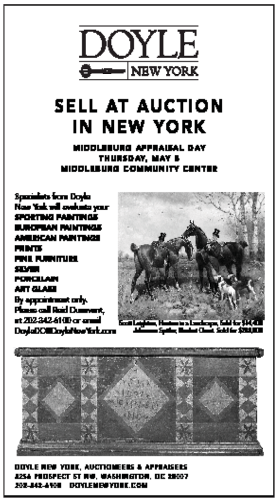
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THINGS TO DO

Sky Meadow State Park May Events

Saturday, May 3

Astronomy for Everyone from 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Find out about U.S. space research, take a sky tour, and look for deep space objects through large telescopes. This program is offered cooperatively with the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, the Albert Einstein Planetarium, and the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club. If the sky is cloudy, only the NASA/JPL program will be presented and the park gates will close at 10:00 PM. Bring your children _ hour early for a special "Junior Astronomer" activity.

Sunday, May 4

May Flowers from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Join Ranger Warren on this moderate hike to see large-flowered trillium in the Thompson Wildlife Management Area. Identify many other spring blooms and learn the folklore of these Blue Ridge beauties. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at the Trillium Parking Area off Route 638 in the Thompson Wildlife Management Area. (2 miles)

Saturday, May 10

Astronomy Day from 3:00 to 11:00 PM

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

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day Special from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Celebrate Mother's Day Civil War style. Join volunteers Budd and Joyce as they share stories and songs of the period and demonstrate soldier and civilian attire.

Saturday, May 17

Civilians in the Civil War from 11:00 to 5:00 PM

Watch and talk with history interpreters of the Frederick Ladies' Relief Society as they portray rural civilian life during the Civil War.

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)

Full Moon Walk from 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Watch the full moon rise from the Piedmont Overlook. Take in the beauty of the Crooked Run Valley and listen for evening wildlife. This month, learn about the "Planting Moon." Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. (1_ miles)

Sunday, May 18

Civilians in the Civil War from 11:00 to 5:00 PM

Watch and talk with history interpreters of the Frederick Ladies' Relief Society as they portray rural civilian life during the Civil War.

Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25

Delaplane Strawberry Festival from 10 AM to 5 PM

Celebrate spring and the region's strawberry season with music, arts and crafts, kids' games, a petting zoo, wagon rides, historical exhibits, a silent auction, lots of great food and fresh strawberry sundaes. Admission $20/car.

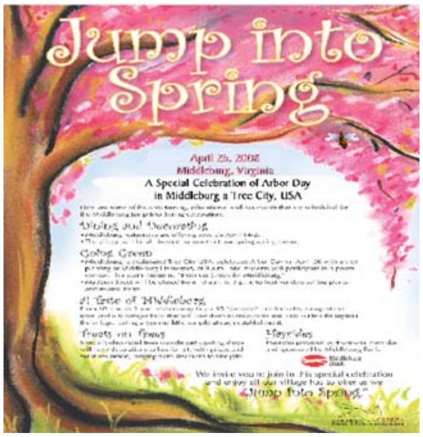
Saturday, May 31

Life on the Farm from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Watch as history comes to life and see what the Settle family might have been doing on their farm in 1860. This month, join our volunteers as they plant the garden and whitewash the fence.

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



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61st Neighborhood Art Show

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH The Plains TO HOST OPENING GALA FOR ART SHOW ON FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

The 61st Annual Neighborhood Art Show Gala to be held on Friday evening, May 9th from 6-8:30 a.m. at the Parish Hall. The Art Show continues through Saturday, May 10th, 10 am to 5 PM and Sunday, May 11, noon-3 p.m.

This opening gala begins Grace Church's 7th decade of celebrating regional art, continuing throughout the weekend. Guests at the gala will be the first to view the work of local artists in all media categories including painting, photography and sculpture. Judges will be awarding artwork in all categories, while much of the art will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening, and entertainment will be provided by acoustical guitarist Steve DeVries.

Fox Chase Farm

Fox Chase Farm announces "Just Jumper Shows"!

Saturday shows, start time is 9:00am: Dates: May 31, 2008, July 12, 2008, October 18, 2008, October 25, 2008.

ALSO, Kathy Kusner will be here to do a three day clinic at Fox Chase Farm on May 23, 24 and 25th, 2008! more information can be found on our website: www.foxchasefarm.net

The Clarke County Winter Farmers Market

The Clarke County Winter Farmers Market will be open again on Saturday, April 12 from 9-noon. This will be the last market until the regular operating season opens on May 10, 2008. All of your favorite vendors will be there like Black Dog Coffee, Oak Springs Dairy, Endless Summer Harvest, Carl's Breads, Chef Eloy's Kickin' Salsa, Mackintosh Fruit Farm, Virginia Lamb, Briars Farmstead, Geneva Jackson & more! The second graders from Berryville Primary will be selling eco friendly shopping bags decorated by the children themselves! A great way to show support to the kids & to help the environment! For more information, contact Sandra Stickovitch: 540-955-5508. See you at the market!

Philomont Volunteer Fire Department

Annual Pit Beef Barbeque

Saturday May 10th from 4-8 p.m.

at the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department, 36560 Telegraph Springs Road, Philomont Va. We will be serving slow roasted beef, salad, beans, dinner rolls, drinks and desserts. Adults $12, Children 4-12 $8 and Seniors $10.

51st Annual Horse Show on April 26th. Gates will open at 7 a.m.

Competition begins at 8 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be available. Horse Show Grounds are located 1/4 mile east of the Philomont General Store on Snickersville Turnpike. Free admission to spectators. For additional information visit our website at www.philomontvfd.

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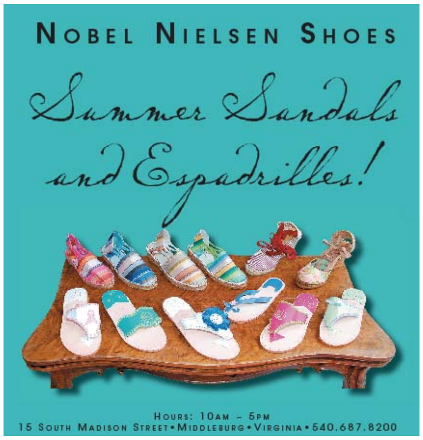

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FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Middleburg Humane Foundation

We have many beautiful, healthy and friendly kittens and adult cats! Many colors and fun personalities! Bring a little love into your home!

What a nice gal! **Sugar** is all love; she is a 1 year old Pit Bull cross who was raised with small children, cats & other dogs. She lost her puppies and would love to find her forever home.

Sherry is a very sweet 5-year-old Thoroughbred mare measuring about 16 hands. She needs an experienced rider.

Katrina is a very special purebred Presa Canario who is the mother of 2 of the litters involved in the recent cruelty case. She is gentle, affectionate and doesn't seem to have a mean bone in her body!

MHF WISHLIST
Canned & dry cat food
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Volunteers!!!
Homes for adult kitties
Your continued support

Purrs, licks & whinnies!

Ernie is a 3-4 year old Border Collie/Shepherd mix who is very sweet. She gets along fine with other dogs and would be happiest on lots of acreage or a farm.

Seymour is an adorable 2-3 year old long-haired Chihuahua who prefers women and no small children. He is very clean in his crate and plays well with other small dogs. Seymour would love a quiet home with lots of cuddle time!

Please visit our website to learn about the many puppies and young dogs involved in the recent humane case that we won! Cane Corso Matiff/Rottweiler/Presa Canario – gorgeous dogs with lovely temperaments.

Hercules is a drop-dead gorgeous bay pony gelding: he's 7 years old, approx. 12 hands. He is green under saddle and would do best as a companion or lawn ornament!

Joe is a friendly, laid-back 8-month-old Cane Corso Mastiff / Rottweiler. He & his sisters are wonderful dogs and are looking for wonderful homes!

Bunnies!
MHF has many Angora cross bunnies. Healthy and being handled daily. Bunnies and pocket pets are always available at local shelters. Don't buy, please adopt!

Tyler is a gorgeous 1 1/2 year old Pit Bull who is extremely intelligent and obedient. He is good with other dogs and cats, but needs a very structured and social home.

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ALBERT'S CORNER

A MONTHLY COLUMN FOR PEOPLE WHO SHARE THEIR HOMES WITH FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS.

I'm wearing my consumer watchdog hat and giving you fair warning: this month's topic makes me one cranky little dog.

I'm sure you've noticed the considerable shift towards natural, healthy food. This movement is happening in the pet food industry as well as the people food industry, and it looks like it is here to stay. That, of course, is wonderful news for dogs and cats who have long been victimized by companies more interested in financial gain than the well-being of animals. Last year's pet food recall put those unethical companies in the spotlight and many of them responded.

Unfortunately, too many companies have responded in infuriating ways. There are a lot of lies on the shelves, in magazines and on television these days. Now, more than ever, pet owners need to be educated consumers. In some unfortunate instances, last year's food scare has been exploited as this year's opportunity to play on the emotions of loving pet parents.

I'll start with my beef about packaging. Simply put, wrapping a pretty package around something intrinsically ugly does not make it new and natural! Reassuring earth tones and compelling photographs of vegetables and meat in their whole forms do not guarantee nutritious contents. It's a lot easier to repackage an existing brand than to manufacture an entirely new one.

Buyers beware! If the ingredient list includes by-products, digest, BHA, BHT or ethoxyquin, put the product back on the shelf pronto. If the ingredients are generic, like "animal fat" or "meat protein", run and run fast. If the main ingredient is corn, you can bet the contents are sub-par. I don't care how many words on the front of the package promise that you are feeding the best food ever, ever, ever made in the history of the world. Read the fine print on the real ingredient label no matter how tiny it is or how hard it is to find on the package.

Likewise, just because a pet food company chooses to have an adoption drive and run endless commercials showing pitiful dogs behind bars does not mean the food is healthy. Even if that same company declares that the food is wonderful, it is not. A sample popular food from one company taking this approach has an ingredient list with corn as the primary ingredient, followed by by-product meal, animal fat, and corn gluten, not to mention BHA and BHT. Folks, this is deception at its ugliest. Yes, I love the idea of food dollars going to save pets in need. Do yourselves a favor, though: Feed your pets a truly healthy diet and donate directly to the shelter of your choice.

And finally, irresistible puppies holding cute toys in their mouths have nothing to do with good food. Even if (especially if) that puppy is eating food that looks like stew that people could eat, do your homework. What happened was that a few responsible food companies began creating food that actually was good enough for owners to eat. Dogs loved it and people loved giving it to their dogs. Less scrupulous companies caught on and began making products that look similar, but trust me, they are not. Again, the proof is in the ingredient list.

I am saddened by the number of people who still think feeding good pet food means paying high prices or pampering their pets with "gourmet" meals. If someone chooses to feed a child broccoli instead of potato chips, does that mean the child is getting a gourmet meal? Feeding us food every day that is full of dangerous preservatives and comprised primarily of corn or by-products is the same as feeding junk food as a maintenance diet. We will eventually get sick and we will not thrive. This is true even if the package is appealing, the food is associated with an adoption drive or the food looks wholesome.

Please, please be your pet's best friend. We are what we eat and that means we are what you decide to feed us. Don't let big corporations with deep marketing pockets and shallow consciences determine your pet's well-being.

Thank you and I promise to work on my cranky-pants attitude.

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg and Fairfax. Email him at albertspawpals@gmail.com.

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GROWTH AND RESTRUCTURING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Town's Planning Commission will soon formally recommend the expansion of Middleburg's "Historic District" to include the entire Town. According to Council Member Lisa Patterson, the Commission addressed the thorny issue of the Ridgeview Subdivision by positing the adoption of separate guidelines for that area.

A total of three sets of guidelines, coupled with appropriate zoning legislation, will be proposed in an effort to prevent what Council Member Mark Snyder describes as the process of "building a maximum-allowable-footprint, two-story home" beside a small, 1,000-square-foot bungalow.

Bill Turnure, Tim Clites, Kevin Hazard and a yet-to-be-named volunteer from the Town's Historic District Review Committee will develop the guidelines. As part of the process, Town Planner David Beniamino has requested funds be budgeted for a charette and " . . . the costs of a facilitator to work with the affected stakeholders."

According to Patterson, the charette, essentially a facilitated collaborative design session, should not be expensive. Given the importance of citizen buy-in for the project as a whole, she noted further, the process is critical.

Water and Sewer Management Trial

By mid year the Town must decide whether or not to budget an extension of it's experimental, 1-year, contract with the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA) to manage the Town's water and sewer systems

Initially adopted as a cost-saving measure, the contract requires that the County employ and train two employees formerly paid directly by the Town of Middleburg.

The fate of those two employees within the County system dominated Council's discussion of the matter on March 27.

Mark Snyder questioned whether LCSA had "responded to the challenge" of integrating Middleburg's former employees into the County organization.

Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk noted that the Town had "always had a personal relationship" with its water and sewer employees, and expressed concern about the Town not having "full-time" people assigned to it under County jurisdiction. LCSA, she noted, had already transferred one of Middleburg's people out of town, and replaced him with an employee who had not been hired when he applied for a job with the Town. If it were up to her, she said, she would not extend the contract.

Karen Robinson said she feared LCSA wouldn't hire Middleburg's people if "they didn't fit their needs."

Eura Lewis expressed similar concerns.

Mayor Davis reminded Council that they had known from the beginning that the Town's former employees would not be in town every day.

Town Administrator Schiro noted that not only cost, but operator licensing and expertise were at issue. Working with LCSA had already eliminated the need for a separate, Middleburg-funded $75,000/year water testing contract, he noted, and that the Town was also saving money by not paying for employee time it didn't really need.

As for personnel "integration," Schiro noted that what Council Member Snyder had described as "personnel issues" were, in his view, "personality issues" and that "he could not see recommending something that would jeopardize the utility operation and result in increased rates to avoid stepping on toes."

Council, after lengthy discussion, asked Schiro to include a renewal of LCSA's contract AND Middleburg's two water and sewer employees in his draft budget for next year. Schiro reminded them that their decision "adds to the cost of the operation."

Outstanding Citizens and Organizations Honored

At its April 10 regular monthly meeting, Town Council recognized five outstanding contributors to Middleburg's life and livelihood, and designated April 26 as Arbor Day in the village.

The "Pink Box," the Town's official visitor center, received a $500 donation from the Middleburg Lion's Club, and was recognized by Council for its designation by the Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association (LCVA) as the 2008 recipient of its Distinguished Service Award.

Also recognized by LCVA and honored by Council were "Tourism Promotion Campaign of the Year" winner, Books & Crannies, for its "Harry Potter Book Party;" Punkin Lee, LCVA's "Tourism Volunteer of the Year;" and Christmas in Middleburg, one of six nominees for "Tourism Event of the Year."

A resolution also praised Middleburg United Methodist Church for 150 years of service.

INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

of Middleburg Bank, Christopher Browne of Washington Dulles International Airport, Giuseppe Cecchi of IDI Management, Inc., Prem Devadas of Salamander Hospitality, Anne-Marie Dunn, Grenville T. Emmet III, Edgar B. Hatrick III of the Loudoun County Public Schools, Thomas G. Jewell of Carter Braxton Real Estate, J. Hamilton Lambert of The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Mark Lowers of Lowers and Associates, Cate Magennis Wyatt of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, The Honorable Joe May, Tiane Mitchell Gordon of AOL, Kathleen Saylor of REHAU, Maj. Gen. Charles E. Williams, Sr. (Ret.), and, from INOVA, Randall L. Kelley, Knox Singleton, Mark Stauder and Janell Hoffman.

Each member may nominate deserving individuals and organizations each year in one or more of the Program's seven categories: Business, Education, Lifetime Service, Philanthropy, Science & Technology, Statesmanship and Stewardship.

Loudoun Healthcare Foundation Executive Director Michelle Burke explained that many local citizens deserved credit for the success of Inova's annual gala that is now one of the leading benefits in the county.

"We owe so much to so many," she said. "Our gratitude goes out to Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Dunn, Jacqueline Badger Mars, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Scott, Sheila C. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Hermen Greenberg, Mrs. Arthur H. Bryant, Mrs. Henry A. Long, Mrs. Helga V. Bonney, Sandi Young, Lillian A.M. Griber, and so many others who have been generous with their creativity, time and commitment."

Honorees will be recognized annually, starting this fall at the Loudoun Healthcare Foundation's Vintage and Vine Ball. The Ball, a Loudoun County tradition, will be held this year at the National Conference Center's brand new ballroom on Saturday, September 20th.

"We are now, and we have always been, a true community institution," says Kelley. "We're responsible for, and to, every person and family within every town, village and development in Greater Loudoun County through every stage of life. We understand fully the power of community spirit, and we want to ensure that a special sense of community is alive and well in Loudoun."

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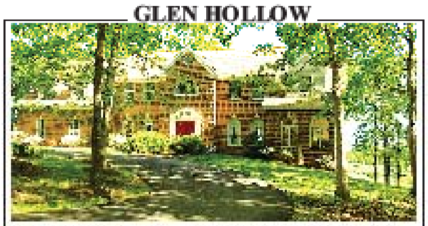

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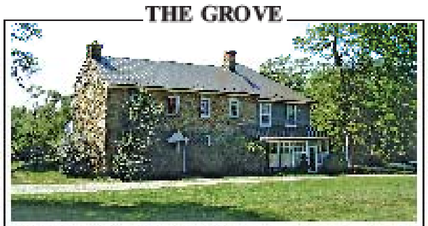
THE GROVE



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Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

GUINEA BRIDGE FARM

Early Quaker 2 bedroom stone house •Beautifully restored w/original floors, woodwork, & stonework throughout •working FPs •Grand mahogany porch over looks story book setting of pond & mature gardens •Studio •Pristine land •Surrounded by pasture & woods •4 stall barn •Ideal horse property or country weekend retreat $1,285,000

Mary Owen Chatfield-Taylor (540) 454-6500

WATERFORD HEIGHTS

Extraordinary 5 bedroom 4.5 bath custom colonial on 4.5 beautifully landscaped fenced acres •Built in 1999 and features 3 finished levels with over 7,000 square feet of fabulous living space •Soaring ceilings and 4 fireplaces •All in pristine condition $1,248,685

Catherine Gutch (540) 270-1311

OLD MAIDSTONE

Charming 2BR, 2BA 1 level home on a beautifully landscaped 1/2 acre near Rectortown •Completely updated in 1998 and meticulously maintained •HW floors, open floor plan, doubled glass doors to covered deck & fenced yard •Detached garage $475,000

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

HOPEWELL

Absolutely charming colonial (circa 1905) in excellent condition •Spacious rooms •High ceilings •Wood floors •Lovely decor •Located in the historic village of The Plains •Approximately 1/2 acre w/towering trees •A cottage with a loft, plus a shed/barn that is ideal for storage $450,000

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

LAND

SYCAMORE SPRING FARM- 141.07 acre working farm in Warren County with bold spring and beautiful views. In VOF conservation. **$2,000,000**

THE REGINALD STICKLEY FARM -126 acres in Warren County. Beautiful panoramic mountain views. In VOF easement. **$1,495,000**

WATERFALL BRANCH - Rappahannock County 50 wooded acs w/ National Park Access. Bold mountain stream Spectacular elevated building site Quiet and secluded yet convenient to Rt 66. **$580,000**

MIDDLEBURG LAND - .5 acs. •Last vacant commercial lot in Middleburg on Jay St. & Federal St **$1,400,000**

ATOKA ROAD

Charming 2 or 3 BR home •1+ acs •Split rail fencing •Completely renovated & decorated w/impeccable taste •Vaulted & beamed ceilings •HW floors •New Kitchen & BAs •Study & French doors from the LR to a spacious new deck •Motivated Seller! •Reduced to $396,000

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

Susie Ashcom
Cricket Bedford
Catherine Bernache
John Coles
Rein du Pont
Catherine Gutch
Barrington Hall
Mary Owen Chatfield-Taylor

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