Middleburg Eccentric™

Middleburg's Only Locally Owned and Operated Newspaper

Volume 5 Issue 8 · www.mbecc.com · November 20, 2008 ~ December 17, 2008

Printed using recycled fiber



Season's Seasonings! Page 14

Christmas is Coming

Fairfax Hunt Breakfast Page 33



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Start Your Engines! Page 4

Better Watch Out

Dan Morrow

A noisy discussion of Middleburg's draft noise, noise, noise ordinance highlighted a high-spirited Town Council Meeting on November 13. Town Administrator Jerry Schiro hinted strongly that Council would be "pleased" by the forthcoming annual independent audit of the Town's finances; the Town's Historic District may be expanded in an effort to combat "MacMansionism;" Economic Development Director Pearson Cindy Pearson, presented an extended written report on plans for Christmas and the year ahead; and Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting designation of Route 15 as an "All American Road."

Noise Noise Noise

Last month, prior to receiving public input, Town Council asked Town Planner and Zoning Administrator, David Beniamino, to compile comments and suggestions for improvement of a proposed new noise ordinance from current Town Council Members and members of the Town Planning Commission.

The new noise ordinance, if and when enacted, will touch nearly every aspect of community life audible across property lines, including live and recorded music, car radios, fireworks, deck parties, revving Harleys, construction noise, and more.

Public input on the new ordinance will be solicited and hearings scheduled in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, copies of the draft ordinance and comments to date may be seen at the Town Offices.

Town Planner David Beniamino has also encouraged anyone with questions or suggestions to contact his office at 540-687-5152, or email him at townplanner@middleburg.org.

Ironically, Beniamino's measured discussion of input to date was interrupted on Thursday when Mayor Betsy Davis noted that he had apparently been seized around the neck by what eye witnesses described an extremely loud tie.

With council members and bystanders holding their ears, making pointed comments (and, according to unreliable sources, watching paint peel from vibrating walls) Davis called on Police Chief Steve Webber for help.

Happily, Beniamino himself took the screaming tie in hand, confined it tastefully inside his jacket, and completed

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Middleburg Restaurants To Tantalize Taste Buds During 'Celebrate the Harvest' Weekends

Alyson Browett

During the remaining weekends in November, many of the restaurants in Middleburg will be participating in the first "Celebrate the Harvest" festival, which brings together local fresh and seasonal produce with the area's culinary talents. Restaurants in town are featuring special menus using meats, vegetables, fruits and wines produced in the Piedmont region. Each chef is working with local producers to develop menus that showcase the season's best fare.

Ayrshire Farm in Upperville is supplying meats to many of the restaurants. Back Street Café is serving a Parmesan-Crusted Chicken Salad using Ayrshire chicken pounded thin, coated in bread crumbs and parmesan cheese, pan sautéed and topped with field greens from Endless Summer Harvest that have been tossed in a white balsamic vinegar and lemon vinaigrette. Next door, Mello Out is using a chorizo made especially for them by Ayrshire, paired with Dee Dee Hubbard's duck eggs and cheese from Oak Springs Dairy for a gourmet "breakfast sandwich" (which will be served all day!). Across the street, The French Hound during the first weekend is serving Ayrshire short ribs with a potato parsnip puree, baby turnips and carrots, micro greens and a horseradish sauce.

Hidden Horse Tavern is using veal and lamb produced by Ayrshire. The first weekend the restaurant is serving a leg of lamb roasted with garlic and mint and veal rack chops with pancetta and garlic, and the second weekend it is offering an herb-crusted leg of lamb with peanut sauce and oven-roasted veal noisette stuffed with local herbs. Hidden Horse also is offering a first course of local pumpkin soup, sides of local vegetables and a dessert of baked local pears. And make sure you leave room for some of owner Jay Trier's homemade egg nog!

Market Salamander routinely features dishes made with local produce and meats. This weekend, the restaurant is serving Fields of Athenry lamb sausage, Vineyard Nursery herbs, arugula and green tomatoes roasted with an Over the Grass leek mustard

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News of Note

Picturing History: A Conversation with Howard Allen

Kate Semerad

We meet at the Fun Shop, climb steep stairs, cross a room overflowing with merchandise, duck through a doorway, go past children's toys, clothes, and books and finally arrive at his photography studio. "When we first came to Middleburg fifty-five years ago my wife Nancy opened the Fun Shop down the street and I opened my photography studio here. Then we merged. I've been losing space ever since," says Howard Allen.

His studio is cozy, bathed in the diffused soft light of photographer's umbrellas. Mr. Allen takes a seat on the bench where he poses his clients for portraits. An ecru colored paper is a uniform background. The chair he has directed me to is positioned where I would guess a photographer would stand to take his picture.

So, how did you get to Middleburg?

"Well, it wasn't a direct route," Mr. Allen says. "I was born in Berryville, grew up in Winchester, served in Africa and Italy during the war - as an ambulance driver. When I returned home I went to New York to study at the Art Students' League. I always liked drawing, especially caricatures," he pauses to show me his collection of caricatures.

"Anyway, I married Nancy, a home-town girl, in 1948 and we moved to Washington where I got a job with the Washington Post as an artist in their promotion department. But I tired of the 9 – 5 drill, and when my boss told me about a job with a photography studio in town I grabbed it. I stayed there for 3 years covering visiting entertainers like Frank Sinatra and Louie Armstrong and Washington notables like Eleanor Roosevelt. You know, back then you could walk right up to the stage and take your pictures – no security people held you back.

"One day my old boss at the Post called and asked if I would do a photo shoot in Middleburg. While I was out here, I discovered that the local photographer had died and his business was for sale. The rest, as they say, is history."

Howard Allen pauses to ask if it would be okay if he told me the rest of his story in photographs. Next to him on the bench is a pile of 8 X 10's face down.

He flips up the first photo, "Here is Arthur Godfrey giving an exhibition on his horse Goldie at the Upperville Horse Show. You know who this is," he states as he flashes the familiar face of media personality Willard Scott. "And here is a local Middleburg celebrity, Joe Fargis. He became an Olympic gold medalist in individual and team show jumping." The pictures show Willard Scott with hair and Joe Fargis taking a jump at age 10.

There are the typical Middleburg photos: fox hunting; steeplechase racing; and children in riding habit. Some capture graceful riding scenes. Some catch spectacular falls. One photo shows a rider flipping over a fence and landing headfirst in a mud puddle. Mr. Allen quickly flips to two more of the same rider, moments later, covered with mud but apparently sound and smiling.

As a preamble to the next picture he states, "This was taken on their first date here in Middleburg". He flips up a picture of Senator John Warner with Elizabeth Taylor. The next photo is of the movie actress dealing Black Jack at a Middleburg's annual Casino Night charity event. " Yes, she was really as beautiful as everyone said and friendly to everyone," he smiles.

And then we get to his favorite pictures, the ones he took of the Kennedys when they rented Glen Ora, an estate a mile outside of Middleburg. "Jacqueline kept her horses here and she and the children visited often. Our daughters and Caroline Kennedy were in the same pony club, so we saw them quite often," he says.

When the Kennedys were at Glen Ora, they went to church at the Middleburg Community Center (there was no Catholic church in town then). "One of my vivid memories is of Sundays when all the Washington photographers came out to take pictures of the family going to church. They used my dark room, and you would see these guys all running around waving their wet pictures in the air trying to dry them before driving back to Washington."



Photo by Howard Allen

Kennedy Children's Birthday Photo 1962, Glen Ora, Middleburg Va

"I was honored in 1962 when Mrs. Kennedy asked me to take the official birthday picture of her with the children." He flips over a picture of the First Lady riding her horse along a country road holding John on her lap with Caroline riding her pony along side. "This picture appeared in media all over the world. Sometime later I got a call from the editor of McCall's magazine who said she had Jackie's permission for me to sell her one of the other pictures I took that day – they ran it on the front cover."

Howard Allen flips to a picture of an older Jackie riding with Pamela Harriman, and says sadly, "She came back to Middleburg every year to fox hunt right up to the time she died."

His photo pile is empty.

Fifty-five years is a long time, how has Middleburg changed?

"When Nancy and I first came, there were only a half dozen stores in town. It was just a sleepy country village. I was on the Town Council in the '60's and we just went in, read the minutes and went home. Now everything's more citified," he says, "Our daughter, Betsy Davis, is the Mayor now. It's a big job!

"There are so many new people I hardly feel like I know anybody anymore. I never thought when we came here that we would stay for our whole lives. The Fun Shop has grown and grown – it's the oldest family owned shop in town. People say, 'If they don't have it at the Fun Shop, you don't need it.' Our daughters, Page Gloseclose and Betsy manage the store now. Nancy comes in just to check up on everybody."

Any regrets?

"Only one! That I didn't have my picture taken with President Kennedy when I met him."

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News of Note

Start Your Engines!

Alex Cudaback

On the western edge of Upperville, tucked into the Upperville Village Business Center, sits what can only be described as a little slice of British automotive heaven.

British and Classic Car Doctors, easily found at 9183 John Mosby Highway or online at http://www.britishandclassics.com/, is the nearly two year-old brainchild of Paul Warren, a gear head yet to hit 30 with more experience working on cars and bikes than most people decades older.

"I started at Ferrari of Washington when I was 18, in 1998, and stayed there, working and learning for four years. After that, I was at Capitol Motorcars in Purcellville for two years. Cars, unique, rare, truly special cars, are just in my blood, I guess. I love the work, and that's one of the main things I look for in the people that work here."

Included in that training was a 10-day factory training session at the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern, England.

Car Doctors has four fulltime employees in addition to Paul, and combined they bring over 100 years of hands-on shop experience to bear on the cars they service and restore.

The shop itself sits in a few thousand square feet of warehouse space, most of it dedicated to actual work space, but a not-unimpressive amount dedicated to storage of vehicles waiting for a turn or looking to offer up a valuable part or two.

"When we moved in, there was nothing here, no lifts, no nothing. It had been a storage space for old medical and military surplus that was sold online. It wasn't in great shape, put it that way" remembers Warren with a rueful smile.

"We spent the first two-and-half months just getting the place cleaned up and pulled together. We spent the next couple months getting the business off the ground."

Mission accomplished. Car Doctors currently has a one-month backlog for service and a nearly six-month backlog for restoration work.

"There's a wonderful group of car owners in the region, ranging from collectors in the most classic sense of the word, to people who just love a certain, unique car that holds a special place in their hearts.

"We love to work on special cars, and we see a lot of beautiful roadsters from the 50's and 60's out here. We can work on just about anything, but we especially love the special ones: Austin-Healeys, Morgans, Triumphs, Aston Martins, Jaguars, Rolls-Royces, Bentleys and older Minis and MG's."

A beautiful 1952 MG TD that once belonged to Angie Dickinson is raised off the floor, gleaming in the light over Warren's shoulder as we talk. Only the chassis and body are in evidence, the rest of the car safely stored out of the way. A gorgeous, lustrous paint job, recently applied offsite over a period of several weeks, looks deep enough to dive into.

Owners send cars come from as far west as Michigan, as far north as Connecticut and as far south as Florida to receive the expert care available only at specialty shops dotting the countryside like British and Classic Car Doctors.

Locally, Warren and his team regularly see cars from Ashburn, D.C., Gaithersburg, Quantico, Winchester and the Hunt Country.

"We all came into this with some really dedicated clients, people we'd known and done work for for years. Since then, we've built a very dedicated clientele, people who know they can trust us to take excellent care of them and their cars.

"This is a word of mouth, referral type business. I'm very aware, and make sure everybody that works here is aware, that we have to treat every one of our costumers as if they're the most important customer we have."

Judging by the sheer number and variety of the cars on hand, those referrals have done the trick.

Car Doctors does a nice business on newer British cars as well, typically newer Rovers and Jaguars.

Service rates are a reasonable $89.50/hour, typically 30-40% less than dealership rates; restoration rates, anything needing over 500 hours of work, run $64.50/hour.

"I'm incredibly lucky to have a hobby I've been able to turn into a living. The work is so rewarding, and you get to develop remarkable relationships with the owners. I love it."

MBPA Supports Seven Loves



The economic crisis is already affecting supplies of free or discounted food for the poor and disadvantaged in Middleburg and Loudoun County. Kudos to the Middleburg Business and Professional Association for its support for the ongoing work of Seven Loaves (see www.sevenloaves.org) and to the Friends and Supporters of Christmas in Middleburg who have also raising money to help the organization.

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Ruth Schierenbeck is a licensed master aesthetician and master aesthetic instructor/educator with more than 20 years of experience in the United States and Europe. She is a graduate of the prestigious Helen Pietrulla Skin Care Institute in Heidelberg, Germany. Ms. Schierenbeck worked as an Educator for an international skin care company, specializing in educational training seminars for salon and spas nationwide. She has published articles on skin care services and treatments in leading trade publications. She has held positions as an aesthetician at spas in the USA and in Europe. Now, enjoy her expertise and commitment to best-in-class skin care services exclusively at Middleburg Skin Care.

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Specialists from Freeman's will be visiting areas throughout northern Virginia in the coming months to evaluate property for consignment to the winter/spring 2009 auction schedule in the following areas: English & Continental Furniture and Decorative Arts; American and European Paintings & Prints; Fine Jewelry; Fine Books, Manuscripts and Ephemera. For more information or to make an appointment please call Jocelyn Accad at **434-296-4096** or email us at **dclarke@freemanssouth.com.**



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It's more than simple economics. We need BRMC so thousands of Loudoun residents can have convenient access to critical health care. But the economics are persuasive, too. If we turn away a company that will employ 600 well paid people closer to home and provide badly needed revenue to our tax base, what does that say about economic development in Loudoun County? HCA, BRMC's parent company, was rated one of the most admired health care companies in the nation by Fortune magazine. Isn't that just the kind of business we want to attract?

I am asking my Supervisor to vote Yes on BRMC.

Ask your Supervisor to ☑ Vote Yes on BRMC
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IT'S GOOD FOR LOUDOUN COUNTY

News of Note

Carleton Varney Draws the Curtains Slightly On A World of Glamour, Loyalty and Destiny

Carleton Varney knows and loves Middleburg.

"It's so beautiful there, and my assignments for the Orstroms and many others in The Piedmont have resulted in highly valued friendships," he remembered fondly as he talked about his new book, 'Houses in My Heart.'

As much an illustrated biography as an interior design volume, Varney's welcome into many of his favorite projects is delightful tour and behind-the-scenes peek at residences of stylish luxury, resorts around the world and President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter's charming log cabin.

Mr. Varney does not believe in good taste… or, in bad taste for that matter. But he does believe that a decorator's taste should never "be imposed on a client. A decorator should guide and advise."

Although his ambition was to be United States Ambassador to Spain, it was his impeccable taste and style, not his Spanish language facility that formed the focus for career. And what a career it is.

From Joan Crawford's and Ethel Merman's homes to the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia, the Grand Hotel on Michigan's Mackinac Island and the many residences he's designed on the Island of St. Croix, Carleton's respect for his clients and love of color and courageous combinations is amply evident.

His love of primary colors and pastels, bold and discrete patterns, crisp tailoring and enough fringe and frills for a dozen cotillions, combine to create living spaces that are a real pleasure to inhabit. Carleton simply rejects all that is impractical, uncomfortable or drab.

As president of Dorothy Draper & Co. Inc, the oldest design firm in the nation, Varney takes his responsibility to give back as seriously as he takes his assignments for his clients. For many years he has been actively involved with the Alzheimer Foundation organized by Princess Jasmine to honor her mother, Rita Hayworth. This year, he is serving as national chairman for their gala next season and, as he emphasized, "…I am always seeking individuals who would like to help us!"

His love of his family is legendary. His eldest son Nicholas is a jewelry designer whose pieces are available exclusively at Bergdorf Goodman in New York or at nicholasvarneyjewells.com. His son Sebastian's design work is available at Sebastian Carleton Varney Limited at the Washington D.C. Design Center, in London and in Palm Beach. And his son, Seamus, is a noted woodworker who lives in Florida.

On November 18th, Carleton will be signing his new book at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

"We're in a wonderful spot," he exclaimed. "I hope everyone will stop by to see us!"

For those who may believe glamour has seen its better days, Varney begs to differ.

"Young people who grew up in an era of little glamour have discovered it. I just finished a project for a new New York nightclub called "Ella" that will remind anyone who remembers it of the Stork Club. My nephews Josh and Jordan Boyde have partnered with Darin Rubbell to create a club that is truly spectacular.

"Glamour will never die!"



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News of Note

Equestrian Style Lives the Good Life in Vicky Moon's New Book

Whether you treasure show ring attire, beautifully weathered Wellingtons, residences in California's 'ever-so-exclusive' Sullivan Canyon neighborhood off Sunset Boulevard, Frédérique Lavergne's paintings of magnificent dressage horses, Cauldon's stoneware fox hunting plates, your 1999 Hampton Classic tickets or the hunt box your great grandfather built in the twenties, you understand and appreciate Equestrian Style. For those reasons and many, many others, you will love Vicky Moon's new book of the same title.

Published by Clarkson Potter, Vicky's Equestrian Style is beautifully printed, sewn and bound. Other coffee table tomes simply cannot compete with this volume that Midas himself would appreciate.

"I've been riding since I was very small," Vicky remembered as she described her new book. "Everyone here who loves horses understands how all things equestrian find their way into your life and style of living. They all have great style, and they know art and antiques.

"I loved doing this book and I only hope readers will find one small bit of knowledge about horses and equestrian style that they didn't know before. That would be wonderful.

"It was a thrill when I learned Clarkson Potter wanted to publish the book. I love their impeccable discipline and when my editor, Aliza Fogelson, asked me 'What's next…?' I was absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to work with them again."

Continued Page 22

Review: The Great Book of Washington, D.C., Sports Lists

Alex Cudaback

In The Great Book of Washington, D.C., Sports Lists D.C. sports-media personalities Len Shapiro and Andy Pollin tackle the phenomenon that is D.C. sports with a compilation sure to stir up dialogue within the already buzzing D.C. sports community and beyond.

Consumed by more than just politics, D.C. fans generally consider themselves among the most passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated sports enthusiasts in the country. With teams representing nearly every major professional sport, including the Redskins, Wizards, Nationals, Capitals, Mystics, United, and the Georgetown Hoyas and Maryland Terrapins, the D.C. area is home to striking array of teams and talents that keep that local sports scene cooking throughout the year.

D.C., like any sports town, is home to more arguments and opinions than you can shake a Louisville Slugger at: best player, best team, most wretched excuse for a sports franchise. The possibilities are, for all intents and purposes, endless.

But what Shapiro and Pollin have tried, in all good humor, to accomplish is sure to tweak the old memory banks and pluck the rusty heartstrings of anyone who's ever seriously considered themselves any kind of true D.C. sports fan.

Their compendium of lists, nearly 150 of them in all, is a redolent smorgasbord of area athletics, touching on every conceivable aspect of the D.C. sports scene, from Walter Johnson's still awe-inspiring numbers to the area's best sports blogs.

Sports Lists has everything in it you could ever want from a hometown sports tome: treasured memories that still make you smile, tantalizing tidbits you can't believe you never knew, enough "Well, d'uh!" moments to make you feel at home, and more than enough head-scratchers to get your own list-making juices flowing.

No list in the book should take you more than a couple minutes to read, and you can set it down and start back into it hours, or even days, later without missing a beat. You can read the lists in order, but the beauty of them all being SPORTS lists is there really is no order. Pick it up, set it down, throw it in your briefcase, your backpack, your lunchbox, whatever, they'll be there whenever you next come back to them.

Shapiro does have one slight confession to make.

"The book wasn't quite our idea," he volunteers. "The publisher, Running Press, had originally done a book of sports lists in Philadelphia a couple years back, and it did pretty well. The authors up there were a couple of local sports guys with radio and newspaper backgrounds, and Running Press liked that mix.

"Running Press contacted me about doing a D.C. version, I contacted Andy, and we were off."

Sports Lists includes the obvious must-haves that any book on D.C. sports, well, must have: Ten Reasons to Hate the Dallas Cowboys; The Greatest Nicknames in Washington Sports; Greatest moments in Redskins History. But it's also got some real local treats: Steve Spurrier's Top 10 Quotes as Redskins Coach; Gary Williams' Greatest Giant Killings; The Five Best Naval Academy Pro Athletes; Why We Hate FedEx Field; and Why We Love FedEx Field.

Interspersed throughout are roughly 40 local-celebrity lists from the usual suspects: John Thompson, Tom Boswell, Kevin Blackistone, Al Galdi, Sam Huff, and many, many more.

"It was real pleasure to put the book together," says Shapiro. "What makes a book like this so enjoyable are the conversations it starts, the arguments, the opportunities for local sports fans to get thinking about their most important moments and their favorite teams."

When asked about his favorite sports moment of the last 40 years, Shapiro doesn't hesitate.

"There was Fauquier County resident, a local guy, went to The Hill School right there in Middleburg. In all my years watching sports, nothing brought me greater pleasure than watching that kid play football."

That kid? Shapiro's son.

The Great Book of Washington, D.C., Sports Lists is available at all local area bookstores and online. I can think of lots people who'd be perfectly happy to find that Santa had left a copy in their stocking.

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WHAT'S THE DEAL?

Why not get a bullet train to go along with this fast track?

A land use development application by Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) to upzone a residential neighborhood in Broadlands is speeding through the Loudoun County government review process. And the governmental mistakes and questions about transparency in the process are mounting up.

Here's the record so far:

- A PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER IS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF A MISTAKE IN THE REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICE.
- A PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED OCTOBER 15 TURNS OUT TO BE INVALID BECAUSE OF ANOTHER MISTAKE BY LOUDOUN COUNTY GOVERNMENT, ESSENTIALLY DISENFRANCHISING THE VOICES OF HUNDREDS OF CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATED.
- IRONICALLY, CITIZENS HAD FORMALLY ASKED THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO POSTPONE THE OCTOBER 15 HEARING BECAUSE HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA (HCA) HAD FAILED TO COMPLY WITH STATE AND COUNTY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE RULES.
- INSTEAD, THE PLANNING COMMISSION WAIVED THE RULES ON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FOR HCA SO THAT THE INVALID OCTOBER 15 PUBLIC HEARING COULD CONTINUE ON THE FAST TRACK.
- THE PLANNING COMMISSION HOLDS A QUESTIONABLE CLOSED-TO-THE-PUBLIC SESSION OCTOBER 28 TO DISCUSS THE HCA REZONING CASE AND THEN CALLS YET ANOTHER PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 20 IN AN ATTEMPT TO ATONE FOR ITS OCTOBER 15 PUBLIC HEARING MISTAKE.
- IN A WORK SESSION, THE PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN PUBLICLY CHASTISES A FELLOW COMMISSIONER FOR ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM STATE HEALTH CARE EXPERTS.
- THE COUNTY'S PROFESSIONAL PLANNING STAFF REPORT ON HCA'S PROPOSED BROADLANDS UPZONING COMPLETELY IGNORES KEY SECTIONS OF THE EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HEALTH CARE.



What's going on? How many errors, waivers and special considerations will Loudoun County government make to accommodate HCA? Citizens have a right to know more about who is driving this train.

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Editor's Desk

Obama Carries Middleburg

Although we, as a matter of policy, do not endorse political candidates at any level, we would be remiss not to remark upon Middleburg's role in the historic events of last November 4.

Nationally, Americans elected Barack Obama President of the United States by a 53% to 46% majority. Polls indicated he led voting nationally in every age group except 65+.

According to the Virginia State Board of Elections, the Old Dominion went for Obama by a 52.6% to 46.3% margin.

Obama's numbers in Loudoun County were higher still, 53.5% to 45.4% .

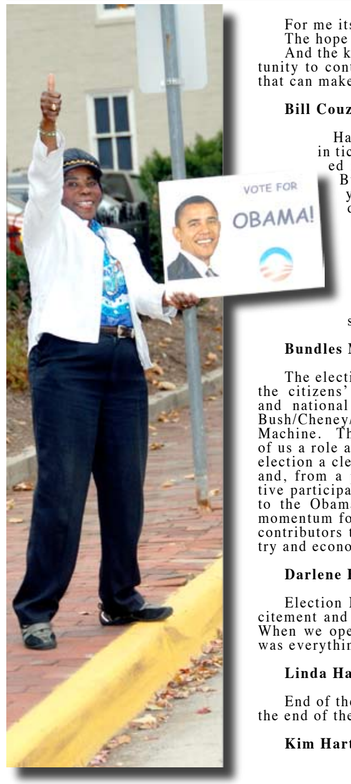
Middleburg went for Obama by an even greater margin, 59.6% to 39.7%. Aldie, St. Louis, and Purcellville also supported Obama. The Blue Ridge District supported McCain, 52% to 47%. Blue Ridge and Catoctin were the only two Districts in Loudoun won by the GOP.

Support Your Local Library

Projected shortfalls in both state and county budgets threaten to drastically reduce critical services provided by the county's libraries. The libraries provide critical resources for men and women seeking work and trying to start new businesses, especially in times of recession. Library programs, volunteers and professional staff also provide a critical strategic reserve for the county's educators, working at every level of need. Watch for ways you can help, and remember . . . every dollar invested in public libraries delivers from $3 to $6 in benefits.

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

In Our Own Words



For me its all about hope.
The hope of all of us working together.
And the knowledge we all have an opportunity to contribute to our country in a way that can make the difference.

Bill Couzens, Middleburg, VA

Having voted for the McCain-Palin ticket, I am extremely disappointed in the outcome of the election. But I will not spend the next four years bashing the new president. Instead you might see me shaking my head more often than not. What really troubles me is the violent negativity in the country. Passion is a good thing as long as we remember we are Americans first and that should dictate how we speak and act.

Bundles Murdock , Middleburg, VA

The election of Barack Obama represents the citizens' commitment to take personal and national responsibility back from the Bush/Cheney/Rove "We Are THE Deciders" Machine. The Obama Campaign gave each of us a role and responsibility in making the election a clear transition from fear to hope; and, from a passive population to a proactive participative electorate. I look forward to the Obama Administration carrying this momentum forward to make each of us clear contributors to the reclamation of our country and economy.

Darlene Hines, Aldie, VA

Election Night had for me all of the excitement and anticipation of Christmas Eve. When we opened our packages at 11 PM, it was everything I had wished for all year.

Linda Hart, Unison, VA

End of the Iraq War? Heck, this might be the end of the Civil War.

Kim Hart, Unison, VA

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

Well folks, the election is finally over and we have a new president elect.

This column may be harder to write in the future. I most certainly hope that is the case; it has been far too easy to find hypocrisy material in the past 8 years of the present administration.

Returning to the election: one of the most interesting aspects of the election for me was all the people at the McCain/Palin rallies calling then Senator Obama a socialist, and expressing their fear of an Obama administration somehow snatching their dream of richness, and that in my opinion is just what it is, a dream. I would love to have asked for a show of hands at the rallies of who actually was making over $250,000 per year, I would think very few hands would have fluttered up. If you really listened to now President Elect Obama, your taxes, if your income is below the $250,000 cut off, would actually go down or not be affected at all. Which brings me to the real subject of this month's column.

The campaign against Communism and Socialism has been long and furious. The masters of the universe in the financial and corporate world in this country have conducted the campaign with great success. They were so fearful of anything smacking of even the most remote aspect of Socialism (that might interfere with corporate profits) that they vilified countries and leaders who even tended towards a more socialistic path. The U.S. backed a coup in Chile 1973, that assassinated Salvadore Allende, is a perfect example. He was a democratically elected Marxist and the corporate world could not abide that. Major U.S. corporations had big investments in Chile and instead of watching and waiting to see how an Allende government would act we spent months weakening the Chilean economy and then on Sept. 11, 1973 moved in for the kill. I suggest you read John Perkins' book "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man" if you want many more examples of how we have meddled in countries whose leaders tended towards Socialism.

Runaway capitalism is the cause of the global financial mess we find ourselves in today.

In many countries, especially in Western Europe, taxes are higher than here, but, and it is a very large BUT, citizens have in most cases free health care, free education, free child care, paid maternity leave, three weeks paid vacation time and guaranteed retirement. Would most people not be happier paying more taxes if all of the above was a reality in this country? That is what Democratic Socialism can mean.

I truly believe that the Republican ethos on less government, low taxes and the American dream of everyone attaining richness is counter productive to society. The division between the wealthy and the impoverished has never been greater than under the last eight years of Republican rule in this country. Perhaps one of the positive aspects of this financial crisis is that Capitalism is taking a big hit and Socialism is sounding a whole lot less frightening.

South America is way ahead of us. More and more countries are electing socialist leaders and their economies are not suffering nearly as much as ours.

Again the irony of this crisis is that by bailing out all these failing institutions we are closer now to Socialism than in any time in our history and the vast majority of citizens of this country are not seeing any of the benefits, most are far worse off. Imagine that instead of giving all the bailout money to greedy institutions it was used to give us universal health care, free education and a minimum wage that lifted hourly wage earners out of poverty.

There is nothing to fear from socialism: we are, after all, social animals.

Red vs. Blue

Here's Looking at You, Kid

Dan Morrow - (D)

He remembered everything. Perfectly. They wore gray. She wore blue. France had fallen. And there were other things Rick no doubt remembered, but didn't mention. The Americans were still far more worried about jobs and their next meal than the fates of other nations, or peoples, or races despised, or doomed, or both.

At such times great friendships are born, and, to paraphrase Ted Kennedy, work begins again, hope rises anew, and the dream, if we're lucky, lives on.

If we are lucky, and the dedicated honorable big-hearted people we all so devoutly believe ourselves to be, this may be one of those times.

If we are lucky, the election of Barack Obama marks not only a symbolic turning point in the history of the United States, but something much more important, the beginning of a new sense of commitment to working together for the greater good of our fellow citizens and the world.

If we are lucky, this may well be our generation's 1865, or 1918, or 1933, or 1945 or 1989. And if we are very lucky, we'll do a better job than those on whose shoulders we stand and from whose hard work and self sacrifice we benefit, and perhaps learn late too many lessons all too dearly paid for.

True, a President and Congress with the lowest approval ratings in recorded history leave us now with an economy in decline, two hot wars and a world too much threatened by bloody minded ideologues.

True, only a recession unprecedented since the 1930's seems to be preventing the price of energy from bankrupting us, and, ironically, keeping the unbridled use of that energy from destroying the planet itself.

True, we face a greater need for healthcare and support for an aging population than ever before in our nation's history.

But, as Shakespeare's Brutus put it, here, now, in November, 2008, for us and our posterity rises that

". . . tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures."

Or, to paraphrase Rick, this could be " . . . the beginning of a beautiful friendship . . . "

The Challenges Facing Obama

Ken Rietz - (R)

Governor Sarah Palin called the election of Barak Obama " a shining moment in America's history". No matter our political persuasion, most Americans feel the same.

A recent Gallop poll showed over 70% of all Americans feel a sense of pride in electing our nation's first Black President.

Obama won because the voters wanted change – over 80% felt the nation is headed in the wrong direction. He won because he had a masterful campaign that had more money than any previous presidential campaign and used the internet as never before. He won because he is the best communicator since Reagan and skillfully sold a middle class tax cut. He won because he inspired young people, Blacks and Hispanics while moving to the center and successfully shed the liberal label. And he won because he navigated the financial meltdown and did himself no harm while Republicans floundered.

In the final scene of the movie "The Candidate" actor Robert Redford, after winning the election, turns to his advisors and says "now what do we do ?" That may be the quandary facing president-elect Obama. Exit polls showed the country remains moderate to conservative. The congressional leadership with which Obama will be dealing is liberal. The public is impatient for action. Another recent poll shows72% think Obama will fix the financial crises which looks like it will get worse before it gets better.

Obama's first test will be the proposed bailout of the big three auto companies. Will he go along with Pelosi and Reid, cave into the unions which put 100 million dollars into his election and provide a no strings attached bailout ? Or will he do the sensible thing and allow poorly run companies go into Chapter 11 allowing the restructure of their burdensome union liabilities, reorganize from the top and develop a sensible business plan before receiving financial assistance from the tax payer. While he is at it, he should re-negotiate the bailouts to AIG and the Banks forcing them to pay NO BONUSES of any kind until all government loans have been repaid.

The liberal congressional leadership will support union backed legislation eliminating secret ballots for their organizing efforts and take steps to end or change Free Trade Agreements. They will also try to end the Bush tax cuts early and with these steps kill job creation by small companies and further damage our economy.

Obama has promised immediate action to provide some form of universal healthcare.

His supporters are expecting it. Senator Kennedy has announced that he will lead the effort. This will take years, not months. Obama will have to manage overblown expectations.

Obama said he will bring all troops out of Iraq in 16 months. The fact is it can't be done logistically and would not be right militarily or diplomatically. His allies in congress have called for a 25% cut in defense spending. This can't be done either and he will have to manage those expectations.

On energy independence Obama said he would "take a look at offshore drilling". Meanwhile his colleagues in congress are taking steps to create a new, permanent ban on drilling offshore. He supports nuclear power but to please Harry Reid and carry Nevada he came out against the reprocessing and storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. It is simply impossible to expand our use of nuclear power without such a facility. Joe Biden stated that we should not develop clean coal technology. Without the use of more of our own oil, clean coal and nuclear power our chances of energy independence in the near future are very small.

The hopes of our nation ride with Obama and his call for change. Although 37 of the first 41 people he appointed were Clinton retreads, we can only hope he has the independence, courage and wisdom to govern as he campaigned – in the middle.

Ken Rietz lives in Delaplane VA.

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News of Note

Christmas is Coming

Continued From Page 1

his report.

In the absence of a relevant noise ordinance, no arrests were made or fines levied. Chief Webber, however, was reported to be keeping detailed records of the number of times the offending tie was mentioned by Council . . . for reasons, as yet, undisclosed.

Audit

In the face of a serious downturn in the region's economy, Town Administrator Jerry Schiro suggested that Council would be pleased by the forthcoming preliminary audit of the town's financial operations for fiscal year 2008.

The annual audit, conducted by Leesburg's Mitchell and Company, is designed to provide a professional, independent, outside overview of both the Town's financial status, and the ongoing oversight and financial management provided by Council and Town staff.

Thanks in large part to the Salamander Inn project, and to emergency tax increases passed at the beginning of Jerry Schiro's term as Town Administrator, Middleburg finds itself with nearly $2 million in cash on hand.

Record keeping and oversight have improved remarkably since the dark days of 2007, when Mitchell and Company's preliminary reports indicated that the town appeared to be on the verge of bankruptcy.

Council as a whole, rather than a select finance committee, is now responsible for oversight from the legislative branch of Town Government.

Debbie Jewell, the Town Treasurer now provides Council not only with highly detailed monthly reports on a timely basis, but a regular monthly list of every check written on the Town's accounts.

Expansion of Historic District

Fears of creeping "MacMansionism," apparently triggered by residential construction on the corner of Route 50 and West Washington Street, are credited with inspiring a proposal to expand the Town's "Historic District" to cover the north-western portions of Middleburg known as "Ridgeview."

Current zoning laws now permit construction of houses on small lots that dwarf the existing bungalows characteristic of much of the neighborhood. Combining several small lots into larger ones allows legal construction of even larger buildings.

On Thursday, a special subcommittee appointed by Council presented a draft formal presentation, complete with neighborhood photography and scale models, demonstrating the possible aesthetic and environmental impact of unregulated construction.

The subcommittee members and Town Planner Beniamino reported that an expansion of the Historic District appeared to be both the best and fastest approach to addressing the problem of resolving potential conflicts between individual property rights and those of the community as a whole. Drafting detailed new zoning restrictions or rules governing a "corridor overlay" of the Town's master plan are also possible.

Public hearings are expected soon.

"All American" Route 15

Middleburg joined a host of cities, towns, villages, and other organizations between Gettysburg and Charlottesville supporting the Journey Through Hallowed Ground's efforts to get the route 15, 231,20 and 53 corridor designated an "All American Road." The designation will, among other things, help make National Scenic Byways discretionary grant funds available to local governments along the road to promote tourism and the preservation and enhancement of battlefields and other historic sites. Though Middleburg is not affected directly by the Route 15 designation, Council has long supported the enhancement and promotion of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground's efforts at both historic preservation and tourism development.

Christmas and Other Signs of the Times

Eccentric Editor in Chief Dee Dee Hubbard is still soliciting funding and volunteers to help with this year's "Christmas in Middleburg" parade and other celebrations, set for December 6.

At Thursday's Council session Cindy Pearson, Middleburg's Economic Development Coordinator presented a long list of events, concerts, promotions and other events for Christmas and the year ahead, including the latest draft design for dramatic new town limit signs to be erected at the east and west ends of Middleburg on Route 50.

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Thank you to the Fashion Show Committee and the many volunteers who helped make this show the most successful ever.

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Alyson Browett

I don't know about you, but I inevitably gain at least five pounds between now and New Year's Day. Succulent holiday meals and the requisite leftovers; gifted cookies and treats; parties and more parties; and wine, beer and champagne somehow never seem to be metabolized during the holidays like they are during other times of the year. So in an effort to keep the holiday cookie dough out of my mouth and off my hips, I'm turning to something a little different this year as gifts for family and friends: spices.

Many of us probably take for granted that if it weren't for the human love of spices, we would not be sitting comfortably in our American homes. Christopher Columbus left Spain in 1492 in search of a shorter trade route to East Asia, a trip financed by the nation's rulers in hopes that it would allow the nation to enter the spice trade, at the time dominated by the Arabians and Italians. However, a miscalculation of the Earth's circumference landed Columbus in the Caribbean, leading to his legacy of discovering the "New World" instead of new and rewarding spice trade routes.

So what is a spice? My favorite definition comes from the UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library Medicinal Spices Exhibit. While the name "spice" is derived from the word "species," "the word suggests an imported tropical herbal plant or some part of it that is valued for providing color and aromatic flavoring along with stimulating odor for use in cooking and in condiments, as well as in candies, cosmetics, fragrances and medications" (http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/spice/). Spices include many seasonings, from leaves to roots and from rocks (salt) to seeds. We use fresh spice – herbs and garlic – and dried seasonings – peppercorns and chile peppers. Really, a spice is anything that you add to food to enhance, change or mask its natural flavor.

One of the most satisfying attributes of using spices in cooking is that you are limited only by your imagination. However, the key to being successful in making the endless combinations is knowing the products. If you visit an ethnic restaurant, particularly those known for using amazing spices (Indian, Asian, South American, North African), make sure you ask the waiter or the chef what type of spices are in the dishes you eat. Try to recognize the different flavors. Can you tell the difference between green cardamom and black cardamom? Learning to cook with spices means eating and smelling spices. Then you can begin to create your own flavor profiles in your home kitchen.

To get you started, I've created some combinations that are versatile, fun and easily packaged in colorful tins or pretty glass jars for gift-giving. Tie a favorite, hand-written recipe to the jar with a fancy ribbon, and voila! You've created a fabulous homemade gift that won't go straight to the recipient's hips!

Lemony Chicken & Fish Seasoning
Created by Alyson Browett

Slather a whole roasting chicken with this mixture before cooking. Or mix about a teaspoon with two tablespoons whole grain mustard to make a crust for pan-fried or baked fish. This is a multipurpose spice combination with many uses!

1 lemon
2 teaspoons fennel seed
2 teaspoons dried dill
1 dried thyme
1 ¼ teaspoons kosher salt
15 grinds of fresh black pepper

Preheat the oven to 170°. Cut the lemon in half and squeeze out the juice and reserve for another use. Cut the lemon rind into strips or rounds. Lay them out on a rack set into a baking sheet. Place them in the oven and leave them for 4-5 hours to dehydrate. Break the dry and hard lemon rinds into small pieces and put them in a spice grinder along with the fennel, dill and thyme. Grind the spices until powdery. Add the salt and pepper. This mixture can be multiplied to give as a gift and will keep for up to six months in an airtight container.

Blackening Seasoning
Created by Alyson Browett

This combination has a lot of depth, and therefore a lot of versatility. Use it as a BBQ seasoning, a rub for steaks (a thick rib eye cut!), seasoning for chili, baked chicken, or blackened catfish. The uses really are endless. A favorite at my house was mixing two tablespoons of the spice mixture with one cup of cornmeal and using this as the final coating on fried chicken strips. This is a great party food! (Cut chicken breasts into strips, dredge in flour, then beaten egg, then the cornmeal spice mixture. Fry in a half an inch of oil. Serve it with your favorite dipping sauce, such as blue cheese dressing or a little hot pepper paste stirred into some mayo.)

¼ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon oregano
½ teaspoon basil
½ teaspoon cilantro
½ teaspoon onion powder
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
2 teaspoons mild or hot paprika (not sweet)
½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
½ teaspoon granulated sugar (preferably organic)
1 teaspoon instant coffee
1 ¼ teaspoon kosher salt

Combine all of the ingredients except the salt in a spice grinder (you might have to do this in steps). Grind until powdery. Add the salt. This mixture can be multiplied to give as a gift and will keep for up to six months in an airtight container.

Everything-But-The-Parsley Spiced Nuts
Created by Alyson Browett

Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme… Simon and Garfunkel were on to something! Combine the later three spices to create a truly memorable cocktail snack or hostess gift. And don't let your imagination stop you here. Use this method to create your own spiced nuts!

1 teaspoon ground dried sage
1 teaspoon dried whole thyme leaves
1 tablespoon dried whole rosemary leaves
¾ teaspoon kosher salt
2 cups walnuts, pecans, or mixed nuts (unsalted)
2 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350°. Place the three herbs in a spice or coffee grinder and blend until powdery. Stir in the salt. Heat the oil in a pan over medium-low heat. Stir in the spices and cook for about 1 minute. Add the nuts and stir them to coat them well with the oil and spices. Spread the nuts on a parchment or wax paper lined baking sheet and bake for 5-8 minutes, stirring once. Allow to cool and serve. The nuts can be stored up to two weeks in an airtight container. Makes 2 cups.



Sweet, Spicy, Salty Nuts
Created by Alyson Browett

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons light brown sugar
1 teaspoon chile powder (Ancho chile powder preferred)
¾ teaspoon kosher salt
2 cups pecans

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt the butter in a pan over medium-low heat. Add the sugar and stir until dissolved. Add the chile powder and salt and stir for 1-2 minutes until combined. Stir in the pecans and coat well with the buttery mixture. Spread the nuts onto a parchment or wax paper-lined baking sheet. Bake for 16 minutes, stirring the nuts every 4 minutes. Watch carefully so they do not burn. Cool completely and serve. The nuts can be stored for up to two weeks in an airtight container. Makes 2 cups.

Xocoatl – Aztec Hot Chocolate
Created by Alyson Browett

It's getting colder, and a steaming cup of hot chocolate is always a welcome snack or dessert. Cocoa beans were pounded into a thick paste and made into a bitter beverage in ancient Mexico and South America, where cacao trees are native. Eventually, the drink was flavored with cinnamon, vanilla and even hot chiles. The Aztec emperor Montezuma is fabled to have drunk up to 50 glasses of "xocoatl" daily.

2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
2 tablespoons granulated sugar (preferably organic)
Pinch of chile powder (optional)
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
Pinch of salt
Dash of vanilla extract

Mix all of the dry ingredients. If giving as a gift, you can multiply this recipe several times and include the following instructions: Place two heaping teaspoons in a mug and slowly pour in 8 oz. of hot milk or water. Add a dash of vanilla extract, if desired. Stir and enjoy! Serves one.

If you're still dying to make cookies, check out my article from last year's December issue at http://mbecc.com/archive/pdf/Eccentric_07_12.pdf. Click through to page 12.



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Re-Volting

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode

It's never easy, outwitting the varmints that rearrange our planting schemes. There are a few to contend with and some are far more destructive than others. By far, the worst offender is the vole or Microtus pennsylvanicus. Although voles are a common problem in the garden and I have a few tips that will help you deal with them.

Voles are common throughout the United States, in fact there are at least 15 species of voles in North America. The worst offender, the meadow vole feeds on leaves, stems, roots, fruits, seeds and flowers. They have a high metabolic rate, matched with a high rate of promiscuity. Not to be confused with moles or shrews, voles love our garden plants, whereas moles are carnivorous, feeding on insect larvae, worms and even mice. Shrews feed on moss, seeds, fruits, nuts and occasionally roots and build shallow tunnels with deeper chambers for food storage. Voles often take advantage of mole tunnels, but are also capable of building their own, as they prefer the pliable ground of a garden and naturally the assorted goodies that you have planted there. I have learned, over the years that a voles greatest fear is open space, understandable when one realizes that as much as 85 percent of an owl or hawks diet comes from voles. Foxes also rely on voles as an important dietary staple.

Knowing that, the single best thing you can do is to simply clean up your garden. Remove fallen leaves and rake the garden clean. More often than not the voles will high-tail it to safer quarters, seeking the shelter of grassy fields or a neighbors uncleared garden. If in fact, you find that moles have invaded, you may attempt to discourage them, even though their feeding habits are beneficial, the tunnels become super-highways for the more destructive voles.

Voles tend to like plants of the lily family, they eat Lilium bulbs and seek out daylilies (Hemerocallis) and Hostas. Surprisingly, they are also fond of a few woody shrubs, with roses ranking in the top 5. I used to set out mouse-traps, placed under inverted pots and baited with peanut-butter, but my first victim was a tiny shrew, so I abandoned that method. Meadow voles are short lived, averaging only 2 to 3 months, but young are capable of leaving the nest at 3 weeks. Females breed 2 to 3 times during their lifetime, producing an average of 5 young. A single female travels within an area of 75 to 200 square feet.

Of course, once feeding begins, the most desirable plants are always the most expensive ones. I admire them (oddly enough) for knowing which Hostas cost over 35 dollars and this brings me to my second method of defense, a cheap plastic label with nothing more on it than $1.99, placed next to your more valuable plants.



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Extraordinary equestrian estate encompasses **133 +/- acres** with contemporary residence •Fabulous 12 stall stable •Beautifully remodeled Guest/Managers house •2 additional updated Tenant houses •2 charming stone cottages •Riding ring and Schooling ring •All in a park-like setting •Most spectacular mountain views on prestigious Atoka Road! **$5,600,000**

LOCUST GROVE - DELAPLANE



Extraordinary **250 acre** farm •Beautiful stone main residence meticulously restored and updated •Charming Log Guest Cabin and separate studio/office •Newer Barn with Run-in area •Separate Apartment •All in pristine condition •Gorgeous views in a very protected area •Only 1 hour from Washington, D.C.. **$4,375,000**

AIRY HOUSE - UPPERVILLE



Extraordinary brick colonial on **50+ acres** in prestigious Greystone •Over 9,000 square feet of living space •Recently completed a $1,000,000 restoration of property •A new heated pool and brilliant gardens overlook a pond with fabulous mountain views, in a private setting •Yet convenient to Upperville and Middleburg. **$3,500,000**

ST. LOUIS - MIDDLEBURG



Elegant 15 room, custom built Victorian on **25 beautiful acres** with 6 Bedrooms, 6.5 Baths, Brazilian cherry floors, fabulous gourmet Kitchen, Library, Media Room, 5 Fireplaces •Finished walk out level, ideal for guests/au pair •3 bay detached garage •Wonderful mountain views •Ideal for horses! **$1,950,000**

PLUM GROVE - PURCELLVILLE



Gracious historic **10 acre** farm, circa 1787 beautifully sited in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains •Charming manor house, recently updated with 3 levels, original wood floors, 5 Bedrooms, new Kitchen, and granite counters •Guest House •Log cabin •3 bay Garage and storage building •Stocked pond and magnificent views •Additional land available. **$1,695,000**

GLEN DEVON



Stunning all brick colonial on **10+ acres** •Fabulous stable, riding ring and board fenced paddocks, all in a gorgeous setting at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mtns •Property is pristine with brilliant gardens •Brick-walled terrace •Towering trees offer total privacy •3 finished levels in the residence are impeccable •Completely updated with newer gourmet Kitchen and Baths. **$1,550,000**

BEAVER CREEK



Sited on **11 wonderful acres** overlooking board fenced paddocks •4 Bedroom custom colonial •Minutes from historic Middleburg •Hardwood floors, 2 Fireplaces, walls of windows in Master Suite and 3rd floor studio •Fabulous lap pool, tiered decks, flagstone terraces •Barn and workshop •Picture perfect setting. **$1,375,000**

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Pastimes

Poof!

7th Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

The NFL last week announced it was cutting prices on this season's playoff tickets by an average of 10% in response to what it referred to as "the economic challenges facing fans."

In other words, the NFL cares.

About you.

A lot.

Or at least 10%.

The average playoff ticket last year ran $121. So the NFL, in all its big-hearted, warm-fuzzied generosity, is stepping up to save you at least $12 a playoff ticket.

Now, go, rush out and buy a family plan.

Forget Henry Paulson. I'm thinking Roger Goodell should weigh in on the global economic meltdown.

Speaking of meltdown, all those people fighting for seats on the Redskins' bandwagon a couple weeks ago seemed pretty busy clawing each others eyes out on their way to the emergency exit row this Monday morning.

Yikes. Listening to poor Vinny Cerrato on "Inside the Red Zone" following the Skins loss to big D was almost more schadenfreude than my small heart could take in one sitting. Maybe the complete and utter absence of Cerrato's maniacal, hyena-like laughter following losses helps, but Cerrato's show, an utter travesty live on the air, is quite possibly the worst thing to happen to D.C. radio since Howard Stern was allowed to flee to New York.

Speaking of New York, good lord. Maybe the Baltimore Ravens managed to keep their streak of games holding opponents without a 100-yard rusher intact, but sweet Christmas; Brandon Jacobs rushed for 73 yards in the first half, Ahmad Bradshaw rushed for 94 in the second half, and when the dust had settled the Giants had utterly mauled the Ravens for 207 total rushing yards en route to 30-10 walloping.

There's no denying it at this point; the Giants have got to be the consensus Super Bowl pick to represent the NFC.

And we might as well give the Titans the AFC nod, while we're at it.

There, Super Bowl XLII, picked.

Wait, no? "That's why they play the games," you say?

"Any team can beat any other on any given Sunday," you wail?

Bollocks.

A couple free ideas for Commissioner Goodell that will do more for the game than just cutting prices for playoff tickets by $12.

• You've got too many teams, as evidenced by the toxic stench wafting up from more than one of your divisions. The AFC and NFC West? Scrap 'em. When the Arizona Cardinals represent the best you've got, very, VERY strange things are afoot at the Circle-K. Take the marquee players from those 8 teams (yeah, all 18 of 'em) and split 'em between the remaining 18 teams you'll have after….

• Jettisoning the Bengals, Lions, Texans and, because Philadelphia just won the World Series and deserves a little suffering to bring it back into balance, Eagles. Nobody (really, NOBODY) will miss the Bengals and Lions. One of my best friends ever is a diehard Bengals fan, and he might even pay YOU to get rid of 'em. I don't know any diehard Lions fans. Seriously. Name one.

That's it. The NFL's product improves exponentially and ALL the games begin to mean something. A simple thank you note will suffice.

As for the Redskins? Well, anyone who would've been disappointed with a 6-4 record at this point at the beginning of the season, please stand up.

Now sit down, because you're lying.

Flip that loss to the Rams to a win and you'd be looking at 7-3. Hurts, don't it?

The Redskins were never winning the Super Bowl this year, they just weren't. This season is a feeling-out process, a learning process. Think high school.

Coach Zorn has done more than most of us thought he would with less than he was supposed to have. Jason Campbell is growing into himself after being forced to wander aimlessly in the desert under certain previous regimes that shall remain nameless. Clinton Portis and Chris Cooley are acting like the playmakers they're supposed to be. London Fletcher, LaRon Landry and Carlos Rogers are putting the fear of God into people that wander too carelessly downfield.

But problems persist. The offensive line is the most schizo in the league. Sometimes they're Hogs. Sometimes they're hobos. The defensive front seems unwilling or incapable of putting pressure on opposing quarterbacks. You think a couple shots to the teeth of Tony Romo early in Sunday's game might have an effect? Shawn Springs is done. Send him packing after the season and hold onto DeAngelo Hall (a DB who can catch!) instead.

Look, this isn't the season that might have been for the 'Skins. It isn't the season that never was. This is the rare season that's exactly what it was supposed to be, with more promise and excitement than any of us had any right to expect.

And speaking of expect, who saw VMI beating Kentucky to kick off the NCAA basketball season? A couple more losses like that and you know what Billy Gillispie's gonna be?

Up in smoke.

You can always reach Alex Cudaback at cuda24@yahoo.com

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Middleburg Boy Scout Troop 2950 Holds First Court of Honour



Having accomplished all necessary scouting skills to becoming a Boy Scout., three Scouts were honored with their Scout award. The skills included the Pledge of Allegiance, knot work, the scout oath, motto, law and country code. Four scouts were awarded with their Tenderfoot rank; to obtain this they learned camping skills, joined the troop for outdoor activities, learned ropework, ax and saw, map and compass and first-aid skills. Since starting earlier this year the Troop has been on various camps including a weekend tubing camp where they tubed down the Shenandoah, a District camp on the Blue Ridge mountains, and a local camp where they learned basic camp skills. The troop been hiking at Sky Meadows and recently have done some fundraising in Middleburg, selling home grown apples. Troop 2950 welcomes any new boys wishing to become a Boy Scout.

BSA Troop 2950 meets every Monday evening at The American Legion hall on the Plains Road at 6.45 pm to 8.30 pm.

Piedmont Community Foundation of Loudoun & Fauquier Expanding Grant Offerings

The Board of Directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce the third round of discretionary grants is now available through the grant application process. Those who have needs that fit one of the grant areas listed below are cordially invited to apply. For application details and funding preferences check the PCF website www.piedmontcf.org.

The Frederick L. Spencer, Jr., Memorial Fund: A $600 grant restricted to support music, drama and act activities. – see guidelines in support of Culture and Arts.

The Peter M. Howard Memorial Fund: A $600 grant restricted to support preservation of historic properties and open space ---see guidelines under Environment and Preservation.

The Community Fund: A $500 grant -- see guidelines in support of Children and Families.

Eligible organizations may submit a one-page preliminary application for the above grants; due in PCF offices by December 31, 2008. If a full application is invited, your application will be due by April 1, 2009 with funding available by May.

In addition to the grants listed above, The S. Murray Rust and Mary H. C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project offers youth the ability to apply for several community service grants ranging in size from $500 to $2500. All youth grant applications are due by February 1, 2009 with funding available in June 2009. When checking the PCF website www.piedmontcf.org click on Forward Turn.

During 2008, PCF funds have made available over $62,500 for pre-designated or donor advised charitable distributions. These funds were restricted by donors for specific purposes all designed to enhance Loudoun and Fauquier Counties. An additional $7850 was awarded in the spring and summer of 2008 through PCF competitive grant programs.

To learn how your nonprofit organization can become involved in a permanent annual funding program, please contact Karen Krei, Exec. Director, PCF, 540 687 5223, PO Box 402, Middleburg, VA. 20118.

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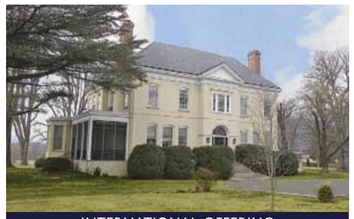
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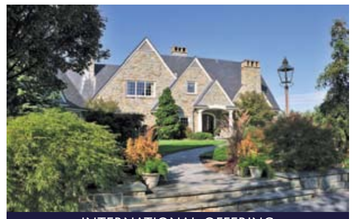
Grasslands, Middleburg, VA
Superb country estate of 510 acres located in the Orange County Hunt. Grasslands represents the epitome of fox hunting, with its land, location, and natural beauty of the rolling pastures with grand panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Handsome brick manor house, 5 additional dwellings, 3 horse barns (total of 35 stalls), numerous farm dependencies, large pond, and frontage on Cromwell's Run. The quality of the land is unsurpassed and the location is unmatched. $17,500,000.

Carole Miller **540-687-2233**
Ruth Ripley **540-687-2222**
Gloria Armfield **540-687-2223**


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Glenara, Marshall, VA
Stately Georgian, circa 1883, on 339 rolling acres of Virginia's beautiful countryside. An impressive residence with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, with 3 additional staff bedrooms and bath. The residence features 6 fireplaces, hardwood floors, old millwork, high ceilings and incredible views. Additional improvements include separate office with fireplace and apartment, tenant houses, stable, and barns. In conservation easements. $7,750,000.

Lynn Wiley **540-454-1527**


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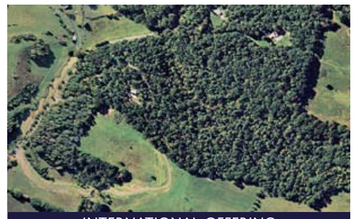
Birchwood, Leesburg, VA
One of the most beautiful properties in Loudoun County. This offering includes 6 parcels totalling 180 acres. Elegant stone manor house has superb, custom details throughout. Geo thermal heating/cooling systems. Residence is surrounded by an established world class arboretum with thousands of rare trees. 50' x 20' pool with spa. Panoramic, breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Catoctin Creek flows along one boundary. 8' deer fence guards 38 acres. $7,250,000. Also offered on 38 acres for $4,950,000.

Ruth Ripley **540-687-2222**
Carole Miller **540-687-2233**


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Windamere Farm, Middleburg, VA
Windamere Farm, located in the Orange County Hunt territory, comprises 26+ acres improved by a well built, lovely brick house, seven stall brick stable, large metal building, 3 bay run-in and shed, garden house, 2 ponds and excellent fencing. A superb location with wonderful ride out. This is a first time offering of this special property. $3,200,000.

Gloria Armfield **540-687-2223**


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Angelica Hill, Marshall, VA
74 acres of woods, open rolling fields and lovely vistas. Recently added was a Carriage House with slate roof, copper gutters, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, hardwood and tile floors, two bedroom suites and 4 garage bays. Property is bordered by two creeks and has new fencing. Possibility of a subdivision into 5 lots as well as conservation tax credits for easement. Owner welcomes offers. $1,699,000.

Rick Lowe **703-509-3962**


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Thoroughfare Place, Gainesville, VA
Superb 7 bedroom 6.5 bath Colonial on 1.93 acres with many trees and lovely landscaping. Emphasis on family living: family room, rec room, exercise and media rooms, large deck, patio, screen porch overlooking in-ground pool. Gourmet kitchen, formal living room and dining room. Two garages with 8 spaces, in-law/nanny suite. GREAT location for shopping and/or commuting. $1,098,000.

Walter Woodson **703-499-4961**
Jud Glascock **540-592-3238**


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Belle Vue, Boyce, VA
Lovely 6 bedroom colonial on 23.77 rolling acres in Clarke Co. Living room with fireplace, dining room, breakfast room, gourmet country kitchen. Hardwood floors on 1st and 2nd levels. Open floor plan and many upgrades. Full finished basement with large family room with fireplace and wet bar, pool, decks and patio. Sited on hill with sweeping views of the countryside and Blue Ridge Mountains. $1,350,000.

Jud & Page Glascock **540-592-3238**


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Grafton, Marshall, VA
Elegant, restored historic, c. 1818, Federal style house on 25 open scenic acres. 6 bedroom, 4 bath home with 4 fireplaces, 10-12 ft ceilings, spacious rooms, and hardwood floors. Well appointed 3 bedroom, 2 bath guest house. Several farm buildings. Private setting yet convenient location. $1,245,000.

Kathryn Harrell **703-216-1118**
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Mosby's Retreat, Haymarket, VA
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Patricia Burns **540-454-6723**



Well Nigh Farm, Washington, VA
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In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains this adorable country house is sited for privacy, views and comfort. The main house has 3 bedrooms (2 on first level) each with full bath, a spacious sunroom/family room/ kitchen, living room and separate dining room. A flagstone terrace extends across the back. A separate garage has a lovely guest suite attached with 1 bedroom, bath, kitchen/living room and private patio. Fabulous Views everywhere! $875,000.

Ruth Ripley **540-687-2222**
Gloria Armfield **540-687-2223**


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Twin Oaks, Catharpin, VA
Exceptionally well built colonial on 15 acres. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 5 fireplaces, 3 car garage, lovely landscaping, 3 stall center aisle barn, fenced paddocks, separate office/workshop attached to garage with separate heat and air. Quiet country setting, pastoral views, great location. $1,199,000.

Jud & Page Glascock **540-592-3238**



Greengarden Road, Upperville, VA
Beautiful, hard to find 41+ acre parcel adjacent to large horse farms. Great ride-out. Views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Mainly open, usable land with some hardwoods and stone walls. Piedmont Hunt territory. $975,000.

Isobel Ziluca **540-454-2041**



Powell House, Middleburg, VA
Historic stone cottage on 1 acre. Purported to be the oldest house in town. Completely renovated. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, brick floor, old pine cabinets and fireplace. Wide old pine floors upstairs. $875,000.

Nathalie Kaye **540-687-5678**



The Old Rectory, Hume, VA
Utterly charming 1840s cottage set amidst gardens at the edge of the village. This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home features high ceilings, four fireplaces, and a delightful garden house nestled among 5 acres of cottage gardens and fields. An ideal hunt box in ODH territory or a superb weekend getaway. $675,000.

Alan Zuschlag **540-270-8150**
Howie Swaim **540-675-9999**



Stonewall Avenue, Middleburg, VA
Great investment opportunity. Two unit brick duplex located on corner lot in the Village of Middleburg. Unit 805 has 3 bedrooms and Unit 803 has two bedrooms. Both units also have a full bath, kitchen, living room, laundry area, private fenced rear yards and separate off street parking spaces. $349,500.

Anita Sisney **703-973-1987**
Nathalie Kaye **540-687-6395**



Elle's Farm House, Sperryville, VA
This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is located on 1.2 acres in the town of Sperryville and boasts frontage on the Thornton River. Fly fish from your own backyard and stroll to town for dinning and shopping. Hear the river sing from front porch or back deck. Granite countertops, wood floors, some fencing. This very quiet home is ideal for full-time or weekend living. $324,000.

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Middleburg Restaurants

Continued From Page 1

on crusty French bread from Lyon Bakery in Washington, D.C. Salamander Pastry Chef Jason Reaves has created two seasonal desserts, including an Apple Spice Cake with a Maple-Walnut Glaze that uses local apples and a Pumpkin-Pecan Tart, which is a pumpkin tart filling using local pumpkins baked into the center of a 6" pecan tart.

Annie's on West Washington is offering homemade chicken salad and chicken soup using chicken from Grandma Honey's Pantry in The Plains and herbs from the Vineyard Nursery and their own garden. In addition, Annie's is serving homemade egg salad using chicken eggs from Cornucopia Farm in Purcellville.

Over at the Goodstone Inn, newly arrived Chef Tarver King is serving local food as much as possible. In addition to procuring lamb from Fields of Athenry in Purcellville, the inn and estate raises its own cows for beef, lamb, chickens and soon pigs for ham and pork. King sometimes can be found in the hen house in the morning collecting eggs from the inn's own chickens, and he and other staff forage for wild foods – including wild garlic, persimmons, water cress, black walnuts, hazelnuts, wood sorrel, and dandelion greens – on the 265 acre property. The staff also attend local farmers' markets and will be joining several Community Supported Agriculture programs next year, so you can be guaranteed you'll have local, fresh and seasonal foods when you visit Goodstone.

Wines from local vineyards – including Chrysalis, Boxwood, Swedenburg, Fabbioli and Linden – will be paired with some menus. Other participating restaurants include The Coach Stop, The Red Fox Inn, Salvia, The Upper Crust, and the Home Farm Store. All menus are subject to change based on availability and supply. Call each restaurant for menus, pricing and reservations.

Equestrian Style Lives

Continued From Page 8

Golf Style will be Vicky's next book with Clarkson Potter and she is hard at work planning the content as she travels far and wide promoting Equestrian Style.

Vicky's career as a writer has introduced her to many famous equestrians.

Whether it was when Mrs. DuPont's five time horse of the year Kelso came to jump at the Washington International Horse Show or when Charlie Fenwick brought the Grand National winner Ben Nevis to a celebratory cocktail party, or ferreting out the fact that Man of War was the first horse ever embalmed, she delights in sharing amusing details with her readers. Equestrian Style is replete with fascinating details of lives lived with, and in appreciation of, horses.

Equally intriguing are the pages and pages of photos of famous stables and equestrian families, memorabilia, décor, events, trophies and estates.

Vicky says in the introduction that equestrian style begins with a basic love of horses. It is abundantly clear that she perfectly fits that description, and that her skill as an author and chronicler of American culture is unparalleled.

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Christmas in Middleburg

December 6th, 2008



Photo Credit Jay Hubbard,

Featuring The Middleburg Hunt

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

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

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WINCHESTER – THORN ROSE FARM
Spacious 5BR, 3 finished level Colonial with master on the main, pool, barns, board fenced paddocks & lighted arena on 23+ acs. Pastoral and private yet close to Medical Ctr. $899,000



MIDDLEBURG – BROOKSFIELD
Immaculate 3/4BR, 3FB, 2HB home with large master suite, wood floors, 3 fireplaces, pool, barns, board fenced paddocks on 10 acres with spring fed pond and great rideout. $849,000



MIDDLEBURG – WINDOVER
Beautiful c. 1900 Hunt Country estate home, carriage house, tenant dwellings, barns, paddocks, lighted arena and more. Spectacular views of expansive countryside. Piedmont Hunt. $3,200,000



UNISON – PERSIMMON RIDGE
c. 1752 stone farmhouse on 18+ acres. Wood floors, old beams, large windows, new full bath and furnace, 3 fireplaces. Stocked pond, large shed and pastoral views. $749,000



UPPERVILLE – MISTY HILL
Grand French Provincial. Old World charm with modern sophistication. Spacious sun-filled rooms, gourmet kitchen, 3 finished levels, pool, patios & expansive space for entertaining. $1,980,000



BOYCE – KENTMERE
c. 1895 country estate with 6BR, 7BA home, random width wood floors, soaring ceilings, mult. fireplaces, carriage house, tenant houses, barns on 50+ acres. Blue Ridge Hunt. $3,199,000



MILLWOOD – LIONS GATE
60 acre equestrian facility with 10 stall center aisle barn, great apartment, board fenced paddocks, automatic waterers. $1,675,000
Listed by Greenhaugh Real Estate



MIDDLEBURG – SYCAMORE
Cottage in town. Bright 3 bedroom home with wood floors, spa quality master bath, surround sound system, large lot with stone walls, mature plantings, views. $459,900



WARRENTON – PINEY MOUNTAIN
5BR Colonial on nearly 13 acre horse property. Wood floors, fireplace, built-ins, lower level rec room, spacious master. Lighted arena, 4 stall center aisle barn, and stocked pond. $595,000



UPPERVILLE – PATRICK
Charming 1 bedroom stucco huntbox on nearly 1 fenced acre. Cathedral ceiling, wood floors, sky lights, fireplace in LR. Renovated kitchen & bath. In town. $399,000

Many Thanks for a Great Year. Happy Holidays!

Broadlands Regional Medical Center Meets the Health Care Comprehensive Plan

Read the Loudoun County planning staff's own words:

Complies With Hospital Criteria

"…the proposed Broadlands Regional Medical Center (BRMC) complies with the service and location criteria given the regional nature of medical centers as specified in the County's adopted land use policies for health care facilities."

Source: Loudoun County Department of Planning Staff Report 9/25/08

Meets Community Needs

"…the Broadlands facility has been planned to accommodate the community's needs…"

Source: Loudoun County Department of Planning Staff Report 9/25/08

Supported by the Community

- Endorsed by the Broadlands HOA
- Approved by the Loudoun County Planning Staff
- Approved by the Virginia State Health Commissioner

More Medical Care Services

"Its location is central to the regional population and provides an additional choice of medical care services."

Source: Loudoun County Department of Planning Staff Report 9/25/08



The next Loudoun hospital belongs in Broadlands.

In 2010, the BRMC location will be closer to 90% of county residents than a location along Route 50; by 2020, even with continued growth in the County, a full 88% of county residents will be closer to the BRMC location than a Route 50 location.

Broadlands Regional Medical Center
HCA Northern Virginia

Broadlands Regional Medical Center
The right location for Loudoun's Next Hospital

Lunge Line

MARE Center seminar topics of much interest to equine community

A record crowd turned out for the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center's (MARE Center) 4th annual day-long equine educational seminar, entitled, "Keeping Horses Happy, Healthy, and Whole: Advances in Equine Health Care Management." Seminar participants were enthusiastic and inquisitive, which was evident through a comment made by one of them, "This is the best event yet and I've attended all of them here. I've learned so much!"

Six invited speakers, all of whom are veterinarians, shared information regarding their specialties with the attentive audience. Exhibits and hands-on demonstrations were presented by speakers on their respective topics, such as Dr. Jana Froeling's presentation on chiropractic and acupuncture for horses.

Dr. Jana Froeling, with Full Circle Equine Service – www.fullserviceequinecentner.com - in Amissville, Va., talked about the importance of equine chiropractic and acupuncture services, which she demonstrated on "Tess," one of the MARE center's research mares. An equine chiropractic evaluation involves not only asking the owner for a detailed history of the animal, but also includes using palpations to examine the horse by means of touch. Chiropractic can improve performance in many horses and can contribute to a longer, healthier life. Equine acupuncture involves manipulating the nervous system to produce therapeutic effects and is one of five tenets of traditional Chinese medicine. She stated that one lesson she hoped participants would take away from her lecture was that "chiropractic and acupuncture can be used anytime in keeping the horse healthy."

Foot care in the horse is paramount to the horse's performance and longevity. The term "foot" refers to the hoof and all of the structures within it. Dr. Scott Pleasant, a veterinarian and professor with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine – www.vetmed.vt.edu - in Blacksburg, Va., gave a comprehensive presentation on equine foot care. Pleasant stated, "The key to strong, healthy feet are good conformation and proper foot care." He discussed with the audience topics such as foot conformation, when and why to shoe horses, trimming techniques, and how environmental factors affect foot care. Throughout his talk, Pleasant used actual horse hooves and lower limbs to point out the anatomy of the foot and to show the audience how feet on the horse looks when affected by different ailments. The audience asked Pleasant many questions about the angle of the hoof. Hoof angle is a term used to describe the alignment from the hoof in relation to pastern bones, which lead from the horse's "ankle" to the hoof. Proper angle is important for blood flow to the hoof and to reduce strain tendons in the lower leg. During lunch break, Bill Johnson, who attended the seminar, said, "I'm going to remember this business about the angles. I got a much clearer picture and I liked the models Dr. Pleasant presented."

Dr. Mark V. Crisman, a veterinarian and professor with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Va., spoke on new vaccines for horses. He also reviewed and updated general vaccinations programs, including when, why, and what type of vaccines should be used to keep horses healthy. Crisman explained that these factors can help horse owners decide which vaccines to use and depends on how much exposure the horse has to a given infectious/contagious disease. For example, the horse that stays at home in the pasture will not need some of the vaccines, such as for influenza, that a horse that travels frequently for racing or showing needs. Pam Wisor, who attended the seminar stated, "I'm glad to find out from Dr. Crisman that some vaccinations are not necessary for my horses, if they were not previously exposed to certain diseases. I think I vaccinate out of habit, but maybe I don't have to do so much of it now."

"Like kids, start your horse at the dentist early", was the opening remark from Dr.Claudia True, a veterinarian at Woodside Equine Clinic, in Ashburn, Va., - www.woodsideequineclinic.com. Using an equine skull, complete with a removable tooth, True talked about the structure and diseases of the teeth and mouth in horses. She explained, using the removable tooth, how long horse teeth actually are and how important knowing the anatomy of the horse's mouth is for the owner. Poor dental care in the horse may result in weight loss, dropping feed, or chewing "funny". If not properly cared for these issues can result in poor performance because tooth pain may cause the horse not to handle properly while riding and further complicate the horse's overall health. Joan Jernigan, a client of True's and a seminar participant said, "I didn't realize the teeth went back so far. Dr. True did dental surgery on one of my horses. This was after several attempts with other vets to correct a problem. Her work is top quality." Eighty percent of True's patients at Woodside Equine Clinic require equine dentistry care.

Goose Creek polo team wins USPA Silver Cup



Goose Creek repeated as USPA Silver Cup champions having to go to overtime to defeat a very talented and determined Pony Express team 11-10. The Silver Cup played at 20 goals is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the United States first played in 1900 in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Silver Cup is hosted by 302 Polo Club in Aiken South Carolina and presented by Mercedes-Benz of Augusta. Goose Creek Polo Team is based at Virginia International Polo Club in Upperville.

Teamwork and organization were critical throughout the game, and never more so during the extra chukker, when Maureen Brennan jumped on a back shot from Cote Zegers and threaded a perfect pass to Martin Zegers, who found an open Adam Snow, who finished the play and the game.

The score was 4-2 Pony Express at the half. After a slow start, Goose Creek scored four times in the fourth chukker to tie the score at 6-6. Both teams traded goals in the fifth chukker, and the Zegers brothers gave the defending champion a two-goal lead, before Nicolas Roldan and Brandon Phillips tied the game, scoring less than a minute apart to even the score with a little more than 1 minute left to play, forcing sudden death to decide the outcome of the game.

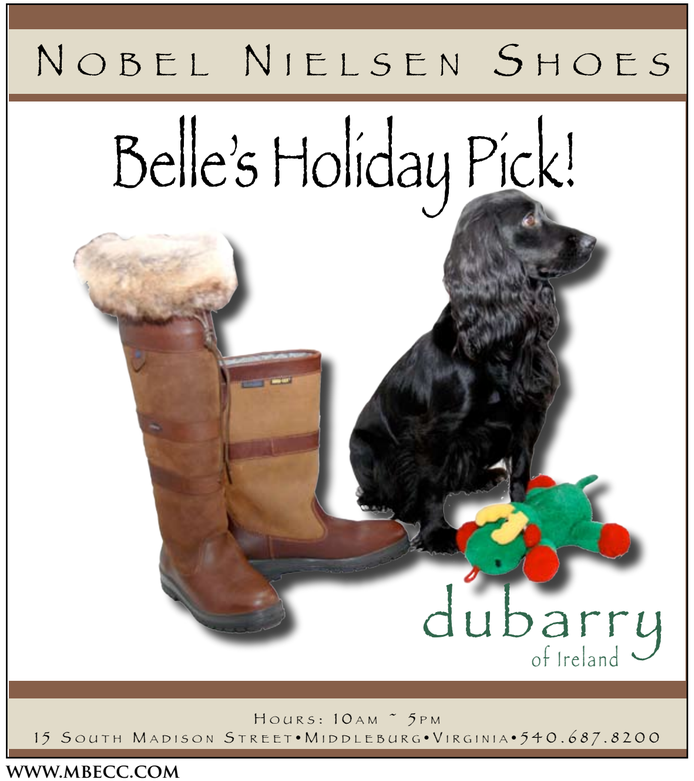
During halftime it was announced that Aiken resident Owen Rinehart (Charlottesville native) will be inducted into the National Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame in March 2009. Virginia International Polo Club recently held a clinic given by Rinehart who also played in Virginia's only high goal match, "The Guarisco Gallery 20 Goal Match", hosted by VIPolo.

Brennan's Horse Papita was named Best Playing Amateur Pony and Snow's Amy was named Best Playing Professional Pony. Brennan won MVP Amateur honors and Martin Zegers won the Most Valuable Professional Player.

Martin Zegers scored six goals for Goose Creek, Snow added two goals, C. Zegers and Brennan one each, and the team received one goal as a result of the handicap differential.

"We (Martin and Cote Zegers) played with Adam this summer, which helped us to be ready for this tournament," said Zegers. "Our horses were fresh coming into this tournament. Today was anyone's game, and we got lucky at the end."

Pony Express was led by Roldan's five goals, Tomas Goti's three scores and Phillips' two tallies.



Innovative system used to repair equine fractures at Virginia Tech's equine medical center

When a human fractures an arm or leg, the results are pain, discomfort, and inconvenience. When a horse fractures a limb, however, the consequences are more serious - possibly even life-threatening.

While the surgical specialists at Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott's Equine Medical Center have always had the skill and experience to repair many types of equine fractures, they now have an innovative new fixation system - the Locking Compression Plating system - available for those cases where this advanced bone plating system will provide the best treatment option.



The innovative Locking Compression Plating system was used to repair a fracture in the elbow of a pregnant thoroughbred broodmare at Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center

The state-of-the-art system is comprised of stainless steel and titanium plates and screws, along with instruments unique to the locking plate technique. It offers advantages over traditional fracture fixation systems, which are also in use at the equine medical center.

Bone plates, which were developed to fix human fractures, have been used for equine fracture repair for nearly 40 years. Over this period of time, bone plates have been improved to provide better compression across the fracture line and better stabilization, which helps speed the healing process. This same technology has helped improve the chances for repair of equine limb fractures.

In order to repair a horse's broken or weakened bone with the Locking Compression Plating system, a horse undergoes a surgical procedure which involves implanting extremely strong plates that accept two different types of threaded screws. One type of screw, the cortical bone screw, helps compress the fracture line and can be angled relative to the plate. The other type of screw, the locking screw, has special threads in the head that lock right into the plate, unifying the plate/screw unit, which provides a greater level of stability.

Because the Locking Compression Plating system also includes a tool that can contour a plate so that it exactly matches the shape of the bone being repaired, the system provides a support structure that is tailored to the individual horse's anatomy and needs. After the plate is contoured to the bone, holes are drilled in the bone and the appropriate screws are embedded to attach the plate to the bone.

"The main advantage of the [Locking Compression Plating] system is that it provides a greater degree of stability in the horse's limb both during and after recovery," explained Dr. Jennifer Barrett, an assistant professor of surgery at the center. "With greater stability, there is less likelihood of failure, which might lead to a new fracture." The system also allows for better blood circulation, which helps facilitate healing.

"And, during the healing process, if the fracture repair is more stable, the horse is more comfortable, which can help prevent problems like laminitis in the opposite foot," Barrett added.

In putting this innovative system to use, surgeons at the EMC have been able to give every advantage to an injured horse. Should a horse suffer a broken leg - depending on the severity of the fracture - it might have to be euthanized. The unique Locking Compression Plating system offers a much greater chance of bringing the horse back to full health and avoiding the loss of the animal.

Recently, Barrett utilized the system on a pregnant thoroughbred broodmare that was brought to the equine medical center with a broken elbow. "Fortunately, we had this state-of-the-art system at our fingertips," Barrett noted, "and the outcome was very rewarding: she recovered completely and had a beautiful foal."

The equine medical center was able to purchase the fracture fixation system as a result of annual donations. "Donations to the center allow us to continue to invest in state-of-the-art equipment so that we can maintain our high standard of delivering excellent care to our patients," said Dr. Nat White, the Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and director of the center. "Each and every year, thousands of our patients benefit from the generosity of our donors."





Lunge Line

New research lab opens at Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center's advanced referral services and scientific research has always distinguished it as a leader in equine medical care.

Pioneering research conducted by equine medical center faculty members in the area of equine ulcers, equine protozoal myelitis, and musculoskeletal diseases, for example, has led to the development of commercial products.

But, the center's growing stature as a research enterprise has taken a significant step forward with the construction of a major new laboratory, one that is equipped to explore the molecular aspects of disease and trauma. The research lab is expected to generate treatments that will improve health care - and not just for horses.

"Given the spaciousness of the lab, the equipment it holds, and the world-class expertise of the equine medical center faculty, the opening of this laboratory brings us onto the national stage in research," noted Dr. Jennifer Barrett, an assistant professor of surgery at the facility. "And the results of our research here will not only make a critical difference in improving equine health, they could help improve the health of other animals - and possibly extend to improving human health," she said.

"In addition," Barrett continued, "this new lab offers a location for training future scientists. That's an enormous benefit to the veterinary medical community."

The 2,500-square-foot lab is set up for bench-top research, which includes growing stem cells for study and clinical application as well as identifying inflammatory proteins and molecules associated with numerous diseases and injuries. All of these methods are needed to help understand complex medical problems and to develop new treatments.

"One of our first projects focuses on tendon and ligament regeneration," Barrett said. "This involves gathering adult stem cells from bone marrow as well as progenitor cells -- cells that are partially specialized -- from tendon. Because these tendon progenitor cells have some of the characteristics of stem cells and they are still in a form that is easily manipulated, they could be helpful in improving healing.

"Once we have progenitor cells, we subject them to various growth conditions," Barrett continued. "We examine the results and decide which cells will provide new growth in an injured tendon."

The application of this research will improve the ongoing use of stem cell injections to treat tendon and ligament injuries. "Specifically, we aim to reduce the turnover time for treating injuries and to optimize growth conditions of the cells prior to applying them to the injured area," Barrett said. The overall goal is to help tendon and ligament heal quickly and effectively back to their original strength and elasticity."

This is just one example of the research capabilities offered by the new laboratory. Other projects will involve isolating cells not only from bone marrow, but also from cartilage, fat, muscle, and tendon, then running tests to see how these cells perform under various conditions. In addition, researchers will be able to prepare platelet-rich plasma, which can then be used to treat both soft tissue and orthopedic injuries.

"Now with our in-house research capabilities, the cohesive, integrative approach we take at the [equine medical center] is greatly enhanced," Barrett noted. "Our new cell and molecular research laboratory adds to our existing state-of-the-art facilities and equipment: a standing MRI, ultrasound equipment, a treadmill, video equipment, echocardiography, lasers, etc. Add to this our world-renowned faculty, and the result is that we are now operating at a new level in equine medical care," she said.

The ability to incorporate new areas of research and testing in-house offers an array of benefits that all point to savings - in time, effort, and cost. "We can address clinical problems directly by conducting the appropriate tests in the lab, reporting the results, and bringing solutions to the patient - all in an incredibly efficient way," said Dr. Martin Furr, the Adelaide C. Riggs Chair in Equine Medicine at the equine medical center. "With test results available more quickly, treatments may be started in a more timely way, which could lead to successful outcomes sooner," he added.

"Fortunately," Furr said, "we were able to fund this new lab through a variety of sources, including private donations, monies allocated from pari-mutuel activities, and through two of Virginia Tech's Colleges: the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Going forward, we will need to retain those funding sources, but also increase funding through grants offered by foundation or government agencies, or from private donors.

"Now that we have made this great stride," Furr concluded, "we want to keep up the momentum."



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Let's Get Smart.

Today, 50 percent of patients in Loudoun County seek hospital care outside the County.

If HCA builds a new hospital in Broadlands, 50 percent of patients in Loudoun County will still seek hospital care outside the County.

Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) likes to talk about the number of beds per 1,000 population. But, it is a phony issue, crafted by PR spin doctors to gloss over the unmet needs that a hospital in Broadlands will not answer.

The fact is, you could raise the number of beds per 1,000 in Loudoun County to the highest in the nation, and Loudoun residents would still be forced to leave the County.

The real cause of out-migration of patients is the lack of available higher end hospital services in the County. Patients leave Loudoun County to access world-class heart surgery and treatments. Or, nationally ranked cancer specialists. Or, internationally recognized orthopedic centers of excellence. Or, certified stroke centers. Or, Level I trauma services and tertiary care, like the kind currently available only in Northern Virginia at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

The proposed hospital in Broadlands mostly duplicates medical services already available at Loudoun Hospital. In fact, a study prepared by State health care experts for Loudoun County in 2006 found that building a hospital in Broadlands—just 5 miles from the existing hospital—will actually create such economic constraints for both hospitals that development of higher end hospital services will be set back 10 years or more. That's bad planning.

The County's Comprehensive Plan recognized the real need and set a goal for land use decisions to "promote development of sophisticated, high level health care services…that permit residents to choose to stay in the County for care."

The County's professional planning staff did not even bother to provide an analysis of the real issue in a report prepared for the decision-makers. More bad planning.

Let's Get Smart. Loudoun County leaders need to focus on real facts. Urge your Supervisor to set aside political agendas, phony claims, and public relations smoke. Stand by all of the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. A hospital in Broadlands is a bad land use decision. For the future of health care, it is even worse.

TELL THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: STICK TO YOUR PLAN.
FOR THE NEXT LOUDOUN HOSPITAL

LEARN MORE: nextloudounhospital.com

Faces & Places

Halloween

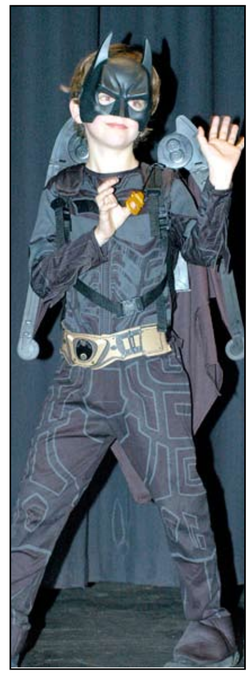
Middleburg Community Center, Middleburg, VA, October 31, 2008
Photos by Jay Hubbard







Check out more photos at www.mbecc.com






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Faces & Places

Souled Out

Middleburg Elementary School, Middleburg Community Center Middleburg, va, November 7, 2008
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard













Fairfax Hunt Breakfast

Huntland Farm, Middleburg, va, November 15, 2008
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



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Ray Moffet, Joseph Keusch and Randy Rouse



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- Adults $10; seniors $9; students $7; children 5 and younger free
- House tours on the hour and half hour; last tour at 4 p.m.

Sunday Tours
- Christmas Past Tours with costumed interpretive guides. December 7, 14, 21 Extended hours. 1-5:30 p.m. $12 adults, seniors. $8 students 6-16. Children 5 and under free.
- Gift Shop open 12-6 p.m.

Holiday Teas
- Selected days from November 20-December 28. $24.95 + tax
- Seatings at 1 p.m. Reservations required. **Check website or call for availability**

Four Seasons Art Show
- December 1-23. Small paintings show. Previously juried artists. Carriage House. Free admission.

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We have several healthy, loving **kittens** of all colors who need loving homes!

Etnie was adopted out from MHF but unfortunately her owner had to go into a nursing home, so she was returned to us. She's been back at the shelter for over two years now and we can't figure out why. She's such a sweetheart! She's a 4-5 year old Border Collie/Shepherd mix who is very sweet, with a bubbly personality and a huge heart! She doesn't do well with kitties or other dogs but she loves all people, especially kids. She would do best in a home where she'd get a lot of exercise, maybe a farm or winery with lots of acreage.



Tom Bigbee is a 1 year old purebred Redbone Coonhound who is super special! He came from a sad situation but has blossomed in the past month. Tom will be a great family friend.



Bernie is a very handsome big purebred Foxhound! He is drop dead gorgeous and very affectionate with people and other dogs. He needs a home with a secure fenced yard and no kitties.



Mackey is a Llasa / Pug / Chihuahua mix born May 2007. He has a puggish face with a short coat and brindle spots -- he would make a great family friend!

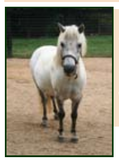


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Meadow is an adorable 8-year-old tiny little miniature horse/Shetland pony cross who needs limited grass intake. She is not rideable but is a wonderful companion/lawn ornament!



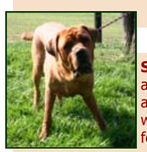
Nelson is one of the nicest dogs we ever met! He's a young Presa/Cane mix who gets along with every dog he's ever met (but not with kitties). We'd love to find him a home where he'll get lots of love, exercise and has other dogs to play with!

Baby's babies! A litter of Walker Coonhound mix pups that were born around 7/15/08 so they can start going home! Mom is here but we don't know who daddy was. They were raised at our shelter with TONS of socialization with kids, cats and other dogs -- they will grow to be medium sized dogs who will need a fenced yard.



Karen is a super special 1 year old Welsh Spaniel mix who has a huge personality! She loves kids, cats and all other dogs and is very affectionate with people too.





Spartacus is the love of your life! He's a young Presa/Rottweiler mix who loves all people, all other dogs, and is very well trained and behaved. What an affectionate and playful guy!

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For more information on animals available for adoption, upcoming fundraisers, recent rescues, and how you can help, please visit us on the web at: **www.middleburghumane.com**

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Albert's Corner

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

It is just not in my nature to be self-aggrandizing. I cannot bark loudly enough to demonstrate how very unassuming I am. It is, therefore, completely without a personal agenda that I nominate myself to be the next First Dog.

Perhaps you are wondering why on earth I should be the First Dog? After all, I am not a puppy. I already have a home and family. I already have a serious commitment to this newspaper. These are valid concerns, of course. But here's the thing: I'm a known quantity and there is no greater threat than the unknown when it comes to Washington.

I am a seasoned veteran of the canine world. I've been there, done that. I won't ruin the rug in the Lincoln Bedroom. I won't wander into the Oval Office and start giving "kisses" to the Secretary of State during a global crisis. I won't get on the antique furniture. I won't bite reporters (though I may have an accident on Putin's shoe). In short, I know the ropes and therefore, I'm the best dog for the job.

Yes, a new puppy would capture the hearts of millions. A new puppy would start with a clean slate and bring a breath of fresh air into the White House. Sure, the puppy could even come from a shelter, thereby furthering the great cause of animal adoption and elevating rescue dogs beyond past prejudices and fears.

To all of this, I simply say, so what? I'm your dog, America. And if you don't believe me, I've got a Pit Bull friend who's pretty convincing.

In closing, allow me to waffle a wee bit. The truth is, I do have a personal agenda. See, there's this thing called the Inaugural Ball and I simply must go. I don't know what it is, but it does seem to involve a ball, and, well, I am a just ever-so-slightly obsessed with that particular toy.

And for anyone wondering how much of a difference one person can make, I would like to spotlight Colette Walsh for all that she is doing to help during these scary times. On a weekly and sometimes daily basis, Colette personally takes in foster dogs and finds new homes for them. The dogs she helps are direct victims of the economic downturn. As manager of Wylie Wagg in Middleburg, she is truly busy, and yet she finds the time to save lives.

In times of crisis, heroes always emerge. I think Colette is a hero, and I am grateful for her and for all of the people who give of their time and money on our behalf. This is your chance to be a hero too. To slightly alter a famous quote, "To the world you may be one person, but to one needy pet, you could be the world."

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

Saints are not born they are nurtured



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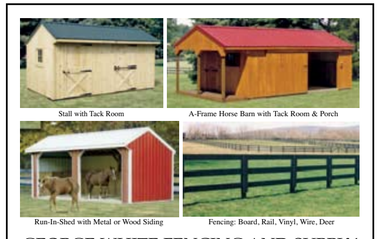
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Dakota
Middleburg, Virginia

87 private acres of rolling fields surrounded by old-growth oaks. This fieldstone and stucco house exhibits quality from the past featuring a reclaimed-timber barn transformed into an intimate family room overlooking two expansive ponds. Well-designed home includes an incomparable custom kitchen, antique beams, lovely first floor master suite and 4 bedrooms. Additional finished space below includes the media room, bar, exercise facility and generous storage. 3-car garage, in-law suite, 3-stall barn and generator. $5,850,000.



Oakfield
Upperville, Virginia

Panoramic views surround this stone manor house beautifully sited on 86 acres in prime Piedmont Hunt Territory. Significant renovations in the home include the notable kitchen and pantry. There is a generous first floor master suite and four additional bedrooms, a classic pine paneled library, multiple fireplaces and a fine 4 season porch. The grounds have been improved with lovely specimen trees and perennial gardens. Other amenities include a tenant house, stable and riding ring, equipment building, stone walls and fencing. $5,600,000.



Lanark Farm
Delaplane, Virginia

Stunning, 6,300 square foot, 4 bedroom, Craftsman style home just built with exceptional detail and solid construction overlooking 10 immaculate acres. Gourmet kitchen with Thermador and Viking appliances, Sirari Rosewood floors throughout the main and upper levels, and custom millwork. Huge finished basement, workout room, home office, lots of storage, views from every window. Property is bound by a bold creek and large mature trees. $995,000.



Atoka Chase
Middleburg, Virginia

Impressive stone and frame home with a pond and 10 acres in Atoka Chase. Large first floor master suite, open contemporary design, great natural light, vaulted ceilings and a central stone fireplace. Extra rooms include an office, an enormous finished walkout basement with recreation room and fireplace, guest room, exercise room and storage areas. Great location, extensive plantings and a private setting. $1,525,000.



Hidden Pond
Purcellville, Virginia

13+ acre horse property just north of Middleburg. Three bedroom main house with 2 car garage and separate cottage. 5-stall stable with wash rack and tack room. Farm is completely fenced including 4 paddocks, a run in shed and spring fed pond. $1,200,000.



Creek Ridge
Middleburg, Virginia

French Country home built in 2007 on 25 mostly wooded acres with frontage on Goose Creek and mountain views. 7,000 sq. ft., brick exterior, 6 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, top of the line finishes, rustic cherry floors on main level, gourmet kitchen, large rooms and 4-car garage. Perfect for entertaining. $2,200,000.



4 Chinn Lane
Middleburg, Virginia

Elegant 3 bedroom colonial in the village with 1st floor master suite. Expansion includes an in-home office and large dining room. Both of these rooms open to a lovely terrace and garden. 2-car garage. $960,000.



Land
Upperville, Virginia

141 acres, small brick house, mostly open and rolling, 2 ponds, mountain views, near Upperville. $3,100,000.



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Properties In Hunt Country

FAIROAKS



Warrenton Hunt Country ♦**493 acres** in Open Space Easement ♦Rolling land with good air drainage ♦Perfect for grapes and/or vineyard ♦1830's manor home ♦Two tenant houses ♦39 acre lake site ♦Dairy barn ♦Stables ♦Machine shed ♦Woodland trails ♦Huge specimen oaks. **$5,950,000**

Alex Sharp (540)219-4425

HIGH THICKET



Rappahannock County ♦Thornton Hill Hounds Hunt Territory ♦Lush meadows and stunning views from the protected grounds ♦Main home, built in the late 60's has been fully upgraded ♦Indoor pool ♦5 stall barn and sheds ♦Riding trails run throughout the land ♦Several fields fenced for horses and cattle ♦**113 easement protected acres** ♦Ask about attractive owner financing! REDUCED PRICE! **$1,850,000**

Alex Sharp (540)219-4425

MIDDLEGROUND FARM



MIDDLEGROUND sits just outside Warrenton ♦Hay fields, creek, hardwoods on back line and several large fenced horse pastures surround the big new manor house ♦7 stall stable, arena, run-in and storage sheds complete the farm ♦2 income producing cottages sit out on Lees Mill Road ♦**50 Acres**. **$1,675,000**

Susie Ashcom (540)729-1478

BED AND BREAKFAST



The Plains ♦Elegant 6 Room Inn, with potential expansion up to 10 rooms ♦**4.29 acres** located in a quaint village ♦Profitable, turn-key operation ♦Price includes the business, the property, improvements and furnishings ♦Innkeeper's 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath home may also be purchased separately. **$1,550,000**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

OAK HILL



Round Hill ♦Charming 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath home on **10+ acres** near Middleburg ♦Sweeping lawn with mountain views, extensive landscaping and picturesque pond ♦New gourmet Kitchen, hardwood floors, formal Living Room and Dining Room, Library, 2-story Family Room with Fireplace, and new Master Bath ♦2-Car Garage and separate 2-story garage/workshop. **$1,395,000**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

WILDSIDE FARM



Markham ♦Wonderful horse farm in breathtaking setting on **15+ acres** ♦4 Bedroom, 3 Bath house with hardwood floors, 3 Fireplaces, built-in bookcases, front and back porches, and spectacular mountain views ♦4 stall barn, garage/workshop, 4 fenced paddocks, fruit trees and 1.5 acre pond teemming with fish ♦Minutes to I-66, yet very private. **$775,000**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

VALLEY VIEW MANOR



Virginia farm house and stable close to Manassas VRE train and I-66 commuter convience ♦Lovingly restored and meticulously maintained by owners ♦Stabling for 4/5 horses and white board fencing ♦Lovely screen porches that provide a sitting and breakfast room and made upstairs as a Master Bedroom sanctuary. **$649,500**

Alex Sharp (540) 219-4425

CINNAMON RIDGE



South Poes Road, in Rappahannock County ♦2 story house ♦4 Stall center-aisle stable with tack and feed rooms ♦A single stall isolation stable ♦Run-in sheds, board fencing, water and elec. to all fields ♦Machine shed and a beautiful large ring which was the scene of shows all last year ♦All on **10.71 gorgeous acres** ♦Priced to sell. **$649,000**

Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

COMMERCIAL



17 West Federal Street, Middleburg ♦Ideally located just one street south of Main Street ♦Approximately 2,450 square feet ♦General Commercial Zoning (C-3) allows for the maximum of possible uses ♦Interior has been demolished and is "construction ready" ♦Public parking lot across street. **$550,000**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

LOVETTSVILLE LAND



Four spectacular open parcels sited at the foot of the Short Hill Mountains. Gorgeous views and great road frontage off paved Mountain Road. Perfect country setting to build your dream home! Location is ideal to Hillsboro, Lovettsville, Purcellville, Waterford, Hamilton and Leesburg. **10.81 acs $310,000; 5.21 acs $245,000 4.94 acs $245,000; 4.37 acs $175,000**

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LAND

THE REGINALD STICKLEY FARM - 126 acres in Warren County. Beautiful panoramic mountain views. In VOF Easement. **$1,275,000**

MIDLAND LAND - 87 acres outside of Warrenton with division rights. **$825,000**

CATOCTIN SPRINGS - Two spectacular wooded estate parcels, private setting. In Conservation Easement, 10 minutes to Leesburg, MARC Train, White's Ferry for commuters, and Ida Park for recreation. Priced to sell. **59 acres $599,000 31 acres $399,000**

HARPERS FERRY - 8 acres. Level house site with 4 Bedroom perc. Near Hillsboro on Harpers Ferry Road. Close to MARC Commuter Train. **$365,000**

HOMESTEAD FARM RENTALS



Located only minutes from Middleburg ♦2 Bedroom, 3 Bath cottage ♦Owned and redesigned by an architect ♦Charming large front porch, lower flagstone terrace ♦All hardwood floors, new windows ♦New Kitchen and Baths ♦Large Family Room in lower level ♦Second 1 level, 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath cottage also available ♦Both located near main house. **$2,550/$1,250 plus utilities**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

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