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A Fish Story With A Happy Ending Page 4

Council Celebrates Christmas

Christmas in Middleburg Page 30



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Burgundy and Blegh! Page 16

Awards Grants to Non Profits Supports Public Library

Dan Morrow

At its regular Thursday, December 11 meeting, Middleburg Town Council unanimously passed a Resolution of Appreciation praising the work of the 2008 Christmas in Middleburg Committee and the host of volunteers who made the day-long event successful; awarded grants totaling $30,000 to non-profit organizations serving the community; passed a resolution strongly supporting the County's public libraries; and moved to bring the Town's "vicious dog" ordinances into compliance with County law and policy.

"Christmas in Middleburg"

For thirty years, beginning in 1979, Middleburg has celebrated the first Saturday in December as the "official" beginning of the Christmas season. This year's events, including the traditional Hunt Parade, Christmas Parade, a Craft Show at the Community Center, the Middleburg Garden Club's Flower and Greens Show, Middleburg Elementary's Breakfast with Santa, a silent auction, and horse-drawn hayrides, drew thousands of visitors.

Singled out for special recognition were the event's volunteer co-chairs, Dee Dee Hubbard and Sheila Johnson, Reggie Dawson, Bill Brown, and the members of the Middleburg Garden Club, Middleburg Police Department, County Sheriff's Department, and Town Staff.

Most downtown merchants reported better-than-expected shopping levels. The Hunt's pack of remarkably well behaved hounds this year selected Creme-de-la-Creme for it's traditional browse-en-masse. Santa reported a strangely disproportionate number of requests for tasteful neckties.

"Health Center" Grants

Each year Middleburg distributes a significant portion of the "profits" earned from rents collected from tenants at the Town-owned "Health Center" building to local charities and non-profit institutions.

This year the Health Center Advisory Board and Town Council decided jointly on the following grants, totaling $30,000:

American Legion: $500
Middleburg Community Center: $4,000
Bluemont Concert: $2,500
Middleburg FISH: $2,000
Loudoun Abused Womens' Shelter: $1,500
Middleburg Fire/Rescue: $4,500
Middleburg Public Library: $1,500
Windy Hill Tutoring: $2,000
Seven Loaves: $10,000
Levis House: $1,000
Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation: $500

Council also voted not to increase rents at the Health Center, which also serves as the Town's Police Headquarters.

Continued Page 13

Jingle All the Way!

Alex Cudaback

The dulcet peals of Christmas bells have found their way to Middleburg's very own Safeway, and can be heard tinkling in the distance from as far away as the Southern States and the Coach Stop.

Middleburg, due largely to its relatively small size and the distances required for "professional" bell ringers to lend their services, has been relatively quiet around the holidays, deprived of that tintinnabulation that so many people immediately associate with the holidays.

But this year, thanks to the efforts of some dedicated individuals, and a remarkable outpouring of community volunteerism, Middleburg finally has it's own Salvation Army Red Kettle and Kettle Corps.

The Red Kettle campaign, first started in San Francisco in 1891, has traditionally been The Salvation Army's most prominent fund-raiser, enabling the Army to provide food, toys and clothing to over 6 million people during the Christmas season and helping more than 34 million Americans recovering from all kinds of personal disasters nationwide.

"The success we're having is attributable entirely to the amazing response from the community as a whole," said Manuel Simpson, between jingles. "I just helped put together the schedule; the real angel behind all this has been Mabel Walsh, without whom none of it would or could have ever happened."

Middleburg's Red Kettle has touched just about the whole town, not surprising when you consider its diminutive population.

"Everyone at the French Hound, the Long & Foster office, Hill School, the Business Association, Salamander, the Mayor and Town Council members" notes Simpson, ticking off names and jingling all the way. "There are so many more. It really has been incredible the support this has received."



With Christmas practically around the corner, there are still a few timeslots available for people interested in volunteering. The Kettle is usually open for business from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday – Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday's; Sunday is a day of rest, even for the Kettle Corps.

People interested in helping out can call Simpson directly at Crème de la Crème; the number is 540-687-8360.

"It's a wonderful way to spend an hour or three during the holidays," Simpson says. "A lot of people sign up with a friend so they have company. And it's great, because everybody in town comes to the Safeway, so you get to see all your other friends while you're here!

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Middleburg Eccentric

Jan. 8th Deadline for Jan. 22nd Issue

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News of Note

Tribute to Tippy Payne by Margaret "Bucky" Slater

We should thank The Reverend Robert Banse, Betsy Crenshaw and Trinity Church for organizing this memorial service. This shows how Trinity Church reaches out to the community. The large outpouring of sympathy for Tippy's family is a great tribute.

We are here today to remember Barbara Tippy Payne, who was always full of life and enthusiasm. Tippy was a wonderful ambassador of foxhunting and our life here in general. We all know she loved foxhunting.

Albert Poe, huntsman for Piedmont Foxhounds for many years, encouraged Tippy to hunt with Piedmont Foxhounds. Tippy started hunting her horse, Gusty around 1965. Mrs. A.C. Randolph, Master of Piedmont Foxhounds asked Tippy to be the field secretary for Piedmont in the 70's when Gusty, Tippy's horse was 25. Like many of us, Gusty never got old. Tippy kept shaving years off of Gusty's age. Mrs. Randolph finally said to Tippy, "No More!! Take Gusty home!! Don't bring him out again". Her next horse was Tommy Haunt Fox but her favorite was Lady Hawk that she started hunting in 1985 and hunted her until the beginning of 2008 season. Many years before Albert Poe's brother wanted Albert to put Lady Hawk down because he was afraid Lady Hawk would hurt someone, but Albert gave Lady Hawk to Tippy instead and Tippy hunted Lady Hawk for another 23 seasons. Tippy hunted more than 40 years with Piedmont. Often Tippy would hack her horses for miles to hunt with Piedmont.

When I became Master of Piedmont I was told Tippy had her buttons but not her colors. When I awarded Tippy her colors she became very emotional. You would have thought I had given her a million dollars. The Piedmont colors certainly meant more to Tippy than any amount of money.

Tippy was always smiling at the meets rain or shine, sleet or snow, always happy to be there. Tippy was so thrilled to be hunting.

My favorite memory of Tippy was a cold December day hunting from Oakley owned by Shelby Bonnie, grandson of Mrs. Randolph and currently Master of Piedmont with Tad Zimmerman and Walter Kansteiner. I spied 5 guests who came late. The hounds were running when Tippy caught up with the guests and she handed them folded up releases and a pen as the guests were galloping along. At the end of the day, Tippy came bouncing up to me on Lady Hawk with a great big smile. Tippy said we jumped 36 stone walls today.

Tippy worked at the Upperville Horse Show for a number of years. Tommy Lee Jones, huntsman for Casanova, said Tippy had been working at the Show many years before he became manager of The Upperville Horse Show in 1982. In 2004 Tippy won the Piedmont Foxhound Invitational Hack Class for the silver fox class. You would have thought she won an Olympic gold medal. The crowd cheered for their favorite and Tippy beamed.



Tippy loved her son, Ty, her husband, Gene Payne, her family, her brothers Rick and Bob, her niece, Maria who came from The Netherlands and rode with Tippy in the summer, her cousin, Brenda, her friends, her horses, especially Lady Hawk, the Upperville Show, and Piedmont Foxhounds.

Tippy was a friend to all and beloved by many of us. Tippy lived her life to the fullest always with a great enthusiasm. Tippy touched all our lives.

We should learn a lesson from Tippy -

live simply

love generously

care deeply

speak kindly

and smile a lot!

Postscript: Dr. Calvin Rofe told me at the reception that Gusty, Tippy's first hunter was closer to 35 years old than 25 years old when Mrs. Randolph made Tippy stop hunting him.

Middleburg Remembers William S. Leach (1929 - 2008)

Middleburg mourns the passing of Bill Leach, who died at his home here on December 5, at the age of 79.

Leach and his wife, Betty worked, owned and managed Middleburg Hardware for nearly thirty years. He served as Middleburg's Town Manager, as a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and for four years as Chairman of that Board.

Born and raised in Loudoun County, Leach graduated from Aldie High School.

He served as an active-duty officer in the United States Army in Korea, Panama, and West Germany, and later, as a member of the Army National Guard and Reserve.

After his active-duty service he attended Georgetown University.

Leach began his business career in the hardware business in Middleburg, worked at it for nearly thirty years, and sold it in 1984. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Middleburg Bank, and named "Man of the Year" by the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce.

His first elected office was to the Middleburg Town Council.

In 1972, at 33, he became the youngest person ever elected to the County Board of Supervisors. He served on the Board for eight years, four of them as Chairman.

His public service, however, was not limited to elected office.

He served for two decades on the County Board of Zoning Appeals, and, on the state level, as a member of the Virginia State Board Of Corrections.

An active member of the Lion's Club, American Legion, and Masons, Leach also actively supported and worked with the Middleburg Fire and Rescue Squad.

Bill Leach is survived by his wife 56-years, Betty Moyer Leach; his daughters Nancy Olson and Carol McGhee, all of Middleburg; his grandchildren Sarah, Becky and Erin; by thousands of others, friends, family and associates, whose lives he touched.

Services were held on December 8 at Middleburg Baptist Church.

He and his family have asked those who wish to further honor his life and work to do so by contributing to Capital Hospice, Middleburg Fire and Rescue, or to the church to which he belonged, Middleburg Baptist.

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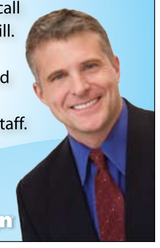
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News of Note

A Fish Story With A Very Happy Ending

The boy who loved to go fishing with his father never imagined that he would become a world-renowned devotee of the ancient search for the "Queen of Rivers." His pleasure was simply to spend uninterrupted time with his dad, who was away a lot, and with his brother.

But the brilliant and illusive Carp that has tantalized and tormented sportsmen for centuries, was destined to live long in Mark Metzger's legend.

Today, the proprietor of Middleburg's Highcliffe Clothiers is a passionate aficionado of a sport that requires supreme patience, deep knowledge of the discriminating Carp's devious intelligence and a considerable investment in some very special fishing gear.

Mark caught his first carp in Lake Michigan in 1973 while fishing with his father, Frank, and his brother, Peter. Born in New York Hospital, Mark and Peter grew up in New Rochelle, NY, before they moved to Glencoe and Winnetka, Illinois. Eventually the family moved back to Rye, NY where his parents live now.

It had been decades since Mark had fished for carp when, walking along the Potomac River's Tidal Basin, he watched a sous-chef at Gerard's Place named Christian land a carp.

"It brought back so many memories of fishing in Illinois, so I went to the web and found that there were many people devoted to carp fishing in this area," Mark explained. "So, I joined the Carp Anglers Group in 2004 and was delighted to find they were unfailingly generous about teaching me the European way to fish for carp."

Carp fishing is a multi-million dollar industry in Europe, and a formal outing in search of the wily bottom feeder is a major social event with impeccable rules, regulations and traditions that haven't changed since Izaak Walton wrote The Compleat Angler.

Most exceptional, however, is the extraordinary respect with which this stately and subtle fish is regarded by its anglers. And, there is plenty of time to form one's regard for the carp, because patience is a necessity if you are to lift this fish from the water.

Carp anglers are not, however, all alike.

According to Mark, a major attraction of carp fishing in Europe and in the United States is that it is a social event.

"Because carp are bottom feeders and very, very smart, a serious carp angler will set three graphite rods on the bank at the same time. The rods are, of course, matched, and they are set in four-legged rod pods that are equipped with beepers so you'll immediately know which rod has a bite and whether the fish is running away or coming toward you.

"You may program your beeper to play Beethoven to avoid the beeps, and you will want to have several large 'brollies' as well."

Mark described serious carp anglers who regard their kit as an integral part of the hunt as Tackle Tarts who are very serious about their equipment. Whether one fishes in overnight outings or for an evening, special carp bed chairs and "bivvies" (carp tents) are essential.

"When you recline for the evening in your carp bed chair, I assure you you'll be as comfortable as you would be in the bed in a five-star hotel.

They're like cots on steroids! We also need special carp fishing outfits in camo. One doesn't want the carp to see the angler!"

Not all American carp anglers subscribe to the necessity of special kit for their fishing outings, but, according to Mark, it is very seductive once you've fished with others who do enjoy all the accoutrement.

"When I go out with my 'good' equipment now, I arrive on the bank with thousands of dollars of equipment."

In England, where carp angling is high sporting art, private lakes are stocked with carp who are micro-chipped and named. One pays to fish a specific swim, the rules are abundantly clear, a bailiff surveys the activity to be sure everyone is playing fair with the fish, and, most often, the angler loses the competition.

"Even if there are 200 carp in one English pond, they become very smart about where anglers stand on the bank at specific times of day and an angler may fish for a year before he catches three carp. In America, one might catch hundreds of carp in the same period of time."

As in many angling pursuits, bigger is better, and, in America, one may eat your catch. This is out of the question in England and old carp who eventually die have detailed journals about their genealogy and the baits they preferred. These revered carp are given elaborate funerals and have distinguished gravestones in many English graveyards.

Winning at a carp angling competition can net you thousands of dollars. If you were talented enough to land a carp larger than the New York state record of 51 pounds, you could capture a $1 million prize at the 2005 world championships.

Mark fished at the World Carp Championships in 2005 with 110 12-man teams from all over the world.

"There were 30 countries represented, Japan, Russia, Serbia, England, Spain and on and on and lots of prizes of $100,000 or more with new pick-ups and lots of gear and equipment to motivate the anglers."

Some believe that carp from Europe and housed in Baltimore ponds fed the workers who built the infrastructure of the early United States of America. A prized and preferred fish by Asians workers, as the railroad moved west, carp were sent ahead to be raised in ponds before the workers arrived.

"Every state in the Union requisitioned federal authorities for carp to feed their infrastructure workers. The fish grow rapidly, they were very hardy, and Europeans and Asians were accustomed to eating them."

Pay Lakeing a truly American version of carp fishing, is prevalent in the South. Mark calls it "gamble fishing."



"Small private ponds are divided by a line down the middle, stocked with carp and you pay to fish by the hour with the biggest fish caught being the winner. This is a very old way to fish for carp and one can win thousands of dollars. You can also lose your thumb if you look into another anglers bucket!"

Mark's respect for the carp is palpable. Whether he's on a bank with all his gear, or sitting in his Middleburg shop for discriminating gentlemen, he believes that the carp is the World's Greatest Sportfish.

Whether you hope to hook a 44-pounder or simply to spend some quiet time with good friends who share your appreciation, Mark is the ideal resource to answer your questions and help you get started.

All you need is patience, respect for tradition, and fascination with a fish who may just be considerably smarter than you. Aristotle, Pliny, Sir Francis Bacon and Mark Metzger share tremendous respect for the "Queen of the River."

You'll definitely be in very good company.



I did the math and I want BRMC!



I hear a lot of talk about whether or not we should build Broadlands Regional Medical Center (BRMC). To me, it's a no brainer:

- ☑ It's a land use issue and BRMC will meet the County's standards for land use and healthcare planning.
- ☑ It will offer more than 600 good jobs when local jobs have gotten scarce.
- ☑ It will pay $4 million a year in County taxes when we're facing a huge budget shortfall.
- ☑ It will upgrade and expand Belmont Ridge Road from just south of the Greenway to Brambleton.
- ☑ It will provide the pediatric expertise of Children's National Medical Center.
- ☑ It will improve access to healthcare so 50% of Loudoun residents don't have to leave the County.
- ☑ It will be environmentally friendly and seek LEED certification.

When I look at all these benefits, I have to ask myself, "Who doesn't want BRMC? Who doesn't want our County to get all these benefits?"

I am asking my Supervisor to vote Yes on BRMC.

Ask your Supervisor to ☑ Vote Yes on BRMC
www.loudoun.gov

Children's National Medical Center

Broadlands Regional Medical Center
HCA Virginia



IT'S GOOD FOR LOUDOUN COUNTY

News of Note

Let's Talk Trash

Prepared by the Go Green Middleburg Committee, edited by Kathy Fisher

Have you seen the animated movie WALL-E? It's a must see if you're going to talk trash.

To some, recycling is a passion. To others, it's a nuisance. For all of us, it needs to be a priority.

Go Green Middleburg is addressing recycling on three different levels: residential, business and town.

Trash and Recycling Pickup

Within the Middleburg Town limits, recycling pickup is included in the quarterly fees paid to the Town. The company with the current contract is Con-Serv Industries, Inc. (CSI). CSI requires residents and businesses to place recyclables in a separate container from trash. However, all recyclables can be mixed into one container. Boxes that do not fit into the container can be stacked next to the recyclables. Remember: all recyclables—plastic bottles, glass bottles, and paper—can be placed together in the same container. If you need a recycling bin or an extra bin, please call the Town Office at 687-5152.

If you would like to buy a 48-gallon, blue-with-lid recycling container on wheels, please call the Town Office. The cost is $50. Any container can be used as long as it is clearly marked "RECYCLING."

Trash and recyclables are picked up Wednesday morning in Town. There are two CSI trucks that come by—one for the trash and one for the recyclables—and both trucks look the same. We have been assured that the recyclables will be separated at the facility.

You can take fluorescent bulbs to the Household Hazardous Waste pickup site on days established by Loudoun County. Otherwise, they can be taken to Home Depot.

For specific recycling questions, go to www.earth911.com or call the Loudoun County Office of Solid Waste Management at (703) 777-0187.

Residents

Katie Turner, her husband Kameron, and their children Hays and Winley have taken the lead in residential recycling. Putting together a packet of information explaining what can and cannot be recycled, they have been going door to door, handing out the information in reusable bags donated by Safeway. They have canvassed approximately 75 percent of the town with 25 percent remaining.

Katie coordinated efforts between Safeway and TREX to establish a local program to encourage students and families to recycle plastic bags and plastic film. Middleburg Elementary School, Banneker Elementary School, Middleburg Community Center and Montessori School of Middleburg are collecting the plastic, which will go to TREX in Winchester. TREX recycles the bags and waste wood into plastic decking lumber. The school that turns in the most plastic will receive a TREX bench for their school. Last year, The Hill School held a plastic bags recycling competition between the different age groups. Their collected bags also went to TREX.

Currently you can either drop off your plastic bags to one of the four schools mentioned above or to the container in front of Safeway. On average, only 1-2 percent of plastic bags are recycled. Most of the bags end up in a landfill or our oceans. Go to the internet and type in "plastic bags" into a search engine. The number of sites devoted to this product is staggering. This is a huge problem. Reusable bags are preferred.

In January, a Go Green committee will be designing a reusable bag for the Town of Middleburg. If you would like to work on this committee, please contact Rebecca Poston at jarrettposton@msn.com or 687-4636.

Businesses

Recycling is handled the same way for both businesses and residences. For additional information please contact Cindy Pearson with the Town of Middleburg at cpearson@middleburg.org or 687-5152.

Town

The Town Council and VDOT have approved recycling receptacles made by the same company that made the existing black steel trash cans found on Middleburg's main streets. The recycling receptacles will be placed near the trash cans and will have a plaque showing who contributed the receptacle. Individuals and groups can purchase the recycling receptacles for the Town for $1,372.00 each. We are striving for 14 containers. What a positive message recycling containers will send to visitors when they come to our Town! For more information please contact either Jilann Brunett at Wosudmanor@aol.com or Rebecca Poston at jarrettposton@msn.com or 687-4636.

Merry Christmas



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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

News of Note

Middleburg Skin Care is now open



Middleburg Skin care announces its grand opening offering the true European Skin Care experience: enjoyable, relaxing, nurturing and results-oriented.

Middleburg Skin Care is offering skin rejuvenation as its best with state-of-the-art equipment and innovative facials such as their Anti-Age Management ideal for those clients who would like to improve their skin texture and firmness utilizing a safe and FDA proven non-invasive Light therapy and muscle toning device. A new type of Microdermabrasion treatment offers a gentle but highly effective skin exfoliation for aging skin as well as oily, impure skin conditions.

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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.

Call today Middleburg Skin Care at 540-758-SKIN (7546) to schedule your appointment.



Annual Golf Tournament Raises $24,000 to Benefit Loudoun Interfaith

AH&T Insurance has proudly announced that it raised $24,000 for Loudoun Interfaith Relief from its 20th annual Charity Golf Tournament held at Piedmont Club in Haymarket, VA on September 30, 2008. With strong support from area residents, businesses, and several national insurance companies, the proceeds from this year's event represent a continued commitment to support local charities.

The mission of Loudoun Interfaith Relief is critically important to the lives of thousands of residents in Loudoun County: feed the hungry by providing emergency food assistance to those in need and promote self-sufficiency to any person or family living in Loudoun County. Bonnie Inman, Executive Director, Loudoun Interfaith Relief commented, "Loudoun Interfaith Relief is serving an ever increasing number of families that are in dire need as family budgets are stretching beyond the breaking point. AH&T's generosity will help us to make a larger impact by addressing the growing hunger needs in this community."

Alex Green, President of AH&T Insurance remarked, "We thank this year's tournament sponsors, donors, players, and staff volunteers for their generosity and support to make this event a success. The work of Loudoun Interfaith Relief is vital to the residents of Loudoun County, and we are proud to continue to support local charities as we have for many years."



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Editor's Desk

Peace on Earth

For those somehow threatened by a mythical war on Christmas we suggest considered reflection on the implications of real war, on Christmas.

Our hearts go out to all those who stand watch on our behalf all around the world, and to their families, their friends, and comrades in arms.

Let us pray for their safety, for a world in which the price paid for such courage is not one paid in blood, and for a peace worthy of such sacrifice.

Whereby our dead shall sleep

In honour, unbetrayed,

And we in faith and honour keep

That peace for which they paid.

Rudyard Kipling
Justice
1918

Detroit Moves South

One of the ironies of the collapse of the Detroit-based American automobile industry is the possibility of a new mass migration of labor, similar to the one set off by Henry Ford's outrageous offer of $5/day to line workers in the 1920's, only this time in exactly the opposite direction . . . in every sense of the word.

Perhaps by 2020 all that union labor will have come (or gone) home . . . to the South, or abroad . . . to warmer climes, lower wages, worse schools, and an entirely different attitude toward organized labor. The "unintended consequences" may prove "interesting."

Shop at Home

One of the most important good deeds we can do for our families, friends and neighbors during this holiday season is to simply shop at home. There will be fewer dollars for most of us to spend this year. Let's spend them where they do the most good.

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

Letters

Closing Middleburg Library Proposed

To the Editor:

Yesterday afternoon, Wednesday December 3rd, I received a very disturbing e-mail from Mr. Douglas Henderson, Director of Library Administration in the Loudoun County Public Library. To cut to the chase, the option of closing Middleburg Library is being considered. Let me repeat this in block capitals, as it is important: CLOSING MIDDLEBURG LIBRARY.

The e-mail I received was sent simultaneously to the 10-member Loudoun Library Board of Trustees as well as to library branch managers, library administration staff, and to the library advisory boards. It reached me in my capacity as President of the Middleburg Library Advisory Board, a non-profit group of volunteers which supports and promotes our small community library. The e-mail contained a couple of attachments dealing with planning for budget cuts in the library system, due to the economic downturn.

The background is that Mr. Kirby Bowers, the Loudoun County Administrator has asked all Loudoun County departments, including library services, to develop new budget cut scenarios of 25% and 30%. (Previously scenarios were 10% and 20%). At the 30% cut level, the Library system would need to find $1,194,015 in cuts across the system. Mr. Henderson has been able to identify 2 options for effecting a 30% cut:

"Option A: Sunday and Fridays are closed, One shift of 8 hrs. from Mon-Th, Sat., current vacancy and operating expenses reductions;

Option B: This option consists of Closing Sterling Library, Middleburg Library, current vacancy and its operating expenses reductions."

The Loudoun Library Board of Trustees did not create these scenarios, but they will have to vote to send them on to the Loudoun Board of Supervisors. As your readers may know, the 10-member Library Board of Trustees is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and has operational control of the expenditure of all funds in the library budget. However, the real control is with the Board of Supervisors.

To put all of this in perspective, these cuts to the Library System are so deep at 30% that they have reached the level of closing two of the seven branches. It is not entirely clear whether or not the Board of Supervisors will see the details of the specific options – their major responsibility is to determine the level of cuts required for each department of Loudoun County. It is worth pointing out that the entire Loudoun County Public Library budget is approximately 1% of the total County budget.

If it comes to CLOSING MIDDLEBURG LIBRARY (pardon my screaming!), Middleburg will lose a cherished institution that has been a key part of the community's life for decades. We will also lose the dedicated library staff members who have served Middleburg so effectively over the years.

The disturbing information which Mr. Henderson sent me yesterday afternoon does state that "These scenarios have not been approved by the Loudoun County Library Board; they should be considered a draft proposal at this time. 12/3/2008." However, given the past actions of the powers-that-be in Leesburg with respect to the small community of Middleburg – the repeated, attempted shrinking and closing of Middleburg Elementary School is an all-too-vivid recent memory -- the community needs to act quickly to take the option of closing Middleburg Library off the table for consideration. The option of closing public libraries – particularly in the midst of an economic downturn when they are needed more than ever – is NOT an acceptable option.

I would urge the Middleburg Community to contact as soon as possible the Board of Supervisors by e-mail at bos@loudoun.gov or 703-777-0115 on their comment line and make our views known. Additionally, it would be useful to contact the Library Board of Trustees. Key persons there include the Blue Ridge District Trustee, Mr. James Mann, at jgmannsenior@gmail.com and the Chairman, Mr. Scott Stewart, at sssstewart@aol.com .

Denis Cotter
Middleburg, Virginia

To the Editor:

Your report of the election was incomplete. Results for Blue Ridge District are as follows: McCain won 6 of 9 presincts and carried Blue Ridge District 53.16% to Obama's 45.85%. Your comments implied that Obama carried Purcellville which McCain won 1,961 to Obama's 1,681. More citizens voted Republicans in Purcellville than ever before, and it remains a solidly Republican stronghold. When you don't know who won what, don't try to fake it with ambiguities.

Elizabeth Smith
Purcellville, Virginia

To the Editor:

The word bailout has been dropped on the American tax payer pretty hard in recent days and then Detroit came calling. Corporate jets and the lack of business plans aside, my feeling is just throwing money at any problem without throwing a real solution at it at the same time, is pure silliness. Money cannot fix everything.

The root of the problem here is perceived value, but one thing that has always helped product perception and value is a good deal and it's time for one. So, you are saying, "Aren't the American choices a good deal with all the discounts?" No, and the reason why, at least in part, is that we all know that if you buy any new car, as soon as it is titled you realize a 30% depreciation in value. Couple that with all the bad news and you have no sale!"

So, what we really need is a solution that sells product and goes further than any of the manufactures can do on there own and here's my idea. Yes, they need to be required to restructure and yes, the union needs to play along, but if the American tax payer is going to be required to throw any money at this it can only work in the way of a massive rebate, which will be seen additionally as a massive stimulus package.

First, let's use a $30,000 car as our example. The government will offer a 50% instant rebate for the first three months of 09 (on the base price with options only, not paint protection, etc.), making the $30,000 car just $15,000. I don't even need a car, but I'll buy and so will many others. Now the manufactures get three things here, 1) A loan of $15,000 from the government on that unit. 2) A unit or car moved and 3) financing.

That's right, financing! Who else seems to be in trouble these days? The banks! In this program the banks will be required to lend the money we already gave them, but they will also be more happy to do so because they are only loaning money on 50% or less of the price of the car, but frankly it may just be the whole 50% as down payments will not be as necessary because of the government rebate of 50% so, that keeps more cash in the consumer's pocket.

Now, are there some details, rules and such that would have to be addressed? Well of course, but overall the plan does not simply bailout, it makes loans to the manufactures, but based on sales and gets the banks working again, all in one shot and wait, there more! If three consumers go shopping and each chooses one of the three ... GM, Ford and Chrysler, well the American public has said something. If though, all three consumers choose to buy as an example, a Ford and then buy the time the smoke clears, Ford ends of with 85% of the sales leaving the others fighting over the 15%, this speaks loud and clear as to what the American buyer wants and who they want to save.

Tom Neel
Marshall, Virginia

To the Editor:

At our reconvened Board of Supervisors meeting on December 18, we will be asking the full Board to create an ad hoc committee to further develop the county's first ever strategic partnership with the Washington Redskins. Economic development in Loudoun County is of the utmost importance to this Board of Supervisors and requires a commitment that transcends party lines. We intend to exemplify that commitment by working together to refine the Dec. 2 marketing package and to remove even the appearance of politics from an item that should be seen as a win-win partnership with a valued member of our community.

First, we want to assure Loudoun citizens that funds for this partnership were not coming from general tax dollars but from the restricted portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax, which is a five percent tax on overnight stays at hotels and B&BS. Of that five percent, three percent is restricted to initiatives that promote tourism and travel to the county, while two percent goes into the general fund. During the evaluation of the Redskins partnership, some questions and concerns were raised about using restricted TOT dollars for such a project. Unfortunately, an overabundance of caution led to a vote of denial instead of further investigation. Clearly, the Redskins represent a valuable asset for Loudoun. Redskins training camp alone brings in thousands of visitors each summer. We firmly believe that one of the best ways we can serve this county is by looking for opportunities to reduce the financial burden on our residents, and increasing our tourism efforts will certainly help achieve that goal. Any perception that the County does not welcome the presence and participation of the Redskins should be corrected immediately.

The purpose and scope of the proposed ad hoc committee will be specific and results-oriented. We envision a short-term effort (six weeks at the very most) that will focus on filling in gaps and improving upon what was previously offered in regard to both marketing the county and exploring the potential for a Redskins Hall of Fame in Loudoun County. It is not our intention to reinvent the concept, but to offer more details and specificity. To do this, we plan to appoint members of the business and tourism community to serve as advisory members to the committee. We will be asking the Board to appoint each of us as co-chairs to this committee and will seek to break down any misconceptions and barriers that may exist. We anticipate that this committee will be approved and will demonstrate just how much we value the willingness of the Redskins to partner with Loudoun County.

We are joining together to best serve the interests of Loudoun County and to ensure a winning public-private partnership that can be embraced by this Board of Supervisors, our community stakeholders, and the Redskins family.

Supervisor Lori Waters
Broad Run, Virginia

Supervisor Stevens Miller
Dulles, Virginia

Bridge Loan to Nowhere
From Beyond the Beltway

Ken Rietz

Some have called him the worst Secretary of the Treasury in U.S. History.

One thing is clear, Hank Paulson has been acting more like Santa Claus than a prudent financial manager.

The financial bailout Paulson authored provided 700 BILLION dollars with absolutely no strings attached to U.S. institutions. The result has been disheartening. First AIG took its billions and celebrated with lavish parties for their executives and then came back and asked for more. The Banks have used their Billions to make acquisitions and pay bonuses rather than start lending the money to those in need. It is hard for anyone to understand how the Government could give over 300 Billion dollars to financial institutions and then not be able to convince those same Banks to provide a 15 Billion bridge loan to keep the big 3 auto companies in business.

The effort, led by Republican Senator Bob Corker (TN), would have restructured GM and given it a chance for survival. Although Ford does not need money immediately, Chrysler's survival is questionable. Corker and the Republicans felt that if they saved GM all three companies would be better off.

GM has over 30 Billion dollars in debt. Corker successfully negotiated with the corporate bond holders who agreed to take 30 cents on the dollar in return for stock in GM. This would have meant, both the bond holders and the stock holders, would sacrifice.

Beside the mountain of debt, the overriding problem at GM is the cost of labor. Workers in a GM plant receive compensation in excess of $ 70.00 per hour. At U.S. plants owned by Nisan, Honda and Toyota, the compensation is just over $ 40.00 an hour.

Corker had negotiated with the UAW to agree to a new "competitive" compensation plan . The new Secretary of Labor, appointed by President-elect Obama, would be the judge of what was "competitive". Since the UAW had spent more than 100 million dollars to get Obama elected , the feeling was that the new Secretary would be more than fair to UAW.

Miraculously Corker got everyone to agree. When it came time however to set deadlines the Bond Holders agreed to March 15th. But the UAW would not agree to any date. The deal subsequently fell apart.

The only way that the American auto industry will survive is to FORCE a reorganization. The way to do that is not through a Bridge Loan but through a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy reorganization.

The steel industry and airlines survived Chapter 11. The Public Relations damage that Chapter 11 would bring the auto companies has already been done. Sales have all but stopped as customers see the "Big 3" teetering at the edge of financial ruin.

The airlines did it right with speed and efficiency. Customers will respond if the auto companies do the same.

Ken Rietz lives in Delaplane VA.

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News of Note

Pilots for Kids at Inova Loudoun Hospital



United Airlines pilot Michael Osmers with 8-year-old patient Kyle Troxell

Town Resolution Supports Inova Leesburg Cornwall Campus

The Leesburg Town Council on a strong 6-1 vote passed a resolution of support for the Cornwall campus and the Council urged the Board of Supervisors to live up to the County Comprehensive Plan to protect and encourage medical services in Leesburg as it considers a proposal to build a hospital in Broadlands.

There is clear evidence that building a hospital in Broadlands, just five miles from the existing hospital, will undermine the Comprehensive Plan and force a reduction of medical services at the Cornwall campus in Leesburg. In fact, the state Commissioner of Health even wrote that if a hospital is built in Broadlands, medical operations at the Cornwall campus in Leesburg should be consolidated to Lansdowne.

Furthermore, a variety of studies show that a hospital in Broadlands will duplicate existing general hospital services and constrain development of higher end medical services for both hospitals, forcing Loudoun residents to continue to leave the County for those higher end services.

Inova Loudoun Hospital applauds Mayor Kristen Umstattd, Vice Mayor Katie Hammler and Council Member Marty Martinez for their leadership in thoroughly understanding the issues related to the Cornwall campus and the real adverse impact a hospital in Broadlands will have for Leesburg citizens.

Partnership Forms Between PCF and 100 Women Strong

The Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a new partnership with 100 Women Strong, an organization formed to leverage significant philanthropic resources for the charitable needs in Loudoun County. PCF will establish the 100 Women Strong Donor Advised Fund to steward the resources donated by the members of the newly formed entity and to manage the distribution of those funds to qualified nonprofits.

Women who step forward with a $10,000 tax deductible donation between now and December 31, 2008, will be named Charter Members of 100 Women Strong. The group has 15 committed members with dozens more expressing interest in the vision of collective and committed philanthropy. The idea appeals to those seeking to be fiscally and emotionally connected with other women, and wanting to build a lasting charitable endeavor that will be well known and active in the community for years to come.

Karen Schaufeld, recently elected President of 100 Women Strong, says "We are excited by this new partnership because our missions align perfectly. Both groups are dedicated to raising the philanthropic capacity of our community to serve those in need." The group's Officers also include Virginia Geller, Vice President; Monda Abdallah, Treasurer; and Barbara Schaufeld, Secretary.

The PCF acts as a catalyst, conduit and steward for charitable giving in our community; a positive and creative force joining donor and community in a collective power. PCF Board President, J. Bradley Davis, warmly welcomes 100 Women Strong into the PCF fund family. Davis says "We look forward to the partnership and the multiplier effect of joining donors for the common good -- all involved will feel the impact of investing in promise and possibility for our community."

With PCF functioning as the tax exempt umbrella, 100 Women Strong aims to be a new ally for Loudoun County charities through leveraging and consolidating member donations to have a more significant impact in the Loudoun community. Together, the two organizations can accelerate their mutual goals of providing significant grant resources for charitable need while also attending to growth of the permanent community endowment.

The PCF grant program encompasses broad categories of interest: Children and Families, Civic Progress, Culture and Arts, Education, Environment and Preservation, and Health and Human Services for both Loudoun and Fauquier Counties.

The 100 Women Strong Fund will focus on charitable needs specific to Loudoun County. Current efforts are focused on recruiting members and researching needs in the county. The group expects to begin awarding grants in 2009, and anticipates the grant focus will emphasize humanitarian assistance, which is compatible and embraced within the PCF grant program.

Those interested in learning more should contact 100WomenStrong@gmail.com or Lori Miller at 703-400-3950. Questions regarding the PCF should be directed to Karen Krei at 540-687-5223.

Yes, Virginia. The Good Things in Life are Free!

Families connect with nature and with each other
Annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, December 28

Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) for this warm, holiday tradition. Established in 1899, the National Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count surveys are held all over the country. Results gathered help experts to better understand bird populations and their dynamics. As a participating organization, LWC's count circle is a 15-mile diameter and covers 177 square miles of Loudoun's countryside: north to Waterford, south to Aldie, east to Ashburn, and west to Purcellville. Loudoun County is not only beautiful, it is also full of birds. Be a citizen scientist! Everyone is welcome, beginners and expert birders, alike. Amateurs are teamed with experienced birders. If you are interested in participating for the whole day or just part of the day, contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.



Council Celebrates Christmas

Continued From Page 1

Public Libraries Supported

If economic conditions continue to deteriorate, Loudoun County may be forced to close public libraries in Middleburg and Sterling according to proposed "worst-case" budget now being considered by the Library Board of Trustees.

On Thursday the Mayor and Town Council formally dispatched a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors requesting that they " . . . support the Middleburg Library . . . leave the Library Services Budget as intact as possible . . . and consider options for reducing the budget that do not include the closure of any library."

Council's message to the Board noted pointedly that " . . . during trying economic times citizens use libraries as their lifeline . . . " not only for their families and children, but for job searches and continuing education, citing studies that document "that governments receive far more than one dollar's worth of benefit for every dollar" invested in public libraries.

The annual operating budget for the Middleburg Library, Council noted, is only $308, 017 . . . "significantly less than the approximately $3 million in real estate and property tax revenue provided to Loudoun" by the town's residents.

Middleburg's volunteer Library Board is one of the County's oldest and most active. Blue Ridge District Supervisor Jim Burton serves as the Board's representative on the Loudoun County Public Library's Board of Trustees.

Dangerous and Vicious Dogs

At the request of County authorities Council resolved to draft and adopt an ordinance "seeking enforcement" of dangerous and vicious dog laws within the town, adopting County animal control laws, and authorizing an agreement with Loudoun County for animal control services.

Ideally, the new regulations would standardize both rules and enforcement procedures across all county jurisdictions. Several members of Council, however, noted that County law is particularly rigid in its definition of what constitutes "vicious" and therefore "actionable" behavior. A dog that bites a person, or another animal, under almost any circumstances, for example, may be technically defined as "vicious," and thus subject to being put to death.

Buzzardiana

Asked about a roughly 800% increase in "animal incidents" reported year over year, Police Chief Steve Webber noted that few if any were dog related. Officers have been pro-active, he said, in moving flocks of vultures along before they become a health hazard or nuisance.

Water and Sewer System Management

Following a closed-session discussion, Council agreed on Thursday to enter into a five-year formal contract with the County to manage Middleburg's water and sewer system.

For decades the Town hired, paid, and managed its own full-time water and sewer system staff. One of Town Administrator Jerry Schiro's first proposals for saving money, improving training, and providing first-class round the clock service for the town included entering a one-year experiment with County management.

The Town's former water and sewer system employees were transferred to the County, enjoyed County benefits, pay, and promotion opportunities. Costs to the town were significantly reduced, and service improved.

The prospect of hiring, training, and paying the staff necessary to handle the town's significantly more complex new waste water treatment systems, now under construction, also argued strongly in favor of Council's decision.

Noise, Historic District Expansion

Council is not expected to take further action on a proposed noise control ordinance, or on a possible extension of the Town's Historic District until the new year. The absence of Town Zoning administrator David Beniamino's extremely loud tie from Thursday's session is credited by many for the relative nonchalance of Council with regard to the former. Council and staff are also looking closely at alternative approaches to addressing the impact of "Macmansionism" on the Town.

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It's cold and flu season. And if you haven't noticed, it's because you live under a rock. Sore throats, sneezing, coughing, sniffling, fevers, body aches and pains: EVERYONE is sick! Including myself. And it's no fun. While we all know that washing our hands and getting enough sleep is especially important this time of year, have you ever stopped to consider how important nutrition is to your well-being?

Ingesting foods and beverages is not just a way to fill a grumbling stomach. Everything that we put into our mouths has – or at least should have – a purpose. The nutrients contained in foods, including carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals and water, are vital to creating and sustaining a healthy immune system and body. So while you might be aware of just how much that empty stomach needs to be filled, you should always keep in mind that there are other parts of you that use that food for survival.

I got sick this year (very sick) not because of a change in the weather, or because I visited a day-care center (notorious for viral infestations) or because I ran around naked in the freezing cold weather (not that I did). I got sick because I got stressed out and neglected my good eating habits for several days in November. By doing so, my normally efficient immune system weakened and made me susceptible to all kinds of viral, bacterial and/or fungal infections. Hence, I've been laid up for the past four weeks, barely able to get out of bed.

There are some easy steps you can take to help keep your immune system healthy year-round, but especially during these winter months. First, stay hydrated! Most of us do not drink nearly as much water as we should. And when I say water, I mean clean, clear water, not tea, soda, coffee or juice. Nearly 50% of the human body is composed of water, and it is an essential nutrient for survival. We need water to aid digestion, help our organs function and remain alert. Water can also make you feel full, more satisfied, which is a fabulous benefit particularly at this time of the year when we tend to overeat. A good general rule is to try to drink half of your body weight in ounces daily, or a minimum of about 64 ounces a day.

Second, you should try to limit your sugar intake. Sugary foods cause a spike in blood sugar levels, affect moods, mess with energy levels and increase some people's risk of type 2 diabetes. Sugar also uses the nutrients the body needs to survive in order to metabolize, therefore weakening the immune system. If you must eat sugar – and at this time of year, who can resist – try to balance it within a meal or right after a meal. When eaten with other foods, sugar has less of an effect on your blood glucose levels.

Finally, try to incorporate some foods into your diet that are especially good for you. We've all heard the old wives' tale saying that chicken soup can cure the common cold. Unfortunately, this is not true. However, certain foods, including chicken soup, contain vitamins and other compounds that can help relieve the symptoms of illnesses and can help keep your immune system strong, ready to fight any nasty invaders!

Chicken Soup for the Immune System
Created by Alyson Browett

When you're sick, nothing tastes better than a steaming hot bowl of chicken soup. Chicken soup contains the amino acid cysteine, which has anti-inflammatory effects that help ease nasal secretions and helps inhibit white blood cells that cause inflammation leading to sore throats and phlegm production. Only homemade chicken soup, made with the finest ingredients, boasts these powers; the stuff out of a can is chock full of sodium, which can do more harm than good, especially if you're sick. Sip the broth or add the cooked chicken and veggies in for a complete meal. Chicken soup also helps you stay hydrated.

For chicken broth:

1 whole chicken, cut into parts (organs discarded or reserved for another use), or about 4 lbs. drumsticks, thighs and/or breasts

1 onion, cut into eight pieces

1 carrot, cut into large chunks

2 celery stalks, cut into large chunks

2 garlic cloves

Bouquet garni (fresh herbs, such as thyme, rosemary and parsley, tied together), optional

Kosher salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 350°. Coat the chicken pieces with salt and pepper. Roast in a shallow baking pan for about one hour. Place the chicken, onion, carrot, celery, garlic and bouquet garni, if using, into a large pot. Cover with 10 cups of water. Bring to a boil and simmer for at least one hour. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve into another large pot (you should have about eight cups), discarding the vegetables and herbs and reserving the chicken. Remove the chicken from the bones. Reserve the meat and discard the bones.

For soup:

Chicken broth

Reserved chicken meat, if desired

2 teaspoons olive oil

¾ cup yellow or white onion, small dice

¾ cup celery, small dice

¾ cup carrot, large dice

1-2 cups vegetables of your choice, peeled and diced (parsnips, turnips, sweet potato, green beans, peas, spinach, kale, collards, etc.), optional

Salt and pepper

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and celery and sweat for about four minutes. Add the carrot and any other vegetables and stir, cooking for two minutes. Add the stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook until added vegetables are tender, about 15-20 minutes, depending on the vegetable. Add the chicken into the soup if desired. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve steaming hot. Serves six.

Eternity Salad
Created by Alyson Browett

Impress your guests and give them an immunity boost by serving this colorful salad, which is rich in antioxidants and vitamins. Together, the spinach, orange, pomegranate and avocado provide a huge amount of dietary fiber, vitamins A, C and K, potassium, folate, iron and other antioxidants. The fats in the olive oil-based dressing help carry all of those beneficial vitamins through the bloodstream. And the apple cider vinegar contains a host of vitamins, minerals and enzymes that are known for their disease-fighting benefits.

4 cups baby spinach leaves, preferably organic

1 small or ½ large fennel bulb, shaved into thin slices

1 avocado, sliced

2 oranges

1 pomegranate

4-6 slices prosciutto (optional)



2 tablespoons unfiltered organic apple cider vinegar

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

Juice of half a lemon

¼ teaspoon agave nectar or honey

½ teaspoon poppy seeds

Salt and pepper, to taste

First, to supreme, or segment, the orange, cut off the ends of the orange. Using a paring knife, cut the rind off of the orange by slicing vertically, following the curve of the orange. Hold the orange in one hand and use the paring knife to cut out each segment along the membranes. You can reserve the juice for another use or add it to the dressing. Next, cut the crown off of the pomegranate, taking care not to cut into too many seeds. (Be careful! These things stain!) Score the rind lengthwise in several places, like you'd cut it into segments, but don't cut into the fruit. Soak the fruit in a bowl of water, cut side down, for five minutes. Holding the fruit in the water, break it apart, releasing the seeds. The rind and membranes will float, while the seeds sink. Discard the rind and drain the seeds in a sieve. On two dinner plates or four salad plates, place the spinach and top with the fennel, avocado, orange and pomegranate seeds. Tear up the prosciutto and place it on top, if using. Salt and pepper to taste. To make the dressing, combine the vinegar, lemon juice and agave nectar or honey. Gradually whisk in the olive oil, or use a small immersion blender (such as an Aerolatte), to combine the liquids into a smooth emulsion. Add the poppy seeds and salt to taste. Drizzle the dressing over the salads and serve. Serves two as a main course or four as a salad course.

Lemon Ginger Tea
Created by Alyson Browett

A fabulous way to sooth a sore throat and clear your clogged sinuses is to sip on and breath in the benefits of a naturally caffeine-free tea. The health benefits of ginger are endless, known particularly for its ability to treat gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting and gas. If you'd like, add a little sugar, honey, agave nectar, or other alternative sweetener to this tea, but keep in mind the less the sugar, the better. (If you are feeling really daring, add a little bourbon.)

1-inch piece of ginger

2 slices of lemon

½ teaspoon of agave nectar, honey or sugar

With a paring knife, peel the ginger and score it deeply several times. Squeeze the lemon slices into a mug and add the slices, ginger and sugar, if using. Add 8-16 ounces water that has come to a boil. Cover and steep for 10 minutes. Enjoy!

Alyson Browett, MPH, CPT
Edible Complex, LLC
540.764.0711





Kerria, a Shrub for Many Seasons

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode

I have been admiring a particularly nice shrub for two months now and felt it was time to celebrate a few of its lesser known virtues. I'm talking about kerria, a shrub that is primarily grown for its bright yellow flowers, a minor perk for a shrub that delivers in many seasons. From Japan, it is also known as Japanese Yellow Rose. A deciduous shrub, the leaves remain well into late fall and can turn bright yellow. The tendency for the leaves to remain on the bright green stems is what I notice most, on windy days they flutter, a delightful little flutter that is hard to ignore in an otherwise drab garden.

Hardy to zone 4, kerria is named after William Kerr, a 19th century English botanist and Kew gardener. He introduced the double flowering form in 1804 and 200 years later there have been various other cultivars that vary in stem color or type of flower. I first became interested in kerria about 15 years ago. At that time the only variety that was readily available was the original double flowering form. Much has changed since then as smart nursery people have come to recognize the demand for the single flowering forms. The most recent of the bright yellow single flowering forms is Kerria j. 'Golden Guinea' which produces larger flowers than the single species. The flowers look like small single yellow roses which also reveals their relationship to roses, they are in the same family. Another, very note worthy selection, is Kerria j. 'Albaflora' with flowers that are a pale creamy yellow. I have been told that this is a rather weak selection, but I beg to differ, my plant is 3 years old, grown from a single sucker and it has become a beautifully robust shrub, 5 feet across. I also love the variegated form which is known as Kerria j. 'Picta'. The leaves are so liberally marked in white that the plant looks like a frosted mound. Flowers are single and bright yellow. The variegation on this prized form is reason enough to grow it, the flowers are simply an extra bonus. The latest in the line of unusual forms is Kerria j. 'Kinkan' which produces stems that are striped with yellow and green. It's a subtle variegation and stems sometimes revert to all green, but the naked green winter stems are one of the great reasons to plant kerria.

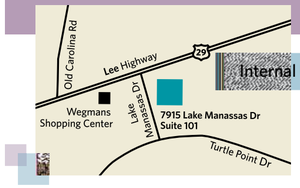
The growth habit for kerria is a broad, mounding, groundcover-like shrub. Suckers are produced below the ground and one shrub can spread to 9 feet. Reaching an average height of 4 or 5 feet, the stems have a wonderful way of arching over each other and pruning is highly discouraged. Kerria can be a great stabilizer on a steep bank because of its suckering habit but it also works well at the corner of a house where it can wrap around the structure. Sometimes referred to as the Easter Rose, flowers are produced in early spring but will flower sporadically through fall. Tolerant of drought and poor soils, this



is one tough shrub. Ideally if prefers partial sun, a north exposure or a high canopy. Sun or shade will suit it and I have grown it well in full sun, but kerria prefers that intermediate light.

There are a great many companion plants for kerria. Helleborus foetidus and rohdea are two partial shade or shade perennials that remain green all year and look great against the green winter stems of kerria. I also like the native Pachysandra procumbens or Allegheny pachysandra which can be used as a groundcover beneath it. Spring bulbs are great under its skirts, especially daffodils and deep purple crocus. Best yet, the leaves arrive in spring and help hide the curing leaves on your bulbs.

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7th Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

When your top performer is a quarterback who goes 17-28 for 167 yards and one touchdown, two things are immediately obvious: first, and pretty much most important, you're not getting the effort you need from the rest of your team; and two, unless you have the Baltimore Ravens' defense circa 2001, you're not winning more than you're losing.

Which is precisely where the Redskins find themselves with only two games left in the season: 7-7.

The burgundy and gold, after an inspiring, can-I-really-believe-what-I'm-seeing sprint to 6-2 to start the season, have sputtered to a 1-5 record over their last six games. Even more heartbreaking is the fact that two of those seven losses have come at the hands of the lowliest of the lowly, the Bengals and Rams.

Even with their brutally tough mid-season schedule, had this Skins team had its head screwed on right they could be looking at a record of 9-5 and a real shot at the playoffs.

Ugh.

But what does it all mean?

First, and maybe most important, is what it doesn't mean. It doesn't mean, I repeat, it DOESN'T mean fire the head coach. A 9-7 record (still possible) or an 8-8 record (likely) in your first season as a head coach does not get you fired; even a 7-9 record (still, sadly, possible) does not get you fired.

If it does get you fired, it proves only this; the person, or people, who hired you in the first place, in this case Mssrs. Snyder and Cerrato, are absolutely god-awful judges of talent and are tacitly admitting as much by bailing on the guy they personally tapped to get this thing off the ground. It further proves that those aforementioned hirers thought the team they had personally put together was a much better one than it actually turned out to be, yet another example of their utterly wretched eyes for talent.

As has been noted in this very space previously, this Redskins team was never a playoff team, contrary to whatever magic beans Cerrato and Snyder were peddling during the off-season and those halcyon first eight weeks of the regular season.

Last year's playoff squad squeaked in only by the hair of its chinny-chin-chin and crashed and burned right off the bat. This year's squad is no better than last year's, largely due to the coaching overhaul that took place after the season. The jerseys you see on the field in 2008 are remarkably similar to the ones you saw in 2007. The players wearing those jerseys need time to figure out their new coaches and responsibilities, and the new staff needs time to learn what it means to get the most out of their players; heck, the staff needs time just to learn how to do the basic job! That's what you get with a rookie head coach and a first-time defensive coordinator.

Somebody needs to take a long, hard look at the makeup of the current team and make sure Vinny Cerrato is nowhere near the war-room when next year's draft roles around. The 'Skins have gotten exactly squat from Vinny's draft last year (and it WAS, most certainly, Vinny's draft); that's what happens when you go on some mad, one position spree. The two receivers and one tight end that were all supposed to spread the field and give Moss, Randle El and Cooley more breathing room have been, for all intents and purposes, invisible. They're ghosts, wraiths, myths. Seriously, half the time I've got an easier time accepting the existence of the Wendigo. The Redskins absolutely MUST start doing a better job on draft day.

Management (read, ownership) needs to recognize that when Clinton Portis, or any other petulant prima donna in the locker room, decides to mouth off about the coaching staff on local radio, whining and complaining about their role or lack thereof, the right thing to do is NOT shrug and say, "That's just BLANK being BLANK." Management and ownership need to back the people they've handpicked to steer this barge, rather than backing a mutinous crew.

There are some spectacular athletes on this Redskins squad, and there are some guys that give it all they've got and then some during the season. But those guys have to all understand, each and every one of them, that athleticism and effort aren't enough. There needs to be something approaching professionalism. Whining about respect, preening for the cameras, hamming it up in the endzone in a game you're losing (to a cellar dweller, no less), all of it points to players whose childish behavior has too long gone unchecked. Having fun is important, but having fun is even better when you do it after accomplishing your penultimate goal; in this case, I'd assume that penultimate goal is winning a Super Bowl.

Bottom line? The Redskins need to grow up in the off-season, both players and ownership. Allow the man you chose to grow into the role he, in all honesty, probably wasn't quite ready for. Do your job, and accept criticism for what it is: an opportunity for improvement. Resist the temptation to point fingers, and spend a little more time in front of the mirror.

And, Santana, if someone tries to recruit you into that time-honored profession of shoeshining during the off-season? Don't quit your day job.

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

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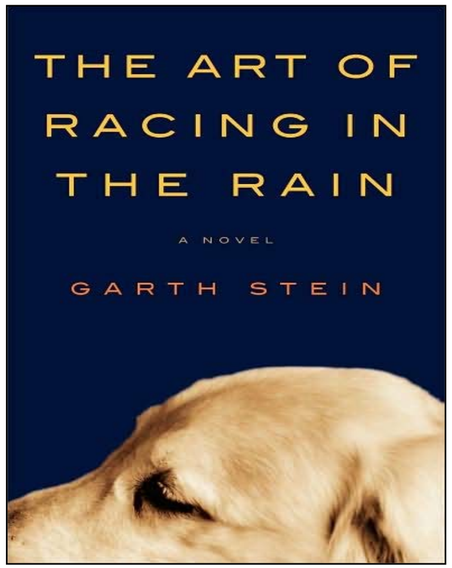
Pastimes

Books: The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Genie Ford

Worried about the economy? Wondering how you're going to polish off your Christmas list without breaking the bank? Consider buying books—books don't cost a lot, there's something for everyone and books keep giving back over the years as readers share them with other readers. Books are also great conversation-starters during this time of holiday parties.

You might also consider giving to those less fortunate—that's almost always a sure cure for the wintertime blues. One place to make a difference is bestselling author David Baldacci's Wish You Well Foundation. The foundation, established by Michelle and David Baldacci, supports family literacy in the United States by fostering and promoting the development and expansion of new and existing literacy and educational programs. Books & Crannies and Boxwood Winery hosted David at a book signing on December 5 and he left us with one of his big white boxes. You can help us fill this box used books for all ages and we'll make sure it gets back to David and his very worthwhile foundation.



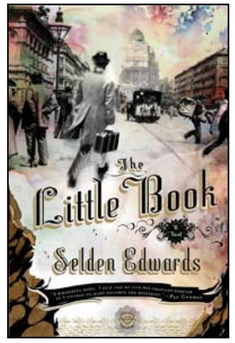
One of my favorite books this year is 'The Story of Edgar Sawtelle' by David Wroblewski. I've talked about this book so much that I fear I am repeating myself, but it is a beautifully written, emotionally enthralling re-telling of Shakespeare's Hamlet. It also includes a unique, almost-human breed of dog created by the author for this wonderful book.

Pat Daly really enjoyed 'The Little Book' by Selden Edwards. This is a debut novel about the birth of modernism. It involves time-travel that is also a literal take on Nietzsche's idea of the eternal return. Main protagonists Frank Standish Burden III, and his father, Frank II, were able to change the course of modern history and culture by traveling back to Vienna during its golden age. With cameos by Freud, Mark Twain, Winston Churchill, and a host of Viennese luminaries, this book is a roller coaster ride through the late 19th and early 20th centuries—and highly entertaining. You'll meet everybody who was anybody and it will make your head spin—in a most enjoyable way.

Laura Vermillion is an ardent fan of 'The Art of Racing in the Rain' by Garth Stein. This is a wonderfully-told story, only partly because it's all from the point of view of a dog. Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs). He has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. This is a funny, moving, tender story, told as only a dog could tell it. Keep the tissues handy.

For young adults, we have an impressive coffee table book by Mary Kate Olsen called 'Influence,' that's all about style. For younger readers, we also have a delightful new collaboration between beloved children's author Tomie DePaola, and paper-artists Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart, 'Brava, Strega Nona!: A Heartwarming Pop Up Book.' In six spreads of pop-up magnificence, Strega Nona shares her words of wisdom for leading a magical life, all rendered in the author's classic style. With doors to open, tabs to pull, and a host of other interactive features, readers will be drawn into Strega Nona's world in a way they've never been before. The Sabuda/Reinhart team also brings us 'Peter Pan: A Classic Collectible Pop-Up.'

Genie Ford is co-owner of Books & Crannies in Middleburg



Middleburg Real Estate
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Brooke Hill, *Marshall, VA*

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I've heard that Loudoun County faces a $176 million budget shortfall and everyone agrees that the best solution is building our commercial tax base. That makes perfect sense to me. Then I hear that Broadlands Regional Medical Center (BRMC), a hospital we badly need in Loudoun, would pay an average of $4 million per year in taxes to the county. And some people don't want it to be built. That makes no sense to me at all.

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?

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IT'S GOOD FOR LOUDOUN COUNTY

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Anita Sisney 703-973-1987


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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.

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Windamere Farm, Middleburg, VA
Windamere Farm, located in the Orange County Hunt, 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.

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Jenkin's Mountain, Warrenton, VA
Stunning views surround this beautifully designed and built 5 bedroom house secluded on approximately 50 acres of its own mountain. Space and light! First floor bedroom. Fabulous European country kitchen. 3 fireplaces. 2 stall barn with fenced paddocks. 20' x 50' pool with spa. Landscaping includes superbly crafted gardens by Oehme & van Sweden. $1,975,000, more land available.

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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.

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Cobbler Knoll, Delaplane, VA
Quality throughout this lovely brick house on 10 absolutely private acres. Spacious kitchen with two family rooms adjoining, each with fireplace. Separate living room/dining room. 3 bedrooms on first floor, 1 upstairs, each with en-suite bath. Large terrace with landscaping, beautiful pool/spa area and sweeping lawn. Riding trails in neighborhood. $1,489,000.

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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

Brookdale, Round Hill, VA
Stately 5 bedroom home on 17 manicured acres. Accessories include 4 full baths, 2 half baths, breathtaking views, heated pool and hot tub with cabana, home theater with 120" screen, full circuit home gym, Generac power system and concrete drive. Great commuter location. $1,400,000.

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23154 Dover Road, Middleburg, VA
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Gloria Armfield 540-687-2223



The Double Log, Castleton, VA
Magical, fully restored log home nestled on 50 wooded acres with views in every direction. Authentic yet updated spaces define this delightful 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home featuring mature landscaping, a manageable yard, storage shed and one of the most beautiful cherry trees ever to bloom. The ideal country retreat. $975,000.

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Mary South Hutchison 540-687-6885



Hillside Cottage, The Plains, VA
Located on 10 very private acres between Middleburg and The Plains, this 2 BR, 2BA, charming country house is perfect as a full time residence or weekend home. The one level open floor plan was designed for comfortable living and can easily be expanded. Mature flowering trees, stone walls and trails for horses and walkers enhance the property. $875,000.

Linda Norris 540-270-7560



Raspberry Hill, Delaplane, VA
Very private 4 bedroom home on 34 acres just outside of the Village of Delaplane. Large kitchen with hickory cabinets and open floor plan. Great views off the front of the house overlooking a 1,400 acre farm and rolling hills. 5 minutes to Rt. 66 and convenient to points east and Winchester. $850,000.

Jim Thompson 540-687-3216



Wild Wind, Middleburg, VA
Located just west of town in Middleburg Downs, this lovely French Colonial is sited on over 3 beautifully landscaped acres providing excellent privacy and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Well maintained 4 bedroom house has a new kitchen, laundry and powder room. Hardwood floors throughout. $849,500.

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



Harris Hollow, Washington, VA
Hiker's paradise located at the head of the Harris Hollow Trail to the Shenandoah National Park. Atmospheric cabin with stone walls nestled against the mountains. 36 acres of woodland trails, Rush River, and more. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, home with media room, office, workshop and two sheds. $799,000.

Alan Zuschlag 540-270-8150



Old Hollow, The Plains, VA
Great location just outside the Plains! Neat and clean 33+ acre property with pretty mountain views. 1900's farm house with 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, family room, 1.5 baths. 36 x 24 metal barn, separate garage, 2 ponds, fruit orchard. Fenced for cattle. More acreage available. $750,000.

Isobel Ziluca 540-454-2041
Lynn Wiley 540-253-7441



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



Warland Road, Orlean, VA
Custom built home on 5 plus acres near the village of Orlean. Set in a private and wooded setting, this home offers large 1st floor family room kichen combination. Formal living room and dining room, butlers pantry and first floor laundry. 4 bedroom, and 2.5 baths, master has steam shower and seperate tub. 2 car garage and large deck. $599,000.

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527



Hunter's Cottage, Orlean, VA
Located in the Old Dominion Hunt Territory in a quaint village. Charming hunt box, c. 1943, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, dining room, living room, family room. Two relaxing porches overlook 2 acres of beautifully landscaped lawn and gardens bordered by tall trees for privacy, and rolling fields and sunsets beyond. Fine country living at a very affordable price. Reduced to $399,000.

Patricia Burns 540-454-6723



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

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A Hospital in Broadlands Fails the Zoning Test.

Section 3 of the health care facilities policies of the County's Comprehensive Plan says clearly that Loudoun County government **SHALL** consider "impact on existing, stable residential neighborhoods" in making land use decisions.

The proposal to wedge a hospital into an existing residential neighborhood is a zoning plan modification, not a simple special exception, and Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) cannot mitigate these adverse and dangerous impacts:

- 24 hour, 7-day-a week. 365-day-a-year operations
- Speeding ambulances carrying patients with medical emergencies
- Frantic friends and family racing through residential streets to be with sick or injured loved ones
- 18-wheelers delivering a constant stream of food and supplies
- Daily truck traffic hauling away hazardous, infectious and unhealthy medical waste

Hospital traffic is clearly more dangerous to residential families than general office traffic.

In a 2006 opinion, Judge Thomas Horne found that the state health commissioner **"is not concerned with the impact such a facility will have on the overall development of the community" when a Certificate of Public Need (COPN) is issued.**

The judge also found that a **COPN "does not mandate where health care facilities are to be located within Loudoun County"** and that it is the responsibility of local governments to achieve "the orderly use of land through zoning ordinances."

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, not Richmond, has the sole responsibility and the legal obligation to protect the safety of Broadlands families.

Uphold Neighborhood Zoning Laws.
Reject a Hospital in Broadlands.

Concerned Citizens of Broadlands

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Parents & Progeny

Notre Dame Dragons Sign on the Dotted Line

Alex Cudaback



Last month saw two of Notre Dame Academy's standout student-athletes take an important step in continuing their athletic careers beyond the hunt-country.

Senior lacrosse stalwarts Matt Miller and Alex Nieves signed their National Letters of intent in an all-school ceremony a few weeks ago.

Matt Miller, a four-year starting defenseman at Notre Dame, has accumulated numerous honors at while at the school. In addition to being a 2007 All-State Performer and a two-time First-Team All-MILL (Maryland Independent Lacrosse League) selection, Matt is also a 2008 Under Armour All-American. Matt holds career records at Notre Dame for takeaways and groundballs, and is a co-captain for the 2009 season. Matt will be furthering his academic and lacrosse careers at the University of Notre Dame, an NCAA Division I Quarterfinalist last season.

Alex Nieves has been a standout midfielder for the Dragons for the past two seasons. A shifty dodger, Alex was second on the team in scoring last year, and first in assists (15). A First-Team All-MILL performer last season, Alex has also been voted co-captain for the upcoming spring season. Alex has committed to play for eight-time, and defending NCAA Division III champion, Salisbury University.

"These are two standout athletes, to be sure," says Notre Dame Athletic Director Carla Adgate. "We feel athletics have always played, and continue to play, an important role in the growth and development of our students. Seeing students like Matt and Alex really make the most of the opportunities presented, and their own natural gifts and talents, is always special."

Rob Horne, boy's varsity lacrosse coach at Notre Dame, echoed Adgate's sentiments.

"I couldn't be happier for these two. They've both worked incredibly hard and deserve everything they've earned. I know they'll bring the same dedication and effort we've come to rely on to their final high-school season."

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First time on market in over 30 years, this charming five bedroom house sits on large village lot with much privacy. All main rooms have hardwood floors, house has been recently painted on both exteriror and interior and many upgrades have been added over last 15 years. Property was known to be the spot where General George McClellan was relieved of command in The Civil War and has been recently used as a bed and breakfast. $1,625,000 OLREB

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Hill Takes Third

Hill School's Varsity Field Hockey took home third place in the "Big Hit" Field Hockey Tournament held at Hill School on Saturday, November 1st, 2008. Eight schools from Northern Virginia and Maryland participated.



Photo by Andrew Motion

(Co-Capt.), Jennifer Hoerner (Co-Capt.), Campbell Hartley, Julia Robinson, Megan Hasse. Middle Row from left: Merrill Andrews, Carter Ware, Isabella Sirianni, Catherine Reynolds, Mary Motion, Reid O'Connor. Standing from left: Coach Sydney Bowers, Mary Marshall Pierce, Brooke McClary, Babie Andrews, Louise Chapman, Greer Chapman, Mimi Jones, and Coach Cricket Bedford. (Missing: Olivia Jane Johnson, Katie Meckus & Nicoline Von Finck).

Foxcroft's Final Admission Festival

Prospective students invited for a fun day at Middleburg School

Foxcroft School's Admission Day Festivals offer a unique view into life at the Middleburg, VA, girls' school that families considering educational options for next year should not miss. The program, which runs through the entire school day, immerses prospective students in the Foxcroft Experience by pairing them with student-hostesses who take them to classes, Morning Meeting and meals as well as giving campus tours and Admission interviews. A no-adults-allowed student panel also gives girls a chance to ask questions and hear current students' stories unfiltered.

Parents, too, come to know the school by attending Morning Meeting, a Q&A with administrators, classes and their own panel with Foxcroft students in addition to having tours and interviews. A stable visit is available for students and parents interested in Foxcroft's outstanding riding program.

The last Admission Day Festival of the 2008-09 school year will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, and space is filling up fast! To register, visit the Foxcroft website (www.foxcroft.org) or call 540.687.4340. Families who cannot make this event are welcome to call to schedule a visit.

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Foxcroft Field Hockey Team Wins its First Delaney Athletic Conference Championship!



Photo by Virginia Riley

Scoring ace Ashton Marshall tallied the only goal of the game Thursday. Teammate Meredith Harris (right) contributed her hard-nosed play at both ends of the field.

Junior Ashton Marshall scored just over seven minutes into the game and a tenacious defense made the goal stand up Thursday to lead Foxcroft School to a 1-0 victory over Highland and the 2008 field hockey championship of the Delaney Athletic Conference.

Marshall's goal, her team-leading 13th of the season, came from 10 feet out, off a pass by defender Terry Lynne Garvey but Highland's defense stiffened from that point on and Foxcroft had few opportunities.

Foxcroft caught a break with 9 1/2 minutes gone in the second half when a Highland shot hit the inside right post. The ball dropped in front of the net but goalie Hilary Key alertly kicked the ball out of play. Key finished with three saves to post her eighth shut out of the season. A junior from Herndon, VA, Kee has made more than 100 saves while allowing only six goals all season.

Garvey ((Bloomsbury, NJ), Anna Anderson (Aldie, VA) and Whitney Weeden (Broad Run, VA) played stellar defense for Foxcroft, breaking up several Highland runs.

Foxcroft (10-3, 9-1 in the DAC) joined the DAC this season after 23 years in the Independent School League (ISL).

Got Blood?

Foxcroft School Day Students sponsor Red Cross Blood Drive

Foxcroft School Day Students, led by Co-Heads Lauren Finkbiner Purcellville, (VA) and Jillian Chalke (Middleburg, VA) invited you to help save lives by donating blood Thursday, January 22, at a Red Cross Blood Drive on the school's Middleburg campus. The drive will be held from 1pm to 7pm in FoxHound Auditorium, in Foxcroft's Schoolhouse

Faculty sponsor Beth Lamond, an Upperville, VA, resident, notes that each donation of blood can save three lives after it is broken down into different components. "There is no artificial substitute for human blood," she says. Donating blood is painless and takes less than an hour. Making an appointment in advance also helps.

To make an appointment, please contact Ms. Lamond by calling 540-687-4322 or emailing blamond@foxcroft.org .

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Bill Couzens
Maryann Donovan, PhD, MPH*

Have you ever seen a 'Do Not Touch' wet-paint sign and then touched the paint to see if it was wet?

Unlike wet paint, frequently we cannot confirm environmental dangers with our own eyes or with a touch of our hand. In the work to identify and reduce cancer-causing environmental exposures, often it is not possible to definitively link dangerous environmental exposures to health effects, and there are many reasons why.

Examples of known environmental exposures that increase cancer risk include: smoking, UV light, asbestos, some pesticides, hormones, metals, and vinyl chloride, gasoline, and small particulates from automobile and coal-fired power plants, to name a few.

From laboratory studies, it is clear to scientists that some ingredients in products used in our homes, schools and communities are toxic and do cause cancer. In fact, only a small fraction of the more than 85,000 chemicals used in products have been tested and shown to be safe. We suspect that some ingredients and contaminants, such as aspartame in soft drinks, lead in lipstick, and bisphenol A (BPA) in our baby bottles, may be bad for the environment and unhealthy for humans as well.

The concerns about safe product choice are especially relevant for children. Importantly, children look to adults to protect them. Children assume that we as adults are doing everything we can to keep them safe. They understand this concept because they watch our actions: we buckle them up in the car when we go to school; we pack them healthy lunches and, if aware, are careful to provide organic and/or natural foods. We send messages in the form of 'actions' all day to our children, messages that tell them we are keeping them safe from harm.

Children are not small adults; rather, they are a developing version of an adult. Simply put, children are under construction. They are unfinished and their developing systems are quite fragile. We know, for instance, that in children the brain continues to develop into their twenties, and this makes their brains potentially more vulnerable to toxicants. They breathe much more rapidly, so they take in more toxins through their lungs. An exposure that might have little negative effect on an adult can be deadly for a child. For children, depending on the exposure, some of the first systems to show negative health effects can be the neurological and respiratory systems.

The effects of environmental exposures on children are of particular concern when we consider the rising incidence of pediatric cancers. Never before has there been so much cancer in children.

In terms of "environmental exposures," how we and others use the products that we bring into our homes, schools, public spaces, farms, and yards is important as well. In some states there are laws that protect children from pesticide exposures on play spaces and in schools. Individuals who assume that "legal means it is safe for children," unfortunately an incorrect assumption, often are the same people making decisions about how to use pesticides in schools and play spaces. For this reason it is critical for parents to develop an understanding of school and community policies so that their voices will be heard when they get involved and advocate for the safety of their children at home and in school. To be safe, no application of toxic chemicals that presents a potential health risk should be done in the presence of children, and this, of course, includes painting of buildings as well as spraying of any of the many types of pesticides.

Does this mean that pesticide use does not have a place in communities? Absolutely not, an obvious infestation that could pose a public health threat is one example of a situation that might require pesticide use. Rather, what we are advocating is a reduction in the indiscriminate use of chemicals on grass and gardens for the purpose of landscaping and beautification. The increase in toxic exposure for purely aesthetic benefits may not be justifiable when the health of our children is at risk. In addition, if the situation warrants the use of toxic pesticides, clear regulations that eliminate exposures to children, workers, and others must be enforced.

As scientists and educators, our job is to inform our communities about the scientific evidence that implicates some of the chemicals in our environment with adverse health outcomes. As citizens, we all have a responsibility to be mindful of each other, and to consider the broader implications of our choices. It is not only the big decisions that we make that matter. The accumulated effects of the small decisions we make everyday can also add up and, in some cases, produce large effects. Our choices, from not flushing medicines down the toilet to buying and using a greener laundry detergent, can make a world of difference in the quality of our drinking water, the quality of our air, and ultimately in our health.

It is our responsibility as grown-ups to become informed consumers so that we will be able to make better choices. In this way, we will ensure that our children can trust us to be stewards of the environment who are actively involved in improving our communities, reducing our exposures to toxic chemicals, and, most importantly, doing our part to keep them healthy.

** Bill Couzens is the Founder of Less Cancer.*

** Scientific Director, Center for Environmental Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute*



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Lunge Line

Russian press secretary and agro-economist visits MARE Center as part of Open World Program

Donna M. McDonald

Natalya Pavlova, press secretary and agro-economist from Russia, recently visited the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MARE Center). Her visit was sponsored by The Open World Program (www.openworld.gov) and The National Peace Organization (www.nationalpeace.org). Mary Zane, a member of The American Association of University Women, Reston-Herndon branch (http://www.aauwofva.org/branches/reston.htm), served as Pavlova's host during her visit.

Pavlova's work in agro-business in Russia, as head specialist, economist, and press secretary, combined with her love of horses, soon had Zane looking for farms which Pavlova could visit to offer her the opportunity to see agriculture, farming and the rural economy of Northern Virginia. Zane contacted Matt Benson, community viability specialist with Virginia Cooperative Extension in Warrenton, Va., to discuss possible places with agricultural interest that would assist Pavlova in gaining insight to rural agriculture in this area. As community viability specialist, Benson is tasked with helping to promote and sustain vibrant economies, healthy and safe environments, and social wellbeing.

Benson arranged for Pavlova's visit to the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MARE Center) and Lazy Lane Farm.

Pavlova's visit to the MARE Center proved to be one of great interest to the Russian press secretary and agro-economist. Pavlova was amazed at the quality and types of research that had been conducted at the center, as well as, the fact that the center's research is world renown in the equine industry. Since her work involves agriculture business and farming in Russia, she was also impressed by the fact that the center was once used to conduct cattle research, and still conducts relevant research on pasture managed animals.

Pavlova also was impressed by the design of the MARE Center's lab, clinic, and equine barn. She asked a lot of questions about how the horses were studied in the clinical setting and mentioned that she does not have this same type of setting in her hometown, but thought this methodology was excellent. Visiting the center's equine barn, where horses are monitored for injuries or illnesses under the care of Tim Parmly, vet tech for the center, Pavlova was interested in the rough concrete flooring found in the stalls. Shea Porr, MARE Center superintendent, explained to her that this type of floor helped to cut down on bacteria and was easy to keep maintained. Pavlova shared with the tour group that in Russia, stall floors are hard packed dirt. She was going to take the idea of concrete stall floors back to her home country.

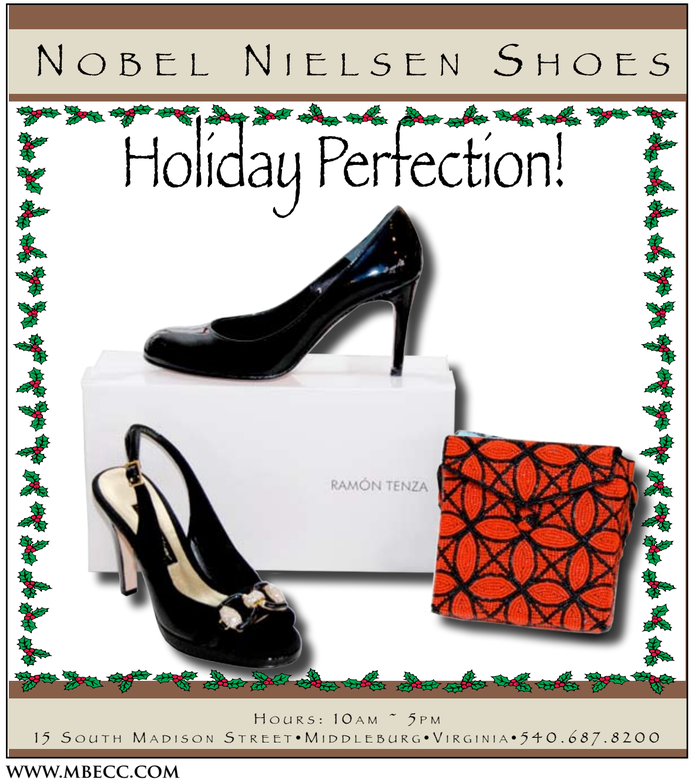
Pavlova was also interested in the MARE Center's treadmill barn, where horses are exercised under research protocols. She asked many questions about why and how the treadmill is used in studies. Treadmill studies were fairly new to her and she was pleased with the new knowledge. She did note that the equine exerciser, another useful piece of equipment, was familiar to her. She was also interested in learning about our graduate student program and how these students conduct state of the art equine research here at the center while in most cases living on the center's 420-acre farm to do their research. Being an instructor in Ivanovo, Russia, she thought this method of "on the farm" education was the way to teach agriculture and research to students and she plans to discuss this when she returns home.

The exchange of information between Pavlova, Zane, VCE faculty, and MARE Center faculty and staff, was extraordinary because of all the knowledge shared before, during, and after the tour. It was an exciting time for everyone at the MARE Center and such a wonderful opportunity to learn from Pavlova about agriculture and farming business in Russia.

The next stop was Lazy Lane Farm, in Upperville, Virginia where Pavlova saw Thoroughbreds raised for racing and breeding, as well as, a herd of Angus cattle. She was excited to learn that Hansel, a Thoroughbred



race horse stakes winner many times over, and standing at Lazy Lane also sired some of the MARE Center's foals. Lazy Lane Farm (http://www.angusjournal.com/nationalconference/2004nationalconference/tourLazyLane.html) is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Allbritton.





2009 $20,000 TCH Fox Chase Show Series Named Affiliate Organization of USHJA

Fox Chase Farm, based in Middleburg, VA, is pleased to announce that the 2009 $20,000 TCH Fox Chase Show Series is now an affiliate of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA). The USHJA is the national affiliate for hunters and jumpers, providing many programs and educational materials for equestrians to grow within the industry. Fox Chase Farm is the first non-rated horse show series to be affiliated with the organization.

"Fox Chase Farm is so proud to be an Affiliate Organization of the USHJA!" stated Maureen Hanley, Director of Operations of Fox Chase Farm, LLC. "The USHJA has so many great programs, and they always have the interests of their equestrians and horses in mind. By showing at our non-rated series, the exhibitors are given the opportunity to have national exposure and recognition for their many talents."

The 2009 $20,000 TCH Fox Chase Show Series is an annual non-rated show circuit for local equestrians. The farm hosts two shows a month, and the upcoming 2009 series starts on January 10. Competitions continue throughout the year until late September, and the high-point competitors are honored at the series' year-end banquet. In addition, a total of $20,000 in prize money will be awarded to the series' leading horses and riders.

"We strive to make our local show series the best in the area," commented Hanley. "In addition to all of the exciting awards and prize money, we want to provide our exhibitors with the same competition quality as nationally rated shows. We want our exhibitors to benefit from their experience at Fox Chase Farm and feel prepared to advance to the next level."

For 2009, Fox Chase Farm will choose a Junior Rider, Adult Rider, Professional, and Trainer to be recognized for the USHJA Affiliate Sportsmanship Awards Program. Additionally, specified classes at the shows will to be considered for the Affiliate Equitation Awards Program.

"We are very excited for the local equestrians," Hanley noted, "and we are proud of the fact that Fox Chase Farm is the first show in the area to get our local equestrians recognized for their talents!"

Along with the farm's recent developments, Fox Chase Farm has invited Peggy Smith to be the series' official photographer for 2009. In addition, the farm now provides free online classifieds for local equestrians and businesses in the area. This free service is available on the farm's website. Members of the equestrian community can buy and sell horses and ponies, tack, farm equipment, cars, trucks, trailers, and post Help Wanted ads.

To advertise for free on the Fox Chase Farm website, please go to www.foxchasefarm.net and click on "Free Online Classifieds."

For more information on Fox Chase Farm, please go to www.foxchasefarm.net or call their main office at 540-687-5255.



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Faces & Places

Tiny Dancers

Middleburg Community Center, Middleburg, VA, December 10, 2008
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard












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Faces & Places

Christmas in Middleburg

Middleburg, VA, December 6, 2008

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard & Jay Hubbard









Check out more photos at www.mbecc.com











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Faces & Places

Christmas in Middleburg

Middleburg, VA, December 6, 2008
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard & Jay Hubbard









Check out more photos at www.mbecc.com









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Faces & Places

Christmas in Middleburg

Middleburg, VA, December 6, 2008
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard & Jay Hubbard

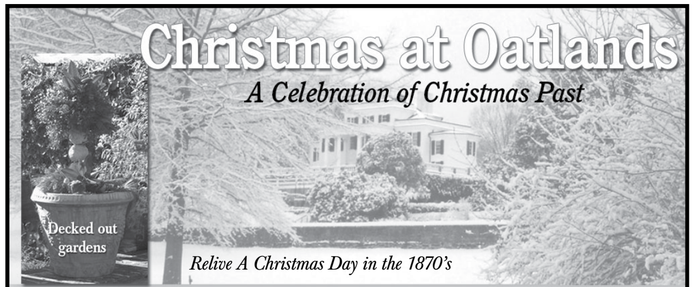
















Holiday Tours
- November 24-December 30 reflects Oatlands history in the 1870's as a Carter residence, through the childhood memories of Grace Carter.
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday
- Adults $10; seniors $9; students $7; children 5 and younger free
- House tours on the hour and half hour; 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.

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

Oatlands Carriage House Theater
- Presentation of *A Christmas Carol* December 21-23; 6 p.m.
- Ages 12 and up $15; $5 for children under 12

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Oatlands is dedicated to preserving the past and engaging the future. It is committed to interpreting the property's historical, cultural and social significance to the public while advancing its core missions of stewardship, education, research and community outreach.





Legion Holiday Party

Middleburg American Legion, Middleburg, VA, December 13, 2008
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



Helen and Betty Polland received the award for the fundraising that began the kitchen remodeling of the Legion Hall.



John Moliere was Legionnaire of the Year.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Upperville, VA
540-592-3343

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Service featuring the Children's Choir. This service is geared towards families with small children and will include a children's homily and the Holy Eucharist.

8:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons & Carols. Festival music with the Trinity Choir, soloists, and strings.

10:30 p.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day Service

10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Organ Recital coming soon at Trinity Episcopal Church.
J. Reilly Lewis, Director of the National Cathedral Choral Society.

January 18, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE
$180/person for dinner only • $270/person with wine pairings
The evening starts at 6:30 p.m. with a reception, followed by a 12-course dinner highlighting what's to come for 2009. The evening ends with a midnight Champagne toast.

Price does not include taxes or service charge.

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Friends for Life

Middleburg Humane Foundation



Kane is an 11 month old Rottweiller /Cane Corso Mastiff cross who has a great big personality. He is very gentle, good with other dogs and kids and loves to cuddle and play!

Buster is a 1-2 yr. old Corgi mix. He came to MHF rather shy but is making new friends and coming around beautifully. Buster gets along well with other dogs and has lived with children in the past. He loves to play!



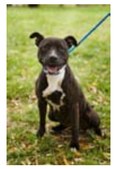


Bernie is a very handsome big purebred Foxhound! He is drop dead gorgeous and very affectionate with people and other dogs. He needs a home with a secure fenced yard due to the hound in him- "nose to the ground and GO!" and a home with no kitties.



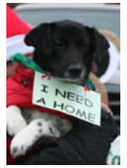
Tom Bigbee is a 1 year old purebred Redbone Coonhound who is super special! He came from a sad situation but has blossomed in the past month. Tom will be a great family friend!

Princess is a lovely Pit Bull Terrier that was spoiled rotten in her previous home. She was raised with small children and is impeccably housetrained. Princess is a couch potato who needs a structured home.



Russell is a lovely purebred 1 year old neutered male Boxer who was found on a country road. He is great with other dogs and kids too but no kitties.







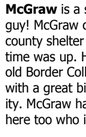
Gloria the mommy dog is a Ratt terrier/ Beagle ? Mix who is very dear and very adorable! Gloria needs a home with a secure fenced yard.



BLM Branded Mustangs!
We have 4 lovely/ young Mustangs available who all have big futures ahead! They need a home with experienced handlers.



Mackey is a 2 yr old Llasa / Pug / Chi. who is beautifully mannered & gentle. Mackey would be an easy addition to any family.



McGraw is a special guy! McGraw came from a county shelter where his time was up. He is a 8 mo. old Border Collie ? Mix with a great big personality. McGraw has a sister here too who is super cute!



Faith is McGraw's sister and she is truly the love of your life kind of dog! She is a bit shy but very cuddly and loving to all. Faith is also an 8 month old Border Collie mix who came from a county shelter where her time was up. A lucky dog!

Kittens We have many healthy, loving young kittens of all colors who need loving homes! Please save a life and adopt a kitty soon! Our cats are felv/ fiv neg, vaccinated, spayed/neutered as a part of the $80 adoption donation. Ask about our buddy program!



Tilly is a 5 mo. old Ratt terrier/ Border Collie mix pup! She and her brothers came from a county shelter where their time was up. Their mom is Gloria! They will grow to be medium sized dogs.

Rabies Clinic

Saturday, January 10, 2009
10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m

1 yr. & 3 yr. Rabies
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Rabies vaccine and packages starting at $10.00

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Albert's Corner

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

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
All the creatures were stirring, even the mouse.

The stockings were dangling, but not for long.
We'd pull them all down, though we knew it was wrong.

The puppies were restless and not in their beds,
While visions of dog treats danced in their heads.

And Isabelle in her collar, and I in my cap,
Had just woken up from our evening nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I barked and barked – something was the matter!

Away to the dog door to do my chore.
I had a house to protect and more!

As I ran to the rescue, what should I see,
But a miniature sleigh, how could it be?

Santa Claus was here, and at my door!
Bringing treats and toys, and maybe more!

Then I got sidetracked, for what should appear,
In front of my eyes, eight tiny reindeer!

The chase was on, the sleigh a blur,
A running heap of tails and fur.

Santa went tumbling into the snow,
As packages scattered to and fro.

I froze as I realized just what I had done.
Oh no. Oh no. I've ruined the fun!

Christmas is not for a naughty pet.
Coal and a bath is what I'd get.

But Santa just winked and wiped his head,
And I knew then I had nothing to dread.

He reached in his sack and pulled out a treat.
He laughed and merrily rose to his feet.
Now, Albert, he said with a gleam in his eye,
You really are such a cute little guy.

All dogs just do what they're born to do.
And, it seems, that does include you.

Dogs aren't naughty, they just don't know better.
Be it a Poodle, a Beagle or an Irish Setter.

You're all, in my eyes, man's best friend,
So tonight this wish I'd like to send:

That all the dogs under heaven above,
Could teach all the people unconditional love.

Then, as if it had been just a dream,
He righted his sleigh and assembled his team.

Like magic he was gone without a trace,
To spread goodwill in another place.

But I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight.
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Middleburg Eccentric

The Eccentric Sells!
Jan. 8th Deadline for Jan. 22nd Issue

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Dakota
Middleburg, Virginia

87 private acres of rolling fields. 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.



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. $1,495,000.



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.



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.



Maidstone Ordinary
Rectortown, Virginia

Circa 1790. Much remains the same in this stone and log home as when it originally served as a local tavern. Today this ultra-charming 3 bedroom home offers a unique opportunity to live in a quaint village while surrounded by 2+ acres, a large spring-fed pond and mature gardens. Gorgeous floors, chestnut paneling and large stone fireplaces. $975,000.



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.



Federal Street
Middleburg, Virginia

Renovated office or retail building in the town of Middleburg. There are original hardwood floors and the 2nd floor loft. Though the space is small it is quite charming. Good visibility and a large lot for expansion. New gas heat system and new plumbing. Large yard and off street parking. $650,000.

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Properties In Hunt Country

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

GREGORMOOR



A long winding driveway leads to this unique, secluded 1 BR log cabin w/ large stone chimney & front porch overlooking tranquil water & garden views ♦**32+ wooded acs** in 3 parcels, includes a huge **pond** & smaller pond w/ fountain, 4BR septic installed, cleared bldg site & underground electric ♦Perfect wkend retreat now & build later ♦Ideal location near Aldie, Middleburg, & Dulles Int. Airport. **$850,000 or 41+ acres w/ 4 parcels $995,000**

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20 acres of fenced pastures just outside Warrenton ♦Casanova Hunt meets right in the neighborhood! ♦Fabulous ride out from the 8 stall Morton stable ♦House was also built by Mortons with a large central cupola that streams light down onto its terra cottta tiled floors ♦Attached Garaging for several cars and farm tractor ♦Additional heated space currently used for offices ♦Brochure can be e-mailed upon request. **$725,000**

Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

HALFWAY ROAD

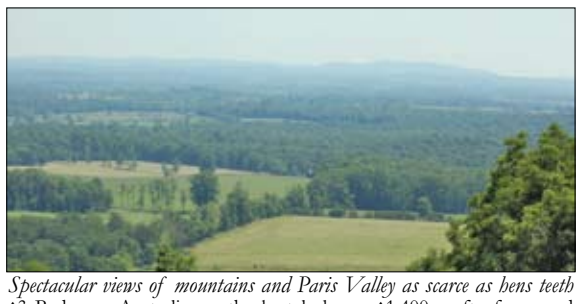


The Plains, Halfway ♦Lovely 3 Bedroom,1.5 Bath brick home ♦**3.39 beautiful acres** ♦Stone Fireplace ♦Florida room ♦Very well landscaped ♦Mature trees ♦Stone walls ♦Flagstone terrace ♦Detached 3 car garage ♦Storage shed ♦Gazebo ♦Private setting ♦2 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath tenant house. **$699,000**

John Coles (540)687-5522



FOREST HILL



Spectacular views of mountains and Paris Valley as scarce as hens teeth ♦3 Bedroom Australian outback style home ♦1,400 sq ft of covered porches ♦Open floorplan with vaulted ceilings ♦Beautiful hardwood floors ♦Gourmet Kitchen with large center island ♦Finished Basement with Kitchen, Sauna, and Office ♦Separate 40x60 Woodworking Shop, Trophy Room and Kitchenette ♦Price to sell. **$695,000**

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VALLEY VIEW MANOR



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Boyce, Virginia ♦Gated community, **16 acres** of rolling grassland ♦Over 1/2 mile of Shenandoah riverfront ♦Cozy 1-room log cabin complete with hardwood floors, stone Fireplace, and covered back porch ♦Heated detached 2-Car Garage with Loft ♦Property fully fenced ♦Build your dream home overlooking the Shenandoah or enjoy a picturesque weekend retreat. **$625,000**

Catherine Gutch (540)270-1311

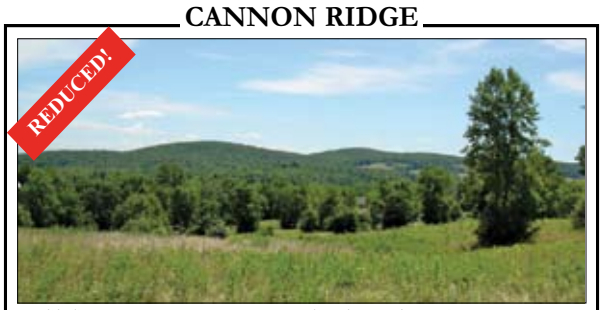
COMMERCIAL



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

CANNON RIDGE



Middleburg ♦Excellent opportunity to build your dream home on 2 rare **10 acre** parcels with a Middleburg address ♦Conveniently located off Route 50 just East of Middleburg ♦Mostly open, rolling land with mature trees, quiet gravel drive and spectacular views of the Bull Run Mountains ♦Lovely potential building sites each with 4 bedroom approved perc. **$515,000 per parcel**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

LAND

THE REGINALD STICKLEY FARM - 126 acres in Warren County. Beautiful Panoramic mountain views. In V.O.F. Easement. **$1,275,000**

PLEASANT VALE ROAD - REDUCED OVER $300K! Delaplane. Over 47 acres of beautiful rolling hills with a fantastic building site. Meandering stream, spectacular views, excellent potential for an equestrian property. **$1,099,000**

FLEMING FARM - 25+ open acres in Four parcels on Mountain Road in Lovettsville. Parcels range from **$199,000 - $310,000**

MAJESTIC VIEW FARM - Parcels are 6-12.6 acres Each with an approved 4 Bedroom drainfield site with certification letter. **$399,000 - $469,000**

HOMESTEAD FARM RENTALS



Located only minutes from Middleburg ♦3+ 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

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

THOMAS AND TALBOT REAL ESTATE

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